Housing & Hostel - T. V. L.

1991

January - March.
Civics group pledges to go on targeting councils

EDITH BULRING

committees would be formed to protect residents from state-related violence and other forms of crime.

It reserved the right to mobilise people as long as apartheid was alive and their day-to-day lives remained unchanged.

The organisation's campaign in this regard had been very successful and it would be intensified until all resigned.

The statement said Cast had no reason to have confidence in the police force, given its past record of atrocities and its collusion with state-related vigilantes.

It insisted that the 191000 policemen to be deployed to combat crime be accountable to the people, and that all details related to their deployment be made available to local civic structures.

Cast's contention that local government was disrupted when government forced its "puppets" on to people. Cast believed it was beginning to normalise local government by pressurising councillors and management committee members to resign.

The organisation also believed the actions of the people brought about the changes that had occurred, and it would ensure their continued participation in the process of change through mass action.

President F W de Klerk's claim that local government was being disrupted through mass action sounded hollow, the statement said.

Cast also said defence

CAST said in a statement yesterday the acid test of the success of talks between the ANC and government was the effect on the day-to-day lives of the majority of the people.

There was still a serious crisis of homelessness, housing and unemployment and the greater part of the land was still in the hands of a minority.

"Nothing has changed to improve the living conditions and standards of our people."
Cast reaffirms commitment to mass action

THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal in a New Year's message yesterday reiterated its commitment to mass action and vowed to step up its campaign to force black councillors to resign.

Responding to State President PW de Klerk's New Year message calling for an end to mass action, Cast assistant general-secretary Cas Coovadia said: "We reserve the right to mobilise our people to mass action so long as apartheid is alive and people's day-to-day lives remain unchanged."

"We also believe that the actions of our people have brought about the change that has occurred and we will ensure their continued participation in the process of change through mass action."

Cast added that President de Klerk's claim that local government was being disrupted through mass action "sounds hollow." Source: 3/1/91

"It is our contention that local government was disrupted when the state forced their puppets onto our people and we believe we are now beginning to normalise local government by pressuring councillors and management committee members to resign." - Sapa
Agreement to end rent boycott is close

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Attridgeville, Sandville Residents' Organisation (Aero) are on the verge of securing an agreement which could end the townships' rent boycott.

Recently appointed township administrator Ernie Jacobson said yesterday he and Aero representatives met on Christmas Eve and agreed "in principle" that the boycott should end as soon as possible.

He said a provisional target date for the ending of the boycott had been set, but would not disclose when the boycott would officially finish.

All parties involved would meet today to discuss the rent and service tariff levels to be paid in the future, how rent arrears would be repaid, and the future expansion of services.

Jacobson was appointed administrator last year after the Attridgeville Town Council resigned under pressure from local residents.

Aero acting general secretary Simon Tshidi could not be contacted for comment.

Attempts to resolve the boycott last year collapsed with the cancellation of a meeting scheduled for December 29 between Jacobson, the TPA and Aero.
Ultimatum
over Tokoza
power cut

By Abel Mabelane
East Rand Bureau

The East Rand Civic Association (Erca) has appealed to East Rand industrialists to intervene in the power cut in Tokoza by the Alberton municipality, failing which the consumer boycott in Alberton will spread to other East Rand towns.

In a press statement Erca said: "As the majority in any society consists of the working classes, we believe that big capital in the whole East Rand cannot be allowed to plead innocence, while their workers who create massive wealth for them are subjected to such hardships.

"We appeal, therefore, to business organisations such as the East Rand Industrialists' Association to intervene immediately in the matter so that the consumer boycott of Alberton does not spread to all East Rand towns."...

The statement said Erca would also be forced to revoke all agreements and interim agreements if power were not restored at Tokoza.

Erca said it would no longer recognise mediators appointed by the TPA in matters where negotiations on civic matters were at issue.

"As far as we are concerned, the appointment of mediators can never be a task for just one party, but must be done jointly by both contending bodies," the statement said.

Officials of the TPA could not be reached for comment."
THE Soweto Civic Association is organizing an anti-
crime conference to stamp out the escalating crime rate
in the township following a spate of gang rapes.

SCA president Mr Isaac Mogase said: "It is high
time Soweto residents stand up to fight hooliganism
and barbaric acts in the community."

The call for the conference follows the gang rape of
a pregnant woman at a Zola high school on New Year's
Day.

Mogase said discussions were already under way
with various organizations in the community, including
businessmen, to stamp out the high crime rate in
Soweto.

The woman from Phokeng near Rustenburg was
visiting a cousin when she was picked up by four men at
a taxi rank and taken to Zola high school, where she
was gang raped for six hours and left naked and penniless
as the assailants took her clothes, shoes and R43 cash.

Soweto police hasson officer Captain Joseph
Ngobeni confirmed the incident and said a charge of
rape was laid at the Jabulani police station. He said no
arrests had yet been made and that investigations were
continuing.

The SCA has already taken some steps to address
gang rapes with the establishment of a group attending
for gang rape issues.

The group was responsible for the apprehension of
youths who had gang raped 10 girls at the Bethanie Sal-
vation Army Home two weeks ago.

Chairman of the Phomolong Civic Association, Mr
Sammy Sisulu has taken charge of rape complaints and
was handling about five cases.

Sisulu said his civic association was particularly
concerned at the increasing number of rapes.

His brief is to follow up on residents' com-
plaints and liaise with police so that the crime gets
reported and the necessary steps taken to arrest culprits.

He said some rape victims were reluctant to report
the crime - Sapa.
Thokoza protest at Alberton offices

SUSAN RUSSELL

ABOUT 30 members of the Thokoza Civic Association staged a sit-in at the Alberton Town Council offices yesterday, demanding the immediate reconnection of electricity to the East Rand township.

Power supplies to the township were cut at the beginning of December after residents failed to resume electricity payments.

When the TCA delegation arrived at the council offices in the Alberton Civic Centre shortly after noon yesterday, chairman Sam Ntuli told acting town clerk Willem Meyer that the delegation members would remain on the premises until the town council met them to discuss their demands.

However, the TCA delegation left the building during the afternoon after management committee chairman Johan van der Merwe, who is on leave, arrived to talk to the group. It was agreed to hold a meeting this afternoon.

Van der Merwe said the meeting would be attended by himself, the town clerk, Ekom, the Thokoza Town Council and the civic association.

In addition to the resumption of the electricity supply, the TCA is also demanding that the Alberton Town Council immediately resume negotiations on electricity payments.

Thokoza

It also wants the creation of a single municipal body for Alberton and Thokoza.

When the delegation arrived at the reception area of the town clerk's office, it was told Meyer would not see it without an appointment.

Some minutes after Ntuli and the rest of the group seated themselves on the floor, Meyer emerged from his office and told the delegation it should leave.

However, after speaking to Ntuli, Meyer led the group to a nearby auditorium where he agreed to listen to the demands.

Meyer said he would convey the demands to the council, but said Van der Merwe and the other councillors were on holiday.

Ntuli and the group refused to leave until the meeting had taken place.

Meyer then agreed to try to locate Van der Merwe.

Thokoza owes R1.7m in arrears electricity payments plus four months' interest.

Van der Merwe said if the TCA could come up with some commitment which was acceptable to the council, then it would certainly consider reconnecting power supplies.

"There is no way we will tolerate sit-ins," he added.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that residents of Syathuthuka near Belfast will hold a protest march today to demand the reconnection of electricity switched off in November.
Services talks held

Progress was made at a high-level meeting in Alberton on the East Rand on Friday afternoon, aimed at having power and water supplies to nearby Thokoza reconnected.

This was confirmed by Thokoza Civic Association (TCA) chairman Sam Ntuli, who declined to give further details as the meeting will be resumed tomorrow.

"Negotiations are going well," he said.

Representatives of the TCA, Alberton Town Council, Thokoza Council, Eskom, the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Alberton Industries Association met after about 30 TCA members staged a sit-in at Alberton Town Council offices on Thursday, demanding the immediate restoration of services to the township.

Electricity to Thokoza was switched off early last month after an agreement for residents to pay a flat rate for service charges broke down. - Sapa
Progress made in Thokoza power talks

PROGRESS was made at a high-level meeting in Alberton on the East Rand on Friday afternoon, concerning the reconnection of power and water supply to nearby Thokoza township.

Thokoza Civic Association (TCA) chairman Sam Ntuli confirmed negotiations were going well but declined to give further details as the meeting was to be resumed today.

Representatives of the TCA, the Alberton Town Council, the Thokoza council, Eskom, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Alberton Industries Association met after about 30 TCA members staged a sit-in at the Alberton Town Council offices on Thursday, demanding the immediate restoration of services to the township.

Electricity to Thokoza was switched off at the beginning of December, after an earlier agreement for residents to pay a flat rate for service charges broke down.

The East Rand township reportedly owes R1.5m in electricity payments plus four months' interest. — Sapa
Tokoza electricity talks go on

PARTIES involved in attempting to negotiate an end to the month-long Thokoza township electricity cut-off remained tightlipped yesterday on progress being made in the talks.

Thokoza Civic Association chairman Sam Ntuli said the talks, which started on Friday, would resume today afternoo but would not elaborate, explaining that all involved had agreed not to divulge details.

A spokesman for Eskom, one of the negotiating parties, attributed the secrecy to "sensitive issues" and would not discuss the matter.

Representatives of the Alberton Town Council, the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Alberton Industries Association and the Thokoza Council are also involved in the negotiations.

The East Rand township's power supply was cut early in December, apparently because the Thokoza Council is R1.7 million in arrears on electricity payments.

Ntuli said the black consumer boycott of Alberton's white-owned shops, called to protest the electricity cut-off as well as to demand a nontracial town council, would continue regardless of whether the electricity supply was restored to Thokoza or not. - Sapa
Conscientious objector Francois Krige is turned away from the military assembly point in Cape Town where he was due to report for service yesterday. Army authorities have now told him he must report to the base at Potchefstroom or face possible prosecution.

More objectors to defy call-ups

A METHODIST minister and a conscientious objector who recently returned from exile will defy their military call-ups tomorrow, while two other returned exiles will refuse to comply with their conscription orders in July.

Minister Alan Storey, son of Methodist bishop Peter Storey, will fail to report at the Nasrec Showgrounds for his national service at the 8th SA Infantry unit in Upington.

Storey, 22, has already informed the SA Defence Force through his lawyers that he will not be reporting for his call-up.

Nan Cross, a spokesman for the Alan Storey Support Group, said yesterday Storey's stand was based on his Christian commitment to non-violent action.

An SANDF spokesman said Storey's failure to report for his call-up would be a contravention of the Defence Act and he could then be charged.

Although Storey had informed the SANDF that he would not report for duty, he would be liable for prosecution only once he had actually broken the law by not reporting, he said.

Despite the changing political climate, nothing had changed with regard to conscientious objectors as the Defence Act was on the statute books which stated that all white males between the ages of 17 and 55 were liable for military service.

If charged, Storey could face up to six years' imprisonment despite the reductio of national service to one year, Cross said.

However, after a recent Appellate Division ruling, magistrates are now not obliged to hand down the mandatory sentence of six years and could use their discretion.

Although Storey could qualify to go before the Board for Religious Objection, he had rejected this option as he felt it would give him an unfair advantage over other conscientious objectors, Cross said.

She added that while changes had been instituted in almost every other aspect of government, defence policy appeared impervious to change.

Three conscientious objectors, Francois Krige, Fritz Joubert and Gerald O'Sullivan, who returned to SA from exile in December after leaving to avoid conscription have received call-ups for this year.

Cross said Joubert and O'Sullivan would defy their July call-ups.

Sapa reports that Krige, 22, planned to report to the Dante Theron combat school in Potchefstroom tomorrow and declare his refusal to serve in the SA Defence Force, his attorney said yesterday.

He was turned away from the Wingfield camp yesterday after a senior officer told him the camp was only a staging point for conscripts to be transported elsewhere.

"Mr Krige was told the SANDF would only take legal action on Wednesday," said the attorney "He will, however, be going to Potchefstroom, where he will tell the SANDF of his refusal to serve."

Krieger cited political reasons for refusing to serve.

Thokoza residents 'misled' on electricity issue

THE Thokoza Civic Association was misleading residents by urging them to pay R1,8m in arrears to pay R1,8m in arrears to the Thokoza Council, the Alberton Town Council said yesterday.

The council said much larger payments would be necessary.

Alberton management committee chairman Johan van der Merwe said yesterday his council, which supplied the township, disconnected the power supply last month as the Thokoza Council had been unable to pay R1,8m in arrears.

The council said the civic association had made progress in exploring ways to re-install Thokoza's power supply, he said in a statement.

Urban affairs consultant Nigel Mundy said civic association members who had told residents power would be reconnected if each made a R50 payment to the Thokoza council. He quoted Van der Merwe as saying larger payments would be necessary.

Meanwhile, Attiebergville township administrator Ernie Jacobson said his township's power supply would not be disconnected as the issue of the rent boycott was still being negotiated.

The Attiebergville/Saulsville Residents' Organization and the TPA had reached agreement "in principle" on ending the boycott.
Power cut in Toekomsrus

By Glen Elton
West Rand Bureau

The electricity supply, to about 1,300 houses in Toekomsrus, Randfontein, was cut yesterday after the refusal by residents to pay electricity accounts.

Randfontein town clerk Louw Brits said special concessions had been made at the end of October to assist those still in arrears with their payments.

“We arranged with the residents that if they paid their accounts by November 7, we would grant them a period of nine months in which to settle their outstanding debt.

“Since our negotiations the rate at which the accounts were paid has slackened and we have now been forced to cut electrical supplies to those houses where no payment has been made,” Mr. Brits said.

He said accounts would have to be settled in full before supplies would be restored.
Boycott of Alberton shops begins to bite

THERE was a marked scarcity of shoppers in Alberton yesterday as the boycott launched by residents of nearby Thokoza township began to bite.

Boycott "enforcers" have reportedly started forcing shoppers to return goods bought from white-owned shops in the town. Yesterday only a few black people were seen in the the new shopping centre in Alberton's Voortrekker Road.

The Thokoza Civic Association (TCA) launched a total boycott of white-owned business last month in support of demands for clarity on money residents agreed to pay for services in September and October.

Despite paying R76 a month for the two months, residents are currently without water or electricity.

The services were cut off by the Alberton Town Council in November when payments stopped.

Thokoza is R1.8m in arrears in electricity payments.

The TCA, the Alberton Town Council, the Thokoza Town Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration are currently involved in negotiations to resolve the township rent boycott.

TCA president Sam Ntuli has demanded that the Alberton council should investigate Thokoza's finances.

The TCA has also demanded that Alberton start talks on the implementation of one nonracial council for the two areas Alberton shop owners approached yesterday would not comment on the boycott, but the few black shoppers and some shop assistants said trading had plummeted since last week.

● See Page 2
Protestors ‘removed’ from Thokoza offices

THE arrest of at least 18 sit-in demonstrators at the Thokoza town council offices yesterday prompted the UDP-aligned Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) to call on government and Eskom to intervene in services boycott talks.

"The demonstrators, including Thokoza Civic Association (TCA) president Sam Ntsh and Catholic priest Father Peter began the sit-in on Monday to protest against the cut-off of electricity to the township by Alberton Town Council.

It was reported earlier that 20 people were held, but Witwatersrand police liaison officer Capt Piet van de Venter said yesterday police arrested 18 people for trespassing, all of whom were released after being given a warning.

TCA central committee member Sidney Ramagase said the people were picked up by police and later released after they refused Thokoza town clerk Herman Combrinck’s request to vacate the premises, reports Sapa.

Combrinck said they had not been arrested but "assisted" out of the chamber.

The TCA, Thokoza town council, Alberton Town Council and Alberton Industries’ Association are involved in talks to work out a way of repaying R1.6m Thokoza owes the Alberton municipality.

In a statement yesterday Cast president Moses Mayekiso urged Alberton to switch on the lights while negotiations for an acceptable payment formula continued.

Cast would mobilise "the highest disciplined support if the Thokoza residents’ demands are not met". That might include a meeting with Eskom or Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel.

Cast had been informed that Thokoza residents had started paying for electricity and could not understand why the lights were not switched on, Mayekiso said.

Earlier Alberton accused the TCA of misleading local residents by urging them to pay R50 each to have electricity restored to the township. The council said much larger payments were required.

Combrinck said last night that he had met Ntsh to arrange another meeting.

Sapa reports that Paarl municipality yesterday cut off electricity supplies to Mhekeni township. Town clerk Henne Liebenberg said R120 000 was outstanding. Fees were also outstanding for water, but that supply would not be cut off.

SABC radio reported that Randfontein municipality planned to cut power supplies to 1 400 of Toekommetjie’s 1 800 houses. About R1m was outstanding from people who refused to pay their accounts, Randfontein town clerk Louw Brits said.
Protesters removed by police

AT least 10 members of the Tokoza Civic Association, who were staging a sit-in protest at the council offices, were yesterday told by police to leave the premises.

East Rand police liaison officer Captain Ida van Zweel said police had been told by the Tokoza Town Council to ask TCA members to get out of the offices.

She said no arrests were made.

However, Mr Dama Nkos of the TCA said the 10 protesters, including their president Mr Sam Nulu and Father Hawthorne of the local Roman Catholic Church, were taken to the police station but it was not known if they had been arrested.

The sit-in started on Monday to protest against electricity cuts which began in December.

By DON SEOKANE

Many residents paid the R40 interim flat rate yesterday in an attempt to have their power switched back on.

Before the sit-in was interrupted, Nulu accused the council of not honouring the agreement it had reached with TCA. He said since last Friday residents had been paying the interim rate.

Nulu ruled out any possibility of the consumer boycott of Alberton’s white shops being ended before negotiations with the Alberton Town Council.
Thokoza electricity payment not agreed to yet. says council

THEO RAWANA

THOKOZA residents paid R95 631 in two days this week to have electricity restored to their homes, but the power stayed off as the local civic association became embroiled in a dispute with authorities over what was required to turn the lights back on.

The Thokoza Civic Association (TCA) told residents authorities had agreed the electricity supply would be restored if they paid an interim rate of R40 each.

The TPA meanwhile announced it would no longer engage in talks with the TCA, saying it and the Alberton Town Council — which is the bulk power supplier to Thokoza — had never agreed to the R40 monthly rate.

The East Rand township, which owes Alberton R1.8m, has been without power since early December.

The other parties to the talks are the Thokoza Town Council, the Alberton Industries Association and Eskom.

Lack of faith

Thokoza Town Clerk Herman Combrinck said yesterday 2 964 residents had paid a total of R95 631.

Urban affairs consultant Nigel Mandy, a facilitator at the talks, said the TPA had told him that in view of the TCA's call to residents it was stopping all negotiations with the association which had shown lack of faith.

"But the TPA said it was concerned about the situation in Thokoza and would consult with the other parties to work out a solution to the problem," Mandy said.

However, Sapa reports that TCA president Sam Mvula yesterday called for an independent and impartial mediator. Mvula said Mandy was unacceptable to the TCA.

WILSON ZWANE reports that residents of Toekomsrus on the West Rand would not pay their electricity accounts until their grievances had been addressed, a local residents' spokesman said yesterday.

The statement by Toekomsrus Crusade Committee (TCC) spokesman Thomas Luthers came in the wake of the Randfontein Town Council's decision to cut power to non-paying Toekomsrus residents from Tuesday.

Randfontein town clerk Lou Brits said power to 1 350 houses would be cut. Power to about 1 000 houses had already been cut.

Luthers said: "If we capitulate now and start paying for services it will mean that the boycott has been a futile exercise. The primary reason for the boycott, which is the unreasonably high electricity bills, will have to be addressed before we consider paying our accounts."

Sporadic

Asked if his committee was contemplating any action against the Randfontein council, Luthers said there were "some actions in the pipeline."

But as a starter, we have instructed our attorneys to arrange an urgent meeting with the Randfontein town council."

Brits said his council was prepared to negotiate with the TCC on resolving the boycott.

Sapa reports the TCC claimed there were sporadic running battles between police and local youths yesterday. TCC official Oscar Olphaint said youths were seen chasing youths attempting to prevent Randfontein Town Council workers from cutting off power.

West Rand police liaison officer Capt Henriette Bestor denied the allegations that there were clashes between the police and residents. "The only incident was the throwing of stones at the municipal workers who were cutting off electricity," Bestor said.

Meanwhile a mass meeting was expected to be held in Toekomsrus last night.
TPA pulls out of Tokoza rent talks

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has withdrawn from rent and electricity supply talks because the Tokoza Civic Association has divulged "sensitive material" to the Press.

TPA spokesman Mr Piet Wilkens yesterday confirmed that TPA has pulled out and said a statement would be issued later.

Tokoza Civic Association president Mr Sam Nuhl said he could not keep residents "in the dark".

He said although the TPA has not officially informed TCA of their withdrawal, he believed that Tokoza residents had a right to know what was happening.

Nuhl added that the consumer boycott of white businesses in Alberton would continue until the Alberton Town Council agreed to negotiations.

Earlier this week, members of the TCA staged a 15-hour sit-in at Tokoza council offices to protest the continued blackout of the township.

By DON SEOKANE
Zulu king refuses to meet Tambo

By Kaizer Nyatsamba
Political Staff

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini has apparently snubbed ANC president Oliver Tambo by refusing to meet him this weekend, according to unconfirmed reports.

Mr Tambo, who returned to South Africa towards the end of December after spending three decades in exile, will address a rally at Kings Park Stadium in Durban on Sunday.

Unconfirmed reports said ANC chief of intelligence and southern Natal chairman Jacob Zuma, said to have accompanied KwaZulu Chief Minister and Inkatha Freedom Party president Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to see King Zwelithini on Monday, tried to arrange a meeting between the Zulu king and Mr Tambo this weekend.

King Zwelithini refused, outlining previous discourtesies of the ANC in denying him an audience.

Power cut cripples Tokoza businessmen

By Thabo Leshilo

Tokoza businessmen are facing financial disaster — the result of the month-long electricity cut by the Alberton Town Council.

Electricity supply to the township was discontinued in December following a rent and services boycott which left residents owing the council R1.7 million for electricity. Lek Mdlalose, vice-chairman of the Tokoza Chamber of Commerce and shopowner, has even stopped selling perishables and goods which need refrigeration.

He estimated that some shopowners had lost up to 95 percent in returns on perishables because of the electricity cut.

Another resident, Nomvula Dlamini, who also runs a nursery school at her home, said she could no longer buy food in bulk for the nursery school and her family.

Tokoza administrator Gert Muller said residents would now have to pay between R200 and R250 for services after the breakdown of talks between the Tokoza Civic Association and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

The TPA withdrew from the negotiations on the services issue on Wednesday after the TCA leaked sensitive information about the negotiations to the press.

HÄGAR the Horrible

Rich people are so pretentious! Look — monogrammed doggie bags!

By Dik Browne
TPA behind in housing

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — The Transvaal Provincial Administration will by the end of next year provide only 69% of the estimated 210,000 sites currently needed to house more than one million squatters on the Witwatersrand.

This is subject to availability of funds, a TPA official said yesterday.

He said his department's statistics showed that by the end of November last year, there were 209,848 "squatter" structures in the East Rand, Johannesburg, Vaal and West Rand regions. They are occupied by people who earn less than R650 a month per family.
Jouberton faces service cuts

KLERKSDoRPF Town Council yesterday announced it would stop supplying power to neighbouring Jouberton.

Town clerk J. L. Muller said yesterday the Jouberton township had run up a R25,000 electricity, water and sewerage bill in three months.

Klerksdorp would cut these services to the township on Tuesday. A council statement said water supply would be reduced to the level at which the load on sewerage pump stations was relieved.

Electricity would be restored after the township had settled its debt.

Randfontein municipality began cutting power to 1,500 non-paying residents in nearby Toekomarsus on Tuesday. Randfontein town clerk Lou Brits said Toekomarsus residents, who are about R180 in arrears in their payments to the Randfontein Town Council, have resolved to maintain the rent and services boycott until arrears are scrapped and interim flat rates are introduced.

Toekomarsus Crisis Committee spokesman Thomas Luthers said the resolution was taken at a mass meeting in the township on Wednesday.

Brits said the demand for the scrapping of arrears and the introduction of an interim rate had been rejected by his council.

"But we are prepared to negotiate with the crisis committee on how to resolve the boycott," he said.

Meanwhile, the East Rand Civic Association (ERC) warned of plans for an East Rand consumer boycott if a settlement of the Thokozan blackout was not achieved by next Friday, Sapa reports.

The ERC said yesterday it would discuss the boycott with its communities.

It will hold an urgent meeting with the Transvaal Provincial Administration's (TPA's) East Rand directorate on Monday, ERC chairman Albert Teane said.

Civics Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) president Moses Mamatola said yesterday his organisation was trying to re-engage the TPA in talks with the Thokozan Civic Association (TCA).

Cast's move followed the TPA's announcement it was terminating negotiations with the TCA because it felt the organisation had acted in bad faith by demanding Thokozan residents that power would be restored on interim payments that were much lower than the bulk supplier, Alberton Town Council, required.

1,048 blacks enrol at open schools

A TOTAL of 1,048 black pupils enrolled at 34 former white provincial schools in Johannesburg and Pretoria which opened their doors to all races at the start of the new term on Wednesday.

This figure is expected to rise.

A Transvaal Education Department (TED) spokesman said only 25 black pupils were enrolled at Pretoria schools, and the remaining 1,023 were in Johannesburg.

Of the 1,048 total, 269 were attending high schools and 779 were at primary schools.

He said the TED was still getting inquiries about admitting black children to "open" provincial schools.

The TED expected more white provincial schools to open their doors this year.

By January 22, when Cape schools begin, 265 out of about 2,000 white provincial schools countrywide will be non-racial.

Meanwhile, the Pan Africanist Students' Organisation (Paso) yesterday called on black pupils not to enrol at white schools, saying the opening of these institutions to other races was a liberal ploy to suppress the militancy of black children.

It said it was futile for black pupils to enrol at white schools, because the education there was designed for white communities, and not blacks. — Sapa
Alberton business halved as talks stall

Business in the East Rand town of Alberton has plummeted by up to half since a consumer boycott was declared by the Thokoza Civic Association (TCA).

Yunuf Karolia, secretary of the Alberton Traders and Professionals Association (ATPA), told Saturday Star that the hardest hit of the city's traders were those who had stocked up on school uniforms.

He said his association still cherished hopes that a solution would be found to end the boycott.

"Our members are definitely feeling the effects of the boycott. We are also hoping that our association, together with the industrialists, can play a role in resolving the crisis, as we did with the last consumer boycott we had," Mr Karolia said.

ATPA said it accepted that a consumer boycott was the only avenue Thokoza residents had to voice their grievances. Mr Karolia said.

However, Mr Ntuli said, even if the TPA returned to the talks, the consumer boycott would continue because "our other demands have not been met."

The TCA's other demands are for the reconnection of electricity to the township, and the merger of the Thokoza and Alberton town councils.

Mr Ntuli further accused the TPA of bad faith. He said the TCA had told residents to resume paying rent of R40 and "people started paying on Monday already, and now this..."

Mr de Jager said the TCA was told that R40 was totally inadequate.

"In a breach of this agreement, and quite un-truthfully, Thokoza residents were informed that they each had to pay R40 and the power supply would be reconnected," Mr de Jager said.
Water cut sparks stayaway

ETHANDUKUKU-HANYA township was without water for three days this week after the Conservative-controlled Piet Retief Town Council cut off supplies because of payment arrears.

The water supply was restored after the civic association called for a stayaway and appealed to the major employers in the area to intervene with the town council.

Water to the township's 20,000 inhabitants was cut off without warning on Monday afternoon. People were forced to get water from the river that borders the township.

Several people were arrested by police on Wednesday while travelling around the township in a minibus with a loudhailer announcing a public meeting to discuss the water cut-off. A spokesperson for the civic association claims police fired a teargas canister directly into the minibus. The arrested people were released after being detained for a few hours.

Residents maintain they have been paying for water but that the local council has not been paying the township's water account to the Piet Retief council. The arrests stand at almost R50,000.
The Alberton Industries Association (AIA) has called on parties engaged in talks to resolve Thokoza township’s rent and service charges boycott to clear the confusion which marred the talks last week.

The association, which draws its labour from the township and has been attending the negotiations as an observer, urged the parties to work for an accord that would benefit the township’s residents.

Parties to the talks were the Thokoza Civic Association (TCA), Alberton and Thokoza town councils, Eskom and the TPA, which has said it would not talk to the TCA.

Electricity supply has been cut off to the township, which owes Alberton Town Council R1.8m. This triggered a violent situation which has claimed hundreds of lives.

Confusion reigned last week after the TCA announced that a meeting held on January 4 had agreed that electricity would be restored on payment of R40—against the R70 Alberton was demanding. Residents paid R60 000 in two days but power was not reconnected.

The TPA and the Thokoza and Alberton councils denied there had been an agreement and the TCA then denied it.

The TPA subsequently announced it was terminating talks with the TCA, alleging the association had broken an undertaking not to make announcements.

The AIA said it was concerned at the parties’ inability to reach any accord that would normalise the situation in Thokoza.

Statements by both parties confused and frustrated residents who had already been subjected to unacceptable living conditions, the association said.

“Such conditions must not be allowed to continue and the AIA urges all parties to negotiate in good faith, so as to reach agreement which places the best interests of the residents of Thokoza above all other considerations,” AIA said.

AIA spokesman Noel Kent said his organisation sought a stable workforce.

“We have found it difficult running our operations during this period,” he said.

Sapa reported on Friday the Thokoza council was to approach the TPA for bridging finance to cover its R1.83m debt in electricity arrears.

Thokoza Town Clerk Gert Muller said residents must pay between R200 and R203 a household a month to cover running services accounts for electricity, water, refuse removal and sewage treatment.

Of this amount R197 would go towards the payment of electricity, he said.

Sapa said the East Rand Civic Associations warned of a full-scale East Rand consumer boycott if a settlement was not reached before the end of this week.

Muller stressed communication between the council and all residents’ groups would continue.
Township calls for MK’s help growing louder

PROMINENT civic association figures involved in forming township self-defence units said yesterday the ANC was coming under growing pressure to deploy its military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) to protect black communities.

Soweto Civic Association (SCA) acting publicity secretary Patrick Lephunya and Cívices Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cats) president Moses Mayekiso said in interviews that grassroots calls for a visible MK presence in townships were reaching fever pitch.

They made their comments after the weekend killing of 33 people at Sebokeng outside Vereeniging and a promise by ANC president Oliver Tambo that the organisation would form defence structures in ANC zones as a matter of urgency.

Misconceptions

Both Mayekiso and Lephunya referred to the ANC’s decision at its recent consultative conference to mandate MK to play a “facilitative role” in the formation of defence committees.

However, an ANC spokesman cautioned against heightened expectations of MK playing an overt military role.

He said the organisation would clear up misconceptions and spell out just what it meant at a series of regional meetings.

What the organisation had in mind was increased vigilance and information collection, he said.

But the civic leaders said grassroots structures were calling for a formalisation of the ANC’s role in setting up and running defence committees.

“We in the organisations would like MK to defend the townships,” Mayekiso said.

Lephunya, whose organisation’s members recently arrested and handed over to police 10 men who allegedly raped girls at a Soweto Salvation Army home, said the township communities were looking to the ANC for further protection against violence.

“The ANC cannot ignore the continued loss of life and the destruction of property in the townships,” he said.

“The ANC call for defence units is based on the fact that the violence in the townships is not an ordinary gangster-type violence.

“It is a violence that could be state-driven, right-wing driven or orchestrated by people who want to upset the state of negotiations,” he said.

In the branches of the ANC pressure on the ANC to deploy MK units in the townships had emerged on numerous occasions.

“People have said the ANC is abrogating its responsibility to defend its people against violence,” said Lephunya.

Clarifying the ANC’s call for defence units, an ANC spokesman said MK cadres were already visiting township communities and instructing them in the formation of proactive defence units.

The formation of defence units was, however, primarily a political rather than a military task.
TURNED in Alberton shops has plummeted 80% since residents of neighbouring Thokoza township launched a consumer boycott last month, the Alberton Traders' and Professional's Association said yesterday.

Traders' Association secretary Yunus Karolia described the situation as "unreal".

"I have been through boycotts before — the last one between June and September — but nothing has ever been like this," he said.

"Our members are reporting business as being 10% to 20% of normal turnover, and some are talking of closing down. One shopkeeper decided to close shop and went on holiday, saying there was no point in staying open. When he reopened this morning, he found the situation had not changed."

Karolia said some traders closed early last Saturday as they saw no point in staying open.

The boycott was called by the Thokoza Civic Association (TCA) after the Alberton town council cut off electricity supplies to the township.

But Alberton management committee chairman Jan van der Merwe said the boycott was not working and its effect was negligible. "I was in town last Saturday and the kombi taxis were pouring into town, and black people were seen loaded with purchases."

The boycott is also in support of demands for a single tax base for the two areas and an examination of Thokoza Town Council's financial affairs.

The TCA is engaged in talks with the Thokoza and Alberton councils, Eskom, the TPA and the Alberton Industries' Association.

But the negotiations have been plagued by frequent deadlocks and breakdowns, with the latest resulting in the TPA announcing it was terminating talks with the TCA.

Karolia said the traders' association was trying to get the Alberton council and the TCA to get talks going.

Meanwhile, Jonaberton township residents yesterday started an indefinite consumer boycott of Klerksdorp businesses after the town's council announced it would cut off electricity and reduce water supplies to their township this morning.

Jonaberton is R650,000 in arrears in its payments to Klerksdorp.

Jonaberton Civic Association spokesman Howard Yawa said other demands were for the release of four civic leaders and the easing of an alleged police clampdown.

And Voortrekker Town Council warned yesterday the supply of essential services would be reduced and discontinued if residents did not pay.

Randfontein town clerk L.M. Brits appealed to Toekomst clients to pay the R3,687 rent and services debt to his council.

Three of the five members of the Toekomst management committee had resigned and an election would have to be held, he said in a statement.
Township’s water supply cut by CP

By Montshiwa Moroke

The cut-off of these essential services came on the second day of a consumer boycott of businesses in the Western Transvaal town called by the Jouberton Civic Association. A similar boycott has been called for in neighbouring Stilfontein and another is set to begin in Orkney.

Residents said water to their homes was cut off at about 11am. They said the most serious aspect of the water cut was that toilets could not flush. Although meetings had been held and pamphlets distributed in the township, some residents were caught unawares and have not stored water.

When reporters arrived in the township, many residents had been queuing for hours in the scorching sun at a manhole at the entrance to the township. The queue was so slow at the trickling pipe that some people decided to go to the nearby Tshepong Hospital where they hoped to fill their buckets.

Others affected by the cut-offs are those staying in shacks and the men’s hostel.

Henry Molene, chairman of the local civic association, said he did not think his organisation and the town council had reached a deadlock to the extent that it warranted such drastic measures as depriving people of necessities such as water.

Mr Molene said his association was willing to resume negotiations that broke down after the council had acted “in bad faith”. They had invited the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal to send representatives when talks resumed with the council and the TPA.

One of the causes of the consumer boycott had been the detention last month of Mr Molene and three other executive members of the association: George Molea (treasurer), Tebudo Ntsoane (secretary) and Sally Rasmeni (education officer).

They were all released on Friday after being on hunger strike for 13 days.

Most black workers at lunchtime yesterday bought from shops owned by Indian traders in a section of Klerksdorp.
Boycott spreads after Klerksdorp cuts power

THE Klerksdorp town council yesterday carried out its threat to cut electricity and drastically reduce water supplies to the township of Jouberton.

Klerksdorp Town Clerk J L Muller said last week his council had resolved to suspend the supply of bulk electricity to Jouberton from yesterday, while the water supply would be reduced to certain hours a day.

He said Jouberton's service charge payments were R26 800 in arrears.

Sewerage

"Bulk supply of electricity to Jouberton will be cut off until such time as the Jouberton Town Council will be able to meet its obligations towards the Klerksdorp Town Council," Muller said.

"Water supply to Jouberton will not be interrupted but will be drastically reduced, to such an extent that the load on the sewerage pump stations is relieved," Muller said.

Jouberton residents started an indefinite consumer boycott of Klerksdorp businesses on Monday.

Jouberton Civic Association spokesman Howard Yawa said the boycott was prompted by supply cut-offs. But residents were also demanding the release of four evicted leaders and an end to an alleged police clampdown.

SAPA reports from Klerksdorp that about 2 500 more people from Kanana near Orkney reportedly joined the consumer boycott yesterday in solidarity with Jouberton residents.

Jouberton Consumer Boycott Co-ordinating Committee sources said the Kanana residents had started boycotting the tiny business district of Orkney yesterday, as well as Klerksdorp businesses.

Klerksdorp is where township residents usually do the bulk of their shopping.

In addition to demanding the release of local detainees, the township residents are also demanding the dismantling of Afrikaner Weerstands beweging training centres in certain parts of the western Transvaal and the unconditional restoration of power supplies.

Klerksdorp Chamber of Commerce spokesman R A Brady said the business community was doing all in its power to "bring people together."

SAPA also reports that the Civics Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) said yesterday it was paying special attention to threatened services cuts in the East Rand township of Vosloorus.

On Monday Vosloorus Town Clerk George Prinsloo raised the possibility of discontinuing or reducing essential services in the township if residents failed to pay their bills.

Cast general secretary Sam Ntuli said the township's rent and service charges payment dilemma was receiving serious attention, and that a plan of action to address the matter was being formulated within Cast ranks.

Meters

The Vosloorus Town Council and the local civics association deadlocked on the matter of the rent boycott in November last year.

Prinsloo said yesterday Vosloorus residents owed R23m and should be paying something while the council was repairing the township's meters.

He said the township owed Eskom a total of R6,3m.

Asked how much the council expected residents to pay since there was a deadlock, Prinsloo said the R104 a month they were paying before the breakdown in talks should apply.
Residents fear hotel may be sold to ANC

By Esmare van der Merwe
Political Reporter

Distressed residents of La Rosa Hotel in Berea, Johannesburg, have claimed that the ANC intends to buy the 16-floor residential hotel, a development which they say will leave them homeless.

Residents telephoned The Star this week to say they believed the hotel might soon be sold to the ANC after visits to the Abel Road building last week by ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, internal leader Walter Sisulu, Winnie Mandela and others.

The ANC has been considering options to buy commercial and residential properties in Johannesburg to set up offices and to accommodate returning exiles and officials.

A spokesman for the owner of the La Rosa Hotel, Finansbank, said yesterday the banking group was not involved in negotiations with the ANC.

One resident, who did not want to be named, said, "Berea is becoming another Soweto as it is. It is disgusting that the bank wants to sell this hotel to the ANC."
Campaign to break council

THE Mamelodi Civic Association will step up its campaign against the township's council following uncertainty over the resignation of nine councillors in December.

Addressing a Press conference yesterday, MCA chairman Mr Lazarus Muzwayeni said that in spite of a joint resignation letter, individual resignation letters of the nine councillors had not reached the council or the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Muzwayeni said the general council of the MCA, which met earlier this week, resolved to step up the campaign for the resignation of all councillors.

This is in line with the December resolution taken by the Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal.

Own Correspondent

He said the campaign would include the isolation of families and businesses of the councillors, the dumping of refuse at the houses of the councillors and the consumer boycott of their businesses.

"We will also embark on marches and hand petitions to the Transvaal Provincial Administration and other relevant departments to force the councillors to resign."

"This is a non-violent protest action against the present system of local government and we hope that they will accordingly resign."

Both the town clerk, Mr JP Nel, and the TPA have confirmed that they had not yet received official resignation letters from the councillors.
No interest in hotel

ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus yesterday denied the organisation had any intention to buy the La Rosa hotel in Berea. (SAN) 17/11/91

Tenants of the building were concerned when they saw deputy president Mr Nielson Mandela, internal leader Mr Walter Sisulu, Mrs Winnie Mandela and several other ANC members visit the hotel last week.

The residents feared the building would be used to house returning exiles and officials and that they would be evicted.

Marcus denied the claim. She said if the ANC was to consider buying the building, it would take tenants' feelings into account.

"We will not be in the position of being landlords," she said. - Sapa.
Rent boycott called off in Atteridgeville

THE nine-month rent boycott in Atteridgeville has been called off and the local council has cancelled the R20 million debt and withdrawn all court action against residents.

Administrator of the township Dr E Jacobson said he was "glad to announce" that the boycott had ended and added that disconnected essential services would resume immediately.

The council and the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation reached agreement early this week.

Asro chairman Dr Aib Nkomo said in terms of the agreement residents had to start paying rent in March.

He said the re-solution of the boycott was a victory for Asro, particularly that the debt had been written off.
Talks on power cuts end in deadlock

NEGOTIATIONS between the Thokoza Civic Association (TCA) and Escom over outstanding electricity payments have ended in deadlock.

According to TCA chairperson, Mr Sam Nthu, meetings are expected to resume with the Escom management next week in an attempt to break the impasse.

Last week 22 TCA members were arrested at a sit-in at the Thokoza Town Council offices demanding a switch-on of the lights in the township.

They were released without being charged.

The Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Casts) pledged support for the plight of the Thokoza residents.

According to a statement released by Cast president Mr Moses Mayekiso, last week, the switch-on of electricity to the township “cannot be linked to millions of rand payments first”.

Moses Mayekiso

At the time of going to press, Escom could not be reached for comment.
R22m written off in rent boycott accord

- Small business — R50 and 12%.
- Big business — R150.

Further negotiations will commence immediately on monetary matters, transfer of (rented) houses to tenants and availability of land,” the statement said.

Jacobson, who was appointed administrator of the townships after the Lpa Council collapsed late last year, said: “I am glad we have this agreement and can now start the wheels turning.”

Several other townships in the Transvaal such as Thokoza near Alberton, Jo-...
Stilfontein boycott over power cut
Staff Reporter

The Khuma Action Committee has called an indefinite consumer boycott of white businesses in Stilfontein, near Potchefstroom, in retaliation for the switch-off of electricity to Khuma township by the Stilfontein Town Council.

The consumer boycott started on Monday...

Residents' demands included immediate restoration of electricity and the opening of halls, libraries, swimming pools and other facilities in Stilfontein to all people, spokesman for the Khuma Action Committee Walter Sehurutse said yesterday.

The council was, however, adamant that the power would not be switched on unless Khuma residents stopped the rent boycott which started in June, town clerk Nokkie van Vuuren said...

"This is an unfair boycott because the Khuma residents had six months to pay their electricity bill which has accumulated to R500 000," said Mr van Vuuren.
tiner shall not represent conflicting or competing interests without the express consent of those involved without a full disclosure of such interests to all involved. "Sub-section 24 says that an accredited member shall not accept payment either in cash or kind in connection with those services from any other source without the express consent of his employer or client."

It is known that the Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa (Prins), of which Vorster is a member, has been keeping a close watch on developments between the SABC and IBC and on Vorster's involvement.

Meanwhile, the SABC's payment of SwFr 1 000 (R84 000) to IBC for the placement of various ads is still outstanding. The FM has also reported that publication of a pre-paid R85 000 Transnet ad intended for the current edition of the trade and industry's who's who was delayed and it will only appear in the next edition.

Ofenheimer told the FM that his attorneys were told by the SABC's legal department that in the light of the Transnet experience payment has been withheld. "I do not understand this," said Ofenheimer. "Harmne personally signed the deal I expect him (the SABC) to honour their obligations." — Eddie Basha

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DOWN THE DRAIN

Alexandra township — that sinkhole of liberal hopes — is once again floundering under the weight of garbage. Despite a R200m upgrading project, sewers spill their effluent into the streets, new stormwater drains don't work and the roads remain possibly the most rutted of any township in the country. This is caused by the following:

The situation in Alexandra is echoed in countless townships across the Transvaal. Alex, however, is situated between Kew, Wynberg and Marlboro, surrounded by Sandton and Johannesburg, and its situation so close to affluent white areas is a constant reminder of the malaise of the townships:

The authorities blame extensive rent boycotts while residents blame apartheid policies — which either refused to recognise the existence of communities or left them under threat of removal and reluctant to improve their homes or streets.

After the 1976 Soweto uprising, the then West Rand Administration Board began cutting services and it was only after intense lobbying that the Alexandra area was given a reprieve from the threat of forced removal. The population was then estimated at 45 000, today the same small area houses about 180 000-200 000 people with a rapidly growing squatter population.

Ian Bernhardt, of the Alexandra Development Foundation — a private-sector initiative which has built 177 affordable houses in the past four years — says its efforts at providing decent accommodation are being stymied by stormwater drains that don't function and flood new homes, or piles of rotting garbage next to brand new houses.

The Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) has discussed the matter with the authorities, but apparently to little avail. It has held several clean-ups of its own, the last early last year at a cost to the ACO of R88 000, primarily for the hire of front-end loaders to remove the rubbish. However, Obed Bapela of the ACO says they lacked the time and funds to collect all the garbage.

Bapela says garbage collection takes place once a week in Alexandra though not all areas are serviced because of rutted roads and trenches dug across some roads for the laying of electrical cables. Garbage bags are not distributed in the township and anything not placed in specific bins — which the ACO says are too few — is not collected. For the rest, a construction company comes into the township regularly and pushes all leftover garbage into hags, fly-buzzing piles on street corners.

On Thursday this week the ACO will meet the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Rand Water Board and Eskom to find ways of ending the boycott. However, neither side has yet submitted proposals of what it considers would be a reasonable rate of payment.

Cas Coovadia of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) says more townships are now paying for services than those that are not. Civic associations are pressuring for electricity to be supplied direct to township authorities because they are now channelled through adjoining municipalities, increasing the cost.

Eskom is in favour of a system whereby it will supply direct to townships, but the barrier to this appears to be the provincial authorities, who are reluctant to move away from the existing system.

Coovadia says residents also want to pay a flat rate for electricity until meters are repaired. He says residents who have been paying service charges have been discouraged by a lack of improvement in services and upgrading, with piles of garbage remaining and roads still un tarred and rutted.

Cast will hold a major meeting with the TPA and relevant authorities next month — a date has yet to be fixed — to discuss the crisis. "We will be discussing the issue of flat rates and affordable tariffs — and how an affordable tariff can be arrived at, among other issues," Coovadia says.

"We want a situation where solutions arrived at can be applied to all townships, not the present situation where negotiations are continuing all the time at different levels with the various townships. There needs to be a quicker solution to problems," Coovadia says.

The people of Alexandra do not presumably enjoy living in filth. It remains unclear how many of them would be willing to re- sume payment for services if this were not such a politically fraught issue.
Electricity rates showdown

By DAN DHLANINI

A TTT-for-tat situation has developed in Western Transvaal’s Klerksdorp and Stilfontein, where electricity supply to the townships has been suspended and water supplied only on a limited scale.

Residents of Khuma near Stilfontein and Jouberton outside Klerksdorp, who have been boycotting rent since last year, have now retaliated by calling a boycott of white-owned businesses.

In Khuma, residents are demanding the immediate reconnection of electricity and water supplies, suspended two weeks ago.

Jouberton Civic Association chairman Henry Moleme said a meeting with the KTC has been arranged and would probably take place next week.

Town treasurer J de Lange told City Press that Jouberton residents owed his council more than R600 000 and electricity would be restored only if they paid up.

Stilfontein clerk N van Vuuren said Khuma residents’ electricity bill had accumulated to over R500 000 and the council would reconnect only if they paid up.

Businesses have been hard hit since the boycott began on Monday.

Political comment and newshits by K Siyaxaba, headlines and sub-editing by E Nadon, both of 3 Freed Street, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.
Civics ‘too closely identified with ANC’

THE civic association movement was attempting to shake off its identification with “congress-orientated” organisations including the ANC in a bid to attract more supporters, said Civics Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) assistant general-secretary Cas Coovadia.

Coovadia said in an interview the involvement of civic associations in political issues had led to them being identified with the congress movement, particularly the ANC.

“The civic association movement was formed by concerned groupings, with the logistical assistance from the congress movement, particularly from the UDF. These structures were formed to tackle civic issues, such as housing, education, transport and general living conditions in the townships.

“But as the civics were formed when organisations such as the ANC were still banned, they were then forced to play a political role. After all, civic issues are closely linked with political ones.

“In the process, however, the civic issues took a back seat to political ones and the civic association movement was identified with the congress movement.”

This was a stumbling block to the civics’ aim of articulating grassroots problems faced by all township residents as certain sections felt they were not represented, Coovadia said.

“Now that previously banned organisations have been unbanned, the civics can concentrate on civic issues. To do so they will need the participation of all township residents. That is why we are trying to divest ourselves of our congress-orientated background.

“It is not that we are not proud of our congress-orientated background. On the contrary, but the civics cannot claim to be mass-based if they are only open to the ANC,” Coovadia said.

The civic association movement emerged in the early 1980’s and its formation was mandated by the people, Coovadia said.

He said there were plans in the pipeline to hold a national consultative conference of civic associations in the near future to discuss the possible launching of a national civic body.
Toekomsrus Crisis Committee (TCC) yesterday accused the Randfontein town council of delaying negotiations aimed at resolving the rent and services boycott in the West Rand township.

TCC spokesman Thomas Luthers said his organisation had been told 10 days ago that the Randfontein town council had decided to meet them, but had so far set no date and venue.

Town council spokesmen could not be reached for comment yesterday.

About 75% (1,360) of the township’s houses have been without electricity for 12 days following Randfontein’s decision to cut power to non-paying residents.

Toekomsrus residents owe R1m in arrears in payments to the Randfontein municipality.
Houghton fight may go to court

By Shirley Woodgate

Houghton residents plan to go to court to test Townships Board approval for a massive office park on 31 residential stands, said local city councillor Claire Quail.

The board's decision to allow insurance and property giant Sanlam to go ahead with the development of "Houghton Isle" has been labelled "scandalous" by Mrs Quail who believes residents have a strong case on which to base their continued fight.

"No reasons need be furnished for the board's ruling which is final, with no appeal allowed in terms of the removal of Restrictions Act.

"Our last recourse is to law and we have approached Johannesburg's management committee for support," she said.

A further shock for 10 of the 31 homeowners who dug in and refused to sell their properties to Sanlam, was the prospect that the remaining householders would be overlooked by five and six storey office blocks.

The permissible bulk would also cause insoluble traffic problems since Houghton Drive could not be widened to provide the necessary two lanes as The Wilds on either side was a national monument, Mrs Quail said.

"You cannot tell me that is good planning. It is lousy planning and it is time the authorities took note.

"The board has set a precedent not only for the rest of Houghton but places like Saxonwold which border on major arterial roads."
Groups row over street guards

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

A ROW is brewing between the PAC and the ANC over street committees, which have been used frequently by the ANC and its affiliates.

The ANC reacted strongly to a statement by the PAC's Mr Benny Alexander in the media yesterday that his organisation would this year embark on a "programme of action to rid the black townships of street committees".

The ANC's Youth League demanded an explanation from Alexander and that he explain further what he meant by fighting street committees.

Power

"Street committees have turned out to be the most democratic form of mass participation in decision-making in our communities.

"The heroic struggles that have been waged by our people against dummy structures in the townships and villages have been co-ordinated by these rudimentary organs of people's power.

"It is as a result of this that these committees have become the focus of state, repression," the ANC Youth League said in a statement yesterday."
Plan to act against councils

A TOP anti-apartheid activist yesterday said no immediate action was planned against white local authorities although they were regarded as illegitimate.

Mr Cas Coovadia, deputy secretary general of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal, said all racially-based local government structures were illegitimate.

He said discussions were in progress with white local authorities to explore interim measures to replace present systems.

"We do not want to create chaos and anarchy. But if they become intransigent or obstacles to reform, then we will take action," Coovadia said.

He also spoke out against Indian, coloured and black local authorities, whom he said were impeding "medium and long-term solutions in the townships".

"Our strategies are dictated by the situation in the townships."

Coovadia said the mass action campaign to force all Indian and coloured city- and town councillors to resign would continue.

Letters, petitions, mass meetings, marches and boycotts would be used, he said.

Last week the South Western Management Committee laid charges of "intimidation against seven members of the Eldorado Park Civic Association who called for committee members to resign. - Sowetan Correspondent"
Vosloorus residents face power cut-off

The Vosloorus Town Council has threatened to cut off electricity supplies to its residents next Tuesday.

The Vosloorus Town Council has threatened to cut off electricity supplies to its residents next Tuesday.

Town Clerk George Prinsloo, who said last week the residents were R23m in arrears, said yesterday consumers had not responded positively to appeals for payment.

"The provision of electricity services in an area will be resumed only when, according to meters read, more than 50% of the residents have paid their current accounts for the month concerned," Prinsloo said in a statement.

"Electricity supply to non-payers will then be discontinued on an individual basis," Prinsloo said. Termination or curtailment of other services for which payment had not been received was also being considered.

Prinsloo said last week the township owed Eskom R6.3m. There has been a rent and service charges boycott in the township since July.

Vosloorus Civic Association spokesman Keith Montsue said he was surprised that Prinsloo had made such an announcement after they had, held talks last week and arranged for further talks this morning, which would include the Vosloorus town treasurer and management committee.

Montsue said: "It appears that the town clerk speaks with two tongues and is negotiating in bad faith. He arranges a meeting for today and then tries to intimidate the residents into paying through the Press.

"When he calls on people to pay, he should tell them how much and what tariffs have been agreed to, because he knows the current tariffs have been rejected by the residents.

"The last mayor and the present one have gone on record to say the meters were running too fast, far in excess of what the people should be paying."

Montsue said the people insisted that money paid should be monitored by a committee appointed by the civic association and the council.

"People want payment to be directly to Eskom for electricity, the Rand Water Board for water and Boksburg Town Council for other services."

The civic association had suggested a flat rate of R50 a month for two months for electricity, water, sewerage and sewage removal.
Bridging deal for Greater Soweto extended

THE Central Witwatersrand RSC and Eskom have agreed to extend their bridging finance arrangements for Greater Soweto by a further two months.

The council approved a motion at its monthly meeting yesterday that bridging finance arrangements for services and electricity in Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville be extended despite the fact that the payment performance standards set after the signing of the Greater Soweto Accord in September had not been met.

The RSC had granted the three councils R15.4m bridging finance and they were expected to show a counter performance in their payments after the accord, which ended a five-year boycott and wrote off R518m in rent and service payment arrears.

Wits RSC chairman John Griffiths said “Payments received did show a marked improvement and willingness to pay, and the late delivery of accounts for October and November did contribute to the problem. Bearing in mind the encouraging tendency reflected in the payments, it is considered advisable to extend the period of attainment of the performance standards on which the RSC and Eskom have made their voluntary assistance conditional.”

Urban affairs consultant Nigel Mandy said payments remained low in Alexandra, which was not party to the accord.

“There are some organisations applying pressure on consumers to continue the boycott. Nevertheless, because current negotiations in Alexandra are promising, it has been decided to extend the period of the bridging finance arrangements there as well,” said Mandy.

The council also approved the upgrading of the computerised billing system for the Greater Soweto and Alexandra councils at a capital cost of R1.2m.

A further R20 964 a month would be used for operating and maintenance expenses. Computer company ITS would be appointed to install and supervise the additional computer equipment.
Alexandra group backs legalised people’s courts

WILSON ZWANE

THE Alexandra Civic Organisation (Aco) would negotiate with government for the legalisation of people’s courts, Aco president Moses Mayekiso said in Johannesburg yesterday.

Mayekiso said the “negative” reaction of Alexandra residents to the “white” judiciary and concerns about the escalation of crime in the township had prompted his organisation to resolve to establish community-oriented courts.

He was speaking at a press conference called to announce Aco’s programme of action, Operation Khanzana.

“These community courts will follow democratic principles and, unlike kangaroo courts which were often constituted at the whim of individuals, will be controlled by a body of adults and follow the rules laid down by the community,” he said.

Alexandra lawyers would also be used in the people’s courts, Mayekiso said.

Mayekiso also announced negotiations for the joint ownership with Putco of a new bus company, the Alexandra People’s Bus Company, which was at an advanced stage.

The community, including taxi associations, had undertaken to raise R250 000 towards the joint venture, he said, adding that the new bus company was expected to start operating on March 1.

Vosloorus residents face power cut-off

THE Vosloorus Town Council has threatened to cut off electricity supplies to its residents next Tuesday.

Town Clerk George Prinsloo, who said last week the residents were R23m in arrears, said yesterday consumers had not responded positively to appeals for payment.

“The provision of electricity services in an area will be resumed only when, according to meters read, more than 50% of the residents have paid their current accounts for the month concerned,” Prinsloo said in a statement.

“Electricity supply to non-payers will then be discontinued on an individual basis,” Prinsloo said. Terminations or curtailment of other services for which payment had not been received was also being considered.

Prinsloo said last week the town council owed Eskom R6,3m. There has been a rent and service charges boycott in the township since July.

Vosloorus Civic Association spokesman Keith Montsue said he was surprised that Prinsloo had made such an announcement after they had held talks last week and arranged for further talks this morning, which would include the Vosloorus town treasurer and management committee.

Montsue said it appeared that the town clerk speaks with two tongues and is negotiating in bad faith. He arranges a meeting for today and then tries to intimidate the residents into paying through the Press.

“When he calls on people to pay, he should tell them how much and what tariffs have been agreed to, because he knows the current tariffs have been rejected by the residents.

“The last mayor and the present one have gone on record to say the meters were running too fast, far in excess of what the people should be paying.”

Montsue said the people insisted that money paid should be monitored by a committee appointed by the civic association and the council.

People want payment to be directed to Eskom for electricity, the Rand Water Board for water and Boksburg Town Council for other services.”

The civic association had suggested a flat rate of R56 a month for two months for electricity, water, sewerage and sewage removal.

Public defenders to launch ‘experiment’

PRETORIA — The Legal Aid Board would appoint 10 public defenders to represent “indigent accused” appearing in the Johannesburg Magistrate’s Courts from June 1 in an experiment in public defence, board chairman Mr Justice Eloff said yesterday.

He said a steering committee had been set up to monitor the system, which would operate for two years.

It would initially be confined to Johannesburg’s lower courts. It was hoped the public defender system would help many of the more than 80% of people who now appeared in court undefended.

Public defenders would initially appear only for people charged with serious criminal offences. The board has provided R2,5m for the scheme.
Amend Act to stop town planning abuse

By Shirley Woodgate and Jacqueline Myburgh

Shortcomings in the Removal of Restrictions Act made the amendment of this law a matter of urgency, particularly in the light of the recent Townships Board ruling in the case of the “Houghton Isles”. said Johannesburg councillor Claire Qual.

Her claim follows the board’s approval last week of Sanlam’s rezoning application to build 72,000 sq m of offices on one of a block of 31 residential stands bought for the R200 million development in Upper Houghton. The Upper Houghton Residents’ Association has threatened to go to court over the plan.

Residents, planners and politicians oppose the planned development.

Three main areas of the Removal of Restrictions Act have been attacked by the Parktown Association: the unsatisfactory procedure, the attitude of planning authorities to title restrictions and the absence of principles of law in the application of the Act.

The legislation was not only inequitable and open to abuse but failed to distinguish town planning issues from property rights, and undermined the devolution of power to local authorities, the association claimed.

Democratic Party MP for Houghton, Tony Leon has also condemned the approval of the rezoning application.

Sanlam has assured the public that they will not build on Houghton Island until the property market and the economy in general improves.

The general manager of Sanlam Properties, Dolf Muller, said building would start only once tenants had been found for the office park.

Sanlam would also be negotiating with the City Council regarding traffic problems.
Cast slams crackdown on council campaign

THE CVVC's Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) yesterday slapped the launch of a government crackdown on campaigns against racially defined councils.

Cast said its campaign could not be construed as intimidating.

Law and Order deputy Minister Johan Schepers this week launched a "top priority" crackdown to counter what he described as vicious intimidation.

The intensified, orchestrated campaign of mass intimidation had reached intolerable levels for the police and the community, Schepers said.

Cast assistant general-secretary Cas Coovadia said in Johannesburg a peaceful campaign for the collapse of racially based local authorities was disciplined and could not be construed as intimidation.

"A peaceful campaign, which has the participation of the majority of people who have borne the brunt of an undemocratic and unrepresentative structures, cannot be construed as intimidation," Coovadia said.

He said if government interpreted the campaign for the resignation of black, coloured and Indian councillors as intimidation, then "it is saying that it is not prepared to heed the demands of the majority."

Schepers said police saw mass action aimed at, among other things, the destruction of local government authorities, as nothing less than mass intimidation.

Coovadia said police should concentrate on curbing criminal and vigilante activities rather than curtailing legitimate people's campaigns.

"We must reiterate that we believe our mass action campaign to be our democratic right and we know that it has been a disciplined one," Coovadia said.

Doornkop squatting sites

WILSON ZWANE

COUNCILS in the Greater Soweto area will select from scores of homeless people those who will be allocated squatting sites at Doornkop, west of Soweto.

The plan was decided upon at a meeting of the Soweto, Dube, Soweto and Dobsonville councils on January 18, spokesman Simon Mkhize said yesterday.

He said the councils would get names for the pool, from which the allocations would be made, from organisations in their areas. Selections would be made and successful applicants' names forwarded to the SPA for a final decision. Squatters and families whose incomes are less than R600 a month qualify for sites.
Residents on E Rand in boycott move

The East Rand faces a consumer boycott from February 5 unless electricity is restored to Tokoza.

East Rand Civic Associations (ERCA), including Tokoza, Tembisa and Vosloorus, decided on Wednesday to boycott white businesses until electricity is restored.

"ERCA chairman Albert Tisle says the date had been chosen to allow time for "democratic formations" to be consulted.

"To speed up the normalisation of electricity in Tokoza, the ERCA also resolved to hold a big march in Alberton on February 13."

The actions were aimed at "insubordinate authorities in townships such as Tembisa and Vosloorus."

Power was cut last month.
HOUSES FOR THE HOMELESS

The councils of Soweto, Diepkloof and Dobsonville are in the process of allocating houses in Doornkop for scores of homeless people.

The plan was described by the greater Soweto council as a democratic breakthrough.

The move was mooted and ratified at a meeting this month, a joint statement from the councils said this week.

Individual councils have invited interested persons and organisations to submit names of those who need homes.

Once the information has been collated and processed, potential candidates will be invited to council meetings.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration will then make the final decision as to which candidates qualify for sites.

Those who qualify are squatters and families whose total household incomes are less than R600 a month.

Preference will be given to squatters recommended by councils and their applications will be treated as a priority. - Sapa

BLACK Americans have denounced the disproportionate number of their race serving in the Gulf War, according to a report in the Times of New York.

"The US seems always to be getting into fights to protect white Europeans and expecting the blacks to do the dying," the report quoted a protester as saying during the recent Martin Luther King birthday celebrations in New York.

Widow of the late civil rights leader, Coretta Scott King, also attacked President Bush and called for an immediate ceasefire.

Invoking her late husband's message of peace, she said "Let us be clear that we are not fighting for democracy. The real hostages in the war were black American schoolchildren and the poor and homeless. The war has accentuated the divisions between black and white Americans."

"While opinion polls say up to 90 percent of whites support the decision to fight, the figure among blacks hovers at about 35 to 40 percent."

The report also stated that as in every big battle since the civil war, black and peace organisations are criticizing the disparity in the racial make-up of the forces. Blacks account for 12 percent of the US population, yet constitute 21 percent of the American Gulf contingent and 28 percent of the army. Hispanic and native Americans (Indians) are also disproportionately represented.

The belief that the Gulf is a poor man's war has been strengthened by figures which show, for example, that no chief executive of the country's top 20 corporations have any children in the desert, the Times said.

A number of politicians have been cautiously suggesting a return to conscription, but without the clauses that allowed so many middle-class Americans to avoid Vietnam service.

Across the country, families of black servicemen are struggling with conflicting emotions of pride and injustice, said the Times.

The father of an army medic from Seattle, Johnnie Williams, was quoted as saying: "I'm proud of him joining the service. But what really hurts me is that it's not really a just cause. How can they all fight together over there, and then be segregated over here."

Racial make-up of troops slated

Coretta Scott King has called for a ceasefire.

"..."
Townships still without power

By DAN DHLAMINI  Sowetan 27/11/91

SEVERAL black townships in the Transvaal have been without electricity since early this month, because their bills have not been paid.

Eskom spokesman Johan du Plessis told Sowetan that only 56 of Transvaal's black local authorities bought electricity directly from Eskom.

He said the rest had contracts with white town councils to buy electricity on their behalf from Eskom.

Du Plessis said Eskom has not cut or suspended electricity supplies to any of the 56 black townships despite the fact that nearly half of them were in arrears.

"Eskom has already issued summons to 17 of the defaulters, four of which have had judgments against them, but we have not taken steps yet. Another four black local authorities will soon get summons," he said.

See Page 6
Supplication a threat to kids
Row looming over lights switch-off

BY MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

A SERIOUS confrontation is looming between the CP-controlled Randfontein Town Council and Toekomsrus residents over the switching off of electricity in the township.

Randfontein Town Council is presently repairing power stations, substations and electricity poles damaged by angry youths after lights were switched off on January 8.

Toekomsrus Crisis Committee (TCC) said the problem would remain because after the repairs the council would switch on for those who had paid and switch off for those owing.

TCC said this may lead to further sabotage and the council would be held responsible for any losses.

Toekomsrus is so far the only “coloured” township known to be boycotting rent, an exercise which has so far been associated with black townships like Soweto, Vosloorus and Katlehong.

The Toekomsrus boycott has been going on for the past five months.

Trouble started when lights of people who boycotted rent and electricity were switched off and those of people who had paid were left on.

Angry youths went on the rampage and damaged power stations and electricity poles, subsequently plunging the entire township into darkness.

The TCC said it was the only way of getting the Randfontein Town Council to meet the community’s demands, which included:

1. The resignation of the entire management committee. So far, only three have resigned and two have refused.
2. That the council should employ people who can read meters properly.
3. The resignation of the superintendent.

More sabotage threatened as equipment is repaired

The transfer of old houses to tenants who have long been staying in them and have been paying rent.

That a non-racial body be appointed to administer affairs of both Randfontein Town Council and Toekomsrus township.

That there should be an agreement on a flat rate for all services in the township.

TCC alleges that a private company contracted by Randfontein Town Council to remove refuse charged residents R8 a month and the council had added another R7.90 to make it R15.90, thereby netting the council R17 000 profit a month.

TCC’s public relations officer, Oscar Oliphant, said when they discovered the council was charging more, they complained.

“When the council failed to reply to our letter, we confronted the town clerk, who told us the R17 000 was used for administration,” Oliphant said.

“We pay rent and service charges and there is no need for administration fees. TCC wants the money to be used for developing our township and not Randfontein town,” Oliphant said.

He also alleges that Toekomsrus pensioners pay R12 for refuse removal, whereas their white counterparts pay only R4.50 for the same service.

Randfontein town clerk Lou Britz denied the TCC allegations, but admitted Randfontein Council did make a profit of R17 000 from the refuse removal.

He said Toekomsrus had its own account, separate from that of Randfontein.

“We have to maintain the swimming pool, hall, stadium, roads and refuse dumps,” he said.

Britz said his council spent R138 000 a year to maintain Toekomsrus.

He also denied Toekomsrus pensioners paid more than white pensioners.

“When I tried to explain to them how the R17 000 was used, they refused and told me they did not need a lecture,” Britz said.

Oscar Oliphant... there is no need for administration fees.
A young girl points to an electricity box destroyed by youths angry over power cuts. © Pic: GEORGE MASHIANI.
power cut-off threat, a recipe for disaster? [Editorial]

By S. E. Brown

The recent news articles about power outages and the potential for longer durations of outages due to the ongoing energy crisis have raised concerns among residents and businesses. The situation is particularly alarming in communities with high dependency on electricity for essential services. It is crucial for authorities to implement effective measures to minimize the impact of power cuts on the public. In this scenario, a comprehensive approach to energy management and planning can help mitigate the effects of potential power outages. This includes improving the resilience of the power grid, enhancing emergency response capabilities, and ensuring adequate backup solutions are in place. It is equally important for individuals and businesses to prepare for such events by having emergency kits and alternative power sources. The collective effort of all stakeholders, including utilities, government agencies, and the public, will be essential in navigating through this challenging period. It is vital to learn from past experiences and adapt strategies to ensure a more reliable and sustainable energy supply in the future.
Boycott begins to bite in the Golden Triangle

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE Western Transvaal Golden Triangle – Klerksdorp, Orkney and Stilfontein – has started to feel the pinch of the three-week-old consumer boycott organised by disgruntled black residents.

Residents of Khuma and Jouberton say they embarked on the boycott of white businesses in a bid to force the white town councils to reconnect their electricity, which was cut off more than three weeks ago.

Residents have also tabled a number of demands which, if met, could lead to the lifting of the consumer boycott which has crippled the Golden Triangle.

Khuma Action Committee (KAC) spokesman Walter Schurrtshe said the demands included opening of public amenities to all races, repair of streets in Khuma and admission of black pupils at Stilfontein’s white schools.

Schurrtshe said Khuma residents had never boycotted rent as claimed by the Stilfontein Town Council.

He said residents had been paying a flat rate of R30 a month after reaching an agreement with the council.

He said the KAC had rejected offers by traders in town to pay their bulk electricity bill in return for lifting the boycott.

'We have a number of other demands besides the reconnection of electricity which the CP-controlled town council must meet before we consider lifting the boycott,' said Schurrtshe.

He said the KAC was aware that the council wanted to block deliveries to the township next week in order to force residents to buy in town.

This was, however, denied by Stilfontein mayor Danie Jonck, who said he had arranged a meeting between his management committee and business owners tomorrow night at which the consumer boycott would be top of the agenda.

Jouberton and Khuma are said to owe Klerksdorp and Stilfontein more than R1.5-million in electricity arrears.

Jouberton Civic Association (JCA) chairman Henry Moleme said his association had asked the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) to intervene following the Klerksdorp council’s refusal to meet the JCA.

Western Chamber of Business spokesperson Bobby Reddy told City Press businesses in Klerksdorp, Stilfontein and Orkney had been seriously affected by the consumer boycott.

Meanwhile, the KAC has announced a meeting at 2.30pm today to discuss the question of rent and to consider the problems of residents since the consumer boycott started.
Melville awaits action from council

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Melville residents are waiting to see whether Johannesburg City Council honours promises regarding the widening of Main Road before deciding whether to protest against the construction.

Architect and urban planner Bannie Britz, who lives in the suburb, said the local ratepayers' association had said residents would support the plan to widen the road under certain conditions.

These included a generous pavement on either side of the road, trees planted down the middle of the road and parking in a garage or behind the shops if spaces on the road have to be done away with.

He said residents had not been able to obtain plans for the road yet, and would reserve judgment until they knew for sure what the council intended to do.

Association chairman Wendy Potgieter said that the widening of the road was essential, since planned construction on the intersection of Barry Hertzog Avenue and Empire Road at the end of the year would result in the diversion of traffic through Melville.
VOSLOORUS residents face power black-out

THEO RAWANA

VOSLOORUS residents faced an electricity cut-off this morning, town clerk George Prinsloo said yesterday.

Prinsloo said residents, who were R50m in arrears, had not responded to earlier appeals to pay their accounts while solutions to the six-month-old rent and services boycott were being worked out.

The Vosloorus council last week appealed to residents to pay at least 50% of the current backlog, to enable it to maintain essential services, Prinsloo said.

He said sewerage blockages in the township were on the increase. "All manner of heavy objects — including cattle hules, bricks and stones — have been thrown into manholes resulting in blockages."

He said the council had tried to clear the blockages but they kept recurring.

Vosloorus Civic Association spokesman Keith Montsion condemned the council's decision to cut electricity.

Resolved

"Considering the fact that the council has admitted that the electricity metering devices were faulty and running up abnormally fast, recording amounts not actually consumed, we now ask how much should we pay?"

Montsion said the council was buying electricity at 9.2c a unit and selling it at 21.26c for the first 30 units and 11.32c after that.

He said a residents' meeting resolved on Sunday that the boycott should continue until the council had addressed grievances lodged with it a year ago.

Montsion said councillors had said in random discussions they did not know about the decision announced by Prinsloo.

He said the door was open for the reopening of negotiations but only if the authorities did not impose themselves.

"We have seen what has happened in other areas during darkness and have also noted with concern an unwritten agreement arrived at between the civic and the authorities in areas like Thokoza and Katlehong, where people were tracked into rushing to pay R40, only for electricity not to be reinstated."
Blackout as Vosloorus power is cut

THE Vosloorus Council has suspended the electricity supply to the township, causing a complete blackout in the area yesterday.

Town Clerk Mr George Prinsloo said yesterday the council had to act because it owed Eskom R6.3 million and residents were still not providing the income since they embarked on a rent boycott in June last year.

He said less than 10 percent of the residents had paid rent this month.

**Arrears**

Power would only be reinstated once more than 50 percent of the residents had paid their outstanding accounts. It would then be discontinued to residents who were in arrears, Prinsloo said.

The power cut was yesterday condemned by the Vosloorus Civic Association.

VCA spokesman Mr Keith Montsitsi said while residents wanted to pay for basic services, they were not prepared to pay for the salaries and comfort of "redundant, over-staffed and under-utilised council." (123)

"The Government created black local authorities and that is their baby. The people are not prepared to pay for the maintenance of apartheid structures."

He said residents had resolved at a meeting on Sunday to continue the boycott until their grievances were met.
Armed Actstop units to protect tenants

By Shehnaz Bulbulia

Actstop was forming armed defence units in more than 40 of the city’s buildings after vigilante attacks on tenants and the failure of police to provide minimum protection, the organisation’s publicity secretary Cas Coovadia said yesterday.

Mr Coovadia told The Star that defence units in 41 of the 71 buildings, organised by Actstop would be fully operative by March.

The decision to form armed defence structures was a response to periodic attacks waged against tenants and Actstop members.

A spokesman for the SAP in Pretoria, Major Reg Crewe yesterday said the police would not allow any vigilante groups to operate.

People who used firearms and force would have to act within the law or suffer the consequences, he said.

Mr Coovadia said key Actstop activists, who have already been identified, would form the core of the defence units in each of the 41 buildings, and would carry only licensed weapons.

“Actstop had not instructed the defence units on the type of arms they should carry, except that the weapons must be licensed.”

“Previously the aggressors were armed. We won’t be breaking any laws. The defence teams are all trained and disciplined activists,” he said.

Defence members had been instructed not to take the law into their hands but to hand those responsible over to the police.

The defence units would maintain a low-profile, Mr Coovadia explained.

“They won’t be roaming the buildings in military garb. The units will only be activated in case of an attack,” he said.

A communications network linking the buildings had already been established. Tenants had also been advised to buy whistles to alert other tenants, the defence units and the police.

Defending his dwelling, a Johannesburg flat resident, armed with a wooden plank, prepares to repel any vigilantes who might enter the building. Actstop hopes to have armed defence units operational by March. Picture: Alf Kumalo
Operation Clean-up

By DANIEL MAINE

The Deepmeadow Council has set aside R200 000 for cleaning unsightly heaps of refuse.

Dubbed "Operation Clean-up", the two-week project includes the hiring of 30 tipper trucks, four front-end loaders and 100 casual labourers.

In addition, the council will provide every Deepmeadow family with a refuse bin.

Bins are to be emptied twice a week.

A statement by the council said people should no longer discard refuse in the open.

"Incidents of stormwater drains getting blocked and possible outbreaks of diseases will be greatly reduced," the statement said.

The money was provided by the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council.
No More Waiting

Cas Coovadia is a key figure in the controversial Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast). He defends the organisation's legitimacy and its stand on mass action.

Cast was launched on September 15 1990. There were 39 civic associations at its first congress, from the southern and western Transvaal. A process of consultation and planning for over a year preceded the launch. The executive committee of the organisation was elected at the launch and elections were conducted by three independent people. The membership of Cast presently includes 55 civic associations.

Cast aims to play a central role in ridding our country of the vestiges of apartheid, because we are convinced that the maintenance of apartheid mutilates against improvement in the lives of the majority of our people. We see our role as involving ordinary people in determining their lives, from their day-to-day lives to participating in the development and building of a new SA.

Some agencies have questioned whether Cast is representative and whether its formation was democratic. We must explain how local civic associations are formed. The process usually begins when concerned people in a community identify problems and moot the idea of a "civic". Such people get together and consult with existing structures. A meeting of residents is then called to which every resident is invited. Such a meeting then decides whether a civic should be launched. If the decision is positive, a date is identified and all residents informed.

The civic is then launched and its executive elected by residents at that meeting. A constitution would also be presented for discussion at such a meeting and adopted by residents if there are no major problems.

The executive is then mandated to work by streets to form street committees in which residents participate and other democratic structures are formed, depending on the size of the township and other conditions. Regular meetings of street committees, other structures and the executive are held for reporting back and securing mandates.

Cast was formed by civics that came about as a result of such democratic processes. We are also willing to test whether we are representative in front of residents of townships that have civics affiliated to Cast.

We have come under severe criticism from some quarters for having initiated a programme for the intensification of mass action. These quarters are of the opinion that such action is unnecessary because the government and the ANC are talking about change and also because F W de Klerk has initiated substantial changes.

We concede that significant change has occurred. But we must point out that apartheid is still on the statute books and various levels of government continue to attempt to enforce the "legitimacy" of undemocratic, unrepresentative and racially based structures. We must also point out that very little, if anything, has changed to affect the daily lives of the majority of our people and that is of major concern to us, as a civic body.

Mass action is a tried and tested tactic of struggle and is regarded as part of any democracy world wide. This tactic has been probably the single most effective pressure that has brought the apartheid government to the table. We consider this tactic as a way in which to involve ordinary people in our communities in the process of change.

We thus reserve the right to continue such action as long as our people demand such action — certainly so long as the lives of our people on the ground do not change for the better.

Another accusation has been that Cast's campaign for the resignation of racially based local government structures has led to intimidation and violence. A lot of capital has been made of statistics published by the SA Institute of Race Relations about deaths of councillors and so on.

Firstly, these statistics refer to a period before the formation of Cast. Secondly, we do not know of a single case of proven intimidation or violence as a result of the campaign. Also, we must emphasise that any potential for violence is as a result of the State forcing unwanted structures on to people and of the corruption and oppression that such structures have caused. We do not consider the use of peaceful mass pressure — particularly in the absence of democratic and representative nonracial government — to be intimidation. We consider instead the enforcement by the State of such structures on to our people to be intimidation.

The Cast campaign to rid our people of black councillors and coloured and Indian management committee members has been very successful. We will continue the campaign until government sees sense and removes these racially based structures totally.

However, we also have to look at a replacement for these structures in order to ensure the administration of townships. We believe that interim structures are needed until final constitutional models for local government are agreed upon.

One is the appointment of an impartial administrator, after discussion between the local civic and the regional or local white authority. Another could be a committee of capable people from the community and the white authorities.

Other models could be looked at during the process of negotiations at local level. We are confident that the replacement of councillors and management committee members by such interim structures will go a long way towards resolving many of the crises in townships.

We must also clarify that we do not see civics playing the role of administering townships or governing. We believe civics must remain independent of government and political organisations, since we represent residents, irrespective of political affiliation. We also believe civics can play the role of "watchdog" over local government to ensure democracy.
Klerksdorp offers a deal on services

THEO RAWANA

The Klerksdorp Town Council has appealed to residents of neighbouring Jouberton township, on whom it has slapped a services cut, to resume paying rent and services charges. Klerksdorp, which is owed R82 000 by the Jouberton Town Council, switched off electricity and reduced water supply to a trickle earlier this month.

The council said yesterday it was prepared to resume supplying bulk services if residents started paying. It said the problems which existed in the past, resulting in the residents not paying their accounts, had been partially resolved.

Meanwhile, the Vosloorus Civic Association (VCA), the Vosloorus Chamber of Commerce, Cosatu, Nactu and other organisations have called on the local council to restore electricity to its residents and accept a R50 interim payment.

Residents have been without electricity since Tuesday when the council cut off supply because they were R20m in arrears with their rent and services charges payments.

The organisations said a meeting on Wednesday had resolved that the TPA and the Vosloorus Town Council, which had allegedly walked out of a meeting, should resume negotiations.

Sources report the town council said yesterday electricity had been restored to two sections of Vosloorus after residents agreed to pay their current accounts.
Affluence a distant dream for most blacks

AMID the squallor of Soweto, 19-year-old Sipho dreams about a life of luxury.

"I wonder what it is like to live in Sandton," the black youth said about the wealthy town.

"If I thought the whites would be angry if they knew a black man was living next door," Sipho said with a smile.

Black expectations and white fears have been heightened dramatically by South Africa's year-old reform process and are putting the search for racial peace under mounting strain.

President FW de Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela are under pressure to reassure their followers to trust reform rather than repression or revolution.

De Klerk is due to announce further reforms of apartheid at the opening of parliament today, continuing a process he began last year by freeing Mandela from jail, legalising black politics and starting negotiations with anti-apartheid forces.

Hystera

But with black warfare ravaging townships and paramilitary pro-apartheid extremists sowing hysteria among whites, many commentators say prospects for peaceful change are gloomy.

"Anarchy spills wider by the day," said the Sunday Times.

"The shallow euphoria of a year ago has dissipated; in its place there is now a hint of despair.

Blacks, who outnumber whites by five to one, live in tribal reserves in the countryside or in squalid townships on the edge of white cities. Most whites live in affluent European-style suburbs.

Blacks have flocked to the cities in recent years, often housing themselves in shanty towns where crime and unemployment have become rife.

Some rightist whites have reacted violently, whipping or beating blacks who use amenities once reserved for whites.

"The fear we have is of an avalanche, where an ignorant ma-
squallor and gang violence of a Moroka North slum, said a tipper from Soweto to Johannesburg's bright lights was a major outg

song for which funds were saved days in advance.

There, amid glittering city skyscrapers, Sandton's Californian lifestyle seems tantalisingly close, but for impoverished blacks such affluence will remain a world apart.

Social worker Jane Gama said for most township folk the most urgent need was for basic amenities - tarred roads, street lighting, hot running water and regular refuse removal.

Things that previously were beyond our reach are now attainable. We can now make choices in our lives. But many feel the process is not moving fast enough," Gama said.

Blacks did not want to live in townships because the conditions were starkly inadequate compared with white areas.

"It's like looking at A and B," she said. "A is glittering, while B is just mud and overcrowding."

"Transport is poor, so we get up early in the morning and get home very late at night. It interferes with family life." But even basic amenities may be too much to expect.

All townships lack the most basic amenities.

Boiling

"The pressure cooker of expectations is boiling," said Rand Afrikaans University professor Nina Overton.

Opinion polls show blacks, though angry about township poverty, are optimistic about the future of race relations while whites are gloomy.

"Whites have more to lose from reform. Blacks have more to gain," Overton said.

The prospect of having a black neighbour makes most whites uneasy and a good many furious.

"The prevailing emotion among whites is fear," novelist Nadine Gordimer told a literary symposium.

"It is a fear of retribution for all that has been done to blacks by whites' forefathers; for all that the whites themselves have done by their own actions and for their own silence, their turning away with closed eyes," she said.

"I believe we must create material justice before we can hope to eliminate the kind of violence that has become a tragic habit in South Africa," Gordimer said. - Sapa-Reuters
Township residents hit by electricity cuts

Township in darkness... This is how Tokoz and Vosloorus townships on the East Rand look like since they were blacked out. A similar fate awaits Atteridgeville and Mamelodi townships in Pretoria which face a blackout today.

Electricity blackouts have hit several Transvaal black townships because of the ongoing rent boycott.

For almost two months, Vosloorus switched off on January 29, while Atteridgeville and Mamelodi townships, near Pretoria averted a similar blackout on Saturday.

Other townships that have had electricity cuts are Jouberton, near Klerksdorp, and Toekomsrus, near Randfontein.

Reasons for the boycott appear to revolve primarily around disputes over amounts residents must pay to the white municipalities which provide the electricity.

The Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) feels the amounts being charged are too high and residents cannot afford to pay them.

It said residents were at times paying as much as R200 a month for electricity.

Last year after a protracted four-year rent and service boycott in Soweto the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) wrote off the arrears.

According to Cast the TPA had suffered tremendous losses from the Soweto boycott and was forced to break the stalemate by writing off the arrears.

But in other Transvaal townships which were engaged in similar boycotts to Soweto their arrears were not written off.

Cast sees unfairness in writing off arrears in one area and not the other as all black townships experience the same problems.

Transvaal MEC for Local Government, Mr Oulas van Zyl, says he cannot understand why there are boycotts when people can sit down and negotiate about their problems.

By Langa Skosana

Game

He says Cast has never approached him or his department since the beginning of the year. A meeting that was scheduled with senior officials of his department was abandoned as Cast officials did not turn up.

"I don't know what game they are playing. We are always ready to talk to them," he said.

Referring to the impending switch-off in Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, Van Zyl said he understood that there are millions of rand being owed by residents.

He said Atteridgeville's administrator, Mr Ernie Jacobson, and the local civic association reached an agreement earlier this month.

He said TPA cannot approve the agreement as it did not take into account various factors.

Parties

"A well-known policy of the TPA is its preparedness to negotiate with all interested parties, but not at the cost of elected councils or councillors," he said.

Some white municipalities seem to follow this policy but are unhappy at having to do business with civic associations whom they believe negotiate in bad faith.

They say agreements that have been in progress in the East Rand and Sefakoane in the West Rand will be intensified.

The Tokoz consumer boycott, will within two weeks be extended to all townships on the East Rand.

Consultation will start immediately with all Cast affiliates in Southern and Western Transvaal with a view to having a regional consumer boycott.

A letter has been sent to Mr Herman Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, requesting a meeting in Johannesburg within three days.

Some residents whose townships have been blacked out are fuming.

They feel they are pawns in the power game played by the civic associations and the authorities.

An irritated Tokoz resident, who wanted to remain anonymous, said he believed many people were prepared to pay to get their electricity back.

"Many of us are afraid to speak up against the evices because you can get marked and your house is burnt.

Quiet

"There are businessmen, lawyers, nurses and doctors in our townships who understand that you cannot use services without paying for them. But these people keep quiet and watch helplessly," he said.

However another felt the boycott should continue because blacks have been cheated for far too long.

In Vosloorus some residents have expressed a willingness to pay - and some have been paying small amounts - but say they are disillusioned because their lights are not switched on in spite of the payment.

One said the Government has promised a bright new South Africa but leaves its citizens in darkness.

A spokesman of the Vosloorus civic association, Mr Keith Montsiis said the reason residents embarked on a boycott in his township was to protest at the high electricity bills, faulty metering of electricity and water, blocked sewers and inadequate infrastructure in the township.

He said the authorities were mum in accepting the low payment for electricity while keeping the lights off.

"Why do they say R50 is little but accept it backdoor," he asked.

He called on the authorities to stop the bluff and negotiate properly with the residents.

Angry residents in Tokoz are complaining that they cannot use their electricity gadgets, while pupils say they are experiencing hardship by studying by candlelight. Businesses say the power cuts have halted them.
Boycott may extend to banks and bonds

RESIDENTS of townships hit by electricity cut-offs might withdraw their accounts from banks and embark on bond boycotts, Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cass) general secretary Sam Ntuli said at the weekend.

Ntuli said representatives from Thokoza (near Alberton), Vosloorus (Boksburg), Doekomarur (Randfontein), Jouberton (Klerksdorp) and townships as far west as Orkney and Stilfontein, would meet in Johannesburg tomorrow.

Ntuli said “Tuesday’s meeting might decide on what has already become a general feeling among residents that residents in affected areas should withdraw their accounts from banks.

“A decision might also be taken to go on bond boycotts, to force the banks to intervene in the seemingly endless fees.”

He added that the civic leaders were expected to go to the TPA offices in Pretoria after the meeting, and a letter had been written to the MEC for local government, Claus van Zyl, requesting that he receive the delegation.

Ntuli rejected a report that residents of two sections of Vosloorus had broken the rent boycott and their power supply had been restored.

As the boycott of Alberton businesses entered its second month at the weekend, the Alberton Traders and Professionals Association (ATPA) and the Alberton Industries Association concluded a plan to bring about an end to the action.

The boycott followed a breakdown in talks between the Thokoza Civic Association, the Alberton Town Council, the Thokoza Town Council and the TPA.

The two business organisations have formed a business forum, which, according to ATPA secretary Yunnus Karolia, has sent a memorandum to a “higher authority” to get talks going again.
Civic organisations in East Rand townships have threatened a consumer boycott this week if the Transvaal Provincial Administration and white local authorities do not address their grievances.

Civic organisations at Khuma, Stilfontein, and Joniberton in the western Transvaal, Toekomrus on the West Rand, and Atteridgeville, Pretoria, which have also been hit by power and water cuts, are to meet tomorrow to discuss the possibility of extending the boycott.

East Rand residents have threatened to withdraw their accounts from financial institutions in Alberton, Germiston, Springs and Boksburg would also be hit by the boycott.

The decision to boycott comes after a breakdown in negotiations three weeks ago between the Tokoza Civic Association and the TPA, which demanded a monthly flat rate of R40. Vosloorus was hit by power and water cuts at the weekend, Mr Coovadia added.
Townships of Pretoria head for new cut-offs

by Norman Chandler Pretoria Bureau

A row has broken out in Pretoria over a Transvaal Provincial Administration refusal to accept a three-week-old agreement reached between the administrator of Atteridgeville and the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro) to write-off millions of rands in service charges.

And, in a new move, the TPA's MEC in charge of Local Government, Olaus van Zyl, yesterday indicated that Pretoria City Council might again have to cut electricity supplies to Atteridgeville — and possibly also to Mamelodi township — because of non-payment of charges.

Power was cut to the two areas on September 26 last year and restored after negotiations involving the Regional Services Council took place.

The threat of a new cut was confirmed yesterday by a Council spokesman, who said that the management committee would discuss the matter at a meeting later today.

Pretoria is owed R5,5 million by the two councils — more than R3 million by Atteridgeville.

Asro said in a statement yesterday that it was “appalled” by the attitude of the TPA.

“As the agreement has been entered into with a senior official duly appointed by the TPA in terms of the Black Local Authorities Act, it is legally binding on both parties.”

“Our lawyers are studying the legal variables involved in this matter before we decide on our next move.”

Dr Jacobson, who runs Atteridgeville in place of the council which resigned late last year, reached agreement with Asro in mid-January in a bid to end the impasse which has dogged relations with Pretoria City Council for several months.

The TPA, which yesterday declined further comment, said in its initial statement that it had not been party to the agreement nor participated in any discussions.

“After the conclusion of the agreement, Dr Jacobson held several discussions with TPA officials and myself,” the TPA wishes to state clearly that it is in favour of negotiations in order to address the various problems in residential areas and at local authorities,” Mr van Zyl said.

The TPA standpoint was that approval of tariffs and the writing-off of bad debts was its responsibility.

Mamelodi City Council last night urged residents to pay their water and electricity accounts to avoid a cut-off.

It said that a letter from the Pretoria City Council regarding sewerage, electricity and water accounts had been received. The total amount owing was R3,5 million.

“Following the announcement by the TPA that bridging finance would no longer be made available to the Council, it was agreed between the Council and the Mamelodi Peoples’ Delegation that arrears accumulated up to June 1990 would be frozen on the proviso that current accounts from July 1990 were paid promptly.

“As matters stand, the Council would be left with no choice but to take drastic steps against people who failed to honour that arrangement. . .”
Civic groups to act against white councils

CIVIC organisations of eight Transvaal townships hit by power and water cuts are to form a coordinated strategy to pressurise white local authorities to address their problems.

This was confirmed yesterday by the Civics Association of Southern Transvaal assistant general secretary Mr Cas Coovadia.

He said a meeting would be held in Johannesburg tomorrow to formulate such a strategy, between Cast, the Tshwane Council, the Tshwane Residents Association, and the civic associations of Tokoza, Vosloorus, Jouberton, Stilfontein and Khuma.

Service cuts, as well as attitudes of white municipalities, would be discussed but he stressed that Cast was "definitely still prepared to talk to the local authorities and the Transvaal Provincial Administration".

He said negotiations between Cast and the TPA about the reconnection of services to townships were, in principle, still on track.

"The TPA said they would send us a few dates for meetings in February. We are waiting for these dates," Coovadia added.

According to Cast general secretary Mr Sam Njuli there was a strong possibility that residents of affected townships might withdraw their accounts from banks and embark on bond boycotts.

He said residents were currently discussing this option but a final decision in this regard would be taken at tomorrow's meeting.

Njuli's family members were injured late on Saturday night when assailants lobbed two hand grenades into his Tokoza home - Sapa
World Bank bets on SA for success

THE World Bank sees SA as its possible success story in Africa, and is assigning more manpower to its study here than it originally intended.

Development Bank CE Simon Brand says the World Bank has realized that SA, with its considerable resources, represents a chance for its policies to succeed. "They see a good chance of things working here," of showing results.

"They are looking very hard to show success in Africa," he says.

This year the World Bank will begin a formal study of SA, which will represent the first real contact the world's primary development agency has had with SA in 25 years.

The bank investigation will be an economic study to provide itself with basic data on SA.

Brand says he believes SA will get World Bank loans in the future, "but not this year or the next." He suggests that SA has a lot to gain from an improved relationship with the bank.

Much of mainstream government development thinking now mirrors policies which agencies such as the World Bank employ worldwide.

KEVIN DAIVIE

Brand says in the SA political debate it will be possible to show policy is not tailored to protecting vested interests, but simply reflects the outside opinion of bodies such as the World Bank which have considerable experience in the field.

Many other development agencies are visiting SA. There has been constant traffic from the development arms of most Western countries, including Germany and Sweden.

"They're generally scouting the territory, looking at available capacity and where they can contribute," he says. He says the notices that all development finance is going to Eastern Europe is incorrect.

"It's becoming more and more clear that there are major problems with most of Eastern Europe," he says.

An indication of SA's improving relationship with the capital markets of Europe is the intention of the Development Bank to raise foreign loans this year.

While the amounts will not be large, the exercise will be to re-establish links with these markets.

October manufacturing creeps up

TOTAL manufacturing production in October 1990 increased for the first time since February 1989, according to the latest figures issued by the Central Statistical Service (CSS).

The figures show that manufacturing production in October 1990 increased by 1.1% compared with October 1989.

However, SA Chamber of Business economist Keith Lockwood said yesterday that the increase in production "tended to be consumer-related".

The CSS said 15 of the 27 major manufacturing groups showed an increase in production, with the largest increases being recorded by beverages, tobacco products, other chemical products, rubber products and glass industries.

The value of sales of manufacturing for October 1990 showed an 11.4% increase over October 1989, with the largest contributors to growth being food, other chemical products, metal products and electrical machinery.

Actual sales of R44,588m for August to October 1990 quarter were 9.4% up on October 1989, while seasonally adjusted sales of R41,963m for August to October 1990 were 0.1% up on the previous quarter.

The Bank of Lisbon Economic Focus said growth in the manufacturing sector over the last decade had been sluggish at 0.7%.

Between January and August 1990 employment in the manufacturing sector had decreased by 3% in line with a 3% fall in output over the same period.

The figures show that manufacturing production in October 1990 increased by 1.1% compared with October 1989.

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Residents told to adhere to rent and services agreement

ATTERIDGEVILLE's civic association yesterday urged its supporters to stick to an agreement on rent and services payments which was overruled by the TPA at the weekend.

The Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation (Asro) said residents should continue to honour last month's agreement in terms of which the township's R25.5m rent and services debt was written off.

MEC for local government Olaus van Zyl announced at the weekend that the TPA had effectively overruled the agreement between Asro and Atteridgeville administrator Erme Jacobson as being "financially unaccountable".

Asro chairman Abe Nkomo described van Zyl's announcement as a "stab in the residents' back" and called for his immediate resignation.

"Any attempt by Van Zyl to nullify that agreement is totally irresponsible and we can only see this as a move to nullify the agreement," he said.

After the agreement, Asro held a meeting with Jacobson to discuss how the settlement was going to be implemented.

At that meeting two TPA officials were present but did not make any objections, another Asro spokesman, Rees Mahula, said.

"As far as Asro is concerned the agreement is legally binding as it was entered into with a senior official duly appointed by the TPA in terms of the Black Local Authorities Act."

Van Zyl said if the interim rates were approved, income would be less than 30% of the actual costs of rendering services.

Meanwhile, civic organisations of eight Transvaal townships hit by power and water cuts are to form a co-ordinated strategy to press white local authorities into addressing their problems, reports Sapa.

Civics Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) assistant general secretary Cas Coovadia said a meeting between Cast, the Toekomsrus Crisis Committee, Asro, and the civic associations of Thokoza, Voelkorsus, Khuma, Stilfontein and Jouberton would be held in Johannesburg tomorrow.
Service charges disputed

Staff Reporter

The Vani Civic Association (VCA) has disputed the service charges set by the Lekoa Town Council and called for an intensification of the rent boycott.

The town council said last week that a fixed interim service charge of R4.1 for services excluding electricity had been agreed to by "interested organisations".

It was agreed that all the parties would be consulted first, VCA spokesman Shembiso Radebe said.

Other parties are the Evaton Town Council, Vanderbijlpark Town Council, Vereeniging Town Council and Eskom.

Residents were to pay electricity and water charges in October only, said Mr Radebe. Those with electricity were to pay R55.50 and those without R23.50.
Council threatens to cut electricity to townships

Pretoria Correspondent

The Pretoria City Council has announced it will cut the bulk supply of electricity to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi on Monday if satisfactory arrangements for payment of their arrear accounts are not made before that day. This comes after the council had said contracts for bulk supplies would be cancelled if payment on arrear accounts was not made before January 25.

The council said in a statement yesterday that its arrangement with the two councils was clearly that the contracts could be terminated without any further notice in the event of non-payment. Atteridgeville's electricity and water accounts were now two months in arrears to the amounts of R1.2 million and R21,200. The town's sewerage account of R361,123 represented arrears of three months.

On January 25, Mamelodi paid R500,000 of its R2.1 million electricity account and on February 4 paid R488,493 of its water account of R960,961.

The council said the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation's agreement to pay R50 per household, between R69 and R169 per business, and R15 per hostel resident a month to the Atteridgeville City Council in future was "unsatisfactory." This would bring in capital of only R800,000 a month — too small to pay Atteridgeville's expenditures, which did not include electricity costs of R97,352 a month.
Townships could lose power

By MONK NKOMO

THE Pretoria City Council yesterday said electricity supplies to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi would be cut off at 6am on Monday because the townspeople owed it about R3 million.

Management committee chairman Mr James Leach said in a statement yesterday that the township councils were supposed to pay their arrears by January 25.

He said that Atteridgeville is two months in arrears, owing R1.8 million Mamelodi paid nearly R1 million on January 25, but owes almost another million rands.

Mamelodi town clerk Mr JP Nel said a statement yesterday that "drastic action was going to be taken against rent defaulters.

An appeal to residents to come forward and pay their rent and avoid a possible power cut by the city council of Pretoria, which has already notified us that the amount we owe it could lead to such an action at any time," Nel said.

Atteridgeville acting town clerk Mr Diann Mouton made a similar appeal and urged residents to start paying the mostly interim flat rate of R50 a house.

Electricity supplies to both townspeople were cut last September following a rent boycott in those areas.

After intensive negotiations between the local civic bodies and the authorities, the boycott was called off.
Lekoa civic group rejects rent demand

A CONFRONTATION is looming between the Lekoa Town Council and the Vaal Civic Association over a compromise in the seven-year rent controversy.

The council has demanded that residents pay R41 a month, about half the amount that it was charging before a boycott began in 1984.

The VCA has advised residents not to pay the R41 rent while the council has threatened to disconnect power supplies to those who refuse to heed its call.

The affected townships are: Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Bophelong, Boipatong, Zamela and Refenkgoiso.

The council has advised residents that they are expected to pay the stipulated amount starting on February 15.

A council application has been made to the Transvaal administrator for his formal approval to write off the arrears of households accumulated during the boycott.

Council administrator Mr Jaap Joubert had announced that the VCA and other groups involved in negotiations agreed to the new rent. VCA treasurer Mr Jacob Phahlanye denies this.

He said: “I want to point out that the council is actually implying that it had spoken to us and that we had agreed to residents paying R41 a month when in fact that is not so.

“We last spoke to the council and the Transvaal Provincial Council before October last year.

“At that time no agreement was reached regarding the matter.

“The TPA and the Lekoa Town Council have now violated the terms of our agreement, that only the VCA and no other organisations will negotiate on behalf of the Vaal community.

“It was also agreed that no press releases and statements should be made without consulting the other parties in the negotiating team.


By IKE MOTSAPI
Threat to cut power supply

PRETORIA — The Pretoria City Council yesterday threatened to cut off bulk power supplies to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi if they did not give guarantees by Monday to pay their service arrears.

Speaking at a Press conference in Pretoria, management committee chairman James Leach said Atteridgeville and Mamelodi were expected to give such an undertaking or their contracts would lapse.

The Atteridgeville/Sansville Residents' Organisation yesterday warned the council not to undermine an agreement entered into by itself and Atteridgeville administrator Ernie Jacobson which required residents to start paying certain rates at the beginning of March.

THEO RAWANA reports that the Klerksdorp Town Council has agreed to meet the Jocceron Cynne Association today for preliminary talks aimed at restarting negotiations on the area's boycotts and other issues.

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Steamrolling

Boycott chaos looming

Talks fail as black township lights go out
COMMUNITY organisations in Vosloorus have called on the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the local council to resume negotiations with the Vosloorus Civic Association in order to resolve the rent crisis.

The plea was made after the Vosloorus Town Council switched off lights in the township last Tuesday.

VCA publicity secretary Mr Keith Montsitsi said the aim of such negotiations would be to resolve the on-going rent crisis.

The talks broke down last November when officials of the TPA walked out of a meeting.

They staged the walkout after the council refused to accept an interim payment of R50 offered by residents.

Montsitsi said the organisations which called for the talks to be resumed included the Vosloorus Chamber of Commerce, Nactu, Cosatu, the Azanian National Youth Unity, the Inter-denominational African Ministers Association of South Africa, African Women Organisation, the PAC and ANC.

The meeting, held on January 30, resolved that the council should accept the R50 interim payment offer.

It was also resolved that the council should immediately restore the electricity supply.

In addition, it was decided that should the council fail to respond to these demands, the residents would continue with the rent boycott and pockets to force it to the negotiating table.
100 evicted tenants back in filthy flats

Staff Reporter (27)

About 100 tenants of Pueblo Court in Rotse Street, Hillbrow, moved back into the filthy building after being evicted by the landlord yesterday.

According to tenants, Frans du Toit, son of the landlord and caretaker of the 70-room building, came around on Friday giving them verbal notice.

Some doors were damaged, and tenants said Mr du Toit had kicked them in yesterday when he told them to get out.

One tenant said he had given wide-ranging reasons that the Government wanted to buy the building, that people had died there, that the health department wanted it evacuated and that it was to be demolished.

When The Star visited the building yesterday, a dank, heavy smell of old urine hung over it. There was rubbish in the corridors and the lifts did not work.

Mr du Toit said Pueblo Court was not fit for human habitation and he had received four notices this year from the Department of Health.

He said there was no chance but to heed the department's warnings to upgrade the building. "It is obvious people cannot live in these conditions while renovations are under way," he said.

He said all tenants had had their initial deposits refunded "even those who were in arrears with their rent."

Once the building was fully renovated, tenants would be allowed to move back. And in future there would be tighter control over the building.

Health hazard ... one of the tenants of Pueblo Court, Hillbrow, sorts through the rubbish that litters the corridors of the run-down building. Picture: Herbert Mabuza
Dobsonville warns

of electricity cut

By Montshiwa Moroke

Dobsonville residents have until tomorrow to pay their electricity accounts, or have their lights disconnected on Monday, the acting town clerk, Tony Roux, said yesterday.

This is the third township under a black local authority to have been given this warning this week.

On Tuesday, the Pretoria City Council warned it would cut the bulk supply of electricity to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi on Monday if satisfactory arrangements for payments of arrears were not made.

Yesterday, Daan Mouton, Atteridgeville's acting town clerk said the council would open its offices tomorrow between 8 am and 12 noon to enable residents to pay accounts.

The ANC has described the threat to cut the power supply to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi as "a perfect recipe for violence".

In Dobsonville, Mr Roux said residents had been informed by letters sent to individual tenants who had not paid their accounts.

Mr Roux said January had been a bad month with only 40 percent of tenants paying their bills. Before the boycott started the council was receiving 45 percent of payments. This increased slightly after the Soweto Accord was signed last August.
Open areas if you can afford it

The scrapping of the Group Areas Act and a shrinking market are putting upward pressure on flat rentals. Although they will soon be able to do so legally, many blacks may be unable to afford to move into white areas. See MONDLY MAKhANYA.

People will be able to rent accommodation wherever they want.

He said the selling of flats would be made much easier because “in the past financial institutions were unwilling to lend money to people buying in these areas. But when the Group Areas Act has been scrapped the element of uncertainty will be greatly reduced.”

JH Isaac's residential property director, Peter Holting, believes there will be a general increase in rentals both in lower and upper-market areas. He says the continued sale of rental residential buildings is bound to exacerbate an already hard-pressed market.

There is a trend towards sectional title and this is irreversible. The returns from rentals are too poor for a number of reasons,” says Holting.

He cites rent control as the main reason for the poor returns and the resultant reluctance of developers to move into this industry.

In many buildings tenants’ committees have refused to pay the rent demanded by the landlord and have opted for that recommended by the Rent Board. Landlords often complain that as a result of this, they are unable to break even, hence their inability to maintain buildings. A vicious circle arises when tenants refuse to accept rent increases on the pretext that the building is not well looked after.

“Takes years for a building to yield a return. For instance, a building built 15 years ago would only be showing a return of six or seven percent this year. A classic example is the Punke building in Berea which, built in 1970, was the last building to be built in the area for rental purposes. This building is still losing money and has been changing hands at a remarkable rate because nobody wants to keep it,” says Holting.

Amproo American Property Services (Amproo) MD Gerald Leesner, whose company owns Highpoint in Hillbrow and manages Darragh House in central Johannesburg, does not foresee a flood of blacks into the inner city as this has already happened regardless of the Act.

“Black people began moving into town long ago when it was still illegal and there is nothing that will further encourage movement into town. Also, there is simply no accommodation for people to move into,” says Leesner.

There will, however, be a slight increase in demand and this will create a lot of problems because “although there is tremendous demand for rented accommodation, developers are not interested in this market because it is generally not profitable.”

Highpoint and Darragh House are profitable and, unlike in other buildings in Hillbrow and the inner city, tenants’ committees were there to house with the owners and not to cordon rentals. Ampro’s experiences few problems in its buildings, says Leesner.

“The main problem in our buildings is overcrowding. The consequence of having too many people in one flat is that it puts great pressure on services”

Investec MD Marc Wannier says he expects the shortage of rented accommodation to increase in the near future — which will be accompanied by increased rentals. “Political changes and demographic movements will create an enormous demand for medium-priced accommodation and rentals will increase substantially, but particularly in higher-quality suburbs,” he says.

According to Kuper’s Sam Hackner, where the company has acquired property in order to convert to sectional title, about 40 percent of tenants have accepted the option to buy.

Hackner says rental accommodation to become profitable rents would have to increase by 50 percent.

Holting agreed, saying in buildings with 40 flats they normally had to pay R1 500 a month for water and in excess of what the tenants had paid. Electricity charges are usually paid on to the tenant.

Overcrowding is also a problem facing JHI as it puts pressure on the plumbing — “which not only affects the building but the whole suburb.”

While it will be possible, as Wannier points out, for owners of sectional title properties to rent their flats this will further increase rentals. This is because a single flat costs more to run than a whole block per unit.

With the rentals set to increase, the issue of affordability will come into play and determine whether there is actually flood of blacks into town. A recent study done in Cape Town among a coloured community showed that while 50 percent of that community would have liked to move to nearby white areas only three percent would be able to afford such a move.
Why the 'civics' are angry

In his speech to Parliament, President F W de Klerk gave the green light for mixed town and city councils to be set up before a new constitution was put in place

This was heralded as positive encouragement for bodies such as the Johannesburg Metropolitan Chamber (JMC)

Yet townships in Pretoria, the East Rand and the Vaal Triangle have threatened a regional consumer boycott which could cripple up to 28 towns and impede negotiations for new non-racial, democratic local government structures

The townships' civic associations blame the Transvaal Provincial Administration for setting flat rates for services when they say the civic associations claim the communities can't pay. They also accuse white local authorities of cutting services while negotiations are in progress.

The TPA says it won't pay, there will be no negotiated funds to prevent services being cut

There appears to be a breakdown in communication between the authorities and the civic associations. This could derail the negotiation process in local government.

Cis Coovadia is the assistant general secretary of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast).

He accuses town councils such as Klerksdorp of being obstructive to negotiations by cutting power to black areas.

But Transvaal MEC for local government Olaus van Zyl holds Klerksdorp up as a shining example as one of the first white local authorities to take over complete administration of a township

According to Mr Coovadia, the civic associations have lost faith in the TPA and have asked Hernus Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, to intervene or consumer boycotts will be intensified.

Mr van Zyl says none of the civic associations have come to him with problems. He says there is no need for boycotts and mass action because the State President has said a new local government system was on the cards.

On Wednesday, Cast held a meeting to form a strategy to pressure intransigent white local authorities and the TPA to address the power cuts.

Consumer boycotts in progress on the East Rand and Stilfontein in western Transvaal will be intensified and the Tokoza consumer boycott in Alberton will be extended to all towns on the East Rand within two weeks Cast will also consult its affiliates in the southern and western Transvaal regarding a regional consumer boycott.

Mr Coovadia says the TPA has adopted a confrontational attitude in negotiations with townships other than Soweto.

"We have told the TPA that if they continue, they will be back in court in one year. Four months later communities can't pay and the boycotts will resume.

"The TPA sent over back

Municipal Reporter LOUISE BURGERS examines the reasons behind the looming consumer boycotts.

in the transitional period and said Cast would rather resolve the situation than revert to rent and consumer boycotts.

"We are not going to accept a different set of values for Soweto. There must be uniform negotiations and agreements. We want a say in municipal administration and local authorities to put the rights back to us to live and talk.

"Mr van Zyl said the civic associations should tell him where the money would come from to pay for electricity.

"We are doing our best, but we must be realistic — it is not a reluctance and an unwillingness on our side. We agree the communities are not viable. We pay bridging finance because they are not viable.

"They (black communities) have been paying two-thirds of the real cost of services for years. There is no money to make up the balance.

"Mr van Zyl said some white local authorities were reluctant to become involved in negotiations with the TPA and black townships.

Khoka Shabane, local government analyst for the Centre for Policy Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, agrees that the TPA hopes the Soweto Accord would have a domino effect in other areas.

"In the political scheme of things those other townships do not occupy the same position as Soweto. They are not a political threat like Soweto was, as viewed by the TPA.

He warned that organisations such as Cast had to be seen to have exhausted all avenues of negotiation before resorting to consumer boycotts.

"If Cast goes ahead with its campaign, it will be projected as the villain in the reform process at local government level.

Mr Shabane said the publicity around such a campaign should be handled with care, or it would be dismissed as a knee-jerk reaction and be of no help to negotiations.

Johannesburg management committee chairman Ian Davison said the civic associations should recognise black and white councils for what they were.

"No sooner did the civics sign agreements with the (black) councils, than they asked for their resignations.

Why did they sign the Soweto Accord if they did not accept their legitimacy?

"If we disappear, who are they (the civics) going to negotiate with?

The battle is on a low
Boycott could blanket white business on the Witwatersrand

WHITE-OWNED businesses throughout the Witwatersrand, including Johannesburg, could soon be the target of blanket consumer boycotts in protest against electricity being cut to various townships.

Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) vice-president Kgabuso Mosunkutu said the organisation's protest campaign could be extended throughout the region, starting with Greater Johannesburg.

This came shortly after a Cast meeting decided on Wednesday to extend the current boycott affecting Alberton to the whole of the East Rand.

The meeting, attended by representatives from the East Rand, Pretoria and the Vaal Triangle, also demanded a meeting with Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel within three days.

Mosunkutu said a threat by the Dobsonville Town Council to cut off electricity to residents who failed to pay their accounts by Monday could precipitate the mass action.

Mosunkutu said Dobsonville and other Soweto townships were not keeping to the terms of the Soweto Accord, which wrote off R510m in rent and services debt. He held that no proper electricity accounts were being sent to residents.

"If Dobsonville cuts electricity supply it will trigger off the anger of the people and we may have a situation similar to the one in the East Rand," he said.

### Signatory

East Rand townships including Thokoza, Vosloorus, Katlehong, KwaThema, Duduza andThembisa have decided to extend a boycott of Alberton businesses to the whole of the East Rand.

Dobsonville, together with Deepmeadow and Soweto city councils, is a signatory to the Soweto Accord.

In terms of the accord, a composite flat rate of R65 per month was to be paid for September.

From October, until affordable tariffs had been established, a monthly account would consist of a miscellaneous rate of R23, plus a metered electricity charge, with a ceiling of R72 a month.

Dobsonville acting town clerk Tony Roux said yesterday only 40% of the residents were paying.

Roux said his council would cut power only to residents who failed to pay and not to the whole township — as is the case with Thokoza.

Meanwhile, East Rand townships residents will march in Alberton tomorrow morning and hand over a memorandum to the town council.

They have not been allowed into the centre of town, but the council will receive their memo at the Heidelberg Street intersection.

Mosunkutu said of the Soweto situation: "Faced with officialdom who did not adhere to the Soweto Accord, an inter-branch meeting of the Soweto Civic Association will assess the situation tonight and make a decision on our adhering to the accord."

Thokoza and Vosloorus have reached a deadlock in their talks with their local white councils and the TPF. Power supplies have been cut, while the Pretoria townships of Mamelodi and Atteridgeville are currently facing a cut-off by bulk suppliers Pretoria.
Tembisa plans a mass protest

TEMBISA mayor Mr Solomon More has invited the ANC and PAC to a Press conference tomorrow as the township's residents prepare to demonstrate against the local council.

More called the conference to deal with issues relating to the four-year-old rent boycott in the township.

"The residents instead resolved at a meeting to stage a placard demonstration outside the council offices to highlight their demand that all councillors in the township should resign."

**Resign**

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Tembisa Residents Association said they would spurn the conference and intensify their campaign to force councillors to resign.

"The invitation to the conference (by the mayor) was viewed as a sly and desperate ploy by the mayor and his council to avoid a strong call made by the community on them to resign," it said.

"Residents will demonstrate with placards around the township on the day of the Press conference," the statement added. - Sapa.
Late bid to avert electricity cuts

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville and Soweto Residents Organisation was yesterday locked in crucial talks with white local authorities in a last-ditch effort to avert the cutting of electricity supplies on Monday.

A three-manAspectRatio Aso delegation met Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC in charge of local government, and the Administrator of Atteridgeville, Dr Ernie Jacobson, yesterday morning to discuss ways of avoiding another power cut supply to the township.

The Pretoria City Council announced on Tuesday that supplies to both Atteridgeville and Soweto would be discontinued at 6am on Monday because of large amounts owed to it by the two councils.

Soweto established that yesterday's meeting between Aso and the Administrator centred on the establishment of a Community Trust Fund and an undertaking by the civic association and the Atteridgeville Council that they would pay the arrears.

Reliable sources said both parties had agreed in principle to establish the fund in which residents would contribute R5 a house a month for the development of the township and to guard against any financial shortfalls.

A similar agreement exists in Soweto.

Both Aso and the Manelodi Civic Association have warned of mass action, including a consumer boycott of white businesses, should electricity supplies be cut on Monday.

A spokesman for the MCA, Mr Lasarius Mzwayine, refuted a report in yesterday's Sowetan that they had appealed to residents to start paying rent.

There was a typographical error, caused by the mixing of statements made by the civic association and Mr Daan Mouton, Atteridgeville's acting town clerk who had made this appeal.

The Manelodi Council, in an attempt to stop the imminent power cut, yesterday appealed to residents to pay their accounts.

"The offices will be opened from 8am to 4pm on Saturday to enable consumers to pay their accounts," Mr JP Nel, the town clerk, said.
Blackout averted in Pretoria townships

The threatened cut in electricity to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi has been averted.

The Pretoria City Council said power would not be cut off today as planned because Mamelodi's mayor, S. S. Mokone, had paid arrears of R1 664 355 on Friday to the city council.

There are still, however, arrears to be paid for water (R457 468) and sewage (R892 247).

Atteridgeville's administrator, Dr Erne Jacobson, obtained R500 000 to pay the city council as a down payment on the outstanding amount of R623 485. The remainder has to be paid by Friday.

Lea Town Council has warned it will take action against Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Bophelong, Bopatong, Zamdela and Refekgoitsa because of arrears.

Already without electricity are Vosloorus, Tokoza and Jouberton (Klerksdorp), while plateland townships such as Carolina's Sibola (also without water) and Bethal's eMzimoni have had no power for months — Pretoria and Highveld Bureaus.

Power, cry unions —

Page 11.
A conference called by the Tembisa mayor to find a solution to the township’s R7 million electricity debt failed dismally on Saturday, with only 50 people attending.

Mayor Solomon More earlier this week invited political and community organisations to attend the conference in an effort to resolve the four-year-old services boycott.

He also planned to set up a special committee to represent Tembisa residents at the negotiating forum established by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The meeting’s failure follows a call by the Tembisa ANC branch for the boycott of the conference.

An urgent ANC meeting on Thursday, attended by the PAC, Cosatu, women and youth organisations, rejected Mr More’s invitation and reiterated the communities rejection of black local authorities.

It also endorsed a call of the Tembisa Residents’ Organisation for the resignation of town councillors, reaffirming the ANC as the people’s only authentic representative.

ANC Tembisa branch secretary Mr Mathole Motshekga said the boycott of the mayor’s conference was a clear reflection of residents’ rejection of black local authorities.

“Residents will settle for nothing less than non-racial and democratic local government structures,” he said.

Motshekga said residents had seen through present manoeuvres by town councils backed by the TPA to amend or reform apartheid structures rather than dismantling them completely.

As the previous meeting between the mayor and the Tembisa Residents’ Organisation had ended in deadlock, More was clearly trying to undermine the residents organisation, he claimed.

The ANC believed the conference was the first step in the implementation of the Thornhill Commission of Inquiry report, which was endorsed by Parliament.

The commission was to investigate a ‘uniform system’ of local government for a new South Africa.

Mr Justice Chris Thornhill’s commission recommended the setting up of a local government negotiation forum comprising the TPA, Eskom, Water Boards, town councils, political and community organisations.

The object of these negotiations would be to establish local authorities in various parts of the country.

“This approach is calculated to fragment the right of the people as a whole to decide future forms of local government and to endorse the government’s idea of ‘own’ community life, which would entrench apartheid in new forms at local level,” said Motshekga.

“The government will use these forums for consultation with the community to lend credibility to its efforts to amend apartheid,” he said.

Sapa
THE Transvaal Provincial Administration on Saturday rejected a proposed flat services rate for Atteridgeville.

In a statement released in Pretoria, the TPA said the proposal was neither workable nor in the interests of Atteridgeville residents.

It urged Atteridgeville administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson and the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Association to renegotiate, saying the suggested R50 monthly rate per household would not be enough to cover the costs of services rendered.

If this rate was paid, the council's income would only be R750 000 per month, whereas at least R2.8 million is needed each month to run the town, the TPA said.

A deficit of R1.3 million per month would therefore accumulate over water, electricity and sewerage services alone.

SABC radio news reports that the council currently owes R2.16 million to the Pretoria city council because of non-payment by consumers.

The TPA added that it had no say in the proposal, which also stipulated amnesty for arrears.

In addition, it argued that much confusion would result amongst residents if they paid the agreed rates under the impression that it was sufficient to pay for the costs of services.

-Sapa
About 2 000 people from Tokoza and Vosloorus marched to the Alberton council offices on Saturday demanding the restoration of electricity to affected East Rand townships.

Pic MIBUZENI ZULU

2 000 protest power cuts

AS 2 000 people protested township power cuts on Saturday, the East Rand Civic Associations reiterated its readiness to resume talks.

The protesters marched to the Alberton council to present a memorandum stating the East Rand communities' demands.

Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal secretary-general Mr Sam Ntuli said after the march that the protesters raised the strongest outcry when they realised that a traffic official was dispatched to receive the memorandum.

Ntuli said they had expected a town clerk or someone more knowledgeable about town councils to receive the memorandum.

He said that the sending of a traffic official spoke "volumes about the attitude of the Alberton council".

The memorandum stated that the Alberton Town Council continued to exert their weight forcibly by committing barbaric acts such as failing to provide water and electricity.

**Restored**

"We believe that if electricity supply could be restored to the affected townships, it would be in the interests of everyone," the memorandum said.

"It is the only peaceful way in which the rent boycott impasse could be resolved."

Tokoza township has been without electricity since last December.

A consumer boycott of white-owned business in Alberton was introduced to pressure the Alberton council to negotiate the power cuts.
Dobsonville electricity to be cut from today

THE Dobsonville city council has said it plans to interrupt the electricity supply to residents from today if they do not comply with the terms of the Soweto Accord.

The accord, signed in August last year to bring an end to the five-year rent boycott in Greater Soweto, has shown mixed results.

Diepkloof residents have been responding positively, but Soweto and Dobsonville residents are behind on their payments.

A spokesman for the Diepkloof city council said more than 50 percent of residents have been paying the agreed upon flat services rate.

"It is a considerable improvement compared with the period before the accord was signed," the spokesman said.

The Soweto city council said that there was a major improvement immediately after the signing of the accord, but that payment has dropped off in the past two months.

Similarly, Dobsonville town clerk Mr Tony Roux said there was a good response after the power supply was cut for a few days in December, but that payments had slowed again. - Sapa
Ratepayers in Jo’burg get warning

Ratepayers who fail to pay overdue water and electricity accounts in Johannesburg will face stern action from the City Treasurer's department.

Services will be cut without further notice and will not be reconnected before a deposit of twice the average monthly charge is paid as well as the total amount outstanding.

Residents have also been warned not to pay anyone collecting money at homes. Accounts should be paid at municipal buildings and an official receipt should be asked for if the account is not paid by cheque.

For further information, ratepayers can phone 491-8911 and ask to speak to the accountant dealing with their suburb.
D-day looms for power cuts

RESIDENTS of two Pretoria townships have until Friday to pay more than R1.5m or face electricity switch-offs.

Atteridgeville administrator Ernie Jacobson said yesterday residents of Atteridgeville and Saulsville should pay their latest accounts on Friday to avoid switch-offs.

Jacobson said power would have been cut yesterday had the Atteridgeville council not diverted R50,000 from "another department to pay a portion of the overdue electricity account to the Pretoria municipality."

Atteridge owes Pretoria about R1.7m. He said the reason why he was appealing to residents to pay their latest accounts, and not interim rates agreed on with the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro), was to generate a higher cash inflow.

"The interim rates cannot raise enough cash to avoid the electricity switch-offs," he said.

The TPA recently overruled interim rates Jacobson negotiated with Asro.

He said a meeting between himself and Asro, scheduled for yesterday, had been postponed until next week.

Asro secretary Reaves Malbin said his organisation postponed the meeting because its executive committee members were unable to attend.

Meanwhile, Mamelodi mayor Simon "Drue" Mokone has appealed to residents to make a "concerted effort" to pay their accounts "faithfully and punctually to avoid unpleasant consequences."

"About 50% of the residents paid their accounts last month and as a result of irregular payments and non-payments for services we owe the Pretoria City Council about R2.6m."

"Should the situation not improve there will be a danger of power cuts."

The Mamelodi council paid R1.6m to the Pretoria City Council last Friday, thereby averting an electricity cut, also threatened for yesterday.
New talks to save Bekkersdal peace

THE ANC and Inkatha yesterday pledged to try to save a peace pact in Bekkersdal township, where violence erupted again at the weekend.

A fresh round of talks was to be held last night to review the situation after fighting on Saturday night killed an Inkatha supporter, the ANC said.

Inkatha alleged yesterday that thousands of ANC supporters, armed with an assortment of weapons, attacked mourners returning from a funeral of a member slain in previous political clashes.

Sapa reports that peace talks on Thursday last week between senior leaders of the ANC, Inkatha, Azapo and PAC led to a peace accord — following a series of violent ANC-Azapo clashes.

"Despite the fact that there has been renewed fighting, the peace initiative remains on course," ANC regional spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said in a statement yesterday. Inkatha West Rand secretary Humphrey Ndlovu said his organisation was "still sticking to the peace pact. We want to keep the peace."

LINDEN BIRNS reports that in Vosloorus on the East Rand police seized 63 AK 47 bullets, eight 7,65mm bullets and a 7,65mm magazine.

A police vehicle was damaged by stone-throwers in Kraaifontein near Cape Town. One man was arrested and a member of the SAP slightly injured in the incident.

Beer price rise shocks Fedhasa

FEDHASA was shocked by SA Breweries' announcement at the weekend of a 9,7% average wholesale price increase for beer. Fedhasa executive director Paul Theron said it would cushion "the immediate impact on the bottom line." But since about 30% of the workers would prefer family housing — and indications were that more would also want this in future — the council had started identifying land for this form of accommodation, Cunningham-Scott said. Land next to Soweto's Power Park had already been earmarked for this purpose, he added.

The planning department's architectural branch was at present working on layouts for the first bachelor units in the Van Bock Hostel, work had already started on the conversion of the Old Transit Camp (part of Selby Hostel) and R25 000 had been provided for the upgrading of the old quarters of the City Deep Hostel.

The council reported to the management committee pointed out that no violence occurred at the council's hostels during the recent unrest. "This can possibly be attributed to the high standard of accommodation, good social and recreational facilities and protection available to all residents," it said.

Council hostels to get R120m facelift

THE Johannesburg City Council will spend R120m on a programme to upgrade hostels and provide family housing for its 12 800 employees, housing director Ken Cunningham-Scott said yesterday.

Cunningham-Scott could not say when the scheme would be completed, saying this depended on land becoming available.

He said a recent survey among the workers (including those employed in Randburg), showed that the majority preferred the dormitory system, which provided for eight to 10 workers sharing one dormitory in the council's 15 hostels.

But since about 30% of the workers would prefer family housing — and indications were that more would also want this in future — the council had started identifying land for this form of accommodation, Cunningham-Scott said.

However, the rate at which the hostels can be converted will depend on the acquisition of additional land for family accommodation," Cunningham-Scott said.

The planning department's architectural branch was at present working on layouts for the first bachelor units in the Van Bock Hostel, work had already started on the conversion of the Old Transit Camp (part of Selby Hostel) and R25 000 had been provided for the upgrading of the old quarters of the City Deep Hostel.

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Power cuts: talks

By DON SEOKANE

The Civic Association of Southern Transvaal meets the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hermus Kriel, today to negotiate the restoring of electricity in townships affected by blackouts.

Cast: secretary-general

Mr Sam Ntuli said the meeting would focus on all affected townships in the West Rand and East Rand.

Efforts to resolve the rent boycott and restore electricity to Tokoza failed last month when Transvaal Provincial Administration delegates walked out of a meeting.

They accused the Tokoza Civic Association of disclosing sensitive information to the press.

Residents in townships affected by the blackout have retaliated by boycotting white-owned businesses in their neighbouring towns.

Ntuli said the boycott of Alberton businesses would continue and consultations were still in progress to extend the boycott to all East Rand towns.
CAST holds sit-in after talks with Minister fail

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau / 3/27

Seven members of a Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal delegation yesterday staged a 90-minute sit-in at the offices of Provincial Affairs, Planning and National Housing Minister Herna Kriel.

The sit-in took place after talks between CAST and Mr Kriel broke down over the question of a moratorium being declared on outstanding electricity charges owed by black local authorities.

Led by vice-chairman Kgabiso Mosunkutsa, the seven eventually left a room adjoining Mr Kriel's office after police asked them to do so.

The president of CAST, Moses Mayekiso, earlier left the conference room.

The drama began when Mr Kriel said he did not have authority to order a four-month moratorium on payments for electricity charges.

Mr Kriel said at a news conference that he had made a counter-offer for 75 percent of the electricity arrears to be paid in order for power to be reconnected in many townships and for the remainder of the debt to be negotiated.

Told

He also told them there was no reason to maintain the pressure on black councillors.

"Unfortunately, I was pressed for time and we agreed to meet again on February 19."

The seven then announced the sit-in at 5 pm yesterday, security officials locked the building. Police arrived soon after, and after negotiations the occupation of the room was ended peacefully.

At a CAST press conference last night, Mr Mayekiso said he did not believe the Government did not have the money for bridging finance.

Mr Mayekiso added that the TPA had a negative approach to negotiations, especially to the issue of people paying Eskom directly for electricity, instead of paying the council.

Negotiations between the Pretoria City Council and the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation (Aaro) received a setback when a meeting planned for yesterday was cancelled.
Hartbeespoort development stuns residents

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

Major industrial development and pleasure resorts planned for the Hartbeespoort Dam basin have shocked residents who have vowed to fight an attempt by the Kosmos municipality to encourage development.

The Kosmos village council has applied to extend its boundaries west of the dam by incorporating several farms to attract developments such as townhouses, low-density cottages, upmarket hotels and retirement villages.

Though agreeing it would be unacceptable to permit economic activity that could affect the sensitive nature of the area surrounding the dam, the municipality did not preclude the establishment of "clean" industries such as laboratories and computer, pharmaceutical and other high-tech companies.

"Capital web"

The municipality has undertaken to create a development structure that could serve as a "capital web" to attract investment from developers.

Entrepriner Jeremy Taylor, a resident in neighbour-

ing Broederstroom, accused the Kosmos municipality of trying to steamroll residents.

"Certain people want to turn the area into a playground. They just want to make money out of the area - they don't have to live here. The damage is going to do to the area is incalculable."

He and Chris Martens, the chairman of the Broederstroom Residents Action Committee, believe a redevelopment policy for the region should be drawn up.

Mr Martens said objections to the Kosmos application were being lodged and a public meeting would be held on February 28.

"Fresh air"

"They apparently want to create an industrial area. This is frightening for residents who want to preserve the rural character."

Action committee secretary Beverly Balask said the region was a breath of fresh air they did not want to lose.

"We have a nature reserve on the banks of the Hartbeespoort Dam, a Cape vulture colony, a bird park and Iron Age sites. We are very concerned as to how this is going to affect the environment."

"This is a very special area. We cannot allow our cultural, historical and environmental heritage to be destroyed."
LEADERS of the Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) staged a sit-in at the Planning, Provincial and National Housing Department building in Pretoria after talks with Minister Hernus Kriel broke down yesterday.

The meeting, held to discuss issues ranging from township electricity cuts to the one-city, one-council concept, deadlocked when Kriel refused to suspend electricity cut-offs in the region for four months, Kriel told a news conference later.

He said Cast president Moses Mayekiso, who he described as "a most reasonable man," was one of three people who left the building at 8 pm after eight Cast representatives declared they would occupy the first floor of the building. "They said they did not like my attitude on the issue of electricity cut-offs."

Kriel said Cast vice president Kgabso Mountkutha spearheaded the sit-in. Also involved was general secretary Sam Nthi.

TANIA LEVY reports:
Mayekiso told a news conference last night that the four Cast executive members and four civic association representatives would remain in Kriel's office until he gave an undertaking that power cuts would be discontinued while negotiations continued in the next three or four months.

Mayekiso said Cast rejected Kriel's promise that electricity and water supplies would be switched on again once consumers resumed payments.

Mayekiso said the meeting with Kriel had not been a total failure as consensus had been reached on the need to negotiate single non-racial governments and on the involvement of civic associations in future township development.
Working group set up to probe community courts

JUSTICE Department officials and members of the Alexandra Civic Association (ACO) have agreed to set up a joint working group to investigate the possible creation of community courts in the township.

Justice Ministry spokesman Maj Edna Jones said it had been decided to establish the working group at a meeting between Justice Minister Kobie Coetzee and delegates from ACO and the Resource Group, an organisation of legal experts, in Cape Town this week.

"Proposals emanating from the group's discussions will be considered by the minister in due course," Jones said.

ACO official Richard Mdkane said the group would get going "soon after all the parties concerned have chosen their delegates".

Jones said the proposals put forward by ACO president Moses Mayekiso had much in common with government initiatives aimed at making the administration of justice accessible to people of all levels.

Mayekiso recently said the proposed community courts would involve trained people who would resolve community disputes through mediation, arbitration and negotiation.

They would not be like the discredited kangaroo courts which were often constituted at the whim of an individual, Mayekiso said. And residents would not be coerced into using these courts.

The Resource Group, which was formed by the Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadfl), would train people involved in the courts in the mechanisms of mediation, arbitration and negotiation.

Fare rise to aid rail revamp

SUBURBAN rail fares will increase by 10% on April 1 in order to help finance a major multimillion-rand overhaul of railway security and facilities.

Transport, Public Works and Land Affairs Minister George Bartlett announced the increase in Parliament yesterday.

Spoornet marketing GM Koos Meyer said the increased revenue would be used for a general upgrading of passenger safety and services at all Metro (suburban line) stations over a five-year period.

Stations in the PWV area, Durban, Cape Town, Fort Elizabeth and East London would benefit.

"The major improvements we are looking at are in passenger safety and general security. We have an agreement with the SAP whereby we provide the infrastructure — items like secure fencing and charge-office installation — which they

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

DID YOU GET MY VALENTINE? I SIGNED IT "FROM YOUR SWEET BABEBODETTE" 
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A BABEBODETTE

AND IF I EVER GOT A VALENTINE I'D THROW IT IN THE LITTER BIN

MY BROTHER DON'T MAKE IT TO SCHOOL EVERY APPARENTLY SOMEBODY PUT HIM IN A LUNCH BOX
Townships power to be cut

THE Diepmeadow and Kagiso local authorities have warned residents to expect power cuts over the next two days because of maintenance and repair work.

Diepmeadow PRO Mr Paul Mashumi said the cuts would begin at 8am until 1pm in Dieploof, Dieploof Extension and a section of Baragwanath Hospital on Thursday only. He said he had already informed the hospital about the cuts.

Kagiso town clerk Mr HAM van Reinsburg said the switch-off would start at 7.30am until 4pm today due to the maintenance of the main substation by Eskom. - Sowetan Reporter
2 told to quit flat after complaints from tenants

By Susan Smuts

The ANC and Actstop have been called in to fight a threatened Group Areas Act eviction in Yeoville, Johannesburg, just days after President de Klerk said the law was on the way out.

Ursula and Lorraine Williams, of Glenton Court, were told on Monday last week they would have to vacate their flat immediately as the caretaker had received complaints from other tenants about coloured and Indian people living in the block.

The sisters, who are classified coloured, and an Indian tenant in another flat in the same building received letters the next day telling them to move out immediately.

Ursula Williams said her letter had made no reference to race.

It said they were illegal tenants as the lessee did not live in the flat. It also said the notice was irrevocable.

"On Wednesday, Lorraine and I went with Mike Westcott, who signed the lease, to the agents for the building, J H Isaacs.

"We spoke to Mrs R Conradi, who said that if the caretaker could confirm that Mike lived in the flat, he could stay, but that Lorraine and I would still have to leave," said Mr Williams.

"That day, a woman came to look at our flat. We told her we were not moving, but she insisted on looking at it."

She said the caretaker had come to look for Mr Westcott, and even after he had found him at the flat, refused to believe he lived there.

Spokesman for the Yeoville ANC Bruce Gillespie said the organisation had sent a letter protesting against the action to the caretaker and the agents.

"The Yeoville ANC would try to arrange a meeting with the parties to resolve the issue amicably."

However, Mr Gillespie said this was not an isolated case, and the ANC would take firm action if racial evictions continued.

"We will not tolerate Group Areas evictions. We will oppose them wherever they manifest themselves."

"It is ironic that Mr Isaacs has been quoted in the press and on the BBC as saying he is pleased the Group Areas Act is on the way out."

Mrs Conradi said she could not speak to the press.

A Katz, spokesman for J H Isaacs, said only be available on Monday, she said.
**Cast prepares for further talks with Kriel**

**TALKS between the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) and Planning Minister Henric Kriel will continue next week despite the deadlock which resulted in a Cast sit-in after a meeting between the parties on Tuesday.**

Cast president Moses Mayekiso yesterday described Tuesday's talks as being "fruitful, despite them ending in a short "sit-in" by some Cast members after Kriel refused to declare a four-month moratorium on electricity supply cuts to townships.

Mayekiso said Cast would seek a mandate on issues discussed on Tuesday for further talks with Kriel on February 19. Among the issues discussed were community participation in township development programmes, separate accounts for electricity and sewerage and a proposal that arrears be repaid over a long period.

Mayekiso said the Alexandra Civic Association, of which he is president, was to hold talks with the Sandton City Council and surrounding areas on February 26 on the question of a single tax base.
Health in the city

Urbanisation: An historical perspective

In this article, the first in our new series on Health in the City, we will be looking at the history of urbanisation. The word urbanisation comes from the Latin word for city (urbs). When we talk about urbanisation we mean the process whereby cities develop. During this process, large numbers of rural people come to live in the city. These people then live an urban (city) life. Urban living often creates a number of health problems. The Health in the City articles will examine these problems, how they come about and what we can do to combat them.

Urbanisation has resulted in a particular pattern of urban development. Different residential areas have been allocated for different race groups, with the white areas being better developed than the black areas. The process has not, however, been without its contradictions for the ruling bloc. Furthermore, the black majority resented urbanisation policies, in a variety of ways. This article traces the historical development of urbanisation in South Africa, with specific references to these contradictions and also outlines areas of resistance.

The mining industry

Urbanisation began on a large scale with the development of the mining industry. A large amount of unskilled labour was required but at this stage African socialism still had relatively easy access to land and were not willing to work on the mines. The Chamber of Mines responded by sending agents into the rural areas to secure labour. Mineowners made workers sign contracts and housed them in policed compounds to ensure they remained on the mines for longer periods. The colonial governments and their republics introduced new, poll and labour taxes. These taxes had to be paid in cash, forcing increasing numbers of Africans into the labour market. Factories were introduced to restrict people to their area of work. The majority of Africans, however, worked at wage laborers only as long as was necessary to meet their cash needs and then returned home, despite attempts to keep them on the mines. In other words, they became migrant labourers mostly out of choice.

By the 1900s, most of the land in South Africa was owned by whites but many of the African families who lived on white-owned land still produced their own crops and sold what they did not need.

The developing capitalist farming sector required both land and labour and was opposed to Africans producing their own crops. Small-scale Africans farmers, threatened by competition from African farmers, favoured a restriction on the number of African farmers per farm. In the hope of obtaining labour. Mine-owners began to recognise that a migrant labour force could be more advantageous to them than a permanent urban workforce. They encouraged the establishment of African "reserves" because migrant labourers could be paid low wages, yet enough for their own needs, as long as their families still had access to land for subsistence farming. All these interests are represented in the 1913 Land Act.

Over the following decades, Africans were deprived of their remaining land and forced onto overcrowded and rapidly deteriorating "reserves". Where these became increasingly impossible to survive. As a result, many people were forced to seek permanent employment in the cities (urban areas).

Segregation

Other than the compounds for miners, there was little formal accommodation for African workers in the urban areas. Workers stayed in unhygienic shacks, informal shacks, tenements and backyards on white properties. Health conditions were poor and bubonic plague, smallpox, TB and influenza spread throughout overcrowded areas. The authorities feared these diseases would spread to more affluent white areas. There was also an increasing demand among African urban residents. These factors contributed to a situation where African workers were often tolerated in urban areas if their labour was required. These fears were that of visitors or temporary residents. The Urban Areas Act of 1923 provided for the clearance of mixed residential areas and the creation of separate "locations" for Africans. This was largely to prevent solidarity within the working class developing across racial divisions. Africans were further restricted in that they could not own property in the urban areas and their right to trade was limited.

Local government

The act also provided for a system of local government among segregated towns. African townships were administered by white local authorities. Africans were, however, expected to finance the townships themselves. Each white municipality had a Native Revenue Account, the income of which was channelled through by the government. These funds financed beer production and sales, fires and rents. This was the sole source of revenue for the development of housing and infrastructure as well as the provision of basic services in the township. As the cost of urbanisation escalated, the revenue became increasingly inadequate to meet township needs.

The urban areas also controlled the rate of urbanisation by restricting the number of Africans in urban areas according to the availability of work. Arrival in an urban area had to be reported, employment of Africans had to be registered and those unable to find work were to leave within 14 days. These regulations were applied systematically for the first time in 1938. Pass laws which were developed to force Africans into urban areas to provide labour, were thus used for the restriction of their numbers in these very areas.

National Party rule

During World War II the rapid expansion of industry and the subsequent severe labour shortage resulted in the suppression of influx control enforcement and a massive influx of Africans into the city.

Largeindustrialsaw anewmarketneed for a skilled and permanent African labour force. The National Party, however, campaigned for the 1948 election around the issue of "conservatism" (founding). An emerging African capitalist class was too dependent on cheap, rather than skilled, labour. White workers were threatened by competition in the labour market and white farmers were losing labour because they paid wages well below those in the urban areas. They all had an interest in preventing the establishment of a permanent skilled labour force.

On coming to power the Nationalists tightened influx control legislation and the state machinery started to enforce it ruthlessy. Under the Section 21 proviso of the Act, African men born in an urban area were denied the right to live there unless they had lived there continuously for 15 years or worked for the same employer for 10 years. The maximum time allowed in urban areas was reduced from 14 days to 72 hours. Passes were introduced to women for the first time and all Africans had to carry passes at all times. Pass laws were a major focus of resistance in the 1950s but resistance was accompanied by harsh state repression.

This article has been adapted from Critical Health, 28 October 1989. You can subscribe to Critical Health by writing to PO Box 16250, Doornfontein 2028.
Return to the ‘Dark City’ days

By WALLY MBHELE

ON Monday Jabulani Mthembu really felt the electricity switch-off in Vosloorus township on the East Rand. He missed Nelson Mandela's televised speech on the first anniversary of his release because his television had become an ornament in his lounge.

Mthembu, who lives in a posh four-roomed house in the elite section of Rockville, recently bought a hi-fi stereo system. It too is useless in the blackout. So is his fridge that he used to stock up with meat for the family for the month.

Mthembu puts a brave face on the changes in lifestyle that have been necessitated by the shut-off. "It's worth it and is part of the struggle," he says. "As long as the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) refuses to negotiate in good faith with the civic association, we would rather remain without electricity forever."

Talks between the Vosloorus Civic Association (VCA) and the TPA deadlocked last year, with the civic offering to pay a flat rate of R50 a month, while the TPA stuck to R60. A VCA spokesman, Keith Montsatsi, says they do not regard talks as having collapsed and are prepared to continue negotiations. He says a letter was written to the Vosloorus council this week advising it to negotiate or face united mass action.

Business in the township, where electricity was cut off two weeks ago, has been brought to a standstill. The most common items on sale in the shops are candles and paraffin. Residents used to the luxury of modern stoves are back to pumping Primus stoves for cooking and boiling water, taking them back to the old days of "dark towns."

Residents say they go to bed as early as 8.30 pm, waking early in the morning to boil water for bathing.

There are still those who try to keep the spirit of the boycott burning with slogans such as "Phambili ngapo Primus stove, phambili!" (Forward with the Primus stove).

At Zandi's Tavern, which usually sparkles with sounds of disco music, proprietor Zandi Poeke has decided to close down. He tried operating for a while with a generator but it was too costly.

"It's very tough," says Poeke, who is facing financial ruin. "Entertaining people is important to me and to the people who spend their free time here. Many people must be missing this place and I feel very sad when I think of what this has done to them."

Many shopkeepers and businessmen had electricity disconnected from their shops despite the fact that they were paying for their business services. Angry bottle store and supermarket owner TW Thulwane is one of these. "This thing is going to kill our business," he said. "I've already lost R2,3,000 in food that went rotten in the fridges."

Thulwane says he can no longer make the fish and chips which attracted pupils of the nearby Dithomo and Naheng schools.

"I tried to go and negotiate this dilemma with the council but I was told to go and tell the people to pay rent," he says.

When it became dark, it was difficult to take notes so I had to leave the township. Mthembu offered a candle and said: "With this faint light, we are going to win at the end of the day."
Plunging Towards Into Darkness... Is No Solution

Eskom

EBCC: Eskom is no solution - 1/12/2020

Life without...
The struggle for power
Hillbrow flat dwellers on the streets

Staff Reporter

Twenty families were in dire straits yesterday after being evicted from Granada flats in Hillbrow, Johannesburg.

Some of the families said they had not been given notice. They did not know where they would spend the night nor what would happen to their furniture.

Tenants were at work yesterday when neighbours informed them that their flats had been unlocked and workers were ready to remove the furniture.

Residents said Actstop was dealing with the matter.

Eviction started at 8 am yesterday when two families were told they had to clear the flat and find other accommodation.

Workers in the service of a Mr Venter, the owner of the building, last night carried furniture from other units and placed it on the pavement.

Tenants told The Star the reason for their eviction was a decision taken by the tenants' committee to pay only half their rentals because of the unsatisfactory condition of the flats.

They said efforts were made to get Mr Venter to their meetings but he had declined.

One woman, the first to be evicted, said she was awakened yesterday morning by a knock on the door.

"We were told to clear our flat immediately or else Mr Venter's workers would clear it," she said.

Another said "The conditions in my flat are appalling. My rent is exorbitant.

"Two months ago some of the tenants decided they would only pay half the rent."

Residents claimed they pay between R500 and R600 for a unit, but said some pay up to R1,000.
Rent boycott accord near

THE Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO), the Alexandra Town Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) are expected to sign an agreement next week aimed at ending the five-year rent and services boycott in the township.

The parties met for about six hours yesterday at the Alexandra Town Council's offices.

After the meeting, the TPA, ACO and the council refused to comment on progress made.

However, a source close to the council said the refusal by the parties to comment should not be understood to mean there were impediments to the signing of the accord.

It was expected the agreement, once signed, would make provisions for the scrapping of about R11m in arrears and the introduction of interim monthly rates.

"A joint statement will be issued next week when the agreement is signed," the source said.
Tenants queue to pay as rent boycott ends

By MONK NKOMO

ATTERIDGEVILLE residents flocked in large numbers to the local municipal offices yesterday to pay rent for the first time since the rent boycott started last April.

Scores of people paid the interim base service charge of R50 a month a house reflected on the February accounts which were delivered to residents on Wednesday. Local town clerk, Mr Daan Mouton, said a large number of people reported at the offices in the morning to pay rent.

The positive response followed threats by the Pretoria City Council that power supplies would be cut unless the Atteridgeville Council paid the outstanding sum of R123 000 - for electricity only - by today.

Administrator of Atteridgeville, Dr Ernie Jacobson, said he was optimistic they would raise the amount and avoid the power cuts.

Jacobson added that they owed the Pretoria City Council R1.2 million for bulk services supplied.

He appealed to residents to try and pay their arrears as from October last year.

The boycott ended last month after all Atteridgeville's councillors resigned.

The Administrator and the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation signed an agreement in which residents were requested to pay an interim flat rate of R50 a month.

This agreement was, however, rejected by the Transvaal Provincial Administration which submitted that the rates were far too low to run the township.

Jacobson said yesterday he would hold a meeting with Aero officials next Tuesday to determine a long-term financial arrangement.

Meanwhile, Mouton said the municipal offices would be opened until 7pm during the week and until noon on Saturdays to allow consumers to pay their service charges.
Workers 'lose' cash

By DAN DHLAMIN

THE dispute between Klerksdorp Council and Jouberton residents, which resulted in electricity and water cuts in the township and the subsequent boycott of white businesses, has now shifted to include council employees.

Workers of Jouberton Town Council, which collapsed last week, claim exorbitant amounts were deducted from their salaries to pay their rent and service charge without their consent. The 'angry' workers, who are members of the South African Municipal Workers' Union, claim they only realised this on Wednesday when they received their January salaries.
Meeting washed out

A DOWNPOUR yesterday washed out a mass meeting concerning the rent crisis in Mamelodi.

Residents in Mamelodi, near Pretoria, have been boycotting rent and other service charges since the early 1980s.

Mr Pasty Malebo of the Mamelodi Civic Association, which organised the meeting, said another gathering would be held soon to also propose a flat rent rate for residents. - Sepa.
Special account to pay for water, sewerage, lights

A specific account for services is to be created with local authorities and all money received will be used for services only, Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing Hernus Kriel has announced.

It will not be used for councillors' allowances.

In a statement released after a meeting yesterday between Mr Kriel, the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal and senior Government officials, he said the Government accepted the principle proposed by CAST of "one-city one tax-base". He reiterated, however, that arrears would not be written off.

The Government would create a fund at each local authority, using the money for the benefit of all the area's inhabitants. The money would be used to pay for water first, then sewerage, refuse removal and finally electricity.
Plan to protest ‘high rentals’ in Mamelodi

THE Mamelodi Civic Association is planning a march to the local council offices to protest against “high rents” and demand the resignation of councillors.

Maca’s chairman, Mr Lazarus Mzwayane, said yesterday this resolution was taken at a public meeting at the community hall on Sunday morning.

Another public meeting is scheduled to be held within two weeks to set the date for the march, Mzwayane said.

Services

He said residents were concerned about the “high rents” and resolved to pay a flat rate of R50 a month for essential services.

The average monthly rent, according to Mzwayane, is R100.

He added that residents would also discuss the possibility of squatters occupying unoccupied land in the township.

This decision will be taken because the local council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration were reluctant to provide extra land to eke the acute housing shortage, he said.
CAST, (124)
Kriel talks
end in
deadlock

By Mark Suzman

A two-hour meeting on
Tuesday night between
executive members of
the Civic Associations
of the Southern Transvaal
(CAST) and the National
Housing Minister,
Hermas Kriel, had failed
to resolve the electricity
 crisis in Transvaal town-
ships, CAST said.
Speaking at a press
conference in Johannesburg
yesterday, CAST
general secretary Sam
Ntuli announced that the
meeting had agreed on:
• Community involve-
ment in development.
• The concept of "one
city, one tax base"
• An undertaking that
CAST will have input
into an Act to regulate
interim local govern-
ment initiatives.

However, on the cru-
cial issue of electricity
cutoffs the two sides re-
mained deadlocked.
CAST demanded that
all arrears be written off
and proposed a one-
month moratorium on
cutoffs, financed by the
government, during
which an flat rate could
be negotiated.
But Mr Kriel insisted
that 75 percent of the
current bill be paid off
before electricity sup-
plies are resumed.

However, according to
CAST president Moses
Maseko the demand
fails to take into account
Government responsibil-
ity for the lack of town-
ship services in the past.
Living without harassment

A GREAT sigh of relief must have resounded throughout South Africa yesterday when it was announced that thousands of people have been legally harrassed for years because of the spot they chose to live in. The abolition of the Group Areas Act, it is hoped, will end this era of forced returns and uprooting.

On a visit to the Johannesburg suburb of Pageview, Mr. Samuel, a long-suffering resident of Homestead Park, was particularly relieved yesterday to hear that the final prosecutor against him since he moved to the "white" suburb would be dropped.

Distrustful

He had been waiting since a court appearance last February — the month State President F.W. de Klerk announced apart he was in no way out — to hear from the Attorney General on what had been decided.

Mr. Samuel, distrustful of the government's statements last year, was not entirely at ease with this week's news. "Yes, a load is now off my shoulders, but I have been plagued for years by the authorities — changing my shopping charges and then charging me again. But now I have to pass the question mark on to Pageview."

"I have to pass the question mark on to Pageview."

A number of Indian families had moved into Pageview in recent months in anticipation of the pending political breakthrough.

"We will now be looking forward to owning our own homes," Mr. Montrose said.

Pageview, the focus of huge controversy in the past, has seen about 12,000 people evicted over three years, according to Ibrahim Rhamasy of the Pageview Association.

Evicted

A demoralised community, torn apart by continued State intervention over its racial mix, Pageview has finally broken through the legal barriers it has fought against for three years.

Mr. Rhamasy said yesterday the real break for Pageview happened some time ago, when it became clear that the State would not pursue legal action against those 80 Indian families evicted, following new political developments in the country.

"But obviously we are happy about this week's decision to stop prosecutions and there is a great sense of expectation in the community about the future," said Mr. Rhamasy.

He anticipates a return by many of Pageview's former residents and is calling for the suburb to be restored.

"I also think the residents who have suffered for so long should now be given the opportunity to own their homes and be granted subsidies to extend and improve. After all these years, they should now have the security of tenure," he said.

Pageview, he added, could become the first model of an attractive, harmonious non-racial community.

Although the suffering that the Group Areas Act has brought to thousands will take time to forget, the commitment the Government has shown to its final abolition has been warmly welcomed. Speaking after Tuesday's announcement, Democratic Party leader Zach de Beer said: "It is a great day for South Africa."

Another pillar of apartheid has come crashing down.

According to a report by the Human Rights Commission, the last two charges under the Group Areas Act were launched in December.
without harassment

A resident of Pageview, a community paralysed by uncertainty under the Group Areas Act, ponders a future free of prosecution.

"It has been a great sense of relief," said Mr Kharanny.

He anticipates a return by many of Pageview's former residents and is calling for the suburb to be restored.

"I also think the residents who have suffered for so long should now be given the opportunity to own their homes and be granted subsidies to extend and improve. After all these years, they should not lose the security of tenure," he said.

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According to a report by the Human Rights Commission, the last two charges under the Group Areas Act were launched in December.

Relief: The abandonment of prosecutions under the Group Areas Act means that Fred Samuel and his wife Brenda, of Homestead Park, are "out of the clutches of the court at last."
Residents will not pay in councillors, govt pledges

BLACK councillors would not be paid by township residents, Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing Minister Hernus Kriel told the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) this week.

After a two-hour meeting with Cast on Tuesday, Kriel said a specific account would be created for services such as water, sewage, refuse removal and electricity.

"The allowances of councillors will not be paid out of this account. Government will undertake to use the present bridging finance system to cover these costs," he said.

Cast president Moses Mayekiso welcomed the creation of the "specific" account.

In another development, the Alexandra Civic Organisation, the Transvaal...
Council to be tough over rent arrears

The Mamelodi Council has threatened to take “drastic measures” including legal action against rent defaulters, mayor Mr Simon Mokone said yesterday.

In a hard-hitting statement, Mokone said the council, which is experiencing financial difficulties, could no longer tolerate the situation.

“As a result of the grave financial situation in which the council finds itself, the council will be left with no option but to take drastic action against defaulters, such as cutting off lights and handing over the culprits to attorneys,” Mokone said.

He added that the council had resorted to harsh measures because the Pretoria City Council, which supplies vital services to the township, had now adopted a policy of “no payment, no service”.

The Pretoria City Council has threatened to cut power supplies to the township unless arrears for services are paid.

**Appeal**

Mokone appealed to residents to pay and said those experiencing problems over payments should report to the local municipal offices.

He also announced that the council had budgeted R5 million for roads and R3.5 million for stormwater drainage during the next financial year.

Referring to the state of roads in the township, Mokone said the council would have to dig deeper into its “depleted resources” to find the funds to repair them.

“Road repairs are underway and we appeal to local motorists to exercise patience while the project is in progress,” he said.
Group Areas may go — but black tenants will still face harassment

By WALLY MBHELE

THE scrapping of the Group Areas Act (GAA) will mean a blow to racist landlords — and may herald a new war between tenants and landlords in Johannesburg's grey areas.

Civic organisations point out that the mere abolition of the Act will mean little if not accompanied by legislation that protects tenants from exploitative rentals “and other forms of harassment and intimidation from unscrupulous landlords”.

Many tenants The Weekly Mail spoke to this week expressed fear that, in order to bar blacks from moving into previously "whites only" buildings, they are going to experience unaffordably high rentals, exposing them to evictions.

And last night, a coalition of organisations, including the African National Congress, Actstop and the Yeoville Residents' Organisation (YRO), launched a campaign in Yeoville to resist racism, evictions and high rentals in white residential areas.

YRO executive member Lydia Konke expressed fears that the scrapping of the GAA will mean nothing to many homeless blacks, because they would still be charged far higher rentals than their white neighbours.

Konke says many blacks are still unable to buy flats in Yeoville and those who do survive only through the tactic of "close co-operation" — whereby a sympathetic white buys a flat and then passes it on to a black, who pays there as if he had rented it from the white.

This system, according to Konke, has its flaws because if the person who has bought for you decides to take it, the law is on his side.

Konke foresees a situation where rentals could double as soon as blacks are allowed into "whites only" flats.

"That's going to be the only way of getting rid of blacks," she says. However, she says, "blacks need shelter and all the money they earn will have to go to rent payments".

A related problem is the removal of services as soon as blacks move into buildings.

Konke says there were security guards in some buildings before blacks moved in but immediately they were allowed to stay in those buildings, security guards were removed and many whites consequently left the buildings.

"This is done deliberately to discredit us," she says.

Actstop publicity secretary Cas Coovadia this week appealed to the government to ensure the scrapping of the GAA will be of significance to the majority of the people who have suffered under this legislation.

Coovadia said the demise of the Act must be accompanied by some form of rent control to ensure affordable rentals for flats occupied by people in the inner city area.

"Standards must be revised to account for changed residential patterns in the city to ensure adequate health and safety, but must not exclude people from residence in the city," Coovadia said.

"Because of the present conditions, the city council will have to look at its by-laws and revise them against racist landlords."

Most estate agencies The Weekly Mail contacted this week refused to comment on the issue, saying they'll do what the owners tell them to do.

Some had no hesitation in sticking to their Group Areas guns.

A typical case is that of a white man vacating his flat at Harley Gardens in Yeoville, and wanting a black friend to take over the flat. He was told by an official of the estate agent, Landsec, that blacks would not be allowed to occupy flats in the building even if the GAA was gone.

Peter Neitham of Landsec said: "Our position is that we don't allow blacks in our buildings, but if owners say we must allow them, we will."

On hearing that the GAA was about to go, one Yeoville landlord told his white tenants: "Blacks want to live in white areas and I will charge them for that privilege."
township developers JCI Property Services, believes it has addressed the major fears of local residents and will consult them on certain aspects of the scheme.

There was an outcry nearly two years ago (Property March 10 1989) when plans to develop and sell 31 cluster houses on the fringe of the golf course first emerged.

So angry was Lower Houghton Ratepayers' Association that it threatened to take the club to court to block the scheme. Its main concern was the undeniable environmental impact of high-density housing on the neighbourhood and the knock-on effect that it would have on property values.

Protesters claimed the proposals contravened the suburb's density and coverage limitations as set out in the Houghton density policy drawn up in the mid-Seventies. The minimum stand size under the plan is 1,500 m².

However, JCI's Chris Spers believes the latest proposals address residents' fears. Permission has now been granted for the club to subdivide a section of its land into 17, 2,800 m² “residential one” (free-standing with one dwelling) parcels of land. The stands are expected to sell for about R50,000 each.

Spers adds that a contract has been placed with Top-turf & Associates to reroute the course's 15th and 16th holes to make way for the subdivision. The subdivision will take place only once the new holes are playable (probably in July), though selling might start earlier.

He notes that care is being taken to minimise the impact of the development on its frontage with Third Street in Lower Houghton. JCI has called in a landscape architect to consult on the project. "In proceeding with this scheme we have undertaken to liaise closely with the golf club and the Lower Houghton Ratepayers' Association," he says.

According to Spers, official approval has been given for the concept. Now a subdivision plan must be drafted and submitted to the various authorities for approval. He expects this to take between six and eight weeks.

City councillor Clive Gilbert, who was initially involved in the campaign against allowing cluster housing in Houghton, welcomes the revised plans as a victory for local residents.

"It is definitely an improvement on the original project," he said. "Hopefully, with the back-up of JCI and the club, the new development won't be an environmental blight. People in the area are being hit by an onslaught of applications for subdivisions, requests to run businesses from home and office park developments. There is a whole change of property usage in the area."
Violence still deterring foreign investors

WARNINGS that violence and political instability would continue to deter foreign investment and trade were sounded yesterday by the Taiwanese embassy and top-level British trade delegation.

Taiwanese embassy spokesman Albert Lu said incentives for foreign investment in SA had been largely offset by township instability and increasing disharmony in management-labour relations.

"Violence, stayaways, strikes and the like can easily scare off foreign investment," Lu said in a statement.

He said in addition to internal threat, productivity of most SA workers left much to be desired. It was hoped labour unions would also begin to express their concern to these problems and work together with management towards a solution.

Meanwhile, UK-SA Trade Association (Uskata) chairman Sir Keith Stuart told a Press briefing in Johannesburg yesterday that, following the lifting of the EC ban on new investment, British businesses would seek to boost exports to SA, but only if the internal security situation improved.

Investors, he said, were still awaiting greater clarity on SA’s future economic structure before investing.

Stuart is leading a six-member Uskata delegation which is in SA to reinforce links with the SA business community and identify trade and investment opportunities.

He said problems in the Middle East and the UK recession were helping to make the SA market attractive.

"If sanctions and boycotts were ever in the past a disincentive to your salespeople in the UK market, I would urge them now to go all out in the UK market. I think they will be pleased with the results," he said.

*Picture: Page 3*
HOSTELS

BETTER FOUNDATION

Inkatha will soon begin negotiations with government for more land to accommodate hostel dwellers in low-cost housing. The Zulu-based party also wants to press for the conversion of existing hostels into apartments.

Thembekho Khoza, Inkatha youth brigade head in the Transvaal, tells the FM that Inkatha has already approached some companies about erecting dwellings costing less than R12 000 a house. "These houses will help not only hostel people, but they are our priority."

Hundreds of hostel dwellers lost their accommodation during the violence that raged in Reef townships during the second half of last year. Some hostels were demolished by township residents. The violence also served to focus attention on the dismal living conditions in overcrowded, unhygienic and dilapidated hostels.

Khoza, noting that not all hostel dwellers want to bring their families to the Reef, says: "We want hostels to be upgraded in such a way that they allow privacy, have only one person to a room and perhaps have joint kitchens and bathrooms."

He says that already discussions have begun with some local authorities and once talks have been held with government, help from the private sector will be sought. "Hostel people were paying rent, while township residents were boycotting rent payments — and yet hostel people have been neglected. We will put up very strong resistance to any township that tries to destroy hostels."

Khoza says Inkatha is also promoting contact between hostel men and township residents to try to mend the divisions that have existed for years between the two communities. "Hostel dwellers were trapped by political jackals who forced them to fight, to achieve political objectives of making the country ungovernable."

Charlotte Sanders
Health in the city

Last week we looked at the history of urbanisation in South Africa. In this article we will look at the unhealthy conditions which many black tenants in the Johannesburg city centre have to endure.

Access to affordable accommodation is an issue that has been highlighted time and time again. The problem is that many black tenants are forced to live in poor conditions due to the lack of affordable housing.

In Johannesburg, the city centre has become a major concern as more and more people move into the area with their children. This has led to overcrowding and poor maintenance of buildings.

Evictions and poor maintenance are health hazards

Evictions and poor maintenance are health hazards. The city's Health Department has struggled to keep up with the demand for affordable housing, and many black tenants are left with no choice but to live in poor conditions.

Access to medical facilities

Access to medical facilities is a major concern for many black residents in the city. Hospitals and clinics are often overcrowded and understaffed, leading to long waiting times and inadequate care.

Living conditions and apartheid

Apartheid has left a lasting impact on the health of many black South Africans. The legacy of segregation and discrimination is still evident in the poor living conditions and lack of access to medical facilities in many areas.

This article has been adapted from an article written by a member of Acestop for the October 1999 issue of Critical Health. You can subscribe to Critical Health by writing to PO Box 16250, Doornfontein 2028.
Permprop plans R30-m housing development

By MUSIMBA MAKAYA
THE SA Perm's property development arm, Permprop, is developing a housing complex on the East Rand targeted specifically at middle-income earners—those who can afford houses priced at R15 000 to R35 000.

Permprop MD Phillip Chilton-Jones says the R30-million project—which is likely to reach completion in early 1993—will be built on a 160 ha plot of land in the Vosloorus township.

The first stage of the development, to be known as Mid-Park, will see 324 medium-priced houses costing R35 000 and lower.

The "semi-village" environment will have grass areas which will serve as recreation areas and also as access roads to be used only by residents. These will link to graved roads which in turn feed tar roads.

The use of graved and gravel, says Chilton-Jones, will enable Permprop to greatly reduce the cost of providing the area with all the necessary services and this saving will be passed on to the consumer.

He said Permprop hoped to build a school and have a library at the Department of Education and Training. No commercial sites have been zoned for the area as it is close to shopping complexes.

Chilton-Jones conceded that this scheme of housing may still not be affordable for many people.

A possible solution could be the building of houses costing R10 000 but no financial institution would grant bonds for homes that cheap.

"Some mechanism will have to be found to help finance the purchase of houses of less than R12 000," he says.

He feels that the lower end of the market—which is also the biggest—is badly neglected by developers in favour of lucrative upper-bracket housing. Most developers and financial institutions are unwilling to move into this area because of the risk involved.

"We feel we have been very brave to go into an area where nobody has ventured. Other developers just aren't interested. Financial institutions are hesitant to come in because, among other things, there is the threat of bond boycotts. Unless they are assured of the support of the communities the situation will remain the same," says Chilton-Jones.

He stresses that there is little developers can do to persuade financial institutions to grant bonds to less well-off people.

"Our function is simply to build and not to seek bonds for people. Our relationship with the Perm is an arm's-length one and although we are a subsidiary this does not guarantee our clients bond from the Perm."

He points out that the availability of land was not so much of a problem as the availability of finance.

He says Permprop will soon enter discussions with the independent. He continues to tout about the possibility of a portion of the R2-billion which it had been granted by government being released now for the financing of the project.

He says Permprop intends encouraging other developers to follow suit by moving into low-income housing and "there has been some interest shown".

"The lower end of the market is profitable but it entails a lot of difficulties. No one should believe it may be a quick way of getting rich—although there is a possibility of this at the end of the day. It takes up a lot of time and also takes a long time to bear fruit."

He says Permprop is willing to sell land to people who want to build houses for less than R10 000.

He also backs formal squatting, which has been advocated by some as a possible solution to the housing crisis, provided it is orderly.

"We might go into some co-operation with the South African Housing Trust on this one. We will be prepared to allocate land for this and we will also avail people with a shelter over their heads."

"What might also be needed is that we be selective on the provision of services in order to cut costs. Perhaps it will entail providing electricity to every home but only providing centralised water sources."

He does not believe that the scrapping of the Group Areas Act would alleviate the housing shortage.

"I don't see the movement of people from upper-market areas in townships affecting the situation of lower-income people in any way because they just couldn't afford it. Overcrowding is going to continue in the fore-seeable future and continue to move to the urban areas," says Chilton-Jones.

FACTS

WHAT do the embassies of Britain, America, France, Switzerland, Japan and Spain have in common with the South African Police, the Ministry of Development Aid and the Department Education and Training? Along with the...
Talks fail, now Cast calls for action

THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal is to intensify its mass action campaign after its meeting with the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs failed to resolve the electricity crisis.

Cast assistant general secretary Mr Gas Coovadia yesterday said Mr Hermus Kriel insisted during the meeting that 75 percent of the electricity arrears must be paid before power could be restored in the affected townships.

Coovadia said Cast had proposed that the Government should finance services for a month, during which a joint committee could determine an affordable flat rate.

By DON SEOKANE

Coovadia said Mr Kriel rejected the proposal.

However, agreement in principle was reached on the "one city, one tax base" concept and on the creation of separate accounts into which service payments would be made once the problem had been resolved.

Meanwhile, the electricity and water supply to Munseville, Krugersdorp, will be discontinued on March 4 if the rent boycott continues.

Munseville town clerk Mr Ryaan van Vuuren said night soil removal services would also not be rendered.

Munseville owes Krugersdorp Council more than R90 000.
Bid to raise Hillbrow's standards

THE Hillbrow National Party and Inkatha Freedom Party in Johannesburg have formed a working group to address problems in Hillbrow and upgrade living standards.

The two political parties agreed to form a working committee to liaise with residents, landlords, the Johannesburg City Council and Government bodies.

**Conflict**

The emphasis of the talks between the two parties was on the upliftment and constructive management of the Hillbrow area, particularly in relation to living conditions and environmental standards.

Hillbrow NP chairman Darryl Swanepoel said solutions could not be found for an area from the perspective of only part of the community.

"With Inkatha we have managed to sit down and work out problems and possible solutions. We will also try to involve other organisations in the discussions, but it is pointless working with groups which are in conflict with us."

The group will also liaise with police to address security in Hillbrow.

Acting chairman Mohammed Dangor rejected the moves by the two parties as "opportunistic" and called on the NP to first apologise to the residents of Johannesburg before trying to find solutions to the problems they created.

"Clearly those who are responsible for the problems cannot, by the stroke of a pen, become part of the solution," he said.
Doornkop’s people want to go home

‘Sign just a ploy to keep us off our land’

By LEN KALANE

WARNING SIGNS about “unexploded bombs” have been put up by police to prevent a dispossessed community from venturing on to Eastern Transvaal land they want to reclaim.

The scattered community was uprooted from Doornkop near Middelburg during a government relocation operation in 1974.

They planned to hold a prayer meeting at an ancestral graveyard near their land today to “pray for courage from our ancestors to help us reclaim our land.”

But police have warned against this, claiming the gathering would have “political undertones.”

Abey Malomo, a co-ordinator of the Homecoming Organisation (HO), which organised the meeting, said it was impossible to stop the scattered community from assembling.

“The police notice came too late. We expect people from as far as Sekhukhuneland. We don’t have efficient communication lines to stop them from coming at such short notice.”

As a compromise, Malomo said they would get the people to gather for a brief moment, tell them about the ban and get them to leave immediately.

“We will then have to formulate new strategies in our battle to reclaim Doornkop.”

He said the meeting’s aim had been to mobilise their displaced community into a united front to reclaim Doornkop.

The community is presently scattered throughout the homeland of Lebowa; Motetema near Groblersdal; Leunfontein near Marble Hall; Praktiseer near Burgersfort; and at Nqabu and Mhluzi near Middelburg. Others live in the PWV area.

The HO was established last October after the government announced its intention to repeal the Land Act.

Doornkop was forcibly taken from them and they had the right to claim it back in the spirit of the new South Africa, Malomo said. “We have waited patiently for the past 16 years.”

Among those buried at the graveyard is King Seth Kgalema Ramawube, the head of the tribe who bought the land on behalf of his people from a farmer, Klaus Joubert, after the Anglo-Boer War in 1902.

But police say the land is now private property and “trespassers will be prosecuted.” They put up signs on the disputed land, saying the area was an SAP shooting range.

But Malomo said this surprised him. The land has been empty since 1974 and the warning signs only appeared about two weeks ago.

“We suspect this to be a ploy to give a new dimension to the whole thing,” he said.

But Eastern Transvaal’s regional commissioner of police, Maj-Gen Robbie Robinson, has warned people not to return to Doornkop.

“Should a dispute arise as to the ownership of the land, this should be settled by means of the existing legal framework.”
Pay up or services will suffer – RSC

Municipal Reporter

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council has warned black communities that if they do not pay the minimum charges negotiated in rent agreements, they will be back to square one with mounting arrears and deteriorating services.

CWRSC chairman John Griffiths said he was disappointed that many township residents were not even meeting the interim charges for services stipulated in the Soweto Accord and other rent agreements in the region.

According to an agreement negotiated in October, the CWRSC agreed to step in and provide bridging finance to Soweto, Diepmeadow, Dobsonville and Alexandra.

"On March 31 we will withdraw as we will have fulfilled our side of the agreement," Mr. Griffiths said.

"We don't have funds freely available - we have had to take loans of up to R60 million to enable us to meet our commitments.

"One of the conditions we set was that interim charges would have to be addressed and realistic tariffs determined.

"The situation is most disappointing, especially where electricity is concerned. The CWRSC agreed to fund one-third of the unit cost of electricity during the interim period, while residents are only paying 25 percent of the total bill.

"This obviously leads to a situation where cut-offs have to take place – and must for those people who are not paying."

Mr. Griffiths said rent talks had not been in vain.

"There is a response, but it is not good enough. The quality of services will deteriorate and that will lead to cuts and then the same conditions will prevail as before. It is going to be up to the communities."
Soweto civic steps up campaign

THE Soweto Civic Association (SCA) is to intensify the campaign against black councillors, step up occupation of vacant land by homeless people and embark on an anti-privatisation drive.

Outlining the resolutions of a three-day conference held in Soweto at the weekend, SCA general secretary Pat Lephunya said yesterday the "crush apartheid structures" campaign would start with a march to the office of the Soweto City Council on March 23.

"Realising that existing local authorities are designed on an apartheid vacuum structure and do not serve the needs of the whole people, the SCA has resolved to intensify the campaign by isolating councillors' businesses, educating the community on local structures and electing campaign committees in all branches," Lephunya said.

The SCA would step-up occupation of unused land by homeless people to put pressure on government and "conglomerates" to speed up their housing schemes.

The SCA realised that government, was adamant on privatising hospitals, schools, municipal services, post-offices, railways and electricity which would leave the economy in the hands of a few.

The SCA will embark on an anti-privatisation drive which will start with a signature campaign.

"Branches will be mobilised to adopt and run their essential services," said Lephunya.

The SCA would convene an anti-crime conference within six weeks and defence committees would be established in all SCA areas to prevent vandalism of schools and other property.

Lephunya said the SCA endorsed the back-to-school campaign led by the Soweto Education Coordinating Committee (SECC) and would make this education organisation an associate member of the SCA.
Widespread boycott threatened

By Abel Mushiri

The Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (CAST) has threatened to call for large-scale blanket consumer boycotts of white-owned businesses in East Rand and Witwatersrand towns, including Johannesburg and Pretoria, if their problems are not addressed.

CAST assistant general-secretary Cas Coovadia said yesterday his organisation would decide on March 9 and 10 what action to take after their meeting with the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Hernus Kriel, last week had failed to yield results.

The Minister had been asked to help settle a rent services dispute with the TPA.

Meanwhile, a boycott is continuing in Klerksdorp in the Western Transvaal and organisers are claiming successes in Alberton, Germiston and Kempton Park on the East Rand.

Westvaal Chamber of Commerce spokesman Bobby Brady said yesterday that NP-controlled Klerksdorp was still the target of a consumer boycott, while that in nearby CP-controlled Orkney and Stiffontein have been suspended.

Spokesman for the ANC-affiliated consumer boycott committee in the area, Howard Yawa, said yesterday they were to hold a meeting with the Klerksdorp Town Council last night to discuss the boycott.

The Klerksdorp Town Council switched off electricity and had Johannesburg township’s water supply rationed from January 16 after residents embarked on a rent and services boycott.

The chairman of the East Rand Civic Association, Ali Tieane, told The Star yesterday that on February 3 his organisation called for a consumer boycott of all East Rand towns after the Alberton, Vosloorus, and Kempton Park councils had failed to reconnect electricity to Tokoza, parts of Vosloorus and Tembisa townships.

Although they did not succeed in other East Rand towns, Mr. Tieane said the boycott was about 90 percent effective in Alberton, and 60 and 50 percent effective in Kempton Park and Germiston respectively.

However, president of the Kempton Park Chamber of Commerce, Gavin Peterson said he was not aware there was a boycott.
Occupy all unused land, group urges

THE Soweto Civic Association is to step up its campaign to urge people to occupy unused land in an effort to alleviate the housing shortage in the townships.

SCA spokesman Mr Pat Lephunya said people who had no houses should build on land that was not being used. Empty houses should also be occupied.

The UDF launched the campaign in April last year and the SCA resolved at its weekend annual general meeting to intensify it.

Lephunya said the SCA would not seek permission from the Government to embark on campaigns to benefit the homeless.

**March**

Government and big business would also be pressured to play a meaningful role in alleviating the housing shortage, Lephunya said.

The SCA also decided on a "crush apartheid structures" campaign which will begin with a march to the council offices on March 23. This would focus on councillors who the organisation intends to isolate.

An anti-crime conference is to be convened by the organisation to deal with the rising crime in Soweto as the police were not interested in resolving the crime in the township, Lephunya said.

- Soweto Reporter
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- Soweto Reporter
Alex bid to have arrears written off

Residents of Alexandra Township may be reprieved over rent arrears if an agreement reached between three groups yesterday is approved by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The Alexandra Civic Organisation, TPA and the Alexandra Council agreed to recommend to the Transvaal Administrator that rent arrears be written off.

Negotiations between the three parties were almost disrupted when more than 100 protesters stormed the council chambers demanding the immediate resignation of Alexandra mayor Mr Prince Mokoena and the four remaining councillors.

However, two ACO delegates, Mr Zondile Mayekiso and Mr Thomas Mdakane, pleaded with the protesters not to disrupt the negotiations.

The parties agreed to recommend to the Administrator that:
- Residents pay for services;
- Arrears be written off;
- Rented houses be transferred to the people;
- Hostels be upgraded and converted into family units;
- The area known as the "Far East Bank" be transferred to a land trust administered by representatives of Alexandra residents.

The parties agreed that in the event of any disputes arising, every effort should be made to resolve such problems through negotiations.

A joint press conference will be held within the next few days to announce the Administrator's reply.

- Sowetan Correspondent.
Govt considers selling back Pageview homes

GOVERNMENT is considering selling back homes expropriated under the Group Area Act to their former owners at "bargain basement prices."

Representatives of the Save Pageview Association will meet Department of Local Government Housing and Works officials today to discuss the issue.

The homes were expropriated for an average of R3,000 under the Act which will be abolished soon. Indians are still occupying the homes.

Association secretary Ebrahim Kharsany said yesterday a case could be made for government assistance in other areas from which people had been evicted under the Act.

"Families forcibly evicted from their homes and businesses suffered a great deal of hardship in that they were moved into new areas which lacked infrastructure in terms of hospitals, schools, police stations and social amenities. Businessmen suffered huge losses," Kharsany said.

While he welcomed the imminent scrapping of the Act, Kharsany said government could assist by reconstructing houses, business centres, temples and cinemas demolished when people were moved.

Government could also sell back expropriated land at prices paid when they were expropriated.
National civics grouping expected before year's end

A NATIONAL civic organisation would be formed before the end of the year, Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Casta) president Moses Mophoko said yesterday.

Mophoko was speaking after it was announced at a Johannesburg media conference that the UDF would be disbanded.

He said a steering committee would be appointed to prepare for a consultative conference to be held some time this month.

"That conference will prepare for the launch of a national body before the end of the year," Mophoko said.

UDF national publicity secretary Patrick Lekota told the media conference plans for the formation of a national civic organisation, independent of party affiliation, were well under way.

The decision to disband the UDF was taken at a National General Council meeting in KwaNdebele last weekend, where 32 delegates from eight regions decided to dissolve the UDF by August 29.

National secretary Popo Molele said after the dissolution of the UDF there might be a need to co-ordinate its affiliates, but the organisation had not seriously explored that question.

He said: "We sought instead to encourage affiliates of the UDF to discuss the issue within their own ranks and between themselves, to look at the form and content of such a movement. If they feel it is not necessary, they will not set it up."

UDF co-president Albertina Sisulu said the decision was taken after the UDF felt it had fulfilled the major purposes for which it was founded.

Lekota said although the UDF was disbursing its affiliates would remain in place, organizing around bread-and-butter issues.

UDF leaders would continue their work in civic and other structures.

Molele said the process of building a national civic organisation had started and an interim organisation had already been set up. This body would co-ordinate countrywide civic organisations and would encourage their presence where such bodies did not exist.
New questions

Equal social pensions

Mr E W TRENQ asked the Minister of National Health [Q 5141]

(1) Whether, with effect from the date of repeal of the Population Registration Act, No 30 of 1950, equal social pensions will be paid to all South African citizens, regardless of their current race classification, if not, why not, if so,
(2) whether any contingency plans have been made to give effect to this change in policy, if so, (a) what plans and (b) what is the estimated cost in total to implement this policy in the current financial year?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1) Social pensions are not payable in terms of the provisions of the Population Registration Act.
(2) Falls away

Certified false passport

Mr D J D ALLING asked the Minister of Law and Order [Q 5142]

(1) Whether the South African Police have received information and/or complaints to the effect that a certain person, particulars of whom have been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister’s request, is or was in possession of a South African passport allegedly describing him falsely as Chris Alexander, if so, (a) what is the name of this person and (b) what steps have been taken in regard to the matter,
(2) whether the Police conducted and/or are conducting investigations into the alleged illegal activities of this person, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant particulars,
(3) whether a certain hotel, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Police, has been identified by the Police as an establishment where illegal activities have been taking place, if so, what steps have been taken in this regard.

TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 1991

How many taxpayers in Soweto are registered with his Department,

Whether any of these taxpayers are in arrears with the payment of tax, if so, (a) how many and (b) for what periods,

Whether any action has been taken or is being taken against these persons, if not, why not, if so, what action?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (Dr Marais)
The Commissioner for Inland Revenue retains statistics of taxpayers only in magisterial districts, and accordingly separate statistics in respect of Soweto, which forms part of the Johannesburg magisterial district, are not available.

However, I wish to assure the hon member that all taxpayers, irrespective of race, receive impartial treatment from the Department of Finance and that active steps are taken against any taxpayer who is in arrears with the payment of tax.

I advise CD DEJAGER Mr Speaker, arising out of this reply and the answer to the question on suspected prostitution, can the hon the Minister inform us what Government’s policy is in respect of prostitution, that is to say, whether or not it is going to legalise it?

The ACTING SPEAKER Order

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

Mr Speaker, I am surprised that the hon member for Bethal, whom I know very well, should be interested in a matter such as this.

SAP promotion of communism

Adv J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Law and Order [Q 5143]

Whether the South African Police are at present investigating any case of contravention of the prohibition on promoting communism in South Africa, if so, (a) against whom persons or organisations and (b) what progress has been made with these investigations, if not, why not?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

No, because as far as can be ascertained, no complaints of this nature were reported to the South African Police.

Adv J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, arising from the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister, is it not public knowledge that the SA Communist Party was openly re-organised in South Africa at a public occasion and that the SA Police were aware of that formation and of the activities of

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Water price in PWV to increase by 11.5%

The cost of water in the PWV area will increase by 11.5% on April 1, the Rand Water Board announced yesterday.

Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said the tariff for industries, mines and municipalities would rise by 6.4c a kilolitre from 55.75c/kl to 62.15c/kl. Water to households outside municipal areas would increase by 10.5c/kl from 84.60c/kl to 105.10c/kl.

Bath said the board was able to limit its tariff increases to well below the inflation rate because of the relatively small increases in electricity tariffs announced early this year.

Planned capital expenditure levels, which gave rise to a relatively small increase in loan costs, also helped, he said.

A Sacob spokesman said the rise would have an effect on production costs of large users.

The total cost of raw water the Rand Water Board bought from the Department of Water Affairs from April 1 would be 21.20c/kl. "Included in this amount is a levy of 7c/kl to provide finance for the construction of the portion of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project for which SA is responsible," Bath said.

No provision had been made in the latest tariff to absorb the increase in the levy which becomes effective on October 1. Bath said the increase was expected to be 3c/kl and the Rand Water Board would adjust its water tariffs at that time.
Power cuts high on Cast’s council agenda

ARBITRARY electricity switch-offs in black townships would be high on the agenda when the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) held its general council in Johannesburg this weekend, Cast general secretary Sam Ntuli said yesterday.

The general council would be attended by two representatives from each of the 65 civic associations affiliated to Cast.

“We will be focusing on issues that have affected our people on the ground. These issues include the electricity switch-offs and our campaign for the resignation of black councillors,” he said.

Meanwhile, Katlehong mayor MacDonald Mohlana said power to the township would be cut at the end of the month if residents did not pay the interim rates agreed upon by his council, the Katlehong Civic Association (KCA) and the Katlehong Chamber of Commerce and Industries last May.

In terms of the agreement, households with electricity should pay R59 a month.

Mohlana said he would appeal to residents at a public meeting on Sunday to pay the flat rates.

Asked if he was aware that the KCA had also called for a mass meeting on the same day, Mohlana said “That is the civic’s strategy, to disrupt whatever we are doing.”

KCA official Ken Moetshasanda’s meeting, which was called to “clarify rent-related issues”, would go ahead.

First group of exiles to return today

LUSAKA — Excitement and jubilation have gripped the first group of exiles who return home today in a chartered Zambian Airways aircraft after an absence of more than 20 years from SA.

The ANC’s spokesman in Zambia Tom Sebina said in Lusaka yesterday that many exiles had been worried and uncertain about their indemnity.

“Is it because the SA government has been dragging its feet unnecessarily in implementing the decision of the repatriation exercise? Everyone wants to return home as soon as possible,” Sebina said.

However, an SA Justice Department spokesman said yesterday government had granted 2 580 indemnities to ANC exiles who wished to return to SA.

Only 432 exiles had applied for indemnity, he said.

Sebina said as far as the ANC was concerned, all its 2 000 cadres in Zambia had been documented and everyone would have left Zambiya by the end of April.

Sebina could not rule out the possibility that exiles in Uganda, Tanzania and Angola would first stop over in Zambia before flying to Johannesburg.

He said today’s departure would be marked by a ceremony to be presided over by the Zambian government and ANC officials.

The next, larger, group of exiles leaves Zambiya on March 17 — 450.

TRADEHOLD LIMITED

(Registration number 77/02046/06)

("Tradehold")

Distribution of assets

Equity instrument holders of Tradehold and Tradegro are advised that consideration is being given to distributing the assets of Tradegro and Tradehold. The distribution, if implemented, will simplify and streamline the corporate structure of the group and could have an effect on the market prices of the respective equity instruments.

It is contemplated that Tradehold and Tradegro after the payment of all liabilities will distribute to their respective equity instrument holders Tradehold’s surplus cash resources and certain investments.

After the distribution, Checkers South will remain the name of Tradegro.

Equity instrument holders accordingly administrative instructions and details of the distribution will be made in the Johannesburg 7 March 1991

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Atteridgeville faces big switch off

ATTERIDGEVILLE and its neighbouring township, could be plunged into darkness on Monday unless they settle their arrear electricity accounts totalling R2,5 million by noon tomorrow.

This warning was issued yesterday by Dr Pieter Smith, chairman of the management committee of the City Council of Pretoria.

Smith said in a statement that Atteridgeville and Mamelodi owed his council R3 million and R3,2 million respectively.

**Demand**

Both city councils failed to make payments on or before February 25 in respect of these accounts, and up to now no satisfactory arrangements have been made with the city council of Pretoria for such payment**, Smith said.

He added that both councils were written letters of demand on Tuesday requesting them to settle their overdue bulk electricity supply accounts of R1,4 million (Atteridgeville) and R1,089 million (Mamelodi) before noon tomorrow.
Health in the city

Environmental health services in Soweto

This article has been adapted from an article which appeared in
Critical Health Number 28 of October 1989. It was written by the
Centre for the Study of Health Policy, Department of Community Health, University of the Witwatersrand.

Several years ago, Soweto, like many other townships, started a rent boycott in response to rising rent and service costs. At the same time, socio-economic conditions were getting worse, which made the charges more difficult to afford.

Other issues related to housing and environmental health services increased the residents' dissatisfaction. There was an overall housing shortage, as well as a controversial governoval charge for the transfer of home ownership to tenants of long standing. As far as water supply and sanitation services (watering and refuse removal) were concerned, the existing infrastructures were inadequate and poorly maintained. But these services were nevertheless expensive.

It should be noted that the high service costs are linked to the separate tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg. Whereas taxes in Johannesburg benefit substantially from township labour and purchasing power, these taxes support Johannesburg services alone. In effect therefore, Johannesburg rates are subsumed by Soweto residents, and Soweto services are undersubsidized at the local municipality in Soweto.

One of its methods was to disrupt services intentionally and unecessarily. The water supply was cut frequently and for long periods. Sewage pipes were left blocked and leaking and refuse was removed in atypical or unnoticed ways. The intention of these cuts was to cause residents so much discomfort that they would have to stop paying rents again.

The Soweto Delegation emerged to represent the community in an action directed at resolving the crisis. One of the Soweto Delegation's decisions was to commission PLANACT, a service organization concerned with urban development, to evaluate housing and service provision in Soweto. PLANACT in turn requested the Centre for the Study of Health Policy to assess whether water and sanitation services in Soweto were a danger to the health of Sowetans.

That article briefly describes the Centre's findings. It shows how the health hazards created by inadequate water supply, sewerage and refuse removal infrastructures were made worse by the local authority's deliberate restrictions. As these findings are applicable to other townships in similar positions, we make suggestions as to how communities could respond to the disruption of already inadequate services.

In addition to the physical effects of service disruption, we must also consider the effects of mental and social stress. Daily life is filled with difficulties and indignities. Although it is difficult to measure the effects of such stresses, it is no doubt that the community's mental and social health was seriously endangered by the poor water and sanitation services. It seems too that those most at risk were the elderly, the disabled and mothers of young children.

The local authority's policy of service disruption therefore threatened the physical, mental and social health of the Soweto community. Unless Soweto is different from the rest of the world, we may say with a fair degree of certainty that this disruption led to an increased prevalence of disease. Therefore, in the interest of health, residents of Soweto and other townships need to address the problems of poor services and service disruption.

A basic infrastructure at affordable costs

In order to protect a community from the health hazards described in this article, the following steps should be:

- an uninterrupted, plentiful flow of good quality water, supplied to each property.
- a water and sewerage system which is maintained by local authorities.
- regular and frequent removal of both household and community refuse, sufficient well-constructed bins should also be provided.

Although the communities have such services in name only (owing to a lack of, or delayed repairs) is still a major problem. The problems of an engineer would be useful in evaluating the water and sanitation services because of the complexity of the technical details.

Without these services, appropriately designed and efficiently maintained, urban populations face unacceptable health risks. We must also mention that many other environmental factors have an impact on health. For example, road construction, electricity supply, stormwater drainage and housing. Demands focusing on water and sanitation thus address only the most urgent of such factors.

Not only must basic services be adequate, these services must be provided at reasonable and affordable prices. In Soweto, whilst residents accept that there should be service charges, there is great resentment that the currently poor services should be provided at such a high cost. Arriving at a charge which is fair depends on proper community consultation and involvement in planning. In Soweto, as in other townships, it may depend on the restructuring of the unequal tax base.

Community action in response to sufficient costs

The residents of townships where services have been cut in response to a rent crisis may react in a number of ways to this threat to their health. Firstly, residents may choose to organize around the issue of health risks arising from service disruption. Secondly, they may decide to negotiate with the relevant local authority, if this seems to be an appropriate strategy under prevailing conditions. Thirdly, they may consider taking legal action against the local authority.

The community may also consider taking direct legal action against the various health authorities, it may be possible to lay charges against them in the event of negligence of their duties in terms of the law. However, the legal issues are complicated and to our knowledge, have never been tested in court. Expert legal opinion should thus be sought by any community wanting to take a case to court. Threats of legal action severe in themselves the worst bargaining points.
Romeo and Juliet: Introduction

Over the next seven weeks we are going to look at Romeo and Juliet, your Shakespearean network. My page and line references will be taken from The Nelson Shakespeare edition. If you have a different edition from me, you will still be able to find the quote by using the references. The Ethic Manual of Romeo and Juliet is also very useful for learning about the more basic aspects of the play, such as plot and character.

Background

William Shakespeare was about 30 years old when he wrote Romeo and Juliet. The play was first published in 1597 and its first performance was an instant success.

Shakespeare

People loved it! In fact, the story of the two lovers of Verona was an old one which already existed in many forms such as prose narratives, poems and plays. The original story can be traced back to an ancient Greek romance or love story which was first told in modern Europe around 1470. Two Italian versions of the story were translated into English in 1563 and in 1580. Shakespeare read both the English versions of the story and used them extensively to construct his drama. Since then, Romeo and Juliet has been adapted to dance performances as well as films.

The most recent adaptation of the story is to be found in the French film Romualte and Juliette, which was on circuit at the beginning of this year. This film is quite different from Shakespeare's play, but the main themes are still there. Two lovers who find themselves in circumstances in which their love will not be recognized. Another way in which themes of the story remains with us today is illustrated by the fact that today we still call a Romeo the boy or man whose mind is always distracted by thoughts about love.

The Story

Romeo and Juliet is the story of two teenagers who become lovers. We can therefore call their love romantic love. However, the two encounter a problem in their love when their respective families are at war with one another. We do not know why the two families are at war, and we are never told, but one day the tension erupts into a fight between the young men on both sides. Tybalt, who is Juliet's cousin and belongs to the Montague family, challenges Romeo's friend Mercutio to a fight, who is on the side of the Montagues. Tybalt ends up killing Mercutio, Romeo, who has just got married to Juliet, avenges Mercutio's death by killing Tybalt. As punishment, Romeo is exiled from the city of Verona. He has to go to another city in Italy, called Mantua. Thus, terrible news for Romeo and Juliet, because it means that they will be living in different towns and will have to be even more secret about their love affair than before.

In the meantime, Juliet's parents have decided that Juliet should marry the young nobleman Paris. In order to avoid marrying Paris, Juliet turns to Friar Laurence for help. The friar gives Juliet a magic potion which will make her seem dead for 42 hours. In the meantime another monk, Friar John, plans to ride out to Mantua to tell Romeo that he must come and fetch Juliet as soon as she wakes up. However, Friar John never gets to Mantua. Balderdash has witnessed Juliet's funeral but did not know of the poison and he tells Romeo that Juliet is dead. Romeo races back to Verona, sees Juliet in the tomb and kills himself in despair. A few moments later Juliet wakes up to find Romeo dead beside her. Grief-stricken, she also commits suicide.

The result of all this is that the two households, the Montagues and the Capulets are reconciled to one another. At the funeral, Juliet's father says to Romeo's father, V, iii, 296, "O brother Montague, give me thy hand.

The fathers then agree to make statues of gold of their children to show how the children's love forced the families to stop fighting. Bearing in mind, the different kinds of love I discussed earlier, if we pay attention to the end of this play, we can say that the love between Romeo and Juliet is not only romantic but idealistic too. It is their love which overcomes the hostilities between the two factions.

Now the fact that their love overcomes the hostility between the two families is a good and happy thing. And the fact that Romeo and Juliet have to die for this, is sad. When a play is sad, we often call it a tragedy. Romeo and Juliet is one of Shakespeare's tragedies, but because there is a happy ending in the ending of Romeo and Juliet, we can say that it is not a tragedy in the usual sense of the word.

There is another difference between Romeo and Juliet and other tragedies. Usually one of the characteristics of tragedy is that there is a hero or a heroine who has a character fault. That character fault is called a tragic flaw. This flaw causes something terrible to happen to the hero or the heroine, but because the flaw is in the hero or the heroine, we can say that he or she is responsible for what happens. Can we say that Romeo and Juliet are entirely responsible for what happens to them? Are they not rather victims of their circumstances?

Most of Shakespeare's other tragedies, for example Macbeth, King Lear or Hamlet, follow this convention of tragedy by including a hero with a tragic flaw in his or her character. Why did Shakespeare not include this aspect of tragedy in Romeo and Juliet? Or did he?

Over the next few weeks, I will show you why I think Romeo and Juliet are not entirely responsible for the sad fate that ends their lives.
On the East Rand there are two towns with only 75 m of open ground separating them — but they are worlds apart.

JACQUELINE MYBURGH reports

DALPARK 6, a white suburb of the East Rand town of Brakpan, and Tamboville, an extension of Benoni's black Wattville township, are both relatively young developments, with mostly young families living there. But Dalpark residents say their lives have been plagued by repeated break-ins since their neighbours moved in.

Some houses have been burgled up to six times in the last six months since Tamboville was established, says Frank Lamont, who has lived in Dalpark for five years.

He refers to Tamboville as a squatter camp, but residents insist that the township, created by the Benoni Town Council in July last year, is a formal settlement.

"Would the Benoni municipality install latrines and charge rent if that was a squatter camp?" argues Tamboville resident Cynthia Tshabangu.

Residents pay R50 a month to stay on the land.

Mrs Tshabangu rejected accusations that Tamboville "squatters" were breaking into homes in Dalpark.

But the crime rate in Dalpark is a severe problem.

The white suburb was built 10 years ago by housing developers offering young middle-class people the opportunity to become home owners. With two bedrooms, the houses were designed to be extended in later years and most residents have altered and enlarged their homes.

Now, almost every second house in Dalpark is for sale. Others are surrounded by walls, up to 3 m high, with razor wire fences.

Dobermanns, bull terriers and Alsatians guard many properties.

Mr Lamont, whose own home is surrounded by circles of razor wire fencing, said that the first reaction to the news that the Benoni Town Council had given the Tamboville settlement the go-ahead was to petition the State President. He raised 1000 signatures.

He and fellow residents’ committee member Steve Connelly insist, however, that their complaints were not race-related.

Mr Lamont said he was against squatters of any race.

"He and Mr Connelly have no objection to a black, coloured or Indian person moving into the house next door, but are concerned about the type of person inhabiting the "squat-ter camp" up the hill from their homes.

If the Benoni municipality would only provide formal housing, we could get a better class of person living there," says Mr Lamont.

Mr Connelly says the atmosphere as a result of the repeated burglaries is affecting his family.

"We are not very affluent people. We are very middle-class families who are striving to better ourselves, but when this kind of thing happens it’s a kick in the guts," he said.

Anton and Lynne Els have been living on a corner stand in Dalpark 6 for six years, and have had 10 break-ins in this period. Their house is surrounded by a 3-m-high wall. They have two big dogs and access to an armed response service.

"But I am still very nervous at night when my husband works late," says Mrs Els.

The rising crime rate has also meant the Afrikaans Weissatandbeweging had to fortify the ground on which to carry out their recruitment, Mr Connelly and Mr Lamont said.

"They come here every Sunday afternoon to recruit, and we want to prevent this wrong element from taking the law into their own hands," Mr Lamont said.

Residents have seen Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, Hennie Kriel, who agreed that formal housing would be preferable and undertaken to look into the matter.

"But that’s the last we heard," said Mr Lamont.

Senior Wattville resident Jerry Makume said Tamboville was created when Wattville became overcrowded. About 3,000 people were squatting on the land when the Benoni municipality decided to settle it with water and sewage facilities at a cost of R50 million.

The newcomers were young, employed people trying to establish themselves in their first homes and not likely to be responsible for the break-ins at Dalpark, he said.

"Elements from Wattville may be responsible for the break-ins," he said.

Benoni town clerk Denys Conrade says Dalpark residents are being unfair in laying the blame for the crime in their suburb on Tamboville residents.

"Firstly,” he said, “it is not a squatter camp. Since it was established nine months ago, the municipality has installed sewerage, water, street lights and roads at Tamboville.

Mr Conrade described Tamboville as a low-income housing area.

He said that the municipality would ultimately house with a larger group of homes at Tamboville.

The municipality has, however, reached agreement with the Wattville Residents’ Committee (WRC) that homes would not be corrugated iron and plastic shacks, but rather concrete houses.

Samson Gumede, a night-time security guard who is building his house at Tamboville, said that residents were asking that he and his neighbours’ houses be considered for break-ins at Dalpark.
No more talks with councils, says CAST

By Thabo Lesiako

No further talks would be held with black local authorities to discuss rent boycotts and related matters, the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST) resolved in Johannesburg yesterday.

"We felt strongly that negotiations at local level, with councillors, should be suspended. Civic associations should negotiate with the Transvaal Provincial Administration at regional level — not with councillors," publicity secretary Sandu Lebese said at a press conference.

Deputy president Kga-bisi Mosokutu claimed the TPA was trying to perpetuate the existence of town councils by making civic associations negotiate with them about electricity cut-offs.

The meeting also accused black town councillors of nepotism in distribution of land for squatter settlement.

Mr Lebese said town councils were an obstacle to political negotiations and called for campaigns for their resignations to be stepped up.

He said the meeting also resolved that the Government be asked to provide CAST with a copy of the Bill on local government.

CAST also decided at the meeting to:

- Hold a consultative conference on forming a national organisation of civic bodies;
- Call on civic bodies and parents to be involved in mass action by children to force Government to resolve the crisis in black education;
- Intensify the campaign for the occupation of unoccupied land.
Townships saved from switch-off

TWO Pretoria townships had averted electrical power cuts by paying more than R50, Pretoria City Council spokesman Ila Olivier said yesterday.

Olivier said electricity would have been switched off in Mamelodi and Atteridgeville yesterday had their town councils not paid their current and outstanding electricity accounts.

"The town councils of Atteridgeville and Mamelodi, which owed the Pretoria City Council R1 457 374 and R1 058 583 respectively, paid their accounts in full on Friday," Olivier said.

Atteridgeville town clerk Eruke Jacobso said although his council had managed to avert power cuts, only 15% of residents had actually paid their electricity accounts.

While his council was repairing damaged meters and power supply networks, residents should pay the R50 a month tariff rate agreed to by himself and the Atteridgeville-Sandrivle Residents' Organisation (Asro) in January.

"After damaged meters and power supply networks have been repaired, residents are expected to pay according to consumption," he said.

Stoffel set to meet Alex hunger strikers

EDUCATION and Training Minister Stoffel van der Merwe could meet Alexandra pupils — some of whom are on hunger strike — this week to discuss grievances against the Department of Education and Training, a spokesman for his office said yesterday.

"I cannot confirm the venue and time at this stage but we are hopeful that the meeting between the minister and the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) will take place in Johannesburg on Friday," spokesman Caro Hoon said.

The meeting was part of Van der Merwe's "open-door-policy" of meeting everyone with a "genuine concern about education."

Hoon said Van der Merwe had agreed to meet the Alexandra Cosas branch after the pupils' body phoned his office yesterday.

News of the meeting came as pupils announced plans for a protest march on Thursday, Sapa reports.

The march would be a "physical expression" of the pupils' anger over alleged moves by the authorities to evict the youths and end the sit-in.

Cosas, whose executive committee members are on a six-day hunger strike at Alexandra town council offices, reiterated its vow that it would not suspend its protest action until it met Van der Merwe.

Alexandra Education Crisis Committee co-ordinator Make Male said the protestors had given the authorities until March 19 to begin implementing their demands for improvements to schools.

In a memorandum submitted to Alexandra school inspector Gordon Kadungure last month, Cosas called on the DET to make resources available as soon as possible if it wanted to avert a high year-end failure rate.

It noted a serious shortage of teachers and textbooks and "gross overcrowding in classes."

In another development, eight principals from local schools yesterday joined the sit-in by 18 youths at the Alexandra town council offices.
Mr M MOHANLALL. The hon member for Central Rand must tell us how his leader tried to bamboozle his way into an overseas trip last year through the Parliamentary Association and did not allow his colleagues to go. [Interjections] At the time when the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition was the Chairman of the Ministers' Council he did not go on an overseas trip simply. [Interjections]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order!

Mr M MOHANLALL because he was afraid of a coup d'état in his absence.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION We did our work!

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order!
The hon member may proceed.

Mr M MOHANLALL. The hon the Leader of the Official Opposition did not go overseas when he was the Chairman of the Ministers' Council simply because he was afraid there would be a coup d'état in his absence. [Interjections] [Time expired]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION Mr Chairman, in the situation that prevailed at the time which the hon member for Clare Estate mentioned, we had general criticism, but the then Chairman of the Ministers' Council attended all meetings of the Ministers of Housing. We have hardly seen the present hon Minister of Housing attend any meetings of the Housing Advisory Committee of this House. The day he did attend, he woke up six times to run away. Here there was an admission by the Deputy Minister that the hon the Minister of Housing did not have time. [Interjections]

Mr T PALAN. The former Deputy Minister?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION The former Deputy Minister said he did not have the time because the situation of laziness and neglect that existed did not exist previously, for the benefit of the hon member for Clare Estate. Let us not compare the two situations. There was productivity when no meetings or conferences were missed in South Africa.

We are not scoring political points. [Interjections] There is concern that this trip to South America was not in the general welfare of the South African community. [Interjections]

Mr T PALAN. How do you know?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION Because it was for a trip. [Interjections] [Time expired]

The MINISTER OF HOUSING Mr Chairman, I sincerely trust that the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition does not judge me by his own standards. [Interjections] Secondly, I attended this conference, but not as the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition has said, to go on leave. I am entitled to leave with my wife once every year, but I have not taken it.

However, I went to this conference because I considered the kind of housing development in South America to have some relation to the squatter development in South Africa and it was my intention to acquire some understanding of their approach to resolving this matter. In so far as my Deputy Minister is concerned, his function is to attend to some of these meetings. I can tell hon members that I start work at seven and I work until late.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION You worry about

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order!
The hon the Minister of Housing may proceed.

The MINISTER Watch it! [Interjections]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! Will the hon the leader of the Official Opposition kindly resume his seat? The hon the Minister may continue.

The MINISTER I want to say that under my chairmanship, for the first time, we have discovered all the neglect of and failures in the housing division under that former chairman.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION On a point of order. The hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council issued a threat to me that I must watch out. [Interjections]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! I just want to tell hon members that if something is said in the heat of the moment, I am certain it is meant in jest. [Interjections] The hon the Minister may continue. [Interjections]

The MINISTER One of the reasons for the delay is that we have committed R300 million over the past 18 months for housing development for the Indian community.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION You're replaying the old record!

The MINISTER Furthermore, we are now discovering the faults, the weaknesses and the incomplete work left behind by the former Chairman of the Ministers' Council who controlled this Ministry. [Interjections] During my address in the housing debate I shall be able to give chapter and verse. Pelikan Park started six years ago and we still cannot give transfer. Why? Because the work on township registration has not been completed. [Interjections]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION It was given to you on a platter but you are doing business from your office.

The MINISTER Likewise, in other parts of the Transvaal, we cannot give transfer to people because the planning, the layout and the registration of townships are incomplete.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION What about the past two years?

The MINISTER This is what we have been putting right in the past two years.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION You are fast asleep!

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! I have given the hon the Minister half a minute's injury time and that has also expired. [Interjections]

Debate concluded.

2 Mr A S Akoob—Housing [Withdrawn]

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For oral reply

Own Affairs

Question standing over from Tuesday, 5 March 1991.
The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! Could the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition repeat that question?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, I shall repeat the question. Was the decision of the Housing Development Board in respect of the allocation made during the past two years?

The MINISTER: No, I think it was made in August for the first time.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sir, it would therefore be correct to assume that no blame could be attached to the previous administration.

Mr Chairman, further arising out of the answer given to the second part of the question, I would like to ask the hon the Minister whether it would not have been better to have asked the Housing Development Board to review the decision, rather than revoking it.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, my concern is for building homes which fall within the limits of this housing administration, because it has been focused primarily for this purpose. The decision was revoked, because it concerned a category of people who were earning between R2 000 and R3 500 per month.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, is it not correct that the Housing Development Board only acts on a memorandum of submission made by the hon the Minister's Department?

The MINISTER: Sir, the motivation actually comes from the officials in the Department. In this case, in my capacity as Minister of Housing, have the overall responsibility. I therefore revoked the decision, because I felt that that land should be used for other purposes.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, does the drastic step of revoking a decision not reflect on the administration of the hon the Minister which advises the Housing Development Board?

The MINISTER: Sir, if an administration acts in good faith, there is nothing wrong if a Minister decides to revoke a decision. After all, he has the overall responsibility. These things happen, but they should be done in good faith.

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Mr T PALAN: Mr Chairman, may I ask the hon the Minister if there is a garage site in that area?

The MINISTER: Sir, 399 sites were involved, but they were residential sites. However, one could park a car there.

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**QUESTIONS**

1. **Natal health services: amount spent**

   1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of National Health Services and Welfare about the amount spent on health services in Natal. The Minister provided the following details:

   - (a) How much of the sum of R50 million which the State President announced in October 1990 was to be made available for health services in Natal has been spent?
   - (b) In respect of what date is this information furnished?

   (1) No
   - (a) (i) Falls away
   - (ii) 4 March 1991
   - (b) None
   - (b) Verulam Service Centre
   - JSS Lenasia
   - Aryan Benevolent Home
   - Dayanand Gardens

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**Own Affairs**

3. **Care of the aged: funds**

   - (a) Whether any funds appropriated in respect of the 1990/91 financial year for institutionalised care of the aged have yet to be utilised by his Department, if so, (a)(i) what is the amount involved and (a)(ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished and (b) why has this amount not been utilised as yet;
   - (a) (i) Falls away
   - (ii) 4 March 1991
   - (a) None
   - (b) Verulam Service Centre
   - JSS Lenasia
   - Aryan Benevolent Home
   - Dayanand Gardens

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**Clayton Gardens**

- *Durham Association for the Aged*
- Welbedacht
- Phoenix
- Chatsworth
- Shallcross
- Pietermaritzburg Old Age Society

**Per month**

- Verulam Service Centre: R4 111.20
- JSS Lenasia: 2 055.60
- Dayanand Gardens: 2 341.10
- Clayton Gardens: 2 912.10
- Welbedacht: 1 884.30
- Phoenix: 3 140.30
- Chatsworth: 1 998.50
- Shallcross: 1 370.40
- Pietermaritzburg Old Age Society: 4 568.00

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES
At the end of the month, electricity crises by end of the month.
Alexandra council to be dissolved

THE Alexandra Council is to be dissolved so that a single non-racial local authority for Randburg and Sandton districts can be created.

This emerged in a statement released after an historic meeting last week between the Government, Alexandra residents and officials of the Randburg and Sandton councils.

The parties - which also included officials of Eskom, Rand Water Board, the Development of Southern Africa and members of the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council - established a forum to work out the details of the future council.

The forum promised to pay 'attention to issues which are of importance' to Alexandra.

The establishment of the forum follows five months of intensive negotiations.

Members of the forum also hope to end the rent boycott in the township.

In a joint statement, the parties pledged to work for improvement in the quality of life in Alexandra.

The statement added "Negotiations were always conducted in good spirit although it should be pointed out that there were always differences about specific matters."

"The viewpoint of the parties during negotiations and in the agreement was that the interests of the residents must at all times be the number one priority."

**Possible**

"The fact that cooperation between the civic organisations and the authorities is indeed possible and that reasonableness can prevail is proved by the fact that the Alexandra Civic Association was most of the time represented by", its chairman Mr. Moses Mayekiso, who is also president of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal."

Some of the important aspects of the agreement are:

- Payment for services,
- Transfer of rented houses to the people,
- Upgrading and conversion of hostels into family dwellings,
- Upgrading of services,
- Transfer of the land known as the East Bank to a land trust administered by representatives of Alexandra,
- Implementation of low-income housing,
- Provision of additional land, and
- Dissolution of the Alexandra Council and other local authorities.
Row as Indian MP bars blacks from new area

By MONK NKOMO
A ROW has erupted over enforcement of the Group Areas Act by an Indian MP concerning Lotus Gardens, near Attendgeville in Pretoria.

This follows the rejection of black applications for the occupation of houses at Lotus Gardens by Chairman of the Ministers Council Dr JN Reddy.

Reddy told the Attendgeville Saulsville Residents Organisation that Lotus Gardens was being developed strictly for the Indian community in terms of the Group Areas Act, which had not yet been repealed.

Backlog
Asaro representatives said yesterday they complained to Reddy recently following reports that scores of applications from Attendgeville residents to occupy houses at Lotus Gardens had been rejected by the Indian authorities.

The organisation condemned the stance taken by the Indian authorities and said their residents also had a serious housing backlog.

Asaro has now sought a meeting with the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hermus Kriel, to resolve the matter.

In his reply to Asaro, Reddy said although his administration supported State President Mr FW de Klerk’s initiatives to scrap apartheid, he was still bound by the country’s constitution.

Needs
“T and my administration are, until such time as these measures are enacted, obliged, in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act No 110 of 1983, to provide first and foremost for the needs of the Indian community in South Africa, which includes their housing needs.

In this context Lotus Gardens is being developed for members of the Indian community of whom several thousands have been on our waiting list for many years,” said Reddy.

Mr Sattar Cassim, chairman of the Laudium Management Committee, yesterday distanced himself from Reddy’s stance and said his committee was in favour of the area being shared by people of all races.

“Reddy’s attitude is bad and not in line with the new South Africa that is being planned,” Cassim said.

In their reply dated March 7 this year, Asaro told Reddy that South Africa was a racial state because its constitution entrenched separate development.

“Your allegation that you and your administration subscribe to non-racial principles as advocated today by all peace-loving South Africans are misleading and discouraging,” Asaro said.
Rent boycotts blamed for electricity cuts

THE withdrawal of essential services in many Transvaal townships was a result of boycotts called by certain organisations, a Transvaal Provincial Administration official has said.

Mr John Mavuso, TPA MEC for Housing and Community Development, said this while speaking at the handing over of several facilities to the East Rand township of Tshwane.

Mavuso said: "The hardships currently being faced by people in some towns in the Transvaal are a direct result of the payment boycotts instituted by certain organisations last year."

Boycotts

He said if it was not for the boycotts, townships in the province would have had better infrastructures and improved services.

Referring to the squatter settlements that are mushrooming in and around the metropolitan areas of the Transvaal, Mavuso warned that not all open spaces were necessarily habitable.

"People squatting on such land would therefore not be able to settle there permanently," he said.

The East Rand Regional Services Council handed over recently completed essential amenities to Tshwane, including a reservoir constructed at a cost of R2.5 million - Sapa

JOHN MAVUSO
Tariff rises likely for two townships

ATTERIDGEVILLE and Saulsville residents should brace themselves for increased tariff charges likely to come into effect on April 1.

The announcement was made by Atteridgeville's administrator, Dr ES Jacobson, in an "Open Letter" distributed in the two Pretoria townships this week.

The town's administration is unable to meet its commitments because of insufficient funds, Jacobson said.

Apart from the new rates and tariffs, redundant personnel were likely to be retrenched after a survey had been conducted, he said.

Increases

Reacting to the proposed tariff increases, the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation said no increases would be introduced.

"According to the terms of the agreement reached on January 15, 1991, between Asro and the administrator, new tariffs will be negotiated and will come into effect on July 1, 1991, provided the parties (Asro and the administrator) agree.

"There is no way the administrator can arbitrarily increase tariffs in Atteridgeville," said Asro in a statement.

Asro said the agreement was not imposed on Jacobson but was a result of negotiations which were conducted in good faith.

Approached for comment yesterday, Jacobson said: "I agree that we have an agreement. But that agreement is not forever. One can change because the situation changes."
Local govt to have teeth to stop decay

RESIDENTS, ratepayers and housing associations will be given teeth to enforce by-laws and keep neighbourhoods in good nick when the Residential Environment Bill is passed by Parliament, town council spokesmen said this week.

The Bill aims to prevent the possible downgrading of neighbourhoods with the scrapping of the Group Areas Act. It also confers additional power on local authorities to pass and enforce by-laws in order to maintain neighbourhoods. But the Bill stipulates that racially discriminatory by-laws will not be allowed.

The Bill provides for the setting up of an Urban Environment Board to help local authorities to maintain standards and set up urban renewal projects. The board will play an advisory role and consist of experts in urban renewal.

Standard

Apart from providing for the maintenance of norms such as tidy and hygienic premises, the Bill provides for ways to settle disputes and for the orderly and civilised use of public facilities, noise control and urban decay.

"This national provision sets minimum standards which go further than previous legislation," said Midrand Management Committee chairman Ian Bekker.

He said Midrand had already amended existing by-laws, mainly to ensure ghettos don't develop.

Asked about the effect the Bill would have, Sandton town councillor Peter Gardiner said "Neighbourhood standards could be protected and most municipalities could now decide on what standard of service they want in their area.

"Presumably we are now allowed to set our own standards. For example, Sandton neighbourhoods want high security standards and environmental standards. We could even provide our own security force.

"Our council could now pass a by-law to set up residents' associations more formally. This would put teeth into the system and residents would be encouraged to pay for upgrading their neighbourhoods."

He said another example would be to formalise homeowners' associations, which in Sandton already raise money to control architectural standards and maintain landscaping.

The Bill also means local authorities will have more control over spending and it provides for financial assistance to local authorities to undertake projects out of appropriated funds, according to Mr Gardiner.

Johannesburg City Council spokesman Professor H Hurwitz said he believed local authorities may have more power to enforce legislation because penalties would now be more realistic. Offenders could be fined up to R10,000 and there is an additional fine of R100 a day for an ongoing offence.

The Randburg Town Council has promulgated housing nuisance by-laws, aimed at ensuring minimum standards, according to council spokesman Andre Jacobs.

But he admitted that it may be difficult to enforce legislation while the country was going through a transition.

Federation of Western Johannesburg Ratepayers' Associations spokesman Frank Salomon said residents were already contributing to maintaining standards in their suburbs but the new legislation would give local authorities more power to prevent urban decay.
Alex council sit-in a 'coup'

A SIT-IN at the office of the Alexandra mayor and the town clerk will continue until mayor Prince Makone resigns, says the Alexandra Civic Organisation.

Now in its third week, the 24-hour-a-day sit-in has crippled the running of the council and is regarded as a "coup" against Makone and his council.

Since the sit-in started on February 27 Makone has not been in his office and town clerk Willie Khumalo said he had been working under "extreme" pressure.

"I have no secretary because they are also occupying her office," he said.

"ACO general secretary Richard Makane said the sit-in was part of an ongoing struggle by residents against the role played by the council.

"We are putting pressure on the councillors to resign because they are not serving the needs of the community," he said.

Khumalo said there were no plans to try and evict the strikers by force.
Power scam causes anger

By DERRICK LUTHAVI

DOBSONSVILLE

Council electricians are switching off the electricity of residents who are not in arrears and pocketing the R40 re-connection fees they demand.

Management committee chairman Vincent Thusi said several complaints had been received from residents who had their electricity disconnected even though they had paid their bills.

"We have reprimanded some electricians, although most have denied being involved in the racket.

"Our investigations are being hampered by lack of evidence because most affected families do not report the irregularities to us," said Thusi.

Last Thursday about 60 irate residents were at the offices demanding reinstatement of their electricity supply.

Dennis Vuka Buthelezi showed City Press his receipt for R81 which he had paid on Wednesday. The same day, his electricity supply was cut off.

A clerk in the accounts office, who was reluctant to help, finally checked the records and told Buthelezi he owed a further R33.80.

Not satisfied with the answer Buthelezi spoke to township treasurer MCB van Zyl, who after investigations apologised and told him the council owed him the amount.
Pay up, warns Soweto council

By Stan Hlophe

The Soweto City Council has warned residents to pay for service charges and electricity in terms of the Soweto Accord signed last September — or else it will cut the power supply.

In a statement, acting town clerk Johan Oosthuizen said that from April 1, the council would no longer receive financial assistance from the regional services council and, therefore, the council would be unable to provide electricity unless all residents honour the accord.

**Agreement**

Mr Oosthuizen reminded residents that in terms of the accord, signed by the Greater Soweto councils, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD), the following agreement was reached:

- Writing off R450 million arrears (residential units only)
- Ending the four-year rent boycott as well as the immediate resumption of R23 monthly payments for service charges and for metered electricity consumption on a sliding scale.
- Establishment of a Metropolitan Chamber to serve as a forum whose primary purpose would be to investigate and formulate the setting of regional, nonracial, and democratic structures.

Meanwhile, a meeting between the council and representatives of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce resolved to form a working committee to reach an amicable settlement on whether the traders were part of the accord.

It was also agreed that the businessmen should continue paying their monthly accounts while negotiations are on course.

This follows a war of words between the council and the chamber over the interpretation of the Soweto Accord.

**Breaching**

The chamber maintains that as Soweto residents they are included in the accord, but the council is adamant that they are not.

SPD spokesman Pat Lephunya said that if the council could carry out its threat, it would be breaching the accord, which stipulated that if either side should encounter a problem, a solution had to be found before any action could be taken.
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Threat to township projects

TOWNSHIP' development projects worth hundreds of millions of rands could be scrapped unless Soweto township residents begin paying rent and service charges.

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council meets today to discuss the fate of capital projects. Although the amount at risk is not known, the council has a capital project development budget of about R180m.

A strong warning to residents to begin paying or have long-term projects shelved indefinitely is likely to be issued after the meeting. RSC sources said yesterday.

In terms of September's Soweto Accord, Soweto, Diepkloof, Dobsonville and Meadowlands residents undertook to make payments. The RSC agreed to pay the difference in the council's operating costs until the end of this month.

Payment of electricity bills has dropped from 90% of consumers after the signing of the accord to 20% last month.

RSC executive member Hen Kruger said yesterday projects might have to be stopped so bridging finance could continue to be provided. Today's meeting would decide whether finance would continue.

He said a decision had to be taken between short-term finance for non-payment of services or capital projects to uplift communities in the Greater Soweto area.

RSC chairman John Griffiths said: "Our commitment ends at the end of this month. It's no use us assuring the payments if the payments are so poor."

There was little point providing infrastructure if services from such infrastructure were not going to be paid for.

"Only capital items of high priority will be looked at," he said. Municipal sources said attention was being given to cutting supplies to residents who refused to pay.
**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**The Minister of Welfare, Housing and Works**

1. The Department will continue to render service in line with the needs of the communities concerned which have been served for many years. It is a world-wide phenomenon that services which are rendered to different communities are based on social compatibility. The admission policy in respect of these homes will be effected in accordance with the provisions of the RSA Constitution Act, 1983.

2. At these homes provision is made for a service within the community for those who prefer it.

3. Falls away.

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**Questions**

**Black Townships, Electricity**

13 Mr P. G. SOAL asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing whether any housing units in Black townships have yet to be supplied with electricity, if so, (a) which townships are involved and (b) what percentage of Black housing in each specified region had not yet been supplied with electricity as at the latest specified date for which information is available.

---

**Annexure A**

**Cape Province**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>% without electricity</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Kareedouw</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kei Mond</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kei Weg</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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</table>

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**Natal**

(a) and (b) The Black townships involved and the percentages per township as at 19 February 1991 are reflected in the accompanying Annexure A.

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**Transvaal**

(a) and (b) The Black townships involved and the percentages per region as at 13 February 1991 are reflected in the accompanying Annexure B.

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**Orange Free State**

Yes

(a) and (b) The Black townships involved and the percentages per township as at 28 February 1991 are reflected in the accompanying Annexure D.

**Falls away**

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**Sooop settlement: occupation by non-Whites**

7 Mr A. GERBER asked the Minister of Welfare, Housing and Works:

(1) Whether the Sooop settlement near Brits will be open for occupation by non-Whites after the abolition of the Group Areas Act No. 56 of 1956, if not, why not, if so, on what conditions?

(2) Whether any restriction will be placed on the number of non-Whites who will be admitted to the settlement?

(3) Whether any other conditions will apply to the admission of non-Whites to the said settlement, if so, what are those conditions?

---

**The Minister of Welfare, Housing and Works**

1. The Department does not envisage a change in admission policy due to the repeal of the Group Areas Act specifically at Sooop settlement, as well as the other two departmental settlements, the Department will continue to render a service according to the needs and wishes of the communities concerned. This will be carried out within the framework of the constitution. It is government policy to promote the concept of an own community. However, an own community life has to be sustained by a community's inherent will and capabilities and not by statutory coercion.

2. Falls away.

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**Falls away**
AN informal letter suggesting the building of a high wall to seclude the plush northern suburb of Dunkeld in Johannesburg, has been circulated among residents for response.

"Imagine our lovely suburb secure and secluded from the urban violence that has understandably become part of the new South Africa," said the letter, circulated by a group of residents who have discussed the concept for over two years.

They proposed the isolation of Dunkeld between Jan Smuts and Cradock avenues, and along Bompas and Rorosbank roads, by building walls across each road at the boundary points and leaving just one access point for both entrance and exit.

"We envisage security access points, who will allow residents and authorised staff free passage, but will confirm the destination of all other vehicles and pedestrians before allowing them to proceed," the letter continued.

Organiser Mrs Bridget Orlop said the group had approached the Johannesburg City Council about the "secured village concept" and were canvassing other residents' responses.

"We have had an overwhelmingly positive response so far," Orlop said.

"The village complex will involve about 180 families, and once all families have been canvassed, a formal proposal will be submitted to the council," she said.

"The proposal is still unofficial and in its early stages. Several traffic flow and feasibility studies are yet to be conducted, before approvals for road closures can be applied for," Orlop said.

"The concept is not racially-based at all," she said. "It arises from a general concern about the crime wave that has escalated in Johannesburg's northern suburbs."

**Walls**

"Dunkeld residents want to be free of the robberies, violence and prostitution that have plagued the area. We want our children to be able to walk home from school safely," she said.

"Dunkeld residents would help finance the building of the walls and the employment of a security company to regulate the area.

"Most residents already employ the services of block watch or security companies," Orlop said. "Our security entrance point will connect with each home to complete the security profile."

The pastor for St Martin's in the Veld Anglican Church in Dunkeld, the Rev R Germonde, said, however, the proposed inclusion of his church in the complex would have adverse implications for his parish.

"Apart from being impractical in terms of traffic pressure, we cannot give in to fear," he said.

"This is not the solution to our country's problems," Germonde said. - Sapa.
SAA eyes USSR, Eastern Europe

SAA was investigating the possibility of operating regular flights to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and would probably fly three times a week to New York once the US reinstated its landing rights, Ce Gert van der Veer said yesterday.

Van der Veer said in an interview that opening new commercial and trade markets in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union would be carefully monitored.

Once market and traffic volumes warranted it, SAA would apply for routes to these areas.

“We are in contact with East European and Soviet airlines, but there’s no immediate market,” he said.

Criticism

“For the foreseeable future we’ll continue to interline with these airlines via our European destinations,” Van der Veer said.

“We already have an interline agreement with LOT of Poland through Frankfurt,” Van der Veer said.

He denied criticism that SAA would operate flights to the US, once the ban on the SAA’s landing rights was lifted, only for political status reasons.

“We are a profitable business; we fly to make money out of it,” he said.

The latest statistics show that SAA carries more US-originated passengers now — through Europe — than it ever did before.

Alexandra mayor accused of ‘importing murderers’

ALEXANDRA Civic Organisation (ACO) president Moses Mayekiso yesterday lambasted the township’s mayor Primrose Mokoena for allegedly fuelling instability by bringing in foreigners who “mercilessly murdered” residents.

Addressing a media briefing in Johannesurg, Mayekiso said his organisation had condemned forces which wanted to remove political gains made by Alexandra’s people.

Alexandria has been the scene of intense factional violence in which more than 60 people have been killed over the past 10 days. Mokoena, who recently sought a home in Inkatha, had told the ACO leadership he would “hit the community very hard”.

“There are also allegations that Mokoena facilitated the influx of foreigners into Alexandra,” Mayekiso said. It was believed these foreigners included people from Mozambique, as some were overheard speaking Portuguese.

The importation of roadworkers from the East Rand, West Rand, Natal and Mozambique was done behind the scenes, without the knowledge of political organisations, by the third force, which is manipulating structures and leadership of some political organisations.

This shows how the supposedly progressive organisations are infiltrated by criminals to use unrest to commit violence,” Mayekiso said.

ACO will intensify its campaign for the resignation of Mokoena and his council.

People are staging a sit-in at Mokoena’s offices and they have vowed to continue with their protest until Mokoena resigns.

Mokoena could not be reached for comment.

Cast denies trying to derail negotiations

THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) charged yesterday that it was not a front for the ANC and that its campaign to isolate black town councillors had the support of most residents in towns where it operates.

In a statement in Johannesurg, Cast denounced allegations that its isolation campaign was aimed at derailing the negotiation process.

“Cast is on record as being supportive of the ANC initiative to talk with the government.”

However, we have also said that the pace and content of the talks must be dictated by the majority of our people.

“The campaign is one way of involving our people in this process,” the organisation said.

In a similar statement, former Daveyton mayor Tom Boys distanced himself from reports that his resignation was precipitated by intimidation from the ANC and Cast.

“The system of the black local authorities is bankrupt,” he said. — Sapa.
Upliftment slice largely hailed

By Helen Grange
and Winnie Graham

A mixed response has met the Government's Budget for social upliftment, with some housing economists suspicious of how the money will be used to address the critical housing shortage.

Social upliftment has been a major focus of this year's Budget, with particular attention being paid to housing in the light of rapid urbanisation. Some R1 billion has been set aside for this purpose.

Jan Steyn, chairman of the Independent Development Trust (IDT), has welcomed the Budget's focus on poverty.

"Obviously we are encouraged by the reorientation taking place in the areas where funding is being allocated by the State.

"The war on poverty has to be fought by everyone in this country if we are to create a just and peaceful society," he said.

He added that the R1 billion for housing would complement the IDT's own R750 million initiative in this area.

The Urban Foundation abstained from commenting on the Budget until today in order for directors to study it more completely.

"Dr Azar Jammie, director and chief economist of the Economix research unit, said an analysis of the spending "inside the Budget" revealed that the government would not spend "one tola" more on social upliftment this year.

"The figures show that 26.5 per cent of the Budget has been set aside for social upliftment — exactly the same as last year.

"Most of the money earmarked for social spending, he said, would probably go on health and welfare services, teachers' and nurses’ salaries, and administrative and bureaucratic costs.

It was said, however, that the Government had to increase spending on policing when what the country needed was more housing.

"Dr Jammie said very little was happening on the housing front, largely because of the bottleneck in the supply of materials, the reluctance of builders to work in the black areas and the lack of training for home-owners who wanted to build themselves.

He said the Government could do little about the unemployment problem while people were killing each other.

The spending on social upliftment, however, could go a long way towards stabilising South Africa which, in turn, would lead to revitalisation of the economy.

"The individual will pay more tax than last year," he added. "In part he is being taxed to pay for social upliftment."

Actstop, an organisation representing tenants in low-income urban housing, welcomed the large amount put aside for housing but expressed reservations.

"It's good news, but we would like to see how it is going to be implemented. If it is anything like the white paper on land, it will be dubious," said Aida Holdings chairman Aida Gerling.

"The problem is that, as in the past, the money does not go to private enterprise to be used and distributed where it is needed most."

"Huge amounts are whittled away by housing foundations and trusts because the infrastructure for housing is inadequate and money is spent on houses for middle-income earners rather than for people in the sub-economic group."

"The Government just creates these papers and hopes its proposals will work."
Govt ignoring real land issues, conference told

Staff Reporter

The Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST) and Operation Basotho for the Homeless (Ohmle) vowed at a joint press conference yesterday to continue with their occupation of vacant land because the Government's White Paper did not address the real land issues.

The conference, called to express their rejection of the White Paper, was held in Johannesburg.

Ohmle general secretary Basheer Lorgat said the Government saw the White Paper as a major leap forward towards a new South Africa.

But, he said, the majority of the people were not excited about it.

"We believe our people and not the Government are best able to redistribute land. The people must do this by a well co-ordinated campaign to occupy vacant land," he said.

"We will not wait for the Government to move at its own pace," he added.
Doubts over wall around Dunkeld

By Guy Jeppson

The plan to transform the exclusive Johannesburg suburb of Dunkeld into a secluded village — physically shielded from criminal elements and "rat-running" motorists — appears to enjoy wide support among local home-owners.

"However, a spot survey carried out by The Star in Dunkeld yesterday revealed a measure of doubt over the practicality of the "Dunkeld Village" project.

Support

Its organisers have claimed overwhelming support for the concept, which, according to a brochure recently circulated among home-owners, involves the walling-off of 15 street entrances to the suburb between Jan Smuts and Cradock avenues and Bopmas and Rosebank roads.

Access to the "village" would be determined by a single security checkpoint at the intersection of Rosebank Road and Bath Avenue.

A Rosebank Road resident interviewed by The Star described the concept as "exceptional". "We have had a tremendous amount of petty crime in the area recently. The project would provide extra security."

He added, however, that the checkpoint would result in traffic congestion in Christopherson and Rosebank roads, which would become de facto through-routes to internal traffic.

A Christopherson Road resident, who said his home had been burgled "a couple of times" over the past three years, doubted whether the city council would allow the project to be implemented.

"It is ludicrous. You can't keep people out with walls — you would need to fence them with barbed wire," he added.

Pat Bastani, who lives in Smuts Road, said she fully supported the "village" concept.

Worry

"It would be wonderful. I would no longer have to worry about the safety of my children. At present I'm afraid to let my little boy ride his bike to school.

An Eastwood Road home-owner said she supported the project in principle.

"The intention is to stop our neighbourhood from becoming a thoroughfare. But I do have reservations. If it is implemented, the traffic on Christopherson Road might be worse than it is now."

She also expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the proposed walling-off of access points to Dunkeld, pointing to existing discrepancies between boundary walls on properties on the suburb's borders.

Approached for comment last night, town planning consultant Mita Venn, one of the project's organisers, stressed that the concept was in an "embryonic stage" and was open to modification.

"We have arranged for a traffic engineer to carry out a feasibility study and investigate traffic patterns. Thereafter we will draft a comprehensive questionnaire which we will distribute among residents."
Massive shock for Johannesburg property owners

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

Johannesburg ratepayers in upmarket areas could be forced to pay a massive 65 percent more for rates after the new valuation roll figures come into effect on July 1 and 12 percent VAT is added to rates in September.

Land values in some of the city's affluent areas have risen by between 150 and 300 percent in the past three years since the previous valuation.

These shock figures follow only a day after the announcement that 12 percent VAT will be imposed on municipal rates shortly after the annual municipal increases come into effect countrywide on July 1.

Rocketed

All land in Johannesburg increased in value by an average of 99 percent, city valuer Nick Botha said.

The present total value of rateable property (land and improvements/houses) in Johannesburg is R26 billion, as against R5 billion in 1988. This does not include the increases reflected in the new valuation roll.

Estate agent and Johannesburg city councillor Clive Gilbert said property values had rocketed in certain areas.

"From July 1, rates are going to increase by at least 50 percent, taking into consideration any rebates. Add VAT at 12 percent and people could be paying upwards of 65 percent more."

"It is a great pity it is coming at the same time that a nasty blow with no incentive for the man in the street."

The increases in land values in the city varied from very low in the south to exorbitant in the north. In Lanksfield North Ext 1, the value of land increased by an average 300 percent compared to only 13 percent in the southern suburb of Naturena.

"Taking into account the 55 percent rebate Johannesburg grants to home-owners," Mr. Gilbert worked out that:

- In Lanksfield North Ext 1, land valued at an average of R52 000 in 1988 had rocketed to about R200 000 — a 320 percent increase. This meant rates would jump from R1 000 to R2 400.

- In Lanksfield Ridge, land valued at R3 000 had jumped to R169 000 — a 222 percent increase. This meant rates would jump from R1 000 to R1 020.

- In Norwood West, land valued at R5 000 had increased to R250 000 — a 49 percent increase. This meant rates would jump from R1 000 to R1 040.

Mr. Botha said "Land is getting scarce and view sites go at a premium."

Recession

The new statistics would be announced once the Valuation Board had officially approved them later this year. In the new valuation, 719 townships (suburbs) and 42 farms in Johannesburg were surveyed.

"Industrial properties have not increased as much as residential property. This is because industry recuperated much more slowly from the last recession and the demand for industrial properties was lower," Mr. Botha said.

Local authorities were required by law to update valuations every four years.

Mr. Gilbert criticized the city council for not warning its citizens of the serious effect the new valuation combined with VAT would have on land rates.
House prices soar 22% in a year

ALTHOUGH the general economy has been going through a rough patch, there has been no let-up in price increases in the property market, with house values this year expected to rise by an average 17 percent and a further 19 percent in 1992.

This sustained growth in the homes market emerges from the latest report on the property market by Cape analyst, Erwin Rode.

And in spite of economic downturn, high interest rates and generally tighter financial conditions, prices rose by a healthy 22 percent last year.

“Especially vigorous was the second quarter spurt in the prices of upper and middle class homes in Pretoria — fuelled, presumably, by increases in the salaries and bond limits of civil servants,” says Rode.

The average national growth rate rose by a whopping 23.5 percent in the second quarter compared with a year earlier.

prices, rentals for standard quality flats are still surging ahead.

By comparison, Johannesburg’s house price rises for the year ending in the second quarter of 1990, slowed to 20.1 percent from 25.9 percent in the previous quarter.

The Cape Peninsula outperformed the rest of South Africa by a wide margin — 41.3 percent for the second quarter of 1990 over the same quarter of 1989.

Durban’s upper class house price growth was 16.9 percent in the second quarter compared with 10.8 percent for the year ended the first quarter of 1990.

Rentals for two-bedroom flats in Johannesburg vary from R450 (Joubert Park) to R1 400 in Sandton and R1 200 in the northern suburbs.

House prices by price class

Star performer is the upper scale, which has increased 41.3 percent over the year.

For the middle scale, leases have increased 30.3 per cent.

In the lower scale, which is still having the most impact on the lowest income groups, there has been an increase of 22.3 percent.

In the wake of rising house prices, rental for standard quality flats are still surging ahead.

Star performers in the two-bedroom flat league for the six months ended November 1990, were Johannesburg central and north (28.3 percent), Port Elizabeth (22.3 percent), and the Cape (17 percent).

Rents for two-bedroom flats in Johannesburg vary from R450 (Joubert Park) to R1 400 in Sandton and R1 200 in the northern suburbs.
BOTH major banks which private developer Safrich originally claimed were backing its Doornkop project have backed out of the scheme.

The Perm and Standard Banks, which originally considering investing more than R10-minute in the Safrich development, are no longer putting money into the scheme.

A spokesman for the Perm's Johannesburg Central branch told City Press the bank was not satisfied with the political, legal and technical considerations had been given enough attention.

The spokesman said the Perm had originally been interested in financing 400 houses - 30 percent of the scheme - but had made no formal undertakings to Safrich.

He said Safrichs was notified on February 4 of the Perm's decision not to finance the project.

A spokesman for Standard Bank said they had made no commitment to finance Doornkop.

Community organisations have voiced reservations about the involvement of private developers and the unfair allocation of sites to financial institutions.

They have also questioned the marketing of Doornkop sites through Safrich sales representatives and independent estate agents. Advertisements have appeared in Johannesburg daily newspapers for the past three weeks offering sites in Doornkop.

Agencies working on behalf of developer Safrich are charging R200 in administration fees to process site allocations through the Soweto and Doombsonville councils and the Transvaal Provincial Administration offices at the Doornkop site.

Purchasers of these sites have to sign a building contract with Safrich for between R16,000 and R20,000, as well as pay the TPA R5100 in instalments over 50 years for the site.

According to spokesmen for the Dobsonville Civic Association (DCA) and Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (Ombe), Doornkop sites are supposed to be for poor, homeless people.

The organisations claim that thousands of homeless people squatting illegally in Dobsonville, Soweto and Diepsloot qualify for Doornkop sites - but have been told there are no more sites.

One agency, Brink Property Group, of York House in Risik Street, is run by Eddie Maisel, formerly of Faith Homes, which last year had offices in the same building.

City Press wrote about Maisel and Faith Homes last year after complaints from several readers who paid deposits to Maisel, but never got houses. A number of them issued summonses and are waiting for their cases to be heard in court.
Five years on, and back at square one

SIXTY five families presently housed in the Dobsonville council’s Sphiwe Hostel have been given notice to leave the hostel by the end of May.

The council, which plans to convert the hostel into family flats, has threatened to evict the families if they do not leave by then.

The 65 families were evicted from council houses in 1986 and dumped in the void. They lived in tents supplied by local churches for almost three years before the council housed them in the hostel.

The TPA has now told the families to apply for sites at Doornkop – but with the exception of the 1300 sites being developed by Safich, all the sites have already been allocated.

A spokesman for the families, Goodwill Maphepha, said they have nowhere to go unless the council and the TPA comes up with a plan before the end of May.

He said most families could not afford the R20 000 to R25 000 for the Safich ready-built homes as they are unemployed and cannot get loans.

The Legal Resources Centre is now assisting the families to negotiate with the TPA and the council for alternative accommodation.

Dobsonville Civic Association’s spokesman for the homeless, Zacharia Morahudi, has called on the council and the TPA to allocate Doornkop sites to the poor and homeless from Dobsonville.
Pay up — or be cut off!

By DAN DHLAMINI

PAY up or we'll cut off your water and switch off your lights.

This is the stern warning from Ikageng's newly-appointed administrator, Johan Oosthuizen.

In a strongly-worded notice accompanying monthly accounts, Oosthuizen, a National Party member and a councillor in the Conservative Party-controlled Potchefstroom Town Council, said residents owed R2-million for water and electricity.

He said if residents did not pay up, water and electricity would be cut off on April 18. Residents who could not afford to pay could arrange with him to settle their debts in instalments.

Reacting to the notices, Ikageng Civic Association secretary Sello Tshwarebe said the community did not recognise Oosthuizen as administrator.

"He has been imposed on us. As far as we are concerned there is no council and a people's delegation will be elected to negotiate with the Transvaal Provincial Administration over the appointment of an administrator, the writing-off of arrears and the introduction of an interim flat rate while talks continue," said Tshwarebe.

Oosthuizen, who told City Press he was open-minded and would like to talk to all community organisations, said if residents did not pay, Ikageng would soon find itself in the same plight as its neighbouring towns of Khuma, Jouberton, Stilfontein and Klerksdorp.

Klerksdorp and Stilfontein councils cut off township electricity because bills were not paid. Residents retaliated by boycotting white-owned businesses.

Khuma and Jouberton Civic Associations refused to discuss the boycott before electricity was reconnected.

The boycott crippled the economy of the two towns and businessmen got together and offered to pay some of the debt if the electricity supply was restored. The boycott was subsequently lifted.
FORMER Dobsonville mayor Steve Kgaile was involved in a controversy surrounding ownership of a house which led to the occupant of 31 years being evicted.

When Mamalubedu Anna Kgaile returned from work this week she found her household belongings strewn all over the yard.

She was told that two messengers of the court and four gun-toting municipal policemen came to her house looking for her and when they did not find her, broke the lock and threw everything outside.

Dumbfounded and sitting forlornly on the stoep of what was once her house while Dobsonville Civic Association (DCA) members brought the goods back inside, Kgaile said: “I do not know what I have done to deserve this kind of treatment. I had R420 in the house and now it's gone.”

She showed City Press receipts amounting to R1,602 which indicated she bought the house from the council.

She also had court documents which showed that Kgaile bought the house from her mother Martha for R2,000 on May 26, 1987, and later sold it to Mohatla Lazarus Makoala for R14,400—netting a whopping R12,400 for the semi-detached house.

Kgaile said their father Petrus died in 1981 after he had divorced their mother and they occupied the house without their mother.

“My mother lives in Taung and the only time she came to Dobsonville was to sign the new permit in 1984. We knew nothing about the house being sold by her,” she said.

The Kgaile’s had occupied the house since August 29, 1960, after they were forcibly removed from KwaJuluwe location “unfit—Roodepoort West.”

Papers before court state that Makoala bought the house from Kgaile on October 29, 1989, and that Kgaile was refusing to vacate it.

He wanted to move in with his family and applied to the court for an eviction order, which was granted.

At the time of the transaction Kgaile was chairman of the housing committee.

DCA spokesman Japheta Lekeboho said: “We are not going to be spectators to our people’s sufferings while others plan with the councillors to buy other people’s houses. We are not going to allow our people to be tossed around.”
Alexandra civic protestors ‘assaulted and locked in’

By ELIAS MALULEKE

The Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) claimed this week that ACO members staging a sit-in at the Alexandra Town Council offices were assaulted and locked in and left without food on Tuesday afternoon.

ACO spokesman Richard Mpekane said the women protestors, including a 64-year-old pensioner, were assaulted by policemen who accompanied the mayor, Prince Mokoena, to retrieve some documents from his office shortly after 5pm.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said nothing had been reported to police, but invited the affected people to lay charges.

Fifteen women and five men started their sit-in inside the mayor’s reception office on the first floor and the town clerk’s reception office on the ground floor in February.

They are demanding the resignation of Mokoena and other councillors, saying the sit-in will continue indefinitely until councillors resign.

Mokoena has been in hiding since the sit-in began and is now operating from an office in a Johannesburg suburb.

“Protestors’ posters and banners on the walls were removed and destroyed by the policemen who arrived in two cars. For support,” Mpekane said.

Evelyn Khala, 64, said when the policemen arrived at the office, they ordered them to “get out. We want to see the mayor.”

When they refused, police started tearing posters and banners from the walls.

“They were aggressive and threatened us with violence while Mokoena made snide remarks about us,” Khala said.

Mavis Tsabalahala and another policeman turned on her and accused her of being ‘cheeky’, although she did not utter a word.

“He slapped me in the face twice and pulled me by the dress, forcing me to fall down on my knees,” Tsabalahala said.

Lillian Kgole, 23, said she was also slapped and locked by a policeman for no apparent reason.

“As a result I fell and rolled down a flight of 13 stairs. The other policeman laughed,” she said.

The women and the police left with Mokoena, threatening that they would lock the main door and throw teargas canisters into the offices.

The door was then locked, and they could not get out or receive food for more than 15 hours.

They could only get out when the town clerk, who was also locked out, persuaded one of the councilors to open the door with a spare key.

Mokoena told City Press that police did not lock the main door as alleged.

He said he locked the door because he had the key.

“I was only exercising my democratic rights. The office is mine and it has been left open for more than three weeks,” Mokoena said.

Armed guards to travel on trains

By SOPHIE TEMBA

A 24-HOUR police guard has been introduced on all trains and stations in Johannesburg to protect passengers.

Police will travel on trains between Johannesburg and Naledi and some stations have been made safer by the installation of fences for better gate control.

The South African Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) this week made the announcement.

The SARCC was established in April last year to assume responsibility for rail commuter services in view of the government’s decision to deregulate the railways.

While the SARCC is responsible for the safe operation of railway equipment, the SAP are to take responsibility for the personal safety of passengers on trains.

Violence on trains, resulting in the deaths of scores of commuters, led to an exodus from the railways to num-

bus buses.
Counsills owe Eskom R120-m

BLACK town councils owe Eskom R120 million in outstanding electricity payments, says Eskom chief executive Ian McRae.

Presenting the group's 1990 annual report McRae said that the supply of electricity to the townships had become almost completely politicised over the last year.

Many township residents have refused to pay their electricity rates to the city councils, who pay bulk rates to Eskom. In response Eskom has cut off electricity supplies to many of the councils.

Giant

Eskom's general manager, finance, Mick Davies said that the utility giant had sold about R250-m worth of electricity to black townships last year.

Total arrears this month were recorded at about R120-m and Eskom listed R95-m of this as an abnormal item in its latest balance sheet.

Although Davies stresses that this is not a write-off.

Despite these financial problems McRae said Eskom was committed to the electrification programmes in black townships - Sapa.
Funds for township bulk services run out

By Abel Mabelane
East Rand Bureau

Bulk services such as water, refuse removal and sewerage may no longer be provided to most East Rand townships next month because of a lack of funds.

The East Rand Regional Services Council has been providing funds for bulk services, but at its monthly meeting last week it said it no longer had the money to do so.

The funds given to the local authorities for bulk services were originally intended to be used for capital development, but were diverted by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Tokozza Administrator Gert Muller said the TPA had made R4.5 million available to his council for the next financial year. This amount was not even enough to pay for the salaries of his staff.

Mr Muller said his council was negotiating with the TPA to review the matter.
R5-bn TPA budget stresses upliftment

Political Staff

The Transvaal Provincial Administration yesterday asked approval for a record R5 billion budget — according the major slice towards uplifting disadvantaged communities.

Priorities will be community development, black local authorities and bridging finance, and the emphasis will be on the maintenance of existing infrastructure rather than the creation of new infrastructure.

Hospital services and primary health care also feature high on the list of planned expenditure.

Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough yesterday tabled the budget before the Extended Public Committee on Provincial Affairs for the Transvaal.

The committee comprising all the Transvaal MPs is sitting in the old Raadsaal for the budget debate.

Mr Hough presented a budget totalling R4.97 billion — 13.45 percent up on last year's budget. Better service conditions for TPA employees account for R1.83 million of the increase.

Estimated revenue from provincial sources will be R778.5 million — an increase of 15.66 percent. The rest of the budget will be paid from central Government coffers.

Mr Hough said a 'fierce attack' on the local government system and health services in Transvaal had adversely affected the quality of the TPA's services.

As a result, funds that could have been used for maintenance and community development had had to be used to maintain essential services.

Further expansion and development was more or less brought to a standstill by this, he said.

Apart from the onslaught against local government structures the greatest problem facing the TPA was the housing shortage leading to illegal squattings on unsuitable land.

Mr Hough said the Government's White Paper on Land Reform had placed the emphasis on the provision of suitable land for informal housing which may subsequently be upgraded.

Acquiring land for this purpose was 'top of the list.'

The TPA's community development branch had made excellent progress in the past year in the establishment of informal towns. Mr Hough added.

Mr Hough warned that limited funds had forced a cut back on the construction of new roads. And the maintenance of existing roads in the Transvaal, with an estimated replacement value of R21.2 billion had deteriorated at an alarming rate.

He said the present form of provincial government was not representative, not elected, did not have its own legislative body, its functions were limited and it had only limited revenue sources.
Changing the face of a new South Africa

More than 60 towns, cities within decade

IMAGINE South Africa with another 65 towns and cities solve the size of Brakfontein, some no bigger than Middelburg and a good few as large as Rundtsoen, Rundtsoen or Danestown.

That's the prediction 10 years hence. In another 20 or 30, there could be several more done, possibly the rate of Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town

Work has already started on these so-called "projects" which, in time, will change the face of South Africa and which will house tens of thousands of newly urbanised people.

One of the organisations involved in South Africa's new look is the SA Housing Trust, a body created three or four years ago to "facilitate the provision of affordable shelter for the lower income communities."

Trust

The trust started building houses almost immediately but soon realised was needed more than a roof over his head. If SAHF was to build, it could not merely construct "a neat row of houses" it had to also create shopping centres, schools, industrial parks, bus stops, clinics and recreation facilities.

It had to ensure parks were started and trees planted.

SAHF, in other words, had to create a balanced community environment where people would be happy to live and raise their families.

The level of services provided to a community is yet another very important factor.

Mike Fawkes, corporate marketing manager of the SAHF said a was "shortighted and false economy" to provide people with homes without water, sewageage and electricity.

The old concept of one up for every 10 houses was simply no longer acceptable.

"Human dignity requires certain basics," he said.

"Homeowners must be able to derive an eleventh of dignity from their houses and environment."

Granny

Building balanced community developments has provided the people at SAHF with a new insight into what is required. Because houses had to be "affordable" (about R20,000 for house and stand) dormitory housing was previously provided.

"We very quickly saw the devastating effect that would have on any community," Fawkes added. "We started speaking to people and saw what they wanted in terms of a home and environment."

A survey said the kitchen area of our towered housing was too small. The needed more storage because she needed several children while their mothers were at work.

Another wanted larger bedrooms.

The SAHF now offers its customers a choice of houses at all its projects.

It created its own bank, financing subsidiary and network of agents, and has invested in education programmes for "the little guy" who has had no experience of paying bond, rates, electricity and water.

Since its inception, the trust has approved projects which will make 62,000 houses and 54,800 stands available.

Fawkes said that with first occupancy starting next year, it was not nearly satisfied with what it had accomplished.

"We need to push ahead at an even greater rate," he added.

He recognises however, that not everyone will want a house, that some may never be able to afford them. But the ultimate dream of most - to have a home of their own - may one day become a reality.

-Bowman Correspondent
Residents begin consumer boycott

RESIDENTS of the impoverished township of Namahabi-Frankfurt have decided to embark on an indefinite consumer boycott to force local authorities to accede to their demands.

According to the ANC Youth League’s organising secretary, Mr Zandi Sithole, the boycott started yesterday.

Residents are demanding that the Frankfurt business community pressure the local town council into upgrading facilities in the township.

The facilities involved include the installation of a water-borne sewerage system, the electrification of houses, upgrading of access roads in the township and the local stadium.

They also demand that the taxi rank in town be upgraded and that the local police stop harassing residents, especially during night vigils.

According to Sithole, several deputations have been sent to the local authorities but to no avail.
Lack of homes breeds violence, says Omhle

THERE is little wonder there is a culture of violence in South Africa because homeless people are forced to compete against each other for basic services.

Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (Omhle) general secretary Mr Basheer Lorgat was replying to a statements made by Transvaal Administrator, Mr Danie Hough in Parliament on Tuesday.

Supply

Hough said the supply of accommodation and facilities to thousands of homeless had caused great disruption and high costs, which the province could simply not afford.

"Hough's statements are misplaced on the issue of landlessness and homelessness, as well as its causes and effects," Lorgat said.

"This will continue so long as the Government makes it a priority to seek re-entry into the Olympics, instead of addressing the 'bread and butter' issues of the day," he said. - Sapa

Clamp down on road offenders

TRAFFIC police are poised to clamp down on road offenders in a national campaign to keep the accidents down at the Easter weekend.

The campaign is being jointly launched by the Road Safety Council, the four provincial traffic departments, the police, the Black Taxi Association and medical officials and emergency services staff.

Cape provincial deputy traffic chief, Mr Stan Botha, said there was a need for drivers to adhere to road safety rules because people wanting to travel to their destinations "in a hurry" often forgot safety procedures.

Police patrol vehicles would be stationed every 10km along the N1 between Paarl and Colesburg and also in the Northern Transvaal and N3 in Natal. Traffic safety information centres would also be set up at crucial points in the campaign.

He said: "A special lookout will be kept for passenger overloading in vehicles of long-distance bus and minibus operators.

"Road users must accept responsibility not only for themselves but also for that of others. An unselfish approach is required, treating fellow travellers with consideration and courtesy.

"Aggression must be curbed and good manners should prevail at all times." - Own Correspondent
Atteridgeville set to expand

THE housing shortage in Atteridgeville is to be alleviated with the building of more than 10 000 houses in an area west of the township.

Plans for the development of the area were unveiled by the township’s Administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, at a sod-turning ceremony at Ga-Mothakga Resort on Tuesday.

Jacobson said the westward expansion would see 13 000 houses being built, of which 6 100 would be completed during the first phase.

Jacobson said this was a joint effort because land was donated by the Defence Force, Iscor and Habcon.

The bulk water and sewerage system will be provided by Cycad Construction while Ferrohin Power lines and Preg Electrical will install electricity.

“We are therefore glad that the Regional Services Council (RSC) have voted the money for supplying the services.”

Jacobson said the RSC might be the ideal model on which future local governments may develop because it had proved that a tax base could be broadened and different councils could co-operate in developing and servicing a region like Pretoria and its environments.

“We also appreciate the involvement of the Pretoria City Council in supplying bulk services as well as administrative aid to Atteridgeville.”

Jacobson said he foresaw the new development would be the first in a new a free society with the spirit of trust in South Africa where everybody will contribute to the well-being of the country.

- Own Correspondent
Government was warned, says civic leader Mayekiso

The president of the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal, Mr Moses Mayekiso, yesterday put the blame for yesterday's Alexandra massacre squarely on the shoulders of the Government.

Speaking at a press conference following the killing of 14 people at a night vigil in the township early yesterday, Mayekiso said Cast gave the Government two weeks to stop the violence or else black people would consider arming themselves in self-defence.

He said there were white people who were in command of a "third force" which massacred blacks in Daveyton, Sebokeng and Alexandra.

Meanwhile, the Inkatha Freedom Party yesterday condemned the Alexandra killings and described the attack as "yet another act of senseless violence". 

The IFP called on the police to bring the culprits to book.

Mayekiso said Cast would call on "parties involved in negotiations with the Government" to reconsider their participation in the talks.
Alex massacre: threat to arm residents

LINDEN BIRNS

The Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (Casa) yesterday warned it would arm residents if government failed to stop violence in the township.

Reacting to yesterday's early morning massacre of 15 people in Alexandra township, north of Johannesburg, Casa president Moses Mayekiso said township/civics would not hesitate to set up armed street or block defence committees unless peace was restored soon.

He said the weapons would be of a "deterrent nature which would make vigilantes think twice."

By yesterday afternoon, 15 people had died as a result of gunshot wounds sustained after a gang armed with automatic firearms attacked a Swazi family holding a mourner's vigil in their home early yesterday. About 13 others were injured.

"Civics must listen to the call of their communities. It's not just the ANC or Inkatha being attacked. What we have is vigilantes attacking the communities. Government has two weeks to stop the violence," Mayekiso said.

Survivors of yesterday's shooting said the police were called during Tuesday night after the gang made an earlier attempt to attack the vigilante house.

Police spokesman Lt Nina Barkhuizen confirmed this, but said police had decided not to grant special protection to residents in the area as no evidence of an armed gang could be found.

"It was decided instead to increase patrols and a police patrol did visit the house but left about 10 minutes before the shoot had occurred," she said.

Red Cross worker Beatrice Mphako, who helped survivors in the aftermath of the attack, said police arrived on the scene about an hour and a half after the massacre.

Survivors Doris Ramokgopa said she hid when armed men "banged on the windows and door and told us in Zulu to open up."

She said she lost five family members in the attack.

Victims were taken to Baragwanath,Themba and Johannesburg hospitals, where many of them underwent surgery.

SAP Commissioner Gen Johan van der Merwe yesterday ordered that a special team be set up to investigate the shootings.

An ANC statement claimed the attack had been orchestrated by "shadowy elements" with the aim of destabilising the ANC and the peace process. It claimed the attackers were uniformed and used automatic weapons with "expertise suggesting they had undergone thorough training."

Inkatha condemned the attack and called on the police to find the perpetrators. It also called on communities not to launch revenge attacks as this would threaten negotiations.

Yesterday morning police in Alexandra threatened to arrest journalists unless they left the township immediately.

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They are, accordingly, expected to continue until April 30 or pay after electricity was restored in the townships. Residents in the townships are still experiencing power outages, it was still necessary to take steps to ensure that those affected paid their bills on time.

He added while payments have been received, there were still those who have not yet paid. Residents in the townships who have not paid their bills on time will continue to experience power outages until their accounts are settled.

About 46% of Vosloorus residents have already paid their electricity bills on time. However, there are still residents who have not paid their bills on time. Residents who have not paid their bills on time will continue to experience power outages until their accounts are settled.
Home sites sell fast

By Thabo Leshilo

Sites at Mfundo Park, the venue of The Star Homes Show 1991, are selling like hot cross buns — and the organisers have been forced to increase the number of showhouses.

Exhibitors attracted by the rewards of the lucrative black market in affordable homes have already snapped up the 43 stands initially earmarked for the show.

Lauis van Wyk, a spokesman for the strategic town planners and development managers, Citacon, said showhouses have had to be increased to 57 because of builders' interest in the innovative project.

The show, which features comfortable homes priced from R15 000 to R35 000, will be held on the northern outskirts of Vosloorus.

Also on show will be a temporary exhibition of houses costing below R10 000 available in South Africa.

A wide variety of other innovative home products and home improvement services will be exhibited at 100 exhibition stands at The Star Homes Show.

Mfundo Park is a development of the Perm's property development arm, Permprop, which has put R30 million into the project.

The show will be held at weekends and on public holidays from May 9 to June 2.
Housing Trust works towards houses for all

By Winnie Graham

Imagine South Africa with another 68 towns and cities - some the size of Bronkhorstspruit, some no bigger than Naboomspruit and a good few as large as Randfontein, Roodepoort or Rustenburg.

That's the prediction 10 years hence. In another 20 or 30, there could be several more cities, possibly the size of Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town.

Work already started on these so-called "projects" which will change the face of South Africa - and house tens of thousands of urbanised people.

One of the organisations involved in South Africa's new look is the SA Housing Trust (SAHT), a body created in the '80s to "facilitate the provision of affordable shelter for the lower income communities".

The Trust started building houses almost immediately but soon realised man needed more than a roof over his head.

If SAHT were to build, it could not simply construct "straight rows of houses". It had to create shopping centres, schools, industrial parks, bus stations, clinics and recreation facilities. It had to ensure parks were started and trees planted.

SAHT, in other words, had to create a balanced community environment where people would be happy to live and raise their families.

Mike Fowlds, corporate marketing manager of the SAHT, said it was also "short-sighted and false economy" to provide people with sites without water, sewerage and electricity.

"Human dignity requires certain basics," he said.

Because the houses had to be "affordable" (R20,000 for house and stand), dormitory housing was previously provided.

"We very quickly saw the de-humanising effect this would have on any community," Mr Fowlds said. We started speaking to people and learned what they wanted in terms of a home and environment.

"A granny told us the kitchen area of our houses was too small. She minded several children while their mothers were at work and needed space. Another wanted bigger bedrooms."

The SAHT now offers its customers a choice of house at all its projects.

It created its own bond financing subsidiary and network of agents, and has initiated an education programme for "the little guy" who has had no experience of paying bonds, rates, electricity and water.

Mr Fowlds said with the housing backlog at 1.8 million, 320,000 houses a year had to be built by the year 2000.

Mr Fowlds said the Government made interest-free "seed capital" of R600 million available in January 1987 "with the proviso that the Trust draw an additional R800 million from the private sector." We draw on this as and when we need it," he said. 
This document contains text that is not clearly visible due to the nature of the image. It appears to be a page from a legal document or a formal report. The text is not legible enough to be transcribed accurately.
Changes made after exposure of corruption by councillors

By DERRICK LUTHAYI

The housing scandal at Doornkop, near Dobsonville, took a dramatic turn this week when three Greater Soweto councils introduced new measures to allocate and to the homeless.

The measures, described by the Deepmeadow, Soweto and Dobsonville councils as unique in the history of land allocation in the country, follow the exposure by City Press last Sunday that the scheme was riddled with corruption and massive bribery.

Dobsonville Civic Association (DCA) and the Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (Omhle) had petitioned the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), which is responsible for Doornkop, to intervene immediately to stop any involvement of councillors in the allocation of Doornkop sites.

Councillors say individual councils will invite interested people and organisations in their municipalities to submit representations for names to be included in the pool from which allocations will be made.

The successful applicants' names will be handed over to the TPA for a final decision.

A statement from Dobsonville Council, whose councillors were named as asking for bribes, have denied their councillors have been involved and challenged any organisation or individual who has made these allegations to lay charges against them.

It adds that in the event of any councillor being found guilty the council will dismiss him immediately.

However, it warns that should these allegations continue against an individual councillor or the council they will sue for defamation of character.

It further stated that any applicant applying for land at Doornkop must have been on the council's housing waiting list and no councillor could make applications for anyone.

A lawyer for Dobsonville residents said 10 people had claimed in sworn affidavits to have paid bribes of up to R200 to councillor Leleti Mokganye. He had advised them to lay charges and to fill in forms at the Small Claims Court demanding their money back.
Housing & Hostels — T.V.L.

April — June

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Focus on growing PWV population

THE need to address a rapidly growing population and a society recently freed from apartheid were the main themes of last week's SA Property Owners' Association (Sapoa) conference on Greater Johannesburg in Transition.

"The PWV is going to have to support an urban population vastly in excess of that which now exists," Gallagher Aspeas Popplak urban planner Erky Wood told delegates. "The foundations for this will have to be laid over the next five to 10 years if an urban crisis of monumental proportions is to be averted."

Johannesburg CBD Association urban planning consultant Diana Mayne said: "Johannesburg faces not only the typical urban change endemic to all communities worldwide but a major socio-political transition."

Wood argued that to assimilate urbanisation, approaches to development legislation would have to be reviewed to cope with successive waves of redevelopment.

Wood and Ampros director and Sandton town councillor Peter Gardiner pointed to the 70km strip of unused land forming an east-west axis along the Witwatersrand from Randfontein to Springs, which is owned by the mining companies.

"The existence of vast areas of vacant land close to a major centre is an anomaly, and while there is still the opportunity to allocate it for the national priority of affordable housing, it should be taken," Gardiner said.

Wood also indicated areas such as Modderfontein and Midrand for potential development and suggested a system of regional corridors to the south of Johannesburg that would provide a basis for further development.

Soweto Civic Association representative Khehle Shubane said SA cities had been the most glaring example of white supremacist policies. In the transitional phase to a democratic order, attention should be given to the injustices created by unequal access to resources.

"United and non-racial cities could now begin to be given full attention, both by township councils and local authorities. This takes the country beyond the view that it was sufficient merely to open white cities to all," Shubane said.

"Townships on their own are not going to overcome years of unequal allocation of resources."

Human Resources Development strategist and managing member of Career and Resource Development Strategists Lente Louise Louw told delegates how the realities of cultural diversity could be handled.
In Soweto
some pay,
others don’t

By Montshwa Moroka

Rent in some parts of
Greater Soweto has in-
creased beyond expectations
since the signing of the his-
toric accord, but in some
cases householders had not
paid a cent so far.

Diepmeadow mayor MJ
Khumalo said yesterday he
had been encouraged by
money collected by his coun-
cil last month.

At the time of the signing
of the accord in August, a
total of R308.2 million was
owed to the three Soweto
Councils in rent, arrears and
service charges.

Householders in Diepmea-
dow alone were in arrears of
R98.5 million.

Mr Khumalo said “There
is definitely an improvement
in Diepmeadow. The graph
has been going up since Jan-
uary and payment between
March 1 and 18 was more
than R1 million.

“But, there are those who
simply still refuse to pay.
They are a burden to others
and are pushing the council
to take serious steps against
them,” Mr Khumalo warned.
The Tembisa Council has threatened to cut off power supply to the township on Monday if residents do not begin paying an interim rate of R75 for electrified homes and R25 for those without electricity.

The mayor of Tembisa, Solomon More, said that unless residents payed up or contacted the council before Monday, the power supply would be cut off.

The council is reported to owe R8.5 million for electricity, R1 million for water and R382,000 for refuse removal.

The council introduced an interim flat rate last year, but said that until now only 10 percent of residents were paying.

Mr. More said the council had suspended arrear rentals in September, hoping that residents would pay the tariff.

Tembisa Residents Association president Albert Tlouane said the matter had been handed over to the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal for their attention.
Tokoza heads township arrears list

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

SEVEN Transvaal and 16 Orange Free State townships owe about R7 million for electricity and water.

Services at these areas were cut off between November last year and last month, the Minister of Planning Provincial Affairs and National Housing, Mr Hermus Kriel said.

Replying to questions put to him by the Democratic Party's Mr Jan van Eck, Kriel said that Tokoza showed the highest arrears in the Transvaal (R2.25m) while Thabong was the highest in the OFS (R1.9m).

The arrears were calculated from September last year and March this year, he said.

Kriel warned that no bridging funds would be made available in the Transvaal and "no steps are to be taken to restore the respective services".

"Consumers should pay for the electricity they use as the services cannot be rendered unconditionally without payment," he said.

The Minister said that steps had been taken in the Free State in the form of discussions with concerned parties.

He also said that campaigns had been launched to motivate payment and communications networks by means of the popular media had also been initiated.

He repeated however, that while the campaigns would continue, the payments had to be made by the consumer.

The affected towns in the Transvaal are:
- eMzimoni, Bethal (R67 787 arrears),
- Siyathuthuka, Belfast (R75 407 arrears),
- eThandakukhanya, Piet Retief (R157 975 arrears),
- Tswelelang, Wolmaransstad (R28 279),
- Borelelo, Swartkruggens (R4 935 arrears),
- Tokoza, Alberton (R2 248 908 arrears) and,
- Manseville, Krugersdorp (R38 225).

These townships have had only their electricity cut.

In the Free State the cuts are across the board in many areas, but range from electricity, water, nightsoil, garbage and sewage
Police warn Cast over defence units

POLICE and the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal are at loggerheads over Cast's threat that it will help in setting up "community defence units" unless the fighting factions are disarmed by next Wednesday.

Cast spokesman, Mr. Cas Coovadia, said yesterday it would be tragic if Cast's members were forced to "fight violence with violence".

At a press conference last week, Cast gave the Government two weeks to disarm both factions or it would help in providing the community with weapons to stay off attackers.

Coovadia said Cast was presently looking at ways of building up a stock of weapons.

"We are speaking to communities and organisations such as the ANC to find ways of defending ourselves," he said.

"Weapons aren't easy to come by but people can be very creative when their lives are threatened," he said.

Asked to comment, police said they would take action against any group which took the law into its own hands.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Order, Captain Craig Korte, said police would not tolerate the existence of private political armies.

"We welcome those who wish to combat crime and violence to work with the police. Self-defence units will only continue to polarise communities along political lines and increase the potential for violence," he said.

He said until people involved in violence settled their disputes, violence would continue.
Lady Luck smiles on potential platteland ghost town

By Helen Grange

Two crises have struck the town of Balfour just south of Heidelberg — but in an unexpected twist, one crisis has helped cancel out the potentially disastrous effects of the other.

Five months ago, Balfour traders and residents were devastated by the closure of Anglo American's Springfield colliery and the mothballing of Eskom's Grootvlei power station — which meant a massive move of people away from the area.

Today, however, the town finds itself accommodating scores of people faced by a housing shortage in surrounding towns, thereby filling the vacuum left by former mine and power station employees.

Expecting ghost-town status, Balfour has instead discovered an alternative way to stay alive.

During a visit by The Star to the neatly groomed country town yesterday, residents told of their relief over the recent developments.

"When employees at the power station were transferred, there were plenty of empty houses. But people are filling them again because they are being rented cheaply by Eskom."

"Every house is going to be occupied by people — black and white — who work as far afield as QwaQwa, Vereeniging, Heidelberg, Standerton, Springs and Johannesburg," said Katherine Graaf.

At a prayer meeting at Grootvlei power station last week, residents discovered that for every two families moving out, there were three planning to move in, according to the owner of Odjes pawn shop in town, who preferred not to be named.

A traffic officer painting a bright new zebra crossing said the local high school boarded children from many areas surrounding Balfour.

"This town is also home to a good many pensioners and retired folk. I believe Balfour is doing well," he said.

Traders not prospering so well out of new developments are those whose business came mostly from black miners and power station employees.

"Hundreds of the higher-income black workers from Siyatemba township had to be transferred after the closure of the colliery and power plant — and although their families are still in the township, quite a lot of money has left town with the breadwinners," said the owner of a struggling take-away shop.

Said Mrs Graaf. "We have binoculars every Friday. We have a clubhouse, sporting grounds and miniature golf. At the swimming pool we have seen a lot of new faces."
Court refuses 2 hostel dwellers leave to appeal

TWO Tembisa hostel dwellers have been refused leave by the Bloemfontein Appeal Court to appeal against the dismissal of their applications on the rights of new owners to terminate their occupancy.

The two are Mr Mxhulu Tjale and Mr Phophelaphi Rwayi, who stayed at Ethafeni Hostel.

The hostel consisted of 200 four-roomed units, each with three bedrooms and four beds. The units were used to accommodate single males, but families began to move into them in April 1987.

Accommodation

In February 1989 the Tembisa Council decided to sell the units at Ethafeni, in which no lessees (holders of hostel permits) resided, and which were occupied by families whose names were on the official waiting list prior to January 1 1988.

However, on April 26 1989 the council resolved to sell the units to any legal resident of Tembisa. Hostel dwellers were to be given three months to vacate the premises.

Tjale and Rwayi contended that they were entitled to be provided with alternative accommodation. **Sapa.**
The Shame of Carolina

With no water at the school, pupils are sent into the well to get water to flush latrines.
Carolina row: TPA says water bill WAS paid

IN a shock disclosure the Transvaal Provincial Administration has revealed that the water account for disease-ridden Silobela township — which has been without water or sewerage for 80 days — was paid by the TPA two weeks ago.

But Carolina's Conservatie Party council refused to reconnect the water until the township's full arrears of R123 000 for electricity and other services were met.

Last night the TPA sharply criticised the Carolina council and ordered it to reconnect Silobela's water immediately, or face possible Supreme Court action.

However, Silobela residents will still be without water this weekend because the CP council has stalled the TPA, until Monday, saying any decision on reconnection can only be taken at a meeting of the full council.

They say the first opportunity for an extraordinary council meeting will be on Monday.

The Star, yesterday disclosed that after 80 days without water, sewerage and refuse removal, there has been an outbreak of scabies and other infectious skin diseases in the township.

Local doctors also say the instances of dysentery and gastroenteritis in the area are approaching epidemic level.

The TPA's deputy director general of community affairs Len Dekker said he had instructed a provincial deputy director to visit Silobela yesterday morning immediately after reading The Star's story.

"After receiving his report and that of regional director Mr Neels Zaanman, I ordered the Carolina town council to reconnect the water at once," said Mr Dekker.

His officials reported that Carolina had been paid R10 480 on March 26 to cover the township's water consumption for that month.

Condemned.

The Carolina council used that money to cover the water arrears, but instead of reconnecting the supply, they said 'Okay, the water is now paid, but they're not going to get their water until they also pay for the electricity.'

"As I read the contract, once the water account had been fully paid Carolina is obliged to reconnect the water supply,

There is no basis for the council's action," said Mr Dekker.

They can't withhold water just because the electricity account is outstanding."

Mr Dekker condemned Carolina council's actions.

He said he wanted to hear from the Carolina council on Monday that they had held their extraordinary meeting and reconnected the township's water.

He also hit out at the ANC, who he felt were also partly to blame for Silobela's suffering.

"We had negotiations with the ANC on March 4 in which it was agreed between all parties that residents would pay R38 a month for the first two months.

"That would get the ball rolling again to provide proper services to the community.

"Then within that period affordable and realistic tariffs would be worked out.

"According to information from my regional office Mr Joe Nkuna from the ANC undertook to consult the community and to come back for further talks on the matter.

Caravanning

"But to this day he has not come back to us, dispute the fact that he was phoned by the TPA's regional office two weeks ago."

Carolina's town secretary Albert Myburgh said the only council official allowed to speak to the press was the mayor, currently Dr Sarel Bloem.

However, Dr Bloem was away on a 'caravanning holiday' until April 15 and could not be contacted.

THERESE ANDERS
Atteridgeville faces switch-off

The Pretoria City Council is to cut bulk electricity supply to Atteridgeville at 8 am today until the township pays its debt.

Today's switch-off will be the second in seven months. The first, in September, lasted only a few hours.

The chairman of the Pretoria council's management committee, Pieter Smith, said the switch-off was inevitable because the township had been given until April 9 to pay its February account — Pretoria Bureau.
Rand dispute

The war of words between the Randfontein Town Council and the Randfontein Ratepayers' Association over the council's proposed rate increase has dragged on for months. Last week, the council agreed to a 5% increase, down from the 10% originally proposed. Residents who refuse to pay their rates will be given a one-month grace period before being taken to court. The council has also said it will seek a court order to force residents to pay their rates if they do not settle the matter through negotiation. Residents have called the council's proposals unfair and have expressed frustration with the lack of consultation. The council has defended its proposals as necessary to fund essential services and infrastructure improvements.
Pay rents, urges VCA

THE Vosloorus Civic Association has urged residents to pay their rent to avoid further electricity cut-offs.

Only 70 percent of residents had responded to the restoration of electricity after an interim agreement reached with the Vosloorus Town Council made provision for the residents to pay R37 in March and R60 in April and May.

Due to the poor response, the township is threatened with another cut-off.

A spokesman for the association, Mr Keith Montsatsi, said VCA had applied for an extension to allow residents to increase their payments. - Sapa
Carolina told: turn on taps or go to court

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

CAROLINA — The Conservative Party town council here has until today to switch on disease-ridden Silobela township's water supply, or possibly face Supreme Court action by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

At the weekend the provincial authorities disclosed that Silobela's water account of R10 480 had been paid by the TPA two weeks ago.

But the CP council refused to reconnect the supply because the township's outstanding electricity arrears of R123 600 had not been met.

Last week, The Star reported that after 80 days without water, sewage or refuse removal there had been an outbreak of scabies and other infectious skin diseases in the small eastern Transvaal township.

And local doctors said the instances of dysentery and gastro-enteritis were reaching epidemic level.

The Department of National Health had been notified of the health crisis by township administrator Mame van Vuuren.

On Friday, the TPA's deputy director general of community affairs, Len Dekker, said he had ordered the Carolina council to turn on Silobela's water supply immediately when he heard that the township's account had been settled.

However, a council official had stalled him until the end of the weekend, saying this could only be done by council resolution and the earliest the council could hold an extraordinary meeting was today.

Said Mr Dekker: "As I read the contract, once the water account had been fully paid Carolina is obliged to reconnect the water supply. They can't withhold water because the electricity account is outstanding."

He said he wanted to hear from the Carolina council today that they had held their extraordinary meeting and reconnected the township's water, "Failing that, I will recommend to the Administrator that urgent court action be taken."

All attempts to get comment from the Carolina town council were unsuccessful. Council secretary Albert Myburgh said only mayor Dr Sarel Bloem was allowed to talk to the press, and he was on a caravanning holiday until April 15.
We're piggy in the middle, says Eskom

By Esmaré van der Merwe
Political Reporter

Eskom has strongly denounced the punitive blackout of townships by white local authorities in response to massive outstanding electricity accounts.

Communications manager Johan du Plessis said this practice was extremely unfair because it posed serious security and health risks to black communities and punished residents who paid their accounts.

Eskom was firm on its views that non-paying individuals should have their electricity cut off, but not entire towns, he said.

Mr du Plessis said Eskom's negotiations with community organisations confirmed that 80 percent of township residents were prepared to pay their accounts once affordable tariffs and accurate metering and billing systems were implemented.

He said black local authorities owed Eskom about R120 million countrywide, but Eskom had not cut off power supplies to any of the defaulting black towns.

"Some people blame us because we don't cut off electricity.

"This is because they believe blacks don't want to pay for services. But white people would not pay their accounts either if they were to have the problems black residents have.

"On the other hand, most blacks blame Eskom for the mess in which they have been caught up. They don't understand that Eskom cannot bypass the local authorities which have the right of supply."

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8/1/91 24/2/127 24 40
Food aid for Orania families

ORANIA's last 11 coloured families, forced to move to Warrenton in the Transvaal from the Afrikaner-only town in the north-western Cape at the weekend, were given a month's supply of food by welfare workers.

However, all 11 family heads are unemployed and have no cash to start looking for jobs, pay rent or renovate the core housing they were assigned.

Jan Stellenberg, spokesman for the 11 families, said the houses were not complete inside: "We left fully completed houses, whereas these are merely shells with bathrooms. And what will we use for transport money to go job-hunting, or pay the rent with?"

"All of us are quite desolate."

The community has approached Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) in Kimberley for financial assistance.

Afrikaner Volkswag head Prof Carel Boshoff said "We offered to let them (the families) stay until the end of March, and also offered to help them move, which we have in fact done. We do not believe that it is correct to blame our organisation." — Sapa
Cast calls township residents to arms

THE ANC-aligned Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) yesterday urged township residents to arm themselves and form defence units. Cast spokesmen told a news conference in Johannesburg the organisation had asked President F.W de Klerk to meet them on Thursday to discuss the escalating violence on the Reef.

At the meeting, Cast would demand the urgent scrapping of hostels, which it said had become "vigilante bases and launching pads". It also called for the immediate resignation of all the remaining black councillors and management committees who had become "the actual source of violence against our people".

Cast president Moses Mayekiso said the violence, and particularly attacks by "rootdoek" vigilantes using spears, panga, choppers and other so-called traditional weapons, had escalated.

Now residents were being told to defend themselves against their killers, including the "third force created by government".

Cast supported the ANC's call for a ban on the carrying of weapons, but while this was not heeded by government, communities would have to carry weapons for self-defence, said Mayekiso.

These would include firearms...
Launch of Chamber hangs in the balance

By Jo-Anne Collinge and Shirley Woodgate

Political violence has reared its head as a last minute threat to the formation of the multiracial Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, due to be constituted in Johannesburg today.

The inaugural meeting was still in the balance 15 minutes before it was due to start at 9 am as there was no sign of any of the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (CAST) members.

At the heart of the issue is a claim by CAST that township councillors "have become the actual source of violence against our people" and that sitting on a joint structure with councillors demands urgent reconsideration.

CAST affiliates — including those who are potential members of the Metropolitan Chamber — were due to meet today to take a final decision on whether to take part in the Chamber or not.

"There might be a surprise taking place," CAST vice-president Kgabis Masunkutu yesterday.

CAST president Moses Mayekiso said "The whole violence issue is going to play a role in deciding whether to participate in such a structure with people who are mowing down the communities through using red decke (sic) vigilantes."

CAST general secretary Sam Ntuli added that CAST had resolved "that civics are not allowed to sit with councillors any more because of the escalation of violence."

In addition to reviewing participation in the Chamber, CAST is seeking a meeting with President de Klerk this week to discuss its demand for the resignation of councillors and its proposal for the setting up of "interim local structures."

At the launch it appears possible that would-be participants will be faced with a last-minute amendment to the constitution, moved by the civics, in which an attempt may be made to eliminate councillors.

In terms of the draft constitution, the Chamber will comprise nine civics from the greater Johannesburg area, the Johannesburg, Roodepoort, Randburg and Sandton councils, coloured and Indian management committees, the three Soweto councils and the TPA.

Sapa reports that Mr Mayekiso said if the Government did not ban traditional weapons, then CAST would encourage township residents to carry weapons. People should be armed to defend themselves through defence committees using available weapons, CAST added.
Silobela still without water

By Therese Anders and Carina le Grange

CAROLINA — Four days after being ordered by the Transvaal Provincial Administration to turn on disease-ridden Silobela township’s water supply, Carolina’s Conservative Party town-council has still not complied.

Silobela has now been without water and sewage and refuse removal for 83 days. The township’s health crisis is growing; by the day, say local doctors, with infectious diseases such as scabies, dysentery and gastro-enteritis rife.

At the weekend the TPA disclosed it had paid Silobele’s water account two weeks ago, but the CP council refused to reconnect the water until Silobela’s electricity arrears of R122 000 had been paid.

On Friday, TPA spokesman Len Dekker said he had ordered Carolina to return water to the township immediately or he personally would recommend to the Administrator that urgent legal action be taken against the Carolina council. However, by last night no legal action had been taken.

Mr Dekker was not available yesterday but TPA liaison officer Magda du Toit said it was now believed Carolina’s management committee would meet today to discuss the reconnection issue.

Asked why the TPA had not yet made good its threat to obtain an urgent application against the Carolina council, Mrs du Toit said it was no use filing court papers on Monday when the council was to meet the next day.

However, a Silobela community leader, who asked not to be named, has hit out at the TPA for failing to take action.

The Star has been given a copy of a document signed on November 30, 1990, by Carolina town clerk P M Strydom stating that R67 164 of the township’s electricity arrears was a “correction” following a major accounting error.

Also, the Silobela cut-off may be illegal in terms of the Health Act.

Cedric de Beer, director of the Centre for Health Policy Studies, attached to the University of the Witwatersrand, said township residents deprived of water due to cut-offs have the right to resort to court action if the initial demands of medical officers, local authority or province — as set out in the Act — are not met.

Mr de Beer said “I would suggest that Silobela residents demand that these personnel meet their obligations in terms of the Health Act. Failing this, the residents should bring court action.”
QUESTIONs

Housing: facilities for AIDS patients

7 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of National Health whether any facilities are available in provincial hospitals in Natal for the (a) treatment, (b) counselling and (c) monitoring of AIDS patients, if not, why not, if so, (i) what facilities, and (ii) at which hospitals, in each case? D41E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

As for any medical condition the full facilities at all Provincial Hospitals in Natal are available to AIDS patients with regard to treatment, counselling and monitoring.

General Affairs

Western Cape: housing for lower-income categories

16 Mr D K PADIACHIEY asked the Minister of Housing whether the Department intends building homes in Lenasia South, Extension 14, for persons falling within lower-income categories, if not, why not, if so, (a) how many are to be built, (b) when are building operations expected to commence and (ii) when are the designs to be completed and (c) for what income categories are these homes intended, (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D40E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING

(1) No. There is no Extension 14 in Lenasia South at the moment.

(a) Falls away

(b) Falls away

(i) Falls away

(n) Falls away

(c) Falls away

(2) No

D73E

OWN AFFAIRS

Brickfield constituency: rent-controlled premises

15 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Housing whether any such premises have been decontrolled to date, if so, (a) how many and (b) why not in each case, and (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D40E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING

(1) No. There is no Extension 14 in Lenasia South at the moment.

(a) Falls away

(b) Falls away

(i) Falls away

(n) Falls away

(c) Falls away

(2) No

D40E

FINANCE

Early retirement of university people

16 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Finance whether, since 1984, any staff members attached to the University of the Western Cape have retired on early pension in terms of section 20(1) of the General Pensions Act, No 29 of 1979, if so, (a) if what were the names of the persons concerned and (ii) what position did each hold at this university at the time of his/her retirement and (b) (i) what payment was made to each applicant in respect of (a) (ii) gratuity and (ii) pension and (ii) in what dates were these payments made, (2) whether all these persons qualified for pension benefits in terms of section 20(2) of the said Act, if not, what are the relevant details, and (3) whether the University of the Western Cape was asked to comment on the reasons furnished by the persons who had applied for early retirement in terms of section 20(1) of the said Act, if not, (a) why not and (b) what procedure was followed to determine the validity of the above-mentioned reasons, (4) whether the amounts paid out were recovered from the budget of the University of the Western Cape, if not, (a) why not and (b) from what Government Department or fund were these amounts recovered, if so, (5) whether the said university was notified of it, if not, why not, if so, (a) in what way and (ii) when? B331E

QUESTIONs

Housing: facilities for AIDS patients

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

UWC early retirement

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

FINANCE

Dr John Tabor
Civic body defies and joins talks

MEMBERS of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal were at the inaugural meeting of the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber in Johannesburg yesterday.

This was despite earlier widespread criticism of their involvement.

Mr Fanie Ferreira, MEC and chairman at the meeting, said the objectives and activities of the CWMCC were similar to the Greater Soweto Accord, signed on September 24 last year.

The aim of the accord is to serve as a negotiating forum to investigate and formulate non-racial, democratic metropolitan and local government structures.

The forum would invite political participation, dialogue and interaction during the period of constitutional transition in South Africa.

The local government bodies who signed the CWMCC constitution yesterday were the council of Soweto, Diepkloof, Dobsonville, Johannesburg, Randburg, Sandton and Alexandra.

The civic associations were the Soweto Peoples Delegation, Soweto Civic Association, Western Residents Action Committee Kliptown, Eldorado Park, Klipland West Interim Democratic and Riverlea Civic associations.

Cast was severely criticised on Monday for its participation in the CWMCC by, among other groups, Operation Mashange for the Homeless, which said the CWMCC would be "squandering valuable resources".

Replying to the criticism at their involvement in a body shared with black councillors, Mr Cas Coovadia of Cast said the participating Cast members had been mandated by their constituents to sign and participate in the CWMCC.

"We do not see our participation here in isolation from the broader issues and we would take our guidance from the events occurring at national level," he said.

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, chairman of the National Union of Mineworkers, explained that he and Cast still rejected local black councils and would continue to call for the resignation of all black councillors.

Although they were all signatories to the constitution of the CWMCC, "this will still not detract from us continuing to call for their resignation," Ramaphosa said.

During yesterday's Press conference, the black councillors shared the same table as Ramaphosa, Coovadia and other black leaders who have consistently called for their resignation.

Sabta gets tough on taxi drivers

THE South African Black Taxi Association is to recommend to the Department of Transport that permits of taxi owners and drivers convicted of drunken driving be temporarily suspended.

Sabta's president, Mr James Ngcoya, yesterday confirmed that five drivers stopped by Sabta patrols during the Easter weekend were found to have been under the influence of alcohol.

Ngcoya said Sabta would ask the department to suspend for six months the permits of drivers and owners found guilty of the offence.

The recommendations would be endorsed in Sabta's constitution in June.
Soshanguve boycott of rent, charges starts

SOSHANGUVE residents have embarked on a boycott of rent and service charges for an indefinite period.

The decision to boycott was taken during a meeting at the local stadium this week.

The Soshanguve Residents Association said in a statement the boycott was the result of many years of dissatisfaction over inadequate facilities and fruitless talks with the Department of Development Aid.

It was also decided that the length of the boycott would be determined by progress in negotiations between residents and the authorities.

A delegation to investigate the feasibility of introducing a flat rate in the township is to be appointed.

At present Soshanguve residents living in a four-roomed house pay an average R150 a month for rent, water, lights and services.

The local administrator recently told a Sorea delegation that people were not charged service fees according to metre readings.

He said the township had 34,000 metres, too many to be monitored by the municipality's four readers.

Consequently, residents were charged an average rate.

Residents are also demanding that rent arrears be written off.

They were paying accounts dating back to November and December 1990, they said.

Sorea said the local administration attributed the outdated accounts to the vandalising of computers last year when angry residents stormed its offices.
Civic constitution backed

Most members of the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (CAST) participated at the inaugural meeting of the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber in Johannesburg yesterday, despite earlier widespread criticism of their involvement.

Fanie Ferreira, MEC and chairman at the inaugural meeting, said the draft constitution for the new body was tabled, approved and signed by representatives of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, seven local government bodies and five civic associations.

The objectives and activities of the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber were similar to the Greater Soweto Accord, signed on September 24 last year — to serve as a negotiating forum to investigate and formulate non-racial, democratic metropolitan and local government structures.

The forum would invite political participation, dialogue and interaction during the period of constitutional transition.

The local government bodies who signed the constitution were the councils of Soweto, Diepkloof, Dobsonville, Johannesburg, Randburg, Sandton and Alexandra.

The civic associations were the Soweto People's Delegation, Soweto Civic Association, Western Residents' Action Committee, Kliptown, Eldorado Park, Klipspruit West Interim Democratic Civic Association and the Riverlea Civic Association.

Seven other groups also attended.

The new body will not require funds to run it, Mr Ferrera said during a Press conference which followed the inaugural meeting.

Replying to the criticism at their involvement in a body shared with black town councillors, Cax Coovadia of CAST said the participating CAST members had been mandated by their constituents to sign and participate in the Metropolitan Chamber.

Cyril Ramaphosa, chairman of the National Union of Mine Workers, said he and CAST would continue to call for the resignation of all black town councillors.

Also taking part in the meeting was Ian Davidson, chairman of the Johannesburg management committee — Sapa.
Wild as Water Flows

The Star heuristic last week which revealed the plight of Sloughda, residents.

The Town Goes Under

84 days of hell are over

The Shame of Carolina
Grave mistake
to join forum,
says Mayekiso

THE Civic Associations of the
Southern Transvaal (Cast) has
come out in strong opposition to
the Central Witwatersrand Met-
ropolitan Chamber, a negotiating
forum to investigate and set up
non-racial metropolitan and local gov-
ernment structures.

President of Cast, Moss Mayekiso,
said yesterday "it was a gross and
grace mistake" for civics and other
parties to ratify the Chamber constitu-
tion, which he said was made up of
racially-defined bodies. Metropolitan
and regional structures with a racial
component would only pave the way
for the furtherance of the tripartite
parliament and continue protection of
group rights envisaged by the govern-
ment, he said.

His response comes as a surprise in
the wake of the signing of the constitu-
tion by the Soweto People's Delegation
and the Soweto Civic Associa-
tion.

The constitution was signed this
week by the Transvaal Provincial
Association, several local government
bodies and five civics. Five other bod-
ies, including the Alexandra Civic
Association, Actseip and three local gov-
ernment committees, said they would
only sign after receiving authorisation
from their constituencies.

Mayekiso said yesterday that Cast
would clearly distance itself from be-
ing party to a forum which had been
"bulldozed through before people un-
derstood it".

Cast rejects the CWMC constitution
on the following grounds:

● It is racially-based in that the vari-
quous groups represent racially-defined
areas and are comprised of racial bod-
ies like local authorities

● It is based on proposals whereby
the government wants to give power
to regional structures and thus pre-
empt a "watered down" national con-
stitution where strong regional gov-
ernment bodies will be able to protect
racial interests.

● It has not yet been thoroughly dis-
cussed by civic bodies (save the Sow-
eto People's Delegation and Soweto
Civic Association) which are being
"pushed into signing"

● Black local authorities which were
not elected by their constituencies fea-
ture prominently in the Chamber, de-
spite the call for the disbanding of
black local authorities and resignation
of the councillors.

However Mayekiso said this did not
mean negotiations could only take
place once fully-fledged non-racial lo-
cal authorities were in place, but that
interim non-racial structures should be
created as negotiating arms, as was the
case with Alexandra and the Sandton
and Randburg town councils.

Soweto Civic Association general
secretary Pat Lephunya said yesterday
that the CWMC came about in the
wake of the Greater Soweto Accord
with the purpose of drawing in a wider
spectrum of local bodies to create a
single tax base and non-racial munici-
pality for the Witwatersrand region.

Lephunya said the SCA had all along
called for the resignation of the black
councillors. But he added that the for-
mation of the CWMC was an impor-
tant step towards the disintegration
of racially-defined municipalities. "We
cannot deny that the municipalities are
racial in character but what we are say-
ingar in the Chamber is that the time has
come to begin to address this situation
and have a vision of the future." He
added that Cast's position would not create
conflict as those civics under the am-
rella body were part of a federal set-
gation and could thus act with aut-
onomy.
SHIFTS IN THE HEART

JOHANNESBURG

Can South Africa manage its biggest metropolis? That may depend on you.

By GAVIN EVANS and JOHN PERLMAN

A large slice of South Africa's destiny could be decided in an area that covers less than two percent of its land.

From Vereeniging in the south to Sandton in the north, from Soweto in the east to Randfontein in the west, the PWV expanse will, by the year 2000, be home to 12.5 million South Africans, one quarter of the population.

It is a region in search of potential - by the end of the decade it will be producing 50 percent of the country's revenue.

But it is also fraught with problems - the Urban Foundation estimates that 2.5 million people in the PWV, live in informal housing or streetside squatter settlements.

The PWV is a melting pot of hundreds of thousands of people, living in a web of possibilities and pitfalls.

There are 300,000 people who work in the central business district alone. More than a million enter its boundaries every day.

But not all roads lead to Eloff. On the east of the PWV for instance, commuters and patients indicate that the majority of people from Thokozane, Kelohele, Germiston, Tshimologo and Extension Park are on their feet before the PWV.

Factors like these that will shape metropolitan government that in turn will shape the PWV.

The Urban Foundation urges planning and support at national level for the development of the PWV, including funding, land provision, housing subsidies and assistance with services.

Within the framework, each local authority must develop its natural advantages to encourage investment and job creation.

"Competing in a low cost market," says Pianaro's Mark Swilling, "Cities compete for public and private funds and progress by offering whatever conditions they can. If within that you have competition of organizational effort, particularly if autorities develop an urban programme and the cities increase their capacity to the point where they will have the most efficient allocation of resources. If cities are left to the nations, they will die."

In that scenario there are already areas of contention taking shape. If the PWV is carved up into smaller municipalities, the boundaries will be crucial. Which authority, for instance, will get the "chernes" like Mabopane? - a commercial area of farming to a low housing base.

What about the mass of squatter camps like Orgington, which are the most densely packed in the country, and stretch all the way to territory that could form part of a 'Vad metropolis area'? Which means authority is going to take charge of them? Functional relationships will not be the only criteria in deciding their future.

Meanwhile, the future is happening. "At the moment you have around 320 people per square hectare living in Soweto, over 300 as Alexandra and between 30 and 60 in the rest of Johannesburg," says urban economist Nigel Mandly.

"What you will see is that the traditionally white areas are graying, backyard occupation, people leaving houses, especially in the inner ring of suburbs surrounding the city center - an increase in the number and density of the city's emerging slum areas.

"In areas like Halfway, Joburg Park and the North East CBD the level of decline has been alarming," says Mandly. "Because of Group Areas people have not been able to fix up their homes, which is a short term solution to the shortage of accommodation."

Transport could also become a growing headache over the next decade, as the number of cars and buses and air pollution - continues to increase.

Ian Symons, who heads up that aspect of the Johannesburg City Council's Metropolitan Planning department, says a lot has been done by the council to ease the problem in an efficient way. We have managed to keep the city moving. But that..."
Cast rejects plan for ‘racial’ chamber

JO-ANNE COLLINGE

THE Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber has been rejected outright by the Civic Association of the South Transvaal (Cast), largely because it “is based on racial representation” and includes “illegitimate and discredited” township councillors.

Cast publicity secretary Sandy Lebese yesterday released a statement stressing that Cast had not been party to any of the negotiations which had taken place between signatories of the chamber.

The chamber, comprising seven white and black local authorities, the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and several civic associations in Greater Johannesburg, is seen as a forum in which future non-racial forms of third-tier government will be planned.

About half the eligible civic bodies — including the largest, the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) — joined the chamber at the launch on Tuesday, while others held back. They have until the end of the month to add their names to the founding parties.

Constituent assembly

Cast said it believed structures such as the forum cut across national political demands for a constituent assembly and an interim government.

Cast executive member Nomvula Mokonyane elaborated that the reform of third-tier structures — even of an interim nature — could not occur satisfactorily unless representative national interim structures were set up.

Various Cast members said it appeared the TPA wished to foster chamber-type structures upon areas in which opposition to township councillors was stronger than in Soweto.

Cyril Ramaphosa of the SCA accused Cast members of “political dishonesty.” He said none had raised fundamental objections to the chamber in a meeting shortly before the signing.
LIKE many other South African townships, the small community of Oukasie, near Brits, has seen more than its share of harsh treatment over the past half-decade forced removals, service cutoffs, police intimidation and faction fighting have long been the order of the day.

The roots of such violence are complex, but a 25-page commission of inquiry into the Oukasie case released this week by Lawyers for Human Rights provides a revealing glimpse into the manner in which actions from different organs of the State combined with intense socio-economic stresses to create a climate of instability.

**Official policy**

According to the LHR report, Oukasie was first established in 1928, but from the 1950s onward the Government has followed a policy that its residents should ultimately be moved elsewhere.

After a series of tentative moves in this direction, in December 1986 the inhabitants of Oukasie, then having a population of 16 000 (now 7 000), were told that they would have to move to Lethabhu, which lay 25 km north of Brits (and ran the risk of incorporation into Bophuthatswana).

Once the decision had been made, the commission asserts, the State began a subtle policy of trying to make life in the township so unpleasant that residents would decide to move voluntarily. This was signalled when the Development Board of the Southern Transvaal decided not to take any action towards upgrading the township there are no tarred roads, no electricity and no street lighting, no new house construction and few communal water taps.

In response, residents formed the Brits Action Committee (BAC) to co-ordinate protest against the Government decision, asserting that Oukasie was their ancestral home (90 percent of residents were born there) and that the transport, service and housing costs would be prohibitive in the new location.

The BAC proved successful in its fight for publicity, getting legal permission to get new plots and international community endorsement of the community's stand. Despite this, the report asserts "the State in its persistent aim of achieving its single-minded goal continued its policy of positive neglect."

As a result, in 1988 the Transvaal Provincial Administration slapped an "emergency camp" tag on Oukasie which, among other curbs, prevented the building of new houses and arrival of new residents.

Just prior to this, moreover, the report found that widespread intimidation had been practised against the BAC, including petrol-bomb attacks and police recruitment efforts. As part of the state of emergency, many of the BAC leaders were also arrested while anti-squad/vigilante attacks were carried out against community organisations and trade unions.

Following reports (which the LHR investigators say were most likely spread by the Security Force to divide the opposition) that the detained leaders were, in fact, police spies, a new action committee was formed and the township became divided into two warring factions -- the newer "comrades" and the older group calling itself the "Vark Squad."

**Assault, murder**

At this stage, violence became entrenched in the township, and physical confrontations and attacks became regular events. This consisted mainly of intimidation and assault, but included murder.

Exacerbating the situation, the LHR commission also found widespread evidence of police involvement in vigilante groups which "aimed to create a climate of fear and demoralisation in the township so that people would move 'voluntarily'."

In addition, when complaints were brought to the authorities, the police and courts were apparently unresponsive to the violence. This resulted in what the report terms "a total breakdown in the administration of justice" as perpetrators of violence were almost never punished by magistrates, leading to a de facto "decriminalisation" of violence.

Over the past year, the violence has subsided, and in January the State finally acknowledged that Oukasie was a "permanent residential area" and agreed to the upgrading of the township.

Nevertheless, many root causes of unrest remain and continued socio-economic pressures could well result in a resumption of violence. To prevent this -- and as an example to other areas -- the report recommends that:

- The TPA house with and consult local residents in regard to the upgrading of the township.
- Working groups consisting of Brits and Oukasie residents and industrialists be formed to handle issues of employment, local government and aid for upgrading of the area.
- Residents' criminal charges and complaints laid with the SAP be thoroughly and swiftly investigated, enabling the law to take its course.
By DAN DHLAMINI

THREE families from Promosa, near Potchef-
stroum, defied police blockades and moved back
into their homes this week after being evicted by the
Potchefstroom Town Council for owing rent.

Now the coloured com-

munity is up in arms, de-
manding the immediate
resignation of its five-man
management council,
which it accuses of being
ineffective.

According to the Rev
Patrick Paulse of the
Nazarene church, who is
active in politics, the trou-
bles started last week when

Evicted families go back home

heavily armed Potchef-
stroum traffic policemen
delivered accounts and no-
tices of eviction in Pro-
mosa.

This week the traffic
policemen, led by Pot-
chefstroom town clerk CJ
du Plessis kicked out
three families and locked
their houses.

According to Paulse,
the local Action Unity
Committee made an ap-
pointment with Du Plessis
in a bid to sort out the
problem, but he failed to
turn up on Thursday and
the families broke the
locks and moved back in.
Paulse said church leaders
in the area would meet
tomorrow.

Promosa Management
Committee deputy chair-
man Dolf Wilman said the
committee would meet
Potchefstroom Town
Council tomorrow to find
a solution.
Anglo in multi-race housing

Business Times Reporter

A MULTIRACIAL residential estate has been developed by Anglo American near Sandton’s northern boundaries.

Fairfield comprises 233 erven, 15 of which are reserved for a school, clinic and nursery school. The remaining stands are between 800m² and 2,000m² are zoned for single dwellings. Prices range from R350,000 to R47,000.

To prevent speculation on stands there is a compulsory contract for the construction of a house with a minimum floor area of 120m². Built by Schicchi Cullum and Zepos Construction, and managed by Montague Homes, 63 sites have been sold. A total of 45 buildings have been completed and 14 are under construction.
Townships’ power debt tops R1,6-b

By DON SEOKANE

A Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman said the amount, which is owed by 82 local authorities in the province, is for service charges.

According to Ekom, Transvaal townships owe at least R1,6 billion for electricity supplied.

Although East Rand townships have been particularly hard hit by blackouts, an East Rand Regional Services Council spokesman yesterday said the council was only providing funds for necessities such as water, sewerage and part of refuse removal bills.

She said although the TPA had requested the council to provide funds for electricity accounts, the council had not decided on the matter.

A delegation of Civics Association of Southern Transvaal was last night scheduled to attend a meeting with affected local civic bodies.

Power supply to Katlehong township has been cut-off since last Tuesday.

Mr Fane Maree, Katlehong’s town clerk, yesterday said residents with electricity have to pay R72 as an interim amount. Those without were supposed to pay R25, he said.

Maree said the council owes R12 million to Ekom for electricity.

Three youths, one from Moseleki section and two from Radebe section, have been admitted to Natalspuit hospital after doing so.

The Katlehong branch of National Council of Trade Unions called a meeting of all community organisations in the township in a bid to resolve the blackout dispute.

At Vosloorus residents not paying their electricity amount will soon find themselves in the dark. A council spokesman said letters were being delivered to residents who do not paying their bills.

The spokesman said residents were supposed to have paid R57 for electricity in March and R60 for April and May.

Meanwhile at Tokozela, residents have been without power supply since December 1 1990.
Dispute over self-defence units grows

COMMUNITY organisations - not the ANC - will be primarily responsible for preventing self-defence units proposed by the ANC from becoming private armies, a spokesman for the organisation said yesterday.

ANC Youth League spokesman Mr Parks Mankahlanwa was reacting to a growing controversy following the call for defence units by ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela at the weekend.

A 29-page confidential ANC manual details the organisation's concept of the units.

"One must realise that these self-defence units are community structures. They are not para-military self-defence units could be formed and deployed countrywide under the guidance of the ANC military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe."

Fears

Self-defence units already exist in five Vaal townships, said Rani last week.

Details of the confidential ANC booklet, entitled 'For the Sake of Our Lives - Guidelines for the Creation of People's Self-Defence Units, were revealed in Business Day yesterday.

The document details how para-military self-defence units could be formed and deployed countrywide under the guidance of the ANC military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe.

As a result of fears of an attack, the ANC last Wednesday night set up defence units in Evaton, Sharpeville, Bopatong, Bophelong and Sebokeng, Rani said.

They operated mainly at night, patrolling streets and searching "suspicious-looking cars" at township entrances. - Sapa.
**Electricity cut is looming in Atteridgeville**

By ALINAH DUBE

ATTERIDGEVILLE will be plunged into darkness tonight if the Pretoria City Council carries out its threat to cut the electricity supply to the township.

Dr Ernie Jacobson, Atteridgeville's administrator, announced yesterday that the council was unable to meet its financial commitments towards the supply of bulk services.

This followed the failure by residents to pay a flat rate of R50 a household and R150 a business.

Jacobson said of the R2,25 million expected over the past three months since the flat rate was introduced, only R872,000 was received.

**Account settled**

"To rectify the situation, the Atteridgeville Council will revert to the promulgated tariffs. This means that an average household will pay R100 to R140 a month for services and businesses up to R2,000," he said.

Meanwhile, the Mamelodi Council has settled its account. It had until noon yesterday to pay.
Rand towns and Katlehong to form joint base

THEO RAWANA

Administrative and political problems plaguing Katlehong had prompted three other southeast Rand towns to form a joint administration and services base with the township, Germiston town clerk Tony Heyneke said yesterday.

Katlehong is facing water and power cuts and continuing violence. The local council owes Eskom about R12m and the Germiston council R500 000.

Heyneke said the municipalities of Germiston, Bedfordview, Palm Ridge and Katlehong had recently committed themselves to the formation of the South East Rand Co-Ordinating Committee (Sercom).

Outlining the benefits of such cooperation, Heyneke said in a statement, "Such a larger unit of administration will better be able to accelerate economic growth, with the spin-off of employment and a greater share in the economy. This aspect is considered an indispensable part of the new system of urban management which we will see."

He added, "Co-operation and progress towards joint administration already exists to a greater or lesser extent in the areas of public health, sewage treatment, valuation, fire services and certain aspects of personnel training." (27)

Asked if the Sercom could be seen as a step towards the single-tax base concept and whether it would solve Katlehong's financial problems, Heyneke said, "We hope it will form the basis of that concept, but the councils felt that the political question should be left for discussion at national level."

"The financial position of Katlehong has not been discussed because the local civic association refuses to take part in talks until the black local council is excluded."
Atteridgeville

to lose power

PRETORIA — The Pretoria City Council would cut electricity to Atteridgeville township this morning, Pretoria management committee chairman Pieter Smith said yesterday.

The City Council of Atteridgeville had to pay R913 136 for electricity for February on April 9. Overdue accounts for water and sewerage were R299 281 and R957 015 respectively.

Smith said "The City Council of Pretoria understands the financial problems experienced by Atteridgeville. The current situation is, however, counter-productive and cannot be allowed to continue at the expense of the city's ratepayers."

Atteridgeville administrator Ernie Jacobson said yesterday the reason power would be cut was that households and businesses had not paid flat rates of R100 and R150 a month as agreed.

The council would revert to promulgated tariffs, which would mean the average household would have to pay R100 to R140 a month while businesses would have to pay up to R2 000 a month.

Jacobson said accounts would be sent out within the next week. "If all the arrears for January, February and March are paid the council will at least be in the position to have the electricity supply reconnected at the earliest possible date," he said.
3-million families still homeless

There are about three million homeless families who are either in squatter camps or living in cramped backyard rooms where they are paying exorbitant rentals in the PWV townships.

The managing director of the black-owned Metropolitan People's Consultancy (Mepco) Housing and Developers, Mr J C Mbahal, said that although the research was done about five years ago it was clear that the crisis was not a small issue.

Mepco was started immediately after the assessment of the research with the aim to provide houses and employment to the people of that area at the same time. Mbahal said unless something was done, particularly by blacks, the results would be disastrous. He will consult with the liberation movements such as ANC, PAC and others to discuss this problem in detail as well as suggest methods which could be used to alleviate the acute housing shortage.
Asro to act after Pretoria blackout

By ALINAH DUBE

THE Atteridgeville\Saulsville Residents Organisation has threatened to take the Atteridgeville City Council to court over yesterday's switch-off of electricity in the township.

The Pretoria City Council cut power supplies to Atteridgeville at 8am yesterday following the local council's failure to pay its R1.7 million bulk services account.

Asro spokesman Mr Chippa Chidi said his organisation viewed the switch-off as an attempt to break the agreement existing between Asro and the Atteridgeville council.

Standing agreement

Asro was fully aware of the fact that the TPA, Pretoria City Council and Regional Services Councils were unhappy with the R50 flat-rate tariffs paid by Atteridgeville residents, Chidi said.

Dr Ernie Jacobson, administrator for Atteridgeville, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

"We are treating the matter very carefully because of the standing agreement. In terms of the agreement, tariffs can only be reviewed in June although the authorities have started pressuring us into negotiations prematurely," Chidi said.

He said the council had failed to substantiate allegations that certain residents had not paid the flat-rate tariffs since they were introduced in January this year. He said such details should have been made available at the meetings held in the past.

Noordgesicht homes up for sale - at last

THE people of Noordgesicht in Johannesburg - after many years - now have the chance to buy their homes.

Mr Anthony Reeves (LP Klipspruit West) said in Parliament yesterday it was due to the House of Representatives that the homes were for sale at "give-away prices" which range from R2 407 to R4 284.

Proclaimed

The Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture; Administration (House of Representatives) approved the selling prices of the 1,070 dwellings on March 14, "director-general Mr FP Hugo said.

Approved

Reeves said they were old houses, "but we are encouraging the people of Noordgesicht to buy them. It's a giveaway price".

Noordgesig was proclaimed a coloured area two years ago and the families had lived there "not knowing if it (Noordgesicht) would become part of Soweto", Reeves said.
Residents seek split from Sandton
By Jacqueline Myburgh

Lambro Park residents want to break away from the Sandton Town Council and merge with neighbouring Modderfontein, Lambro Park Residents Association chairman Chris Perry said yesterday.

The proposal has been welcomed by the Modderfontein Town Council. Mr Perry said many residents of Lambro Park felt the Sandton Town Council had not been acting in their interests.

He expected a majority to support the move in a current referendum.

The breakaway bid has been prompted by several incidents in which the Sandton Town Council allegedly did not appear to have the Lambro Park residents' interests at heart.
ANC in talks with civic leaders over chamber

A HIGH-powered ANC delegation, including Deputy President Nelson Mandela, yesterday held extensive talks with civic leaders in a bid to heal the rift between civic associations over the newly constituted Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

A source confirmed yesterday that the Civics Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast), the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD), the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) and the ANC delegation met to discuss the chamber.

ANC spokesman Gili Marcus said the discussions were held to enable the ANC to get "different viewpoints" on the chamber which has been boycotted by Cast, but in which the SPD and SCA are taking part.

However, Marcus declined to say whether the ANC was for or against participation in the chamber although it was aware of the various viewpoints.

'Cast last week slated the metropolitan chamber, saying it was based on racial lines and was aimed at undermining national political demands for a constituent assembly and an interim government,' said the SPD's Cyril Ramaphosa.

The SPD's Cyril Ramaphosa has said his organisation and the other civic associations that had signed the chamber constitution were not so "politically naive" as to get involved in something that was what Cast said the chamber was.

The chamber's constitution was signed in Johannesburg on April 9.
Township folk fear defence units plan

DEFENCE units in the townships should not be run by any one political organisation if they are to succeed.

This was the opinion expressed by residents of Reef townships in a snap survey by Sowetan yesterday.

Those interviewed expressed fears of thugs using units to further their arms. But most welcomed the idea, saying it might help bring an end to violence in townships.

Audrey Mmutle (20), a student at a commercial college in Johannesburg, said: "This is a very good idea. But I think the ANC should suspend the concept until a 'united front' of all organisations has been formed.

Unruly elements

"Otherwise, unruly elements will use the units to terrorise members of rival organisations."

One resident, who declined to give his name, said: "I will support anything that is done to bring an end to the carnage in the townships."

"But there are many things that should be clear to us before such units are formed."

He said he was worried about the "toto"/element within the units who would harass residents.

An Alexandra taxi driver said: "The units should be properly controlled, otherwise hooligans will take advantage."

A Soweto mother, Mrs Magdeline Fame, said: "We may have arrived at a solution to the problem of violence, but whoever is in charge will have to educate the community on the operations of the units."

Police protests

"I think we may have to co-operate with the police so as to avoid hooliganism gaining ground within the units."

Mabel Xulu of Daveyton, Benoni, said: "Will the hijackers and the jackrollers not take advantage of the units to carry out their satanic deeds?"

"I am afraid that we shall be giving rise to another monster. Unless everything is done well and planned ahead, I have no qualms over the idea."

* ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela this week said his organisation would go ahead with the formation of the units despite protests from the police.

The general secretary of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal, Mr Sam Ntuli, was reported as saying the units were already functioning in some townships.
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LOCAL POLITICS

CIVIC DISPUTE

Power struggles within the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) organisation almost cost Johannesburg its hard-won nonracial Metropolitan Chamber last week.

The chamber is a product of last year's Soweto Accords between the Transvaal provincial administration, three Soweto town councils and the Soweto People's Delegation. It has the job of formulating "regional, non-racial and democratic approaches for long-term implementation of measures for the constitutional, economic, institutional and social development of the metropolis.'

But nearly seven months after the signing of the accord, Cast questioned the mandate of those who had signed and rejected the formula for the chamber, calling it racist. Cast, which represents about 40 civic structures, also refused to sit at the same negotiating table as black councillors.

At first it seemed the chamber might collapse before it had begun. But the powerful Soweto People's Delegation, under union boss Cyril Ramaphosa, rejected Cast's allegations, saying it was unfortunate that Cast had gone to the press before consulting the signatories of the accord. In the end, last week's opening chamber meeting was attended by all relevant structures, including some members of Cast.

Other signatories to the constitution last week were councils of Johannesburg, Alexandra, Randburg, Sandton, and the civic associations of Soweto, Kloptown, Eldorado Park, Klipspruit, Riverlea and the Western Residents Action Committee.

The FM learns that there is deep division in Cast about a number of issues, including its stance on the new chamber.

Moses Mayekiso, Cast president and resident of Hillbrow, is head of the Alexandra Civic Organisation, which so far has refused to sign the chamber constitution. Mayekiso, who is thinly spread between those tasks and his roles as head of the National Union of Metalworkers of SA and a central committee member of the SA Communist Party, usually takes a tough line. This has been aggravated by him being less than familiar with the chamber, and the influence of a militant faction under Thokoza civic association president Sam Ntuli.

Mayekiso refused to comment to the FM before a meeting this Thursday with the Soweto People's Delegation.

Cast has recently begun leaning towards an anti-negotiations stance and some of the opinions of its members sound more like militant Pan Africanist Congress rhetoric than the statements of the ANC, Cast's traditional ally.

Ntuli is against talking to black councillors, which is contrary to more flexible ANC negotiations strategy. Last week Ntuli called on township communities to arm themselves for self-defence after the government had failed to respond to an ultimatum for the carrying of traditional weapons to be banned. Though Cast claims it is non-aligned, Ntuli made it clear that Inkaths and black councillors are seen as "the source of violence against our people."

Others in the "civics" claim the real issue is the personal ambition of some members of Cast, rather than the best interests of civic structures. Cast is the most powerful amalgamation of civic structures in the country and will be a prime mover behind a national civic organisation expected to be formed this year.

Though the movement is theoretically nonpolitical, it has strong ties with the ANC. There is a belief that some of the militants are trying to form power bases, rather for election to the ANC's National Executive Committee in June or as a springboard to more powerful positions in the ANC - as long as the violence makes militancy a popular option.

The NP leadership regards local government as critical to the negotiation process and talks here are expected to deal in advance with some of the issues to be discussed by ANC leaders and government.

Yet other members of Cast are closer ideologically to African nationalist positions like those of the PAC, and could form part of a breakaway faction.

Whatever the reason for the latest intriguing squabble in the anti-apartheid ranks, the citizen of Soweto or Alexandra - rubbish mounting on his pavements, sewage running down his pot-holed roads, his skies polluted by coal fumes, his neighbourhood unsafe - appears to be last on anyone's list of priorities.
ATTERIDGEVILLE township in Pretoria has been plunged into complete darkness, leaving only Kalafong Hospital and the police station with electricity.

The chances of relaunching "Operation Khanyisa" - in which defiant residents went on an "operation switch-on" - have been short-circuited this time as the main township supply has been cut off instead of individual houses.

The switch-off has sparked outrage in the community, and the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation (Asro) is considering numerous options including court action and a consumer boycott to force the Transvaal Provincial Administration to reconsider its decision.

The TPA switched off the power supply to the township at 8am on Wednesday to force residents to pay R1.6-million owed for both electricity and water supplies, but decided not to cut water supplies for humanitarian and health reasons.

Asro and township administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson agreed in January on a flat rate of R50 per month to end the year-long rent boycott.

However, the TPA turned down the agreement between the two parties, saying the money fell far short of meeting monthly costs for effective administration and services in the township.

Businesses are the hardest hit and some have resorted to closing as early as 6pm.

The community has resorted to paraffin and candles for cooking and to light their homes, which they said was making life unbearable. Thousands of rands have been lost since the cut-off, as piles of rotting food had to be thrown out of fridges.

As night descends on the township, it becomes a dark city without any sign of life. But behind the drawn curtains, save for the lack of blaring radios and bright television screens, life goes on as usual.

City Press found people in shebeens having their cold beer in silent surroundings while others held society meetings in candle-lit rooms.

No lights, but shebeen visitors can still enjoy a cold beer at Tabiya's shebeen in Atteridgeville.

Pic: ELIAS MALULEKE
Power cut in Kagiso forces undertaker to move corpses

AN undertaker in Kagiso had to move corpses out of his mortuaries after the local council cut the township's electricity supply over the weekend.

Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) general secretary Sam Ntuli said seven townships were without electricity yesterday.

Sapa reports that Ntuli said that, in addition to Kagiso, electricity to Toekomsrus and Thokoza was cut two months ago.

Katelelong, Mamelodi, Atteridgeville and Dobsonville had had no power supply for two to three weeks.

Power to Kagiso was cut despite an agreement between the Kagiso Civic Association (KCA) and the Kagiso town council that each household would pay R45 a month for electricity.

However, Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents' Organization (Asaro) general secretary Simon Tshidi said yesterday the power supply was restored to Atteridgeville on Friday after discussions with township administrator Ernie Jacobson.

THEO RAWANA and WILSON ZWANE

Kagiso undertaker Lucky Tholoe said electricity to his business was cut on Saturday at 1pm and restored at 8am yesterday.

"I had to transport corpses from my mortuaries to other business friends for fear of them decomposing," he said.

KCA spokesman Nomvula Mokonyane said yesterday the council started cutting power last Thursday despite an agreement reached last December that residents should pay an interim R45 a month.

"We have been negotiating with the town clerk but all of a sudden he stopped talking to us because he wanted us to talk to councillors — whom we don't recognise," said Mokonyane.

But Kagiso town clerk William van Rensburg denied that power to the township had been cut.

"I do not know of any cut, and I know of no agreement over a R45 interim paymeet," he said.
Residents join forces against hotel plan

THE Killarney, Riviera and Saxaawold residents' associations are joining forces to oppose proposals to build an international hotel on the corner of Oxford and Riviera roads in Johannesburg's northern suburb. [Blurred text] (127)

Killarney and Riviera Residents' Association chairman Harry van der Kloet said yesterday they were fundraising and would collect objectors' signatures.

"We are going to contest not only the proposed establishment of the hotel with the Townshps Board, but are also going to strive to get the powers held by the board decentralised back to the Johannesburg municipality," he said.

The hotel's size, meant at peak times between 2,000 and 4,000 people would be present with 500 parking bays provided.

"Obviously the rest will have to park in the street, which is totally unacceptable." Town planners involved in the development, Rosmarin & Associates, could not be reached for comment.
Wesselton struggles on without water

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

In Ermelo's Wesselton township, 50 000 residents have been struggling without water or sewerage services for a week.

Ermelo's CP-controlled town council disconnected the water supply after the township defaulted on its March water account.

Ermelo town clerk Pietervan Goudischoorn said water and sewerage services would not be restored to Wesselton until the account was paid in full.

He said the TPA had not contacted his council since the water was disconnected on April 16.

The Star was unable to contact any member of the Wesselton Civic Association yesterday.

However, a community leader said he believed the civic association had instructed residents not to pay municipal accounts after the service charge of R15 was doubled without the community being consulted.

Wesselton's acting town clerk, Hannalie de Bruyn, said the community had been notified of the increase. She said it would take two to three weeks before a serious health hazard arose.

Meanwhile, residents are making up to four trips a day to the Indian township of Cussum Park or the white part of town to collect water.

This is the third time the council has cut Wesselton's essential services in six months.

Earlier this year, Eskom won a judgment against the Wesselton local authority for electricity arrears. The township owes Eskom almost R2 million.

The Wesselton Town Council has begun cutting electricity. At present about a third of the area is without power.
Bid to end Soshanguve rent boycott

The authorities are arranging to discuss with the local civic association the boycott of rent and service charges by residents of Soshanguve.

Deputy Minister of Education and Development And Mr Piet Marais said the boycott was regretted. He would invite the Soshanguve Residents Organisation to discuss the issue.

The boycott action was taken at a mass meeting in the Pretoria township on April 7. Marais said he received a letter from Sorea, "wherein they stated their intention to initiate such a boycott, but also indicated their willingness to discuss the matter."

After holding talks with officials of his department, he regretted the boycott, but welcomed the willingness of Sorea to enter into discussions.

He intended to personally attend these talks as soon as a date was set by officials of his department and Sorea.

Marais pointed out that some problems were being experienced with the processing of rent and service charge accounts.

"Among the reasons is a petrol bomb attack on the township manager's office late last year which caused severe damage to computers and destroyed valuable records," Marais said.

This led to the delay in issuing accounts. Steps had been taken to speed up the sending of accounts and arrangements were also being made so that residents could pay their "overdue" accounts over a longer period.

Other complaints and problems would be looked into during the discussions with Sorea, he added.

At the mass meeting in the township on April 7, residents decided to boycott rent and service charges until a delegation had met officials of the Department of Development And to determine a flat rate.

The residents also decided that all arrears should be cancelled and payment should start from the date which would be agreed on by the delegation and officials of the department - Sapa.
Residents to protest 'cops indifference'

RESIDENTS of Maokeng in Kroonstad have vowed to stage an unauthorised march to protest alleged police reluctance to arrest a gang terrorising the township.

Police have described as "totally false" allegations they are not taking action against the "Three Million" gang who, the African National Congress alleges, have killed and terrorised township residents for the past seven months.

Kroonstad's ANC organiser, Mr Dennis Bloem, said yesterday police demurrs to the allegations were "just not true."

Memo

He said Maokeng residents had had enough and would march from the township to Kroonstad police station this morning where they would deliver a memorandum calling for a commission of inquiry into their allegations.

In the latest incident a 16-year-old ANC Youth League member was stabbed to death in his home on Friday night.

Police confirmed the death but said there was no evidence the murderers were linked to the gang.

Bloem reacted with disbelief, saying the boy's mother had reported the names of the men involved as she was in the house at the time and recognised them.

In their statement, police said the gang's operations were "very scarce, if ever". They said several gang members had been arrested and a number of firearms seized in the past.

"Arrests were made but due to lack of evidence because people are afraid, opposing bail has always been unsuccessful. These cases are, however, still being investigated,"

the statement read.

Sapa.

Govt claims drop in squats

THE Government yesterday claimed a dramatic drop in the number of squatters, from about 900 000 to 500 000 between 1989 and last year.

According to the 1990 annual report of the Department of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing tabled in Parliament yesterday, the Government has resettled the former squatters.

"By and large, the provincial administrations have been successful in settling squatters in an orderly manner, despite the extent of squatting," the report said.

The report covered the period between June 1989 and June 1990.
**Flat sales may up rents**

By MNDLI MAKHANYA

PROPERTY companies are buying up rental buildings across the country and converting them to sectional title.

This is likely to push up rents but in areas close to the city it will stabilise property prices.

Property analysts believe this trend will take units out of the rental market at a time when the demand for rental property is high. The rental market will be heavily pressured, thus pushing up rental rates.

Figures recently released by the Cape-based Real Estate Surveys said the only areas in the country that showed a vacancy factor of more than one percent were Hillbrow, Berea and Joubert Park.

According to the report, rental for two-bedroom flats in Johannesburg range from R450 in Joubert Park to R1 400 in Sandton. In Durban a flat would be R505 in the city centre and R653 in Upper Berea. In the Cape rentals on the Peninsula are R492 and on Atlantic seaboard, R712.

Investec Property Group—which has a policy of converting rental apartments to sectional title—acquired three Berea flat buildings comprising 180 flats for R4.5-million and intends reselling them under sectional title. Earlier this year IPG bought 960 flats in Bedfordview for the same purpose. These acquisitions may be a prelude to IPG converting more inner-city buildings to sectional title.

Says MD Marc Warner: "If the response to the three Berea properties is as good as we expect them to be, IPG will look at returning in strength to the inner city sectional title." [127]

Real Estate Surveys director Erwin Rode estimated that only 20 percent of rental property stock had not yet been converted to sectional title. He believes this will raise rentals but that this need not be a bad thing. "Rental levels are so low that it does not pay developers to put up buildings. Rentals are going to have to rise so it can be profitable for people to invest in rental property once more."

Estate agent Eskol Jawitz concurred. He added that a lot of sectional title owners tended to be investors who rented out their properties.

Another agent, Basil Elk, disagreed, saying he did not believe people wanting to meet bond repayments would charge higher rents as "rentals are determined by supply and demand."

IPG director Ronnie Seviz says his company was taking fewer than 200 units out of the rental market and thus would not affect an area like Berea.

A definite effect of this, though, may be to stabilise inner city areas and harden property prices in these areas. This will go a long way towards preventing urban decay and checking it in areas such as Hillbrow and Berea.

He believes the threat of urban decay will continue in areas where only 50 percent of properties are owned—Hillbrow being one of them.

Seviz says it is only buildings which were subjected to rent control that have deteriorated. Hence IPG’s interest in the inner city market—"in five years we expect there will be a doubling of property prices in the area."
Tembisa’s water, lights to be cut off

By DON SEOKANE

WATER and electricity supplies to Tembisa will be cut off by the local council today.

Tembisa’s mayor, Mr S More, yesterday said that for the services to be restored, residents must pay the flat rate introduced last October.

More said the council’s appeal to residents to pay their service fees started last year.

“During the switch-off period, strong security measures will be taken to protect the council’s property such as electrical transformers and substations.

Sunday meeting

“I appeal to residents to keep away from the council’s property. It will be extremely dangerous to go anywhere near them,” said More.

He also advised residents, for their own safety, to keep off the streets at night during the switch-off.

Meanwhile, in Tokoza a group of residents will be holding a meeting on Sunday at 9am, at Nkakal Street church hall, to discuss the community power problems in the township.
Randfontein next target of boycott

RANDFONTEIN is the latest West Rand town to fall victim to a consumer boycott.

Residents of Mohlakeng and Tockomsrus townships yesterday resolved to boycott businesses in Randfontein from tomorrow.

The Randfontein boycott was delayed a week while township residents discussed tactics, according to Thami Laphoko, ANC FWV regional organiser and executive member of the ANC's Mohlakeng branch.

The Krugersdorp - started last week - and Randfontein boycotts were sparked by the two Conservative town councils' refusal to give permission for marches on March 6 this year to demand the release of political prisoners, democratically elected local government, upgrading of services and provision of land for the homeless, and the opening of amenities for all races.

Letter

Chairman of the local branch of the ANC, Uhuru Moiloa, showed reporters a letter from the West Rand Chamber of Commerce inviting them to discuss the boycott and "explore the possibility of establishing a more permanent channel of communication" between the two parties.

Marshall Fourie, the Chamber's president-designate, confirmed he wrote the letter. Moiloa said the Krugersdorp boycott was successful, adding that traders and residents were not buying from white businesses.

Because of the discussions going on between the West Rand Chamber of Commerce and both the Krugersdorp Town Council and the ANC, Fourie said he could not comment on the boycott "at this stage".
Businessmen taken on tour of Alex

By Julienne du Toit

High-powered businessmen were urged to open their chequebooks and mobilise their resources for the community of Alexandra as they toured the township in a minibus yesterday.

Moses Mayekiso, chairman of Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO), hosted the tour, which was aimed at eliciting promises of money and involvement in the community from the various chairmen, managing directors and presidents from a wide variety of companies.

Celebrities on the tour included Democratic Party MP for Sandton Dave Dalling, the mayors and mayoresses of Sandton and Midrand, recently released detainee Mzwenele Mayekiso and ACO executive member Richard Makanse.

Chris Aitken, who was involved with the Alexandra Development Fund and now with the Eden Trust, said he realised that budgets were under pressure.

Tom White of S C Johnson Wax, who sponsored the tour, urged businessmen not just to give handouts but to become involved with the community and to consult community leaders.

Mr Mayekiso suggested that a forum of employers could possibly become involved in the development of Alexandra.
Cast’s problems could wreck metro chamber

ABBEY MAKOE

THE future of the newly formed Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber (MC) is in the balance.

A series of damaging developments have emerged within the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast), the organisation representing millions of black people whose participation will be vital to laying the foundations of future non-racial local government.

It now seems unlikely that Cast will play a role in the new local government structure, according to impeccable sources, and without it the Metropolitan Chamber will be rendered impotent.

Investigations by Saturday Star reveal that:

- The issue of whether to participate in the MC has seriously divided the leadership of Cast.
- The rift is likely to lead to the dismissal of two senior civic association office-bearers — Cyril Ramaphosa and Cas Coovadia.
- Cast is in dire financial straits.
- ANC deputy-president Nelson Mandela has been called in as a mediator.
- The Soweto Civic Association (SCA) is likely to break away from Cast.
- The SCA itself is expected to split over the Metropolitan Chamber issue.

Mr Coovadia, assistant general secretary of Cast and Mr Ramaphosa, a leader of the Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD), which is affiliated to Cast, are the targets of hardliners within the body.

The hardliners believe Cast should not become involved with the MC because it would give existing black councillors the recognition they do not deserve. Mr Ramaphosa attracted their wrath by recently signing the MC’s draft constitution on behalf of the SPD.

Mr Coovadia is in trouble for having attended the initial chamber meeting and later speaking to the media as a Cast representative without a mandate from the organisation.

Sources told Saturday Star this week that as a result of these actions, Mr Ramaphosa and Mr Coovadia would be fired or asked to resign.

It is believed that such measures have the support of the majority of Cast leaders, who last week held a secret meeting to decide, among other things, the fate

TO PAGE 2.
price a hefty mind - at Peace of Catch-22 of 'White, Suburbia

By DEBRIK LUTTAYA

This house in Firthfield, Sandon, is in the first area of the new "price of Peace of

mind - at Catch-22 of 'White, Suburbia"
ATTERIDGEVILLE residents yesterday rejected new service charges proposed by the local administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, and threatened to embark on a rent boycott if electricity was cut again.

At a public meeting organised by the Atteridgeville Saulsville residents organisation held at the Super Stadium, Mr Chippa Chidi, Astro’s general secretary asked area committees to discuss the new proposals again and report back to the executive committee before their meeting with Jacobson on Friday.

Jacobson has proposed that a household using three Amps should pay a flat rate of R60. Those using five Amps should pay R100, those using 10 Amps R150, households using 15 Amps R200 and metered houses R240.

**Rate**

Residents who boycotted rent from April 1 last year to December, agreed early this year to pay a monthly flat rate of R50 plus a community trust fund of R5 a house from January.

Residents yesterday agreed to continue paying the R55 a month.

They threatened to embark on a rent boycott and resolved that the black local authorities should first be scrapped and quality services rendered in the township before rent could be increased.

Residents also resolved to occupy new houses at nearby Lotus Gardens which has been declared an Indian area.
Services cut warning for Atteridgeville

THE administrator of Atteridgeville, Dr Ernie Jacobson, yesterday warned that electricity and water in the township would be cut soon unless residents paid higher service charges.

He was reacting to a resolution by residents rejecting the proposed new tariffs.

Jacobson said each resident was expected to pay a minimum average flat rate of R150 a month so that the local council could run the township properly.

Jacobson, who has proposed a monthly flat rate of between R60 and R240 a household, depending on the consumption of electricity, said the council had arrears of about R2 million for electricity, water and sewage.

"The council no longer has spare funds to pay bulk suppliers. If residents do not want to pay the proposed minimum flat rate, then all essential services including electricity, water and sewage will be terminated," he said.

At a public meeting in the township on Sunday, residents rejected Jacobson's proposed tariffs and resolved to continue paying the monthly flat rate of R55.

Residents also threatened to stop paying rent should the authorities cut essential services.

They resolved that increased tariffs would only be considered when black local authorities were abolished and the township fell under the control of a single, nonracial municipality in Pretoria.

Jacobson said a flat rate of R55 a month was not enough.

"It is unfortunate that residents take such decisions without realising the seriousness of the matter. If they don't pay higher rent, services will be cut," he said.
Low-ceiling cramps house-hunting envoys

NEWLY arrived East European diplomats are scouring Pretoria's posh eastern suburbs for bargain accommodation.

Estate agents said this week the hard-up governments of the former Soviet bloc were not in a position to provide top-of-the-market mansions for the heads of their new missions in SA.

A Hungarian spokesman said his country's mission was temporarily occupying a house in Colbyn, while staff searched for a permanent base. He admitted the choice was narrowed by limited funds.

Anda Real Estate manager Maritz Blignaut confirmed a flurry of diplomatic house-hunting.

A spokesman for the Pam Golding agency said palatial houses of the sort occupied by established, senior missions would cost between R2800 000 and R1,5m.

Klooster and Steyn manager J S Klooster said some purchases had already been made by Eastern Europeans. He declined to give details.

Those hunting for homes include Hungary's permanent mission head Laslo Mohai, the head of the Polish office of interest Stanislav Ciesnuch, and the Soviet Union's interest section head J Lebeden, who is operating from a city hotel.

Still to arrive in SA are the Czechoslovakian and Romanian mission heads.

SA has representation in all those countries, as well as in Bulgaria. A Foreign Affairs spokesman said there was no indication yet whether Bulgaria intended setting up a local mission.

There are still no signs as to when African states might join Pretoria's up-market housing queue.
**Merge private health care with state — ANC paper**

THE ANC has suggested that the costs of private medicine be regulated and the sector integrated into an overall national health service providing care for the whole population.

A health policy document published for discussion at the ANC's mid-year conference criticises the private sector for its orientation towards those with the means to pay. “About half of all the money spent on health care is caught up in the private sector, which contains half the doctors, nearly all the dentists and pharmacists, and one-quarter of the hospital beds.”

Yet this rich private sector only provides care for about 20% of the population. Public funds are used for the training of health workers who “filter on drift to the private sector.”

The document, titled “Towards Developing a Health Policy,” says the private sector must become part of the national health system.

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**Cast meeting on rift over chamber**

CIVICS Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) president Moses Mayekiso has acknowledged a serious rift between it and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) over the newly constituted Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

Mayekiso said in an interview Cast would meet today for discussions on the widening rift.

Cast has rejected the chamber, saying it undermined national political demands such as an interim government and a constituent assembly and included “discredited and illegitimate” black councillors.

But the SPD and the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) have welcomed the new chamber as a useful forum in which “local government officials could be negotiated.”

It is true that some of our members are against the chamber while others have signed its constitution. But I cannot say that the issue of whether to participate in the chamber has divided our membership,” Mayekiso said.

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**Grievances**

Top ANC leaders are believed to be involved in efforts to steer the two organisations towards resolving their disagreement over the chamber.

However, Cast had problems with its assistant general secretary Cas Coovadia, Mayekiso conceded.

Coovadia stands accused of speaking to the Press without a mandate from Cast.

"Cas is not our publicity secretary and he has not been mandated to speak as our spokesman," Mayekiso said.

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Coovadia confirmed that Cast had sent him a letter outlining its grievances two weeks ago. “But I don’t want to enter into a public debate on the matter until I have had the opportunity of consulting with my comrades in Cast,” he said.

Mayekiso confirmed that Cast had financial difficulties. Cast was in debt to a Johannesburg hotel, it had used as a venue for a number of meetings, he said. He would not disclose the amount of the debt.

"Sam Ntuli (Cast general secretary) has been in Sweden in recent weeks on a fundraising mission. But who does not raise funds? The ANC, NUMSA, the Alexandra Civic Organisation and many other organisations go overseas to canvass funds," Mayekiso said.
Eviction bid at hostel

THEO RAWANA

AN ORGANISATION formed in March this year to tackle Alexandra's rent problems, and involving the TPA and the Sandton and Randburg councils, is preparing a court interdict to evict people allegedly brought into a local hostel by Inkatha.

Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) spokesman Mzwanele Mayekiso told a news conference in Alexandra yesterday that since fighting started in the township last year, Inkatha members had been using the 3,000-bed hostel as their base.

"They harassed people who refused to join Inkatha, and used the place as a 'slaughterhouse' where victims were killed," he said.

"Now most people have been chased away and others brought in from other hostels and Alexandra Township itself," Mayekiso said.

A hawker still resident at the hostel said all people who refused to join Inkatha were chased away and other people brought in.

It could not be reached for comment at the time of going to press.

UN wants amnesty for all, says ANC

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) wanted a general amnesty for all exiles before it became involved in the repatriation of SA exiles, ANC head of repatriation Jackie Selebi said yesterday.

Speaking at Jan Smuts Airport, where 182 exiles arrived from Angola, Selebi said this was one of the points of disagreement between government and the UNHCR.

"The UNHCR needs access to detainees and in the case of SA this involves them being able to go everywhere. If a refugee is designated as a citizen of Bophuthatswana, for example, should anything happen to that person in Bophuthatswana, the UNHCR would not request that government for access," he said.

Selebi said the UNHCR was also unhappy about SA security legislation which would interfere with international norms of legal protection for refugees.

The ANC would continue repatriating people but wanted UNHCR involvement because the world body had the expertise and access to international funding.

He said the ANC was unhappy with government's progress with the indemnity process.

It had 29,000 people who wanted to return but the process was being hampered by a lack of clarity on who was ultimately responsible for police action against returnees. "It seems like we have two governments — one headed by De Klerk and the other being the police. Nobody appears capable of bringing the police to book."

He said those who returned yesterday were mostly Umkhonto wa Sizwe members who had been looking after abandoned military camps in Angola.

A small group of family and friends waited at the airport for the returnees.

Police kept a low profile.

Sapa reports that the ANC in Lusaka is faced with an acute accommodation crisis and astronomical rents due to an unexpected influx of SA exiles from other parts of the world.

ANC sources said yesterday the exiles were arriving in the hope their travel papers could be processed quickly so they could catch connecting flights to SA.

KIN BENTLEY reports from London that the British government has set aside £2.5m to assist in re-integrating exiles and former political prisoners into SA society.

Details of this aid were made in a policy document presented to parliament this week by foreign secretary Douglas Hurd.

The first allocation, of about £100,000, was made in March to the Western Cape Repatriation Committee to help with the cost of renovating a reception centre in that area, the document said.
The schism in Cast over participation in the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber is expected to be resolved this weekend. By GAVIN EVANS

The internal rift within the Civics Association of the Transvaal over whether to participate in the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber is expected to be resolved this weekend.

While the parties currently in conflict over the issue are sticking to their positions, African National Congress sources close to both groups say they are expecting an agreement which opens the way to attempt to change the chamber from within.

The Metropolitan Chamber was launched with considerable fanfare on April 9 and was intended to be a "super forum" which would help mould the future of non-racial local government in the PWV area and beyond. Delegates are drawn from all the white and black town and city councils in the area, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the ANC-aligned Soweto Civic Association and other civic bodies, while observers from the Development Bank, Eskom and the Tembisa and Midrand councils also participate.

But the chamber was rejected by Cast, largely because it is "based on racial representation" and includes "illegitimate and discredited" township councillors.

Cast said it believed structures such as the forum cut across national political demands for a constituent assembly and an interim government.

The SCA and Soweto Peoples' Delegation, which had forged the ground-breaking Greater Soweto Accord with the TPA last September, believed it was a useful forum through which a future non-racial local government system could be forged.

Following the Cast announcement of its rejection of the chamber, SPC leader Cyril Ramaphosa accused Cast members of "political dishonesty"—saying that none of them had raised fundamental objections to the chamber at a meeting shortly before its launch.

Since then top-level ANC members have been working hard on getting the two sides to reach agreement. It has been stressed that failure could lead to a major split between Cast, led by National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa general secretary Moses Mayekiso and its most powerful affiliate, the SCA, in which National Union of Mining workers general secretary Ramaphosa is playing a central role.

"The differences are essentially over tactics, not over principle," said one ANC leader involved in the discussions which they hope will resolve the issue this weekend.

"It can't be reduced to the individuals involved, but bear in mind that Cyril comes from a union tradition where initial agreements made space for NUM to organise, while in Numsa they had to force the space to organise from the bottom before the initial agreements were won."

"In the end though, I think they will reach an agreement which will open the way to try and change the chamber from within — to use it to overcome the demise of the illegitimate black town councils."

Mayekiso this week confirmed that some Cast affiliates were still against the chamber while others had signed its constitution, and that meetings were being held to resolve the problem.
Stayaway looms in Mamelodi

By ELIAS MALULEKE

THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST) will lead a protest march to the Mamelodi Town Council tomorrow in support of the Mamelodi Civic Association and demands made by the local residents.

It is expected that thousands of workers will stay at home to support the march which is to demand a flat rate of R50 a month for electricity and services.

CAST spokesman Sandy Lebese said other demands are road improvements, low-cost houses, one non-racial municipality, one tax base, the scrapping of rent arrears and the resignation of town councillors.

Lebese also responded to the controversy surrounding the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber which is said to be threatening to split CAST.

Some members of CAST have joined the chamber which has been rejected by CAST.

A war of words has started between CAST president Moses Mayekiso and Cyril Ramaphosa of the Soweto People's Delegation, leading to the resignation of CAST general secretary Coovadia.

Ramaphosa has accused CAST of "political dishonesty", saying CAST members had raised no major objections to joining the chamber at a meeting shortly before its launch.

Lebese said Coovadia's resignation would be discussed soon.

As far as we are concerned, Coovadia is still the general secretary as his resignation has not yet been accepted," Lebese said.

He denied claims of a rift within CAST and said CAST was experiencing "minor internal problems".

"Contradictions will always be there in any organisation. Contradictions are the driving force for a changing and developing organisation like CAST and should not be seen from an antagonistic point of view," Lebese said.

He said CAST would like to clearly state its standpoint on the chamber.

"We are rejecting the MC because it does not address the question of a Constituent Assembly for an interim government. We view it as undermining the national negotiation process. Also, it is racially structured and includes the illegitimate structures of black local authorities which have been rejected by the majority of blacks."

Lebese said CAST did not "completely reject" the idea of the chamber, but believed it had "some flaws which had to be corrected before CAST could participate."
Stayaway set today

By MONK NKOMO

THE Manelodi Civic Association has called on local residents - except students, journalists and health workers - to stay away today to demand the resignation of local councillors.

In addition, MCA publicity secretary Mr Pesty Malefo urged residents to pay a monthly flat-rate tariff of R50 a household until the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Pretoria Council meet the organisation to discuss affordable rent and service charges.

Residents were planning to march on the local town council offices to deliver a memorandum demanding the resignation of councillors.

Malefo said the MCA resorted to the stayaway action after the TPA refused to meet it to resolve the rent problem.

He added that the chief magistrate of Pretoria had granted the MCA permission to stage a peaceful march.
Power to Lekoa to be disconnected

Lekoa's power supply is to be cut off on May 27 unless 70 percent of residents in the Vaal Triangle townships concerned pay their electricity bills by the middle of the month.

Continuing negotiations to end the seven-year boycott of rent and service charges in the area have so far failed to bring a solution to the dispute.

However, Lekoa Town Clerk Klasie Louw last Friday confirmed a last-ditch meeting to be scheduled for tomorrow night, during which the issue would hopefully be concluded.

According to reliable sources, the electricity supply to townships in Lekoa's jurisdiction, including Sebokeng and Sharpeville, will be disconnected on May 27 unless 70 percent of the residents pay their accounts by May 15.

Since November last year alone the amount in arrears has risen to R16 million, with an average of only about six percent of Lekoa's 25,000 consumers paying their electricity bills.

It is understood that the council is already preparing letters to local consumers to warn them about the disconnection of power supplies.

The disconnection will also affect those who have been paying their accounts as there is no way in which defaulting consumers can be singled out.
IDT to start land subsidy assessment of applications

CAPE TOWN — The Independent Development Trust (IDT) will start approving the first batch of applications for land subsidies from the R75m it allocated on July 19, housing director Ben van der Ross has announced.

The applications would be assessed and evaluated after a May 31 deadline and approved “in principle” at the IDT’s monthly meeting in July. Van der Ross said additional applications for assistance would be considered in a second evaluation exercise.

To avoid unnecessary expense, the IDT has announced that it does not expect applicants to develop their proposals in full technical detail before receiving an “in principle” approval. Final approval will follow further negotiation with successful applicants.

The IDT project aims to provide assistance to about 100,000 poor South Africans. It hopes this scheme will form the basis of home ownership for about 750,000 people.

The trust received 360 applications to the tune of R7bn before it launched the project and is expected to be inundated with thousands more.

To deal with the inflow, the IDT will consider applications not on a first come, first served basis but according to the following timetable:
- Applications which meet the May 31 deadline will be assessed on receipt until June 14.
- During the last two weeks of June and the first week of July, the merits and demerits of each application will be evaluated by a panel of experts.
- Recommendations for the approval “in principle” of projects will be made to the meeting of the IDT board of trustees on July 19, and
- Further negotiation with successful applicants to settle outstanding queries will proceed on an ad hoc basis, and final approval will be granted by IDT executives on delegated authority from the board.
CAST leader resigns over policy disparity

By Shareen Singh

Cas Coovadia, assistant general secretary of the Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (CAST), has resigned.

Mr Coovadia's resignation follows reports from CAST that he, without a mandate from the organisation, had attended an initial meeting of the newly formed Metropolitan Chamber and had later spoken to the media as a CAST spokesman.

CAST had taken a stand against participating in the Metropolitan Chamber, but Mr Coovadia, in his personal capacity, supported participation.

He believed that although the Chamber had its drawbacks, through participation the structure CAST could challenge the authorities in the Chamber and initiate a process that would result in better living conditions in the townships.

He agreed with CAST that the Chamber was racially constituted and he also had problems with the participation of black local authorities and management committees, but he differed with the organisation on the issue of participation.

"In my view, participation in the Chamber would not preclude our ongoing demand for the resignation of black local authorities and coloured and Indian management committees. This struggle could be extended in the Chamber," he said.

General secretary Sam Nuali said he had not received Mr Coovadia's resignation and as far as CAST was concerned Mr Coovadia was still the assistant general secretary. The matter would be discussed internally and the organisation would take a decision on whether to accept or reject the resignation.

Mr Coovadia pointed out that his executive position would depend on his constituency, but he would remain an active member of CAST.

"If the CAST general council rejects my resignation, I would continue as assistant general secretary, but on condition that the organisation addresses certain problems I have with CAST's method of operation."

By Shareen Singh
Tembisa hostels put up for sale

By KAMAL SINGH

TEMBISA hostels, often at the forefront of violence in recent years, will be sold and converted into houses, town clerk Mr. Deon Theron said yesterday.

Tenders for the sale of five hostels in Soshoga and Ehlanzeni sections were advertised this week. Tender proposals close on May 30.

"The men's-only hostels, owned by the council, have proved to be a loss because most inhabitants have not been paying rents for some time," said Theron.

"Some of the hostel-dwellers have also proved to be troublesome," he said.

"By allowing family units, political factions that have developed will be a thing of the past."

Hostel units will not initially be sold to individuals. Entire blocks will be tendered, sold, and converted into flats. The developer would then sell units to families.

The units, expected to cost little, must be sold to the public.

"Large companies cannot buy the hostel blocks and allow the hostel system to continue," Theron said.

"Neither can the developer retain the units for a particular company's employees."

Theron said the developer would be responsible for providing alternative housing for hostel-dwellers.

Spokesmen for the Tembisa Civic Association and the Tembisa Residents Association welcomed the plans.
CAST leader's pullout praised

By Shirley Woodgate

The Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber has landed this week's resignation from the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal by CAST general secretary Cas Coovada.

Spokesman Nigel Mandy said he admired Mr Coovada for his principled stand, and added that CAST affiliates who opposed membership of the chamber were negociating the painful negotiations which had taken place over several months.

Although Mr Coovada was not a signatory to last month's formation of the chamber, he was present at the inaugural meeting.

Mr Mandy queried the seriousness of certain CAST members and labelled as "nonsense" allegations that the chamber would not be able to operate if certain CAST affiliates boycotted it.

"If some of the CAST members refuse to participate, then it is their loss," he said.

The chamber is supposed to be a nonracial, democratic forum with a mandate to thrash out problems concerning local government structures that will eventually replace existing local authorities.

But at last month's inaugural meeting only half of the eligible civic bodies formally signed the agreement launching the chamber.

CAST members who held back claimed the chamber was based on racial representation.

Mr Coovada's resignation has fuelled rumours of a split in CAST ranks, but he has indicated that if asked, he may withdraw his resignation at next week's general council meeting.
Give all a say in 'development'

Some suggestions for ending the violence which plagues the townships could lend up achieving the opposite.

One example may be the African National Congress demand that the government "phase out the hostet system", meaning that it is sooner about trying to curb conflict.

On the face of it, there are obvious reasons for the demand. Much (most?) of the violence begins in the hostels.

To other people in the townships, many of whom support the ANC, they have become a source of terror which must go before normal life can resume.

It's not hard to see why. A group of men, forced to live apart from their families in squids, overcrowded, barracks, who have strong links with the countryside and are excluded from the city around them are obvious targets for anyone wanting a conservative army, ready to rally around "ethnic" goals.

To demand the end of hostels is, therefore, to support people in the townships who want a threat removed — but at the same time to demand the end of one of apartheid's ugliest creations. And, if the demand is met, it means obvious that everyone can sleep easier.

It seems like obvious if we cast our minds back in Alexandra a few weeks ago.

There, according to reports in this newspaper, a devastating round of violence began because it seemed possible that hostel-dwellers were to be "shoved out". The Alexandra Civic Organization had just agreed with the province and municipalities that the hostels should be "upgraded" — and, possibly, converted into family dwellings. Someone who was threatened by the agreement then reportedly went to the hostels and told residents if they hadn't agreed that their barracks should be dismantled then that was history.

The point is not whether what the hostel-dwellers were told was true. It is that the fear of losing their barracks may have been enough to trigger violence. And that, before the agreement was signed, no-one seems to have asked them whether they wanted the hostels "shoved out".

There is evidence that some hostel-dwellers choose to live in single-sex dwellings. They obviously want to live decently and would prefer better housing. But they don't want to lose what they have. They fear that "shoving out" hostels would mean losing just that.

There is also evidence, that, even if the hostels were removed, the problem would not disappear.

This doesn't necessarily mean that hostels should stay. And it certainly doesn't mean that they should stay as they are now. But it does mean that a government-ANC agreement to "phase out" hostels could prevent much of the violence if it simply stops.

The only way of preventing that might be an agreement that nothing will be done about the hostels unless the residents agree that it should be done.

Similar problems could be solved about another suggested cure for the violence — derugement. Government and business strategies now accept that violence is more likely if people lack jobs, homes, or water.

The key to peace, therefore, is to develop "community". But, in many communities, the prospect of development has triggered violence.

Black communities like white ones, bring together people with different allegiances and interests. Particularly where there are already hidden tensions, development plans — particularly when they are negotiated with some parts of the community only — raise fears that only parts of the community will be "developed". Those who suspect they are going to be excluded may not be doing anything about it.

Again, this doesn't mean we need less development — we need more. But it does mean that it could cause more violence than it stops unless all those who are affected have a say in the process.

Part of the reason for violence is that, although 80 percent of the people are denied the vote, parts of that majority find it far harder to make their voice heard than others. Since they aren't organised enough to influence decision-making, they do it in other ways.

Until they are, none will claim to speak for them — political movements or untrusted leaders. But there will be no guarantee that they really do, and that what they agree to on behalf of the excluded is what they are willing to live with. Far as long as that lasts, violence will be a constant threat.

No-one can force them to argue and, by the threat of violence could drop if conditions are created in which they are more likely to do so themselves.

Throughout our society, negotiating development directly with those who are to be "developed" may be essential if we are to avoid decades of violence.
Township reconsiders rent.

Residents of Atteridgeville, Pretoria, yesterday indicated they might consider paying higher rent and service charges.

A memorandum to the local administration, the Atteridgeville/Saalville Residents Organisation (Aro) said locals would not be found wanting should the authorities come up with "reasonable" proposals.

Aro gave the authorities a June 30 ultimatum to meet their demands.

REPORTS Sapsmedia Business Day Reports
THE Tembisa City Council has become the first black local authority to ask private developers to convert hostel complexes into family units.

The council placed newspaper advertisements this week asking potential developers to contact it in connection with the proposed sale and conversion of two hostel complexes currently housing 22,000 people, mostly single male migrant workers.

Converting single-sex hostels into family units has become a major political issue, with various parties demanding that the authorities provide greater resources towards converting them.

On Wednesday, Tembisa City Council town planner Deon Theron could not say what the family units would be sold for. The TPA would set selling prices.

"Our plan is basically to sell the hostel complexes at Sethokga and Elanzeni sections to big developers lock, stock and barrel. They will then develop the complexes in accordance with a contract drawn up with the council," he said.

Prospective developers would have to propose alternative accommodation for the present hostel residents during development and once the separate family units had been sold.
Protest over rising violence

By MONK NKOMO

HUNDREDS of Atteridgeville residents marched to the local police station and council offices yesterday to demand an end to violence and the right to live in a suburb reserved for Indians.

The march, organised by the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation and the local ANC branch, started from the Roman Catholic Church near the township entrance amid a heavy police presence.

ANC branch chairman Dr Abraham Nkomo and Astro executive members presented a memorandum to Colonel Andres Beege at the police station.

Nkomo said residents were concerned about the escalating violence in the township and they would form street committees to defend themselves.

A memorandum was also delivered to acting town clerk Mr Deon Mouton at the council offices.

In the memorandum, Astro demanded the right to live in Lotus Gardens, a declared Indian residential area; an end to electricity cuts; repeal of the Black Local Authorities Act and the dismantling of all apartheid structures.
THE foundation of a new national civic organisation was laid at a consultative conference for civic bodies in Bloemfontein this weekend.

The conference was hosted by the United Democratic Front.

UDF treasurer, Ashur Cachalia, said yesterday it was hoped that a new national body, which might be called the South African National Civic Association, would be launched in July prior to the official disbanding of the UDF on August 30.

The disbanding of the UDF had created a need for a national co-ordinating body that would enable local civic associations to network, he added.

Mr Cachalia said the concept had been mooted before the UDF’s March decision to disband.

It was envisaged that a national organisation would be non-partisan and focus on community issues.

The UDF actively encouraged the formation of such an organisation in the belief that a vibrant civic society was crucial, he said.

Representatives from the ANC, Azapo, the PAC, the SACP, Cosatu and Nactu attended the two-day conference.

The conference was expected to discuss a Civic Charter and initial steps towards a constitution. Papers would also be delivered on the political situation, local government, civil society and violence.

A UDF press statement said civic associations had increasingly indicated that they did not see their role as party-political although they clearly had a political role to play in the transitional period where local government was of key importance.

“Given the disparities between regions and the differing municipal and provincial governments that civics have to contend with, the necessity to coordinate responses is apparent,” it added.

The statement said civic associations had identified the improvement of the quality of life of communities as a prime objective.

The statement concluded that organisers did not see themselves as shaping nation and constitutional policy, but they demanded that the present and future government be sensitive to the needs of the people.

Meanwhile, the troubled Civic Associations of South Africa suffered another setback this week when its assistant general secretary, Cas Coovadia, resigned.

Mr Coovadia said he had stepped down because his participation in the newly-formed Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber had been opposed by some elements within Cast.

Public:

Mr Coovadia and another leader of the Soweto People’s delegation, and leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, Cyril Ramaphosa, came under fire for attending the launch of the chamber without the full approval of Cast affiliates.

Mr Coovadia said: "The executive chose to go public on its view of the chamber on the day the new body sat."

"Instead they should have had discussions with members," he added.
DET pass rate rises to 40.7% A further 9115 black matric pupils passed the Department of Education and Training's (DET's) March supplementary examinations, raising last year's pass rate from 36% to 40.7%, DET Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said yesterday.

A substantial number of candidates who failed last year still stood a chance of passing in the May/June examinations, Van der Merwe told a Johannesburg media conference.

An estimated 127 000 pupils would sit for the May/June examinations and 285 000 pupils would write in November, he said.

Van der Merwe said R121m of the DET's allocated R337.5m budget had been used up by the end of March in improving educational facilities.

"But it is still not sufficient to eliminate backlogs in education," he said.

Sapa

Atteridgeville power is cut PRETORIA - The Pretoria City Council yesterday cut off the electricity supply to Atteridgeville, outside Pretoria.

A council statement said the switch-off followed the Atteridgeville town council's failure to pay thousands of rands in service charge arrears.

It said the Atteridgeville council had failed to keep its commitments in terms of several agreements with the Pretoria council.

The administrator of Atteridgeville, Ernie Jacobson, said the switch-off was unfortunate but unavoidable due to a shortage of funds to pay for electricity.

Sapa
Alexandra centre due to open 'soon'  

WILSON ZWANE

SA's first "dispute resolution centre" was expected to open in Alexandra within the next few months, Johannesburg lawyer Steven Goldblatt said yesterday.

Goldblatt, one of several lawyers training Alexandra residents in mediation mechanisms, said he was impressed with the response of the 14 people he had trained so far to become part-time mediators.

"Mediation is a skill one has to learn and it is difficult to set a date on which the Alexandra dispute resolution centre will open its doors to the community. It could take three to four months, depending on how the training goes," Goldblatt said.

To date the Community Dispute Resolution Resource Committee (CDRRC) — an organisation formed by legal experts to provide resources to communities wanting to set up their own dispute resolution centres — has had three training sessions.

Goldblatt said it would be held with the Justice Department to discuss the Alexandra project, the first in the country, the project did not "seek permission to continue with its work."

"But we are keeping the Department of Justice abreast with the developments," he said.

Goldblatt said the organisation had funds to operate for six to eight months. More funds were expected from local and international funding organisations, he added.

Most civic groups set to join chamber

TANIA LEVY

ALL but one of the civic associations in greater Johannesburg are expected to take part in the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber — in defiance of the stand taken by the executive committee of the Civics Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) to which they are affiliated.

The chamber meets for the first time tomorrow since its inauguration last month.

The Alexandra Civic Organisation has not decided on participation in the chamber by yesterday, but it is expected to make its position clear at a meeting of the Johannesburg Civics Association interim committee tonight.

Five of Cast's nine Johannesburg affiliates have already become members of the chamber and the inner city group, Actstop, will consider joining this week.

Two other organisations will join once they have sorted out "technical problems." They are the Emmarentia Civic Association and Lenasia's Federation of Ratepayers Association.

Transvaal Provincial Administration consultant Nigel Mandy said it would be a pity if certain civics chose not to join the chamber, but that this would not stop the forum negotiating new non-racial local government structures for the area.

The Cast executive last month came out strongly against civic associations joining the chamber alongside black councillors and members of management committees.

This prompted the resignation of assistant general-secretary Cas Coovadia from the Cast executive. At an AGM tomorrow Coovadia will propose a resolution that his organisation Actstop join the chamber.

Yesterday he said he had been unhappy that Cast, which was a federation, went public with its opposition to the chamber before consulting constituent members who were considering joining.

Wits Centre for Policy Studies senior researcher Steve Friedman said the dissent among civics regarding the chamber highlighted the problem facing the civic movement in general — they had to decide whether to continue mobilising protest at local level or whether to become vehicles representing residents in negotiations.

WILSON ZWANE reports that Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel was "excited" about the announcement that a national civics federation would be formed later this year, a spokesman for Kriel said yesterday.

Johan Oosthuizen said the move would "make contact between the government and civic organisations a lot easier."

Civics sources said the national civics federation was unlikely to align itself with the ANC. The federation would aim to depoliticise development issues as the civic associations did not see themselves as a political party or a liberation movement, they said.
Residents are angry as power is cut

THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation has demanded a refund of money paid by residents to the local council for services after electricity in the township was cut off again yesterday.

Dr Ernie Jacobson, the administrator of Atteridgeville, said the Pretoria City Council had cut off the electricity after his council failed to pay the R867 000 April account, which was due last Tuesday.

This is the third time this year the Pretoria City Council has switched off electricity in the township because of unpaid bills.

Asaro's general secretary, Mr Simon Chidi, condemned the Pretoria municipality's decision, saying the move was planned to punish residents during winter.

Chidi said residents were paying a flat rate of R50 a month in accordance with a signed agreement reached between Asaro and Jacobson early this year.

He said: "We call on the administrator to switch on the electricity, failing which we will stop paying rent. The council tells us that the R50 is insufficient but they accept it and refuse to provide the services.

"If the lights are not on by 6pm today (Monday), then the council must refund residents the R50 they paid for services this month.

"The total administration of Atteridgeville must also close down because they render no services to the community," Chidi said.

Overdraft

Jacobson said the R50 a month flat rate was insufficient and made it impossible for the council to run the township properly. He urged residents to pay an average of R140 a month.

The administrator said the council no longer had funds and its bank had withdrawn its overdraft facilities.

"We are trying to raise money to get the lights back on. But we also appeal to residents to accept increased tariffs," he said.
Pretoria cuts Atteridgeville’s power supply

The Pretoria City Council (PCC) cut off Atteridgeville’s electricity supply yesterday morning.

The PCC said in a statement yesterday that the switch-off followed the Atteridgeville Town Council’s failure to pay thousands of rands in service charge arrears.

The statement quoted PCC management committee deputy chairman Cor Uys as saying the Atteridgeville council had failed to keep its commitments in terms of several agreements with the PCC.

"In terms of an agreement reached between the two councils on April 19 to reschedule the payment of debt, the Atteridgeville council had to pay the first installment of R319 556,62 on May 7," the statement said.

The amount, as well as the current account for electricity and water, as well as sewage removal, had not been paid, Mr Uys added.

The administrator of Atteridgeville, Dr Ernie Jacobson, described the action as unfortunate.

— Sapa.
CAST, TPA meet today over Tembisa cuts, rent boycott

By Abel Mabelane East Rand Bureau

Representatives of the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (CAST) will meet Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) officials today and tomorrow, to discuss the rent boycott and power cut in Tembisa.

Power was cut off by the council on April 26 A meeting which was to have taken place between the Tembisa Residents' Association, TPA and the Tembisa Council last week was cancelled.

Residents' Association president Albert Tleane said the TPA had told their delegation that councillors refused to attend the meeting because their houses were attacked after the power cut.

Mr Tleane said the association called on the TPA to switch on power to avoid further violence in the township.

"We told the TPA that the switch-off could only exacerbate the situation, but there was no sense of urgency from them."

He said Tembisa residents would continue with the consumer boycott against white businesses in Kempton Park as the boycott was about 90 percent successful.

Mr Tleane said the consumer boycott could lead to a change of attitude from the authorities, and result in a restoration of power in Tembisa this week.
"Lights or money back" demanded

WILSON ZWANE

THE Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro) yesterday demanded an immediate refund of services payments made to the Atteridgeville Town Council unless power was restored to the township within 24 hours.

The move came in the wake of a decision by the Pretoria City Council to cut power to Atteridgeville this week after the township failed to pay its R319 356.52 electricity account.

In another development yesterday, the neighbouring Mamelodi Town Council warned residents of a possible power cut unless they abandoned their R50 flat rate and started paying their full accounts.

Asro publicity secretary John Ramutso said Atteridgeville administrator Ernie Jacobson had been given 24 hours to "see to it that power is restored to the township".

"If the lights are not on within 24 hours, the administrator will have to refund residents the money they have paid to the council for services this month. We will also demand the resignation of the administrator because he has failed to honour his obligations in terms of the January agreement, which provided for a monthly interim rate of R50 until new tariffs were negotiated."

Jacobson said "We are rendering services to the residents but the monthly flat rate of R50 is just not sufficient for the running of the township. Our bank has also limited our overdraft facilities.

"I just don't know how we are going to raise money to pay the Pretoria City Council."

"And the demands by Asro for refunds and my resignation are a little bit unreasonable."

Pretoria switched off Atteridgeville's power on Monday.
Strong support for Venterdorp stayaway

THE Western Transvaal town of Venterdorp was reportedly deserted yesterday, the second day of a work stayaway by residents of Tshung township, with another black stayaway scheduled to start at Krugersdorp tomorrow.

While the three-day Venterdorp stayaway is a reaction to an attack by right-wingers on squatters at Goedgevonden farm on Saturday, the Krugersdorp stayaway is to protest against Sunday's massacre of 27 people by an alleged Zuluump in Swan-jeville squatter camp.

A memorial service for the dead would be held at the Kagiso community hall at 11 am tomorrow.

A trader said yesterday Venterdorp looked like a ghost town. Another store manager who reported a 70% drop in business added there had been "quite a bit of intimidation." However, police said they had not received any reports of intimidation.

A Venterdorp town council spokesman denied there had been any boycott.

Operation Massakane or the Homeless spokesman Basheer Lorgat maintained the stayaway in Venterdorp was "100% successful". A decision on the stayaway and a possible consumer boycott would be taken today, he said.

The KRO's Mokonyane said charges of murder could not be limited to the six people arrested in connection with the Swanjeville attack, "but the whole 900 Zulu men must be charged with common purpose". She said the KRO had threatened the council with mass action if Swanjeville refugees were evicted from a council building in Azaaville.

Police yesterday reported two people killed in the latest political violence in the 24 hours to late Monday night, including another man found hacked to death at Swanjeville. The second victim was stabbed and hacked to death at Bomela in Port Shepstone.

See Page 5
Residents want white official to quit council

By MONK NKOMO

THE Attendgeville/Sealsville Residents Organisation yesterday called on the township's administrator to resign after accusing him of having failed to bring normality to the Pretoria township.

The call for Dr Ernie Jacobson's resignation follows electricity cuts on Monday.

The Pretoria City Council said the action was prompted by the council's failure to pay nearly R1 million in service charge arrears.

Fifty residents yesterday staged a sit-in at the town council offices in protest against the power cuts.

Police liaison officer Lieutenant Manda Erasmus confirmed there was a sit-in and said police were monitoring the situation.

No arrests had been made.

Must-resign

Asro's publicity secretary, Mr John Ramatseu, warned that if electricity was not restored by 4.30pm yesterday 'the administrator must resign and all white officials in the council vacate the offices immediately'.

Ramatseu called on Jacobson to refund all residents who paid their May rental accounts and those who paid the April and May Community Trust Fund fee of R5 a household.

Responding to Asro's call, Jacobson said he could resign and have all essential services in Attendgeville discontinued because the R50 monthly flat rate was not enough to run the township.

Residents could not be refunded because services had been rendered.

Meanwhile ALINAH DUBE reports that the Mamelodi Council has warned local residents of a possible power cut unless they paid their rent and service charges.

The warning was issued yesterday by local mayor Mr SS Mokone in reaction to a decision announced by the Mamelodi Civic Association that residents would pay a flat rate of R50.

He said according to an agreement between his council and the Pretoria City Council, the Mamelodi municipality was expected to pay for the bulk supply of services before dates agreed upon by both parties.

Unless residents reacted positively to his plea, electricity might be switched off, he said.

He advised residents to pay an amount reflected on their rent statements, 'and not any other amount'.
Civic body ‘must be neutral’

By Kaizer Nyatumba
Political Staff

The ANC Youth League has welcomed the weekend decision to form a national civic movement but has warned against the perception that the new body would have an adversarial relationship with the ANC.

In a statement yesterday, the league said the new national civic structure, to be launched within two months, had to be politically neutral and accommodate all members of the community.

The ANCYL warned against "efforts to use the civic as a political platform to settle personal contradictions." It also resolved to fight efforts to project the civic movement as a force mobilised against the ANC.

The youth league said civic organisations' role was to represent the interests of communities on issues such as water and electricity supply, refuse removal and other services.

The Johannesburg-based Five Freedoms Forum has also welcomed the formation of a national civic organisation, saying it believed the new organisation and other civic structures could make a significant contribution to the establishment of democratic practices and principles in the country.

FFF spokesman Hanie van Dyk said "A strong civic society, operating independently but not necessarily in conflict with existing political parties and movements, could afford the opportunity for a broad range of citizens to participate in a more meaningful way in the transition process."
Private police may walk
the Parktown West beat

Parktown West, an old inner ring Johannesburg suburb, might not want to wall itself off like the people of Dunkeld, but it is considering its own police force.

Residents are debating whether to club together to employ a security firm to patrol the suburb for 24 hours a day.

Nearly one in three homes has so far been burgled.

From a town planning point of view, Parktown West — wedged between Jan Smuts Avenue and Empure Road — is uniquely intact for a Johannesburg suburb. It remains unviolated by filling stations, office blocks and shopping centres.

But it has had to fight hard to keep its leafy streets from going the way Parktown did — that once stately suburb is now a mess of dead-by-night offices, wide streets and chaotic parking.

Parktown West has just completed a survey of its residents.

The results indicate possibly the most conservative suburb in South Africa. 95 percent own their houses, two-thirds haven't budge for 8 - 15 years, and collectively they see their suburb's biggest asset as its "peaceful nature".

Their biggest fear "businesses without residential occupancy" (28 percent).

They have spent R4,5 million improving or extending their homes, which are typically early century.

A fifth have built granny cottages and more than half do not plan to leave Parktown West. A fifth of residents are children.

TRENDS REPORTER
Venterdorp residents vow to continue boycott

RESIDENTS of the Venterdorp township of Tshing yesterday vowed to continue the consumer boycott which started on Monday.

This decision was taken at a mass meeting at the local stadium when about 1 000 residents were told by local ANC Youth League chairman Tommy Lerofolo that the Venterdorp municipality was refusing to accede to their demand that town clerk Mr Salt Visser resign.

The boycott will continue until June 13, when the action will be reviewed.

By KAMAL SINGH

The Venterdorp ANC Youth League met municipal officials earlier yesterday.

Lerofolo said: "We demanded that Visser and two other officials in his department resign because his department marked the doors of the shacks in Khayalethu last week.

"On Saturday morning the shacks with markings on the doors were attacked by the AWB."

Residents believe that the marking of the shacks and the attack are linked.

The Government said this week it supported police action against the farmers and called on farmers not to act unlawfully.

Attack

Earlier this week about 3 000 Tshing residents resolved to boycott white and Indian-owned businesses in Venterdorp because of the attack.

Lerofolo said the boycott was successful. He warned residents who attempted to break the boycott that they would be "disciplined."

Residents have been urged to support black-owned shops.

He said the boycott decision would not end until Visser and the two officials resigned.

"Already a Greek supermarket owner has pleaded with us to end the boycott."

He said the boycott, linked with the worker stayaway, has resulted in a drastic downturn in business. He claims to have thrown away many products which had rotted," said Lerofolo.
Atteridgeville white officials forced out

By MONK NKOMO

WHITE officials of the Atteridgeville Council were ordered to leave their offices yesterday by local residents angered by electricity cuts in the Pretoria township.

Mr Simon Chidi, secretary-general of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation, said the officials were asked to vacate their offices at 9am.

"We told them they would be accepted back only after the electricity supply has been reconnected," said Chidi.

He said a meeting with black staffers of the municipality was scheduled for yesterday afternoon to discuss the running of the council.

Chidi said local residents at a community meeting held on Tuesday night resolved to demand a refund of the R50 rent paid for May and to embark on a rent boycott.

"We plan to hold meetings with Eskom and the Rand Water Board to discuss certain legal requirements with a view to getting these supplies direct from them," said Chidi.

The latest moves by Asaro follow the cutting of electricity to the township by the Pretoria City Council on Monday.

Switched off

It switched off the lights after the Atteridgeville Council failed to pay their service charge bill totalling R838 608,92.

The deputy chairman of the Pretoria City Council's management committee, Mr Cor Uys, yesterday made it clear that electricity in Atteridgeville would only be restored after payment of arrears.

Chidi lashed out at Atteridgeville administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson and accused him of having violated an agreement he signed with Asaro early this year in which he agreed that residents pay a R50 flat rate a month.

The Central Transvaal region of Asaro yesterday condemned the Pretoria Council's decision to cut the power supply to the township.

"We appeal to Eskom to consider selling this essential commodity direct to townships and avoid the laager mentality of the city fathers," Asaro said in a statement.

Jacobson said the Pretoria municipality would not consider reconnecting electricity to Atteridgeville if the township council did not guarantee payment of their May installment.

He also said he spoke to the chairman of Asaro and asked him to call together his executive and discuss the matter to try to stop the threats.
Row brews over sale of hostels

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Tembisa Hostels Resident Committee (THRC) has criticised the Tembisa Council for advertising the sale of hostels in the township without consulting them.

President of the THRC Mr Lesiba Makgakga said tenders for the sale of the hostels should not have been advertised before the council met the THRC and the Tembisa Civic Association who are representatives of hostel dwellers.

He appealed to developers not to buy the hostels until the matter had been discussed by parties concerned.

"We support the view that the hostels must be converted into family units, but we also want to have a say as to the type of dwellings," Mr Makgakga said.
White officials pull out of Atteridgeville

By Mkezd Kotlolo, Pretoria Bureau

All the white officials of the Atteridgeville Council, including the administrator, have left the township after threats by local residents, administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson said yesterday.

This followed demands by the Atteridgeville/ Saulsville Residents Organisation (Aseo) that the officials leave the township until electricity has been restored by the Pretoria City Council.

Dr Jacobson said he was planning a meeting with Aseo in an attempt to find a solution.

Trouble started on Monday morning when the Pretoria City Council switched off the bulk electricity supply to the township after the council failed to pay its electricity and sewerage debt.

Aseo publicity secretary John Rampaul yesterday said the administrator and white officials should resign or not return to the township until power had been restored.

Mr Ramatsui said residents were also demanding the money they had paid for services for this month and money paid into a trust fund.

He said that since the appointment of the administrator, the situation in the township had deteriorated, and that was proof enough that the black local authority was unworkable.

Mr Ramatsui further said the administrator had failed to provide basic services.

A spokesman for the Transvaal Provincial Administration yesterday said the TPA was not aware of any withdrawal of officials.
Switch-off sparks 'retaliation' (continued)

THE Vaal Civic Association will soon consider "retaliatory" action for the impending power switch-off in six Vaal Triangle townships, including Sharpeville and Sebokeng. Lekoa town clerk N P Louw said that as a result of a "long-standing rent and services boycott" more than 90% of residents in the six townships under the jurisdiction of the Lekoa City Council had not been paying for electricity, water, sewerage and refuse removal.

Louw said negotiations with the Vaal Civic Association had broken down and the council was unable to pay its bulk suppliers of electricity.

"The city council is now compelled by chaotic circumstances beyond its control to stop the supply to all townships from June 3," he said.

A source within the civic association said yesterday the organisation's branches would hold a series of public meetings in the six townships within days to discuss thoroughly the decision by the city council to cut off power and to formulate retaliatory action.

"After those meetings the general council of the association will meet to decide on a course of action to be taken," the source said.

Demand

The source added that residents would maintain their five-year-old rent boycott until their demand for a monthly flat rate of R90 had been met.

"That demand for a flat rate was made by residents of the six Lekoa townships in 1984, when the city council increased tariffs. The residents argued that there was no point in paying higher rentals when the townships were not being upgraded," the source said.

In a statement yesterday Louw said his council did not have the financial resources to pay the R96m it owed to its bulk electricity suppliers — Eskom and the Vereeniging City Council.

However, the Lekoa City Council would consider restoring power to its townships if at least 70% of the residents paid regularly for their electricity, Louw said.

He added that his council remained willing to discuss fair tariffs for all municipal services.

VILSON ZWANE
Township mission to meet Marais

A seven-member delegation from the Soshanguve township near Pretoria will meet Deputy Education and Development And Minister Piet Marais tomorrow to discuss grievances which have led to a rent and services boycott in the township.

Soshanguve Residents' Association (Sorea) spokesman and leader of the delegation, Father Sronaphile Mhlatshwa, said yesterday the meeting was at his association's insistence.

"This is not our first meeting with the authorities. We have held meetings with the Soshanguve town manager and senior government officials, including Education and Training Minister Stoefel van den Merwe."

"A monthly flat rate of R50 for which Sorea has been negotiating unceasingly, the conversion of the Soshanguve hostel into family units and other grievances which have led to the boycott will be discussed at our meeting with the deputy minister," Mhlatshwa said.

The Minister's office confirmed the meeting would take place, but would not elaborate.

Soshanguve residents' complaints included high rentals, incompetent township administration, unreliable water and electricity supplies and lack of proper recreational facilities, Mhlatshwa said.

"For these grievances the residents of Soshanguve embarked on a rent and services boycott on April 7. And the boycott will go on until all our demands have been met," he said.

In an open letter to the residents, the town manager appealed to residents to "stay clear of boycott actions" and take the route of consultation.

"Let us approach the rent issue in a more positive manner. Solutions are guaranteed to be found," he said.

Freedom or death say hunger strikers

CAPE TOWN — Prisoners on hunger strike said from hospital yesterday they were prepared only for release or death.

In a statement released by lawyer Willie Hofmeyr at a march to demand the release of hunger striking prisoners held in Cape Town, they said, "We are prepared to go the full distance to ensure our release. It is release or death."

Eighteen of the 23 political prisoners recently moved from Robben Island to Pollsmoor Prison are on a hunger strike, Hofmeyr said.

Of these, six had been hospitalised since their strike began on May 1.

The Department of Correctional Services responded, saying, "Prisoners whose condition justifies hospitalisation receive the best possible professional attention."

"The allegation that all visit applications have been turned down is malicious and devoid of all truth," Hofmeyr said.

KIN BENTLEY reports from London that in a wide-ranging resolution on SA, the European Parliament called for the immediate release of political prisoners on hunger strike and the maintenance of pressures such as sanctions.
By DON SEOKANE, THEMBA MOLEFE and MONIK NKOMO

SIX more Transvaal townships are facing electricity blackouts while the Soweto Council is experiencing problems with its service payments.

A spokesman for Eskom said yesterday the Soweto Council had indicated that its income from residents for electricity consumption was not sufficient to cover the costs of its bulk electricity supplies.

He said a joint technical committee of the Metropolitan Chamber had been appointed and that Eskom was awaiting its recommendations on possible electricity cuts.

Sources within the Metropolitan Chamber said a recommendation had been put forward that Eskom take away the council’s powers to administer electricity supplies.

Meanwhile, the Lekota Council will switch off electricity in the six Vaal townships on June 3 as the seven-year-old rent boycott begins to take its financial toll.

The council said it owed R16 million to its bulk suppliers, Eskom and Vereeniging City Council, and that monthly costs had escalated by about R2,5 million.

Townships to be affected by the blackout are Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Zamdela, Refungkgoro, Bophelong and Bolipatong.

At the same time, the Civics Association of
Alex meeting will seek ways to curb township violence

By DON SEOKANE

THE Alexandra Civic Organisation and its allies have called a mass meeting at East Bank Hall tomorrow to address violence and escalating crime in the township.

ACO's publicity secretary, Mr Obed Bapela, said the objective of the meeting was to explore ways that could effectively bring peace to the township.

Bapela said they would also discuss the holding of an anti-violence rally and a march on the police station and council offices to deliver a memorandum expressing the community's concern about police conduct.

Defence units

He said: "The meeting is an opportunity for our community to resolve the crisis caused by violence. Since violence erupted, activities such as sports, culture and night vigils have been affected.

"We will also look at mechanisms that will effectively defend our properties and families in times of attacks," he said.

He appealed to the community to attend the meeting since violence needed a united force to stop it. He urged residents to be ready to form defence units which will protect life and property."
Soshanguve, 12
govt discuss rent boycott today

By MONK NKOMO

A delegation of Soshanguve residents will meet the deputy Minister of Education and Development Aid, Mr PJ Marais, today to discuss the rent boycott.

Local residents stopped paying rent and service charges on April 7 this year in protest against high rents, bad roads and incompetent administration.

Residents also complained about unreliable water and electricity supplies.

A spokesman for the Soshanguve Residents Association (Sorea), said the delegation would meet Marais today and report back to the residents at a mass meeting at the Giant Stadium at 12:30pm on Sunday.

In a statement released yesterday, Sorea said other factors that led to the rent boycott included lack of recreational, educational and health facilities and failure to collect garbage on a regular basis.

Residents received letters this week from the township manager's office urging them to stop the rent boycott and informed them that the delay in sending monthly rental accounts was being addressed.

The letters also informed residents that seven new meter readers had been employed following complaints by householders that not all meters were checked by the officials.

A spokesman for Sorea yesterday said he was surprised that the letters were sent to residents on the eve of their meeting with Marais.

"These letters actually serve as an admission by the authorities that they are not running the township properly and in fact justifies our action not to pay rent," he said.

He added that the letters were sent to residents "to try and impress the Deputy Minister that the township manager's office was addressing the problem. The truth is that we complained several times at this office but to no avail," the spokesman added.
Hostels remain complex problems
NP, ANC meet over conditions in Hillbrow

THE executives of the National Party and the African National Congress in Hillbrow met last night to discuss socio-economic conditions in the constituency.

A joint statement issued by the two parties said the meeting, held in a “friendly atmosphere”, was “useful, informative and constructive” although there was disagreement about the way living conditions could be improved.

It was generally accepted that Hillbrow could become a “good example of a future non-racial community.”
By SOPHIE TEMA

AN ALLEGED tariff overcharge — estimated at about R70,000 a month for almost four years — forced the CP-controlled Ermelo Town Council to suspend water cuts to Wesselton township this week.

Water was scheduled to be cut off at noon on Thursday, but the Wesselton-Ermelo Forum — a body consisting of the black CvaE Association, engineers and top-ranking mining officials — stepped in and threatened legal action if this happened.

The Forum has based its claim on information leaked from Ermelo Town Council that the black Wesselton Town Council was overcharged between R20,000 and R30,000 for water and about R40,000 for reticulation every month.

Wesselton town clerk JJ de Bruyn this week said she was not in a position to reveal the amount involved.

She said the Forum had discussed the matter with her and the Council's legal representatives had been asked to investigate.

Ermelo town clerk P van Oudshoorn this week dismissed the Forum's claim that there was a conflict looming between the two councils.

"My Council has always extended a helping hand to Wesselton and if there is a problem it will be solved," he said.

Wesselton Civic Association secretary Silas Nkonyem, who is also a Forum member, said the first cut-off in October last year led to a crisis when residents were left without water for three weeks.

Wesselton residents claimed they were harassed by police who slashed their water containers and chased people from taps in the Cassum Park Indian complex.

Concerned whites united with Wesselton residents to solve the problem and the Forum established to address the problems. Yet soon afterwards Wesselton had its second cut-off, which lasted two weeks.

Nkonyem said water was reconnected only two weeks ago and now the township had been threatened with a third cut-off following a claim by Ermelo Town Council that it was owed R40,000 by Wesselton Town Council.
Threat of boycott

The Nancefield Civic Association has threatened to call a consumer boycott of all white-owned shops in Messina should the township council fail to resign on June 1.

A spokesman for the association said the residents were "fed up by the gross incompetence of the council which has done nothing since it inception in 1986".

He said service charges had "exorbitantly increased" in the past five years. "Soweto Reporter"
Hillbrow Nats and ANC seek solutions

Staff Reporter 20/5/81

A "useful, informative and constructive" meeting was held at the weekend by the National Party's Hillbrow branch and ANC executives to discuss socio-economic conditions in the area.

They said in a joint statement that the meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere although there was disagreement on how living conditions could be improved.

"It was generally accepted that Hillbrow could become a good example of a future non-racial community."

"Concern was expressed over the rapid decline in living standards and safety."

Crime, building standards, living conditions and the lack of educational facilities were identified as areas of concern that could be addressed locally and diagnosed for the purpose of finding a common approach for all parties concerned.

NP Hillbrow divisional council chairman Daryl Swanepoel said the exploratory talks were aimed at exchanging perspectives on the parties' policy issues.

He stressed that in the interest of Hillbrow, party political opposition had to be put aside where common ground existed.
Council turns Yeoville residents' lives around

TAMIA LEVY

Residents of Yeoville, Johannesburg, woke yesterday to find the city council had turned their lives around.

The suburb's famous Rockey Street - a one-way street featuring some of the city's favourite late night spots - has been changed to run in the opposite direction, from east to west.

Hunter Street, which runs parallel to Rockey, now runs in the opposite direction. The changes caused widespread confusion among residents, revellers and shoppers, who had not been warned beforehand about the changes.

The road change is part of the Rockey/Raleigh Street Redevelopment project, which includes an entertainment square, parking court and the re-opening of the defunct Piccadilly Cinema as a theatre, according to local councillor Martin Swee.

The city council has so far budgeted R2m for the project.

On Sunday, street signs were reversed, road signs repainted and islands laid.

Confused motorists travelling into Yeoville along Observatory Avenue hesitated suspiciously as a policeman tried to coax them up Rockey Street, where previously large red signs had declared "No Entry."

The one-way along Rockey Street has been extended to Kenmere Street, including the block of Raleigh Street where Checkers and the OK are situated.

Traffic travelling east turn left at Kenmere and is channelled into Hunter Street.

New traffic lights have come on stream at the intersections of Hunter and Cavendish and Hunter and Bezdienhurst streets.

Yesterday Johannesburg road planning chief project officer Dave Havell said the confusion would be a short-term situation until people adapted.

He said 20% of residents present at a meeting called to discuss the road changes had voted in favour of them.

No jail for priest, says Appeal Court

CONSCIENCIOUS objector the Rev Douglas Torr had his one-year sentence for refusing to do military service set aside yesterday and was ordered to do 500 hours community service instead.

Mr Justice Gauksher, with Mr Justice Lazarus concurring, suspended for five years the one-year prison sentence imposed on Torr by a Regional Court magistrate in August last year.

Torr, 23, had appealed against sentence only.

Despite calling Torr "exactly the type of person who did not belong in prison", magistrate H Verhoef imposed a one-year jail term after finding that the Defence Act gave him no discretion to impose a suspended sentence.

The magistrate came to this finding despite last year's Appellate Division decision to the contrary.

Mr Justice Gauksher said yesterday the magistrate had misdirected himself in holding that despite the Appellate Division's decision he had no discretion to impose a sentence other than imprisonment.

The judge said the Appellate Division's judgment held that the courts were empowered to suspend any part of an objector's sentence on condition that the person rendered community service.

Torr refused to do military service on the grounds that as a Christian universal pacifist he was not prepared to serve in any army anywhere.

He also refused to serve in the SANDF because he believed it upheld apartheid and white domination, thereby undermining the values of Christian morality.

Although entitled to apply for exemption as a religious objector, Torr decided not to appeal before the SANDF's Board for Religious Objectors because he believed it created an artificial distinction between religious and moral or political objectors.

Torr said he was "overjoyed" at the Appeal Court's decision.

"For me it is real justice," he said.

"It is also a great victory for a stand based on non-violence."

Torr said he looked forward to the day when there would be no more conscription.

SAPA reports that the Conscientious Objector Support Group yesterday called on government to stop all trials of conscientious objectors. The group welcomed Torr's successful appeal against his sentence as "a step forward."

It called on government to halt "all objector trials as objectors are not criminals."
Power cuts to remain

By MONK NKOMO

The Pretoria City Council will only reconnect electricity supplies to Atteridgeville after it had thoroughly investigated the best solution to avoid future power cuts, it was announced yesterday.

Miss Ida Olivier, the council's liaison officer, said senior officials of the council had met a delegation of the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation on Friday to discuss the week-old electricity blackout in the township.

"The management committee has resolved to investigate the proposals and find the best solution to avoid future electricity cuts," Olivier said.

Supplies

The council had no immediate intention of reconnecting the power supplies which were cut last Monday after the Atteridgeville Council failed to pay arrears of service charges to the total of R38,608.92.

Asso's publicity secretary, Mr John Ramatsun, said yesterday they had a "fruitful meeting" with both the council and the Regional Services Council on Friday.

"We have hope that the electricity supplies will be reconnected probably before the end of this week," Ramatsun said.
Thousands of Indians to get housing aid

The House of Delegates would help more than 12,000 families acquire homes in this financial year, Minister of Housing Dr J N Reddy said yesterday.

Presenting the housing vote, he said the HoD housing development fund exceeded R300 million for the first time.

In this financial year, R249 million would be spent on new and existing projects in Natal, R68 million in the Transvaal and R11 million in the Cape. This would result in 5,164 stands and 7,645 houses being developed.

In the past year more than 40 new housing projects had been initiated and approved. The central Government, local government, the private sector as well as individuals had to play a role in providing housing, Dr Reddy said.

There had been inordinate delays in the proclamation of townships, "many extending to 10 years or thereabout."

"I have now directed the department to give priority attention to ensuring that townships are proclaimed and registered as quickly as possible. This will mean that the houses and sites can be sold sooner so that the funds realised from such sales can flow back to the fund and be used to finance further projects at an accelerated pace," Dr Reddy said.

Dr Reddy said that in many areas in the Transvaal and Natal, "urban settlers" had invaded and were occupying land earmarked for housing. "Their presence is presently causing the administration very serious prob-

While the HoD approached this with understanding, "no administration can allow people to occupy land and deny the owners the right to proceed with the development of housing for those people who have been wait-listed for many years and for the provision of whose housing this administration is responsible." Savannah Park phase 2 and 3 developments had been relinquished to the Natal Provincial Administration for the provision of housing for black "urban settlers."

In Lenasia, more than 200 ha of land had been made available to the Transvaal Provincial Administration for the resettlement of black "urban settlers who have invaded land earmarked for housing by our administration," Dr Reddy said.
Jo'burg to pass plans in 24 hours
By Shirley Woodgate

Long delays in the approval of house plans by Johannesburg's town planning department will be streamlined to a record 24 hours by August 30 this year.

Planning chief Eddy Magud said with building costs increasing at an average 3 percent a month, the procedure, which now takes several months has been overhauled, placing more responsibility on inspectors and engineers.

Future short cuts include:

- An inspector visiting the site after the application is submitted and not necessarily before submission.
- When the plan is submitted, the examiner effects necessary technical alterations.
- Double checks and lengthy holdups will be avoided by allowing a developer to proceed after an engineer has signed a form taking responsibility for a structure.
- Details of the structural plan will be checked on issue of an occupancy certificate.
Two hostels to become family flats

By KAMAL SINGH

TWO Dobsonville hostels — often the scenes of violent clashes between its dwellers and township residents — will soon be upgraded to family flats.

The municipality yesterday announced that the planned sale of the Wilford and Siphwe single-sex hostels, presently an eyesore with walls blackened and windows broken from petrol bombings, would be concluded in a few months.

Dobsonville mayor the Rev MacFarlane Phenethi said the decision to upgrade and sell the hostels was taken because of the lives lost in clashes between dwellers and residents.

Another reason is apparently because both hostels are almost deserted after dwellers fled the area at the height of unrest.

Dobsonville Civic Association chairman Mr Tlhakeng Sekano confirmed the move, saying that Inkatha-supporting hostel dwellers were forcibly evicted by armed gangs angered by the reign of terror allegedly carried out by the hostel men.

"After the Inkatha members were driven out, residents turned on the remaining dwellers. They were accused of killing six people from the township," he said.

Dobsonville hostels on sale

From Page 1

Developers have until the end of June to make feasible proposals for the face-lift.

The Tembisa Council announced plans earlier this month to sell five hostel blocks in a bid to lessen the clashes between residents and hostel dwellers.

Town planner Mr Deon Theron was quoted then as saying the hostel dwellers had stopped rent payments a long time ago.

The Dobsonville Council has experienced similar financial problems since dwellers vacated the Wilford hostel.

Sekano said the civic association had long felt that single-sex hostels should be ended and replaced by affordable family units.

Convert

The council was apparently pressurised by ratepayers, the Congress of South African Students and school principals to convert the hostels.

"Once the hostels are converted, the level of violence will be considerably lessened," said Sekano. "Only then can former hostel dwellers return and homeowners sleep without fear of midnight attacks."

Meanwhile, the ANC, which has consistently called for an end to the hostel system, said occupants should be provided with alternative accommodation.

The ANC's opposition to the hostel system stemmed from hostels' "unsanitary, barrack-like conditions" which bred "sub-human characters".

The non-aligned South Africa Hostel Dwellers Association, which represents about 50 000 dwellers in Natal and the Transvaal, could not be reached for comment.
Councillors bid to restore power

THE Pretoria and Atteridgeville city councils were yesterday locked in a meeting to determine "new and fair tariffs" so that electricity supplies to the township can resume.

Atteridgeville's Administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, said officials of both city councils were working out new tariffs following an agreement reached with a delegation of the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents' Organisation last Friday.

An executive member of the association was arrested by municipal police. He was cautioned and released, said mayor Mr Simon Mokone.

The R50 flat rate recently proposed by the civic association would not cover the costs of essential services, the council claims.
Council is silent on cash shortfall

By DON SEOKANE

THE Soweto Council yesterday refused to disclose the amount of its shortfall on electricity payments by residents.

The council's spokesman, Dr Johan van der Westhuizen, said the amount was still "classified information at the moment" as the council was negotiating with the Metropolitan Chamber on its electricity income.

The council is experiencing problems with payments from residents and hostel dwellers, he said.

An Eskom spokesman has confirmed that the Soweto Council had indicated it had problems with electricity payments.

Eskom was awaiting the decision of the joint technical committee of the Metropolitan Chamber on electricity payments.

No further action could be taken without the recommendations of the chamber.

Sources within the chamber said there were discussions about electricity being supplied directly by Eskom.


More hostels up for grabs

In another step towards phasing out township hostels, Dobsonville's town council is advertising the sale and redevelopment of the Wilford hostel complex.

It has also put the Siphewe hostel complex up for sale.

Two weeks ago, the Tembisa council advertised the sale of two hostel complexes.

Diepmeadow council has already sold Diepkloof hostel for R862 000 to a private company.

Last year, residents of Diepkloof hostel expressed outrage at the council's decision. Recently, Tembisa hostel residents criticised the council for not consulting them on the sale.

Staff Reporter
Mundo Park: ‘exploit’ claims denied

Soweto Reporter

THE Soweto Reporter at Mundo Park, Vosloorus, is the first show of its kind to address the South African housing crisis, and the chronic lack of affordable housing in the country. Philip Chilton Jones, managing director of developers Permup, believes that the company is setting a precedent amongst property developers.

Questions

There is often questioning at the Soweto Reporter Show due to the need for an entrance for some people, people have entered the Reporter Show as a development company exploiting the need for low-cost housing and asking money at the expense of residents in the area.

‘Nothing could be further from the truth,’ continued Chilton-Jones.

‘Over half of the show houses were sold in the first week of the Reporter Show Permup could not have developed Mundo Park and sold out without a Soweto Reporter Show.

‘The purpose of selling Mundo Park (which meets Educational Parks) into a showcase of what is available in affordable housing markets in South Africa, is to educate first time homeowners particularly with the abandonment of the Group Areas Act.’

‘Rather than exploit this new market, we wanted to create a place to show people who are eligible for a housing bond, where is involved (financially) in purchasing a house, which builders give value for money and how can one grow one’s first house by expanding.’

Charge

Permup wanted to contribute something back to the local Vosloorus community, and its municipal entrance charge of R5 per adult - R2 of which is going towards building a community centre for Mundo Park residents.

‘We have committed ourselves to supplying the community centre whenever the show is in residence, and we are grateful for the on-going support that Permup and Chilton (the project managers) have received from the Vosloorus Civic Association and Town Council.’

‘The Soweto Reporter Show is open until June 2 (99), weekends and public holidays only, from 9am to 6pm.’
Temibisa to switch on power

THE Temibisa Council yesterday decided to restore electricity to the township for 18 days.

After that time, electricity might again be switched off if there is no satisfactory response from residents, Temibisa mayor Mr Solomon More said yesterday.

He said the council's decision to switch on power was not because of 'any pressure but in view of the cry and suffering of the community'.

The council had earlier decided that electricity would be restored only after 80% of the residents had paid.

Meanwhile, the Vaal Council yesterday remained adamant that power would be switched off on June 3 if more than 70% of residents had not paid their bills by then.

The acting town clerk said there was an improvement of five percent from residents of Zandela township alone, pushing the paying percentage to only 17 percent.

He said the council was monitoring the situation.

In an effort to resolve the impending blackout, the Lekoa Council and the Vaal Civic Association will hold talks on Saturday.

By DON SEOKANE

Council of Churches has appealed to the Lekoa Council to give negotiations a chance to resolve the rent conflict and the impending blackout of the six Vaal townships.

In an open letter to the council, the VCC urged the council to rescind its decision to cut power to the townships and give "sincere and honest negotiations a chance".

The VCC said it was aware that the rent issue had been unresolved for a long time - almost seven years - and that negotiations had been deadlocked since last year.

However, the Lekoa
Talks over power cuts are halted

THE administrator of Atteridgeville, Dr Ernie Jacobson, yesterday suspended talks with local civic leaders shortly before submitting his plan to resolve the electricity blackout in the township.

He said the suspension of talks with the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation followed threats to white council officials.

"For the second time in a week, Aaro has threatened white officials of the Atteridgeville administration. It is therefore decided that discussions with Aaro be suspended," said Jacobson.

However, the suspension of the talks would not interfere with his plan to resolve the power blackout in the area, which he submitted to the Pretoria City Council yesterday.

The township has been without electricity since last week Monday after the local council failed to pay its arrears of nearly R1 million.

Aaro's secretary-general, Mr Simon Chidi, said Jacobson's decision to suspend talks with them "is a delaying tactic to sow division among our people."

Although he declined to reveal the contents of the plan, Jacobson said it included a new and fair tariff and a request for the council to reconnect electricity.

He said he would do his best to communicate with residents to explain the new tariff.

Sources within the Atteridgeville Council said yesterday senior officials were busy preparing pamphlets informing residents about the new developments.

Residents at one of Aaro's area committee meetings at "Oustad number two" agreed on Tuesday night to consider a fair tariff only after the council had embarked on projects to upgrade the township.

Residents also urged Aaro officials to seek a guarantee from the council that electricity supplies would not be cut when rent was paid.

Meanwhile, Aaro has asked residents to participate in a massive clean-up campaign this weekend.

By MONK NKOMO
Power back in parts of Tembisa

Electricity supply was restored to some sections of Tembisa last night following the council's resolution on Tuesday to restore power to the township.

Electricity was cut off on April 26 when residents failed to pay a flat rate of R75 demanded by the council.

The council said it would give residents only 18 days to pay. Among the sections which received electricity last night were Emmangweni and Emkhathini.

The reasons for the failure to switch on the other sections was because cables had either been damaged or stolen — East Rand Bureau.
Residents plan stayaway over electricity cuts

THE Atteridgeville/Smilieville Residents Organisation is planning a two-day stayaway to protest the two-week electricity cuts in the township.

Astro's publicity secretary, Mr John Ramatswai, said the Pretoria City Council had been given until noon today to reconnect the electricity or face mass action.

Meanwhile, residents, including political organisations, appointed an interim committee at a special meeting initiated by the PAC on Wednesday night to resolve the matter.

Organisations invited included the ANC, Azapo, doctors, lawyers, teachers and Astro, according to Mr Fortesque Mthembu, information officer of the PAC. The ANC and Astro did not attend.

Mthembu said: "We invited almost all the organisations in the township because we do not want to be seen as trying to get mileage out it!"

An interim committee was appointed to meet administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson and a report back meeting is scheduled for next Thursday.
TPA rejects ANC 'unfair deals' claim

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has rejected allegations by the ANC that it is using electricity supplies as a "weapon" to impose unfair deals on black communities.

The TPA's MEC for Institutional Development and Negotiation, Olaus van Zyl, said in a statement yesterday that the TPA took exception to an earlier news release issued by the ANC's PWV region.

"It is clear that the press release does not reflect what in fact has been happening over the last few months with regard to negotiations and the supply of electricity.

"The Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (whose membership includes prominent members of the ANC) has been in a process of negotiations about the supply of electricity and various other municipal matters since late in 1990. During these negotiations, CAST made it abundantly clear that they and their affiliates accepted the principle that the people must pay for municipal services, including electricity.

"The ANC's statement that electricity is basically a right, and not a privilege, is clearly in direct conflict with the stance taken by CAST. Electricity is clearly a commodity for which the user must pay, while agreeing that subsidies are also necessary."

Mr van Zyl said the TPA rejected the ANC's accusation that it was using the issue of electricity as a weapon to impose unfair deals on black communities. The ANC and CAST were fully aware of the fact that the TPA was in no way involved in the supply of electricity.

Consequently, the TPA had not terminated the supply of electricity in all cases where electricity had been terminated so far, it had been done by either the bulk supplier or the local authority.

"The TPA, as a responsible Government body, is not at all interested in unfair deals, as alleged by the ANC. In fact, the TPA is only interested in deals which are in the interests of the communities."

"The TPA has stated publicly its readiness to negotiate with any representative body or organisation about local government affairs.

"Consequently, the TPA finds the suggestion by the ANC, that the TPA is unwilling to sit down to discussions with CAST to work out fair deals for the whole region, contrary to the facts," the statement said — Sapa.
Cast teams study local government abroad

THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST) has sent 10 young Black South Africans to various overseas countries to study local government.

Moses Mayekiso, Cast's president, told the Saturday Star more young men and women would be sent to join those who left two weeks ago for Canada, India, the US and UK.

"We're sending people over for training to make sure that the new South Africa does not end in a shambles."

Mr Mayekiso said the idea for the training scheme occurred to him when he saw councillors signing documents they hardly understood.
Cas drops out of Actstop over wrangles

ACTSTOP publicity secretary Cas Coovadia has confirmed his resignation from the central Johannesburg civic organisation, which now has internal wrangles to solve.

Mr Coovadia dismissed reports he was leading a breakaway group that would form a civic body as a rival to Actstop, formed to advise mainly black tenants' of their rights, and to act for them against landlords who took advantage of tenants under the Group Areas Act.

Mr Coovadia said he had resigned his position a week after re-election. He confirmed that he was one of the 36 representatives who boycotted the organisation's annual meeting two weeks ago because of objections to the executive committee's running of the organisation.

Yesterday Mr Coovadia claimed the Actstop AGM was unconstitutional and added that a process had been started to resolve the problems.

Actstop general secretary Mr Pressage Nkosi confirmed that there were problems in the organisation, but said that these were internal matters.

Responding in his personal capacity, Mr Nkosi said Mr Coovadia's resignation had not come as a surprise and had been expected for some time.

He said Actstop's executive would consider the resignation at a meeting today.

Mr Nkosi said there was disagreement within Actstop on the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber. Some members insisted that the organisation form the chamber, while others called for more consultation within the membership.

"A democratic organisation should consult its constituency before taking major decisions, and therefore Actstop has remained an observer on the chamber," Mr Nkosi said.

"Actstop has refused to join the chamber because there has been no consultation or discussions of the issue in Actstop forums.

Mr Coovadia said he was prepared to rejoin the organisation if the problems were resolved and the majority of the constituency demanded him back.

Mr Coovadia has also resigned his post as assistant general secretary of the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal over a disagreement on the metropolitan chamber.

The chamber is constituted by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, city councils in the Witwatersrand and civic associations, and has as its main objective the formation of non-racial local authority administrations.

SAPA
Cast teams study local government abroad

THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST) has sent 10 young black South Africans to various overseas countries to study local government.

"We're sending people over for training to make sure that the new South Africa does not end in a shambles," Moses Mayekiso, Cast's president, told the Saturday Star.

Mr. Mayekiso said the idea for the training scheme occurred to him when he saw councillors signing documents they hardly understood.

Fields of study include health services, informal education, housing, national development and transport management.
'Give Back Our Land!'

By ELIAS MALULEKE

ALEXANDRA'S Land and Property Owners' Association (Alpos) has joined the list of communities demanding the return of their land.

However, its demands are sure to cause conflict between Alpos, the Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

Alpos members told City Press this week they have "launched a campaign" to reclaim lands expropriated by the government in the early 1960s.

The so-called "oldies" launched a scathing attack on ACO, describing it as "worthless" as accord for the development of Alexandra -- recently signed jointly by ACO and TPA.

"ACO had no mandate to negotiate and sign the accord without consulting land and property owners," they said.

They are thinking of "challenging the legality of the accord in court."

The members -- some have been residents of Alexandra since the early 1920s -- complain they are being forced to buy their land back from the local council, and that some of their properties have already been subdivided.

Alpos's chairman, Mathulda Modisele, said Alexandra Town councillors "should resign, as they are not constitutionally elected by land and property owners."

Alpos is also demanding that:

- Squatters be resettled in "decent" areas, particularly those living in the graveyard;
- Land, should not be subdivided without the approval of "owners with title deeds."
- The TPA should stop forcing land owners wanting their lands returned from "kinship the approval of illegal tenants;" and
- ACO should stop encouraging squatters to occupy private land by force.

Alpos claims there are more than 2,000 landowners in Alexandra, most of whom have "already lost their properties to squatters and the TPA."

"At present land owners have no say over their own land and properties because the moment they complain against squatters they are attacked in the streets," Modisele said.

She said that ACO and the town council were "taking rent from squatters at the same time as ACO is discouraging legitimate tenants from paying rent to landlords."

"These days land and property owners are being made to pay service charges to the council but sub-tenants are not contributing a cent," she said.

Church minister and landlord, the Rev MP Moloa, said tenants and squatters were being "used as a political tool by fanatics, not realising that landowners were trying to get back lands and properties stolen in the apartheid era."

Modisele said squatting was contributing to the violence in Alexandra.

"Apart from the Inkatha and ANC conflict there is now a fight between landlords and people occupying their land."

"This violence could explode into open warfare."
Power cut threat

By ALINAH DUBE

THE Mamelodi City Council has warned local residents of a possible power cut unless they paid their rent and service charges.

The warning was issued by Mayor Mr SS Mokone in reaction to a decision announced by the Mamelodi Civic Association that residents would pay a flat-rate of R50.

"The council would hate to see the residents inconvenienced, especially who are mostly dependent on electricity for their livelihood, by any electricity blackout," Mokone said.

Plea

He said according to an agreement between his council and the Pretoria City Council, the Mamelodi municipality was expected to pay for the bulk supply of services before dates agreed upon by both parties.

He said, unless residents reacted positively to his plea, the township might end up without electricity.

He advised residents to pay an amount reflected on their rent statements. Those who paid less than what they owed would be defaulting.
Randburg eases VAT blow

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Randburg Town Council kept down the cost of rates and services, aimed at cushioning the VAT blow at the end of September, when it presented its budget for the next financial year last night.

The record budget of more than R210 million was 29 percent up on last year's total, but the cost of rates and services was kept down to benefit the consumer, management committee vice-chairman Christo Geyer said.

This meant that the average account of a domestic consumer would go up by only R12.48 a month.

In a surprise move, the cost of water to domestic consumers was reduced from R1.11 a kilolitre to R1.08. This will mean an effective 2.4 percent lowering of the average domestic account.

The electricity rate was restructured, but this will only affect business, commercial and industrial consumers and not bona fide domestic consumers, Mr Geyer said.

The tariff structure had previously not spread the burden evenly between business and the private homeowner, to the extent that power had been sold to the former below cost. Restructuring meant that the domestic consumer no longer subsidised big business, but their tariffs were still in line with surrounding towns, Mr Geyer added.

The total increase in respect of electricity and water during 1990/91 amounts to R11.84, or 4.53 percent.

The total increase in rates and services will be R12.48 a month on the average domestic account - an increase of 4.6 percent.

Mr Geyer said the net effect of VAT on an average account, when it was introduced later this year, would be 9.3 percent.

The aim of the budget had been to keep the increase on rates below the rate of inflation, and he was pleased this had been achieved.

The capital budget was R43,541,886, with R166,887,174 earmarked for the income and expenditure account.

Mr Geyer said almost R7 million of the capital budget had been provided for Randburg's area traffic control system, with a centralised computer due for completion in September.

The total provision for security was R1,689,589. This money would be used to institute effective protection and crime prevention measures to ensure that residents, businesses, properties as well as assets of the council were protected.

Mr Geyer said the saving of R260,000 on commercial services when GST was done away with had already been worked into the budget and had had a positive effect on the adaptation of commercial service tariffs.

Attempts had been made to keep tariffs, on which VAT would be levied, as low as possible, he said.

It was not clear whether the council would have to pay VAT on subsidies such as ambulance services, bus services or regional services Councils.

The budget further earmarked:
- R1,25 million for renovations and additions to the Civic Centre.
- R770,000 for the expansion of the Magistrate's Court complex, the cost of which will be claimed from the State.
- R300,000 for development of the Braamfontein Spruit.
- R1,441,800 for projects relating to the Golden Harvest Park. Some R665,000 of this amount has been provided to build a dam in the park.

A further R20,000 has been provided to improve the Kempersel Lapa.

Sandton to pay more for water.

The Sandton Town Council last night approved an increase in the cost of water and refuse removal services.

The cost of water supply to consumers will be increased by R35c a kilolitre from July and the removal of refuse will cost residents 29 percent more.

The increase in the cost of water is a result of an increase announced by the Rand Water Board. A portion of the money will be contributed towards the construction of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

The charge for water supply to domestic consumers will increase from 77.75c/kl to 87.31c/kl.

The charge for businesses goes from R1.18 to R1.27/kl.

- Staff Reporter
Germiston puts out hard-knock budget

East Rand Bureau

The Germiston City Council last night tabled a record R447.1 million budget for the 1991/92 financial year.

Management committee chairman Leon Louw (NP) announced a 9,3 percent increase in assessment rates from 4,9c to 4,7c in the rand, subject to certain rebates.

Mr Louw said negative economic factors had presented the management committee with a serious challenge of restricting increases in the council's major source of income — assessment rates — to the lowest possible level.

Increases in the price of electricity, water and sewerage services are 10 percent, 6 percent and 9 percent.

The council's revenue account is estimated at R306 million and the capital programme at R372.3 million. Provision has been made for a R5.2 million deficit.

An average monthly household bill would show these increases as assessment rates up by R8.60, sewerage R1.14, refuse removal R2.17, electricity R9.01 and water R1.39.

Mr Louw said there had been great emphasis on privatization and deregulation, and the council was continuing to enhance productive use of its financial resources.

He said South Africa was experiencing a deepening recession characterised by double-figure inflation, increasing unemployment and continuing high interest rates, with a predicted low growth rate of not more than 6.5 percent.

Instability

"Against the background of political changes and financial instability, the management committee exercised great restraint to keep tariff increases to a minimum, especially in view of the fact that residents would be subjected to 12 percent VAT on all amounts payable with respect to service rendered from October."

He said the regional services council's contributions had led to a decrease in the council's financial burden on transport studies, planning and road projects.
Affordable homes show ‘successful’

A total of 49 homes and 200 stands have been sold at the Star Affordable Homes Show at Mfundo Park near Vosloorus.

The show was a success despite poor attendance, according to Home Show spokesman, Judy Drake.

Ms Drake said only genuine buyers had come in large numbers, which had made the show successful as far as the organisers were concerned.

With the country in turmoil and an economic downturn, people were hesitant to invest.

In this climate the organisers were lucky to sell 49 houses and 200 stands, Ms Drake said.

"The whole concept of low cost housing is still new in the black market and people need a lot of education," she said.

The entertainment side of the show was successful, with OKTV best female vocalist, Rebecca Malepe, and her backing band Pure Magic in full blast.

Other attractions were the African Jazz Prophets and up-and-coming Reggae star, Julia Mabika.

The show will end on June 2.

There are several competitions including the R40 000 show house, and the election of Miss Mfundo Park, who will win modelling contracts worth R2 500 from Network.

Nine semi-finalists will each win R500.

The admission fee is R3 for adults and R1 for children.

The proceeds will go towards building a community centre.
existing buildings are also to be included in the upgrading programme on high priority. The services required at Greyville at this stage must be viewed objectively against the services that may be required more urgently at schools elsewhere in the country.

(a) and (b) fall away

(2) Falls away

Housing Development Board: houses at discount rate

*6 Mr D K PADIACHY asked the Minister of Housing

(1) Whether he will consider letting houses owned by the Housing Development Board to the present tenants at a discount rate, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,

(2) whether he will consider selling the South Fork flats in Lenasia Extension 9 to the tenants under sectional title, if not, why not, if so, what are the details in this regard?

The MINISTER OF HOUSING

(1) Yes Circular Minute No 17 of 1983 as amended by Circular No 3 of 1987 apply to the sale of houses within the Sales Campaign and it has also discounted the selling prices of houses subsequently built

(2) Yes The Housing Development Board approved that a consultant be appointed by the Department to undertake an investigation in order to determine the feasibility of selling these flats

For written reply

Own Affairs

Management chief superintendents

30 Mr K PANDAY asked the Minister of Education and Culture

(1) How many management chief superintendents are there in his Department,

(2) whether a certain official, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, has been transferred back to his post in Durban from the sessional post he held in Cape Town, if so, (a) why, (b) what is the designation of the post (i) to which he was transferred and (ii) which he held in Cape Town and (c) what is the name of the official in question?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(1) 4 excluding two Acting Chief Superintendents of Education (Management)

(2) Yes

(a) The official was required at Head Office to assist the two Acting Chief Superintendents of Education (Management) until they could undertake their duties without further assistance. Whilst at Head Office, he continued to liaise between the Ministry and the Department. If he is required to be in Cape Town to assist the Department the Acting Chief Executive Director will so instruct

(b) (i) Chief Superintendent of Education (Management)

(ii) Role Playing Post of Parliamentary Officer

(c) Mr A H A Ramnarain

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Prohibited organisations: prisoners released

358 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Correctional Services

(a) How many members of the ANC, the SACP and other previously prohibited organisations who were detained in prisons in South Africa were released in the 1990 calendar year, (b) how many such prisoners are still being detained and (c) in respect of what date is the information furnished and (d) what are the names of the other previously prohibited organisations?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(a) The political alliance of prisoners does not form part of the information required from a prisoner on his admission and consequently the information as requested by the hon member is not available. However, I would like to confirm that 1 014 sentenced security, security related and unrest related prisoners were released between 2 February 1990 and 27 May 1991. These releases included persons on various sides of the political spectrum. Persons and/or organisations who had not committed themselves to peaceful solutions and development, did not enjoy the benefit of an earlier release in terms thereof

(b) I refer the hon member to my written reply in the House of Assembly to question number 382 on 19 May 1991 (see col 1401)

(c) The hon member is referred to the contents of Government Gazette 12287 dated 3 February 1990 (Government notices R21 and R220)

Black residential areas: total amounts owing

360 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing

What total amounts were owing by residents of Black residential areas in (a) the Transvaal, (b) the Orange Free State, (c) Natal and (d) the Cape Province in respect of (i) electricity, (ii) rentals and (iii) service charges as at 31 December 1990?

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING

(a) Transvaal

(i), (ii), (iii) R296 572 389

(b) Orange Free State

(i) R11 044 603

(c) Natal

(i) R267 312

(ii) R969 848

(ii) R2 400 021

(d) Cape Province

(i) R29 601 381

(ii) R68 556 423

SADF base Vhembe: visit

367 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Defence

(1) Whether, during the period 23 to 30 July 1988, the South African Defence Force (SADF) transported to and accommodated at the SADF base Vhembe near Messina a number of young guests, including a certain person (particulars of whom have been furnished to the SADF

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Firms, govt offices in Soweto face power cut

THE Soweto City Council has begun cutting electricity supplies to 110 bulk consumers in the township — including local businesses and state departments — for failing to pay their accounts.

A council spokesman said the bulk consumers owed the City Council nearly R3m in arrears for electricity.

Power to two telephone exchanges had been cut last Thursday and the accounts had been paid the same week.

Accounts from the police and the Department of Education and Training for services were still outstanding.

Several other black townships in the PWV area are also facing electricity cuts, or have been in the dark for some time.

Atteridgeville, outside Pretoria, had its power supply cut two weeks ago by the Pretoria City Council, which said the township's council had failed to pay its electricity debt on May 7.

The Atteridgeville/Sandsville Residents' Organisation (Asro) is due to meet the PCC today in an attempt to have the electricity supply restored.

Asro also threatened to impose mass action if it was not restored.

The Lekoa council also threatened to cut the power supply to its Vaal Triangle townships on Monday next week unless arrears were paid.

Residents were given notice to pay about R58 on top of their April electricity accounts.

Lekoa town clerk Klasie Louw said postponements of the deadline could not be granted due to the council's dire financial situation. If a substantial number of residents paid up before Monday, however, power would not be interrupted, he said. — Sapa
**Atteridgeville flat rate for electricity rejected**

**By Monk Nkomo**

The Administrator of Atteridgeville, Dr Erue Jacobson, has rejected the R50 flat rate currently being paid by residents and proposed a new average monthly rent of R147.50 for each household.

"In an effort to resolve the electricity blackout that has plunged the township into darkness since May 13 this year, Jacobson, in a statement released this week, said the council was going to install meters in all the houses so that tenants could pay according to the consumption of electricity and water.

"All houses will be metered after October this year," Jacobson said.

The Administrator held a meeting with senior officials of the Pretoria City Council, the Transvaal Provincial Administrator and the Regional Services Council to discuss long-term solutions to the rent problems in the township.

Asked if electricity supplies were going to be reconnected this week, Jacobson said: "That will depend on the community. If they are willing to pay for services rendered, then electricity will be switched on".

He also submitted possible scale of tariffs for the 11 321 houses. Jacobson suggested that 173 houses with 3 amps circuit breakers pay R70, houses with 5 amps to pay R90, those with 10 amps R120, houses with 15 amps to pay R130 and metered houses R180.

Jacobson stressed that the amounts would depend on the consumption of essential services. He appealed to residents to accept the new tariffs "so that the township should start progressing".

He added that the R50 monthly flat rate paid by residents since January this year resulted in a deficit of R1.2 million every month.

The Administrator indefinitely suspended talks with the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation (Asro) last week after white council officials were threatened by certain officials of the civic organisation.
Township councils’ crisis confronted

THE Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) agreed yesterday to form a working group to tackle the crisis facing black local government.

Cast said in a statement later the four-member working group would try to facilitate agreements in local areas where negotiations had deadlocked.

Bodies such as Ekkom, water boards, regional services councils and white local authorities would be co-opted if necessary to help reach agreements.

Cast and the TPA also agreed to set up neutral points for the payment of service bills in townships.

The working group would investigate proposals put forward by Cast as an alternative approach to the TPA’s local government strategy.

Cast said the group would study a Cast document proposing alternatives to the TPA’s local government strategy.

An unprecedented crisis faced the entire local government system in Transvaal, the document said.

Cast predicted that the belief that conditions were deteriorating and that there had been little progress in the transition to a more acceptable form of local government would soon be borne out.

The proposals dealt mainly with ways to ensure the continued provision of services, while a completely new local government structure was negotiated.

Cast proposed that government be approached to increase the amount set aside for bridging finance or inter-governmental grants to townships by R280m.

Without this extra money, black local authorities would receive only 44% of the finance they needed this year.

Cast said the payment of bills in the townships would only increase if residents experienced improved services. This would be possible only if enough financing was made available to keep services going while negotiations were under way.

Cast proposed that tariffs for water, sewage, electricity and refuse removal be set at a regional level, while the cost per housing unit was worked out.

The TPA accepted Cast’s suggestion that legitimate payment points be set up to increase the confidence of township residents who did not trust the existing black local authorities.

The working group would investigate Cast’s proposal that agency agreements be entered into to transfer responsibility for providing services from black local authorities to regional services councils.

This would increase residents’ confidence in the administrative system.

There was no point in leaving this responsibility in the hands of authorities which would be scrapped first when real reorganization on local government structures began, said Cast.

TPA spokesmen were not available for comment on yesterday’s meeting.
Residents of black areas in the Transvaal owed an amount of R996,572.389 as at the end of December for back rents, electricity and service charges, Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing Herman Kriel said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

In a written reply to a question from Louis Slotberg (CP Sasolburg), he said the figure for the Transvaal could not be broken down into amounts for rent, electricity and service charges.

In the Free State the amount owing for electricity was R11,644,683 and service charges R37,878,721. There was no figure for rentals.

In Natal R267,512 was owed for electricity, R969,848 for rentals and R2,400,021 for services.

In the Cape R11,351,900 was owed for electricity, R20,301,381 for rentals and R68,556,423 for services.

Sapa.
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply

Own Affairs

Certain areas: contracts for building of houses

34 Mr S PACHAI asked the Minister of Housing

(1) Whether any contracts have been awarded for the building of houses in (a) Lenasa Extension 4, (b) Villa Liza, (c) Mooi River and (d) Ladysmith, if so, to whom in which case,

(2) whether any of these houses have been completed and allocated, if not, why not, if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the contract price of each house?

D137E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING

(1) (a) Lenasa Extension 4

No Not by this Administration

(b) Villa Liza

Yes, Stocks Housing

(c) Mooi River

Yes, the contract was originally awarded to Pilot Construction (Pty) Ltd but after its liquidation the contract was ceded to Joscott Construction

(d) Ladysmith

Yes, 168 self-help and 60 conventional units in Acacuvalle, Ladysmith awarded to Innova Homes originally known as Azalea

(2) Lenasa Extension 4

(a) falls away

(b) falls away

Villa Liza

Yes,

(a) 204 completed but none allocated

(b) approximately R22 500,00 excluding land

Mooi River

Yes,

(a) 60 units of which 30 have already been allocated and the balance is under construction

(b) Approximately R29 500,00 excluding land

Ladysmith

Yes,

(a) 168 self-help units of which 8 have been completed and allocated

60 Conventional Units of which 11 have been completed and allocated

(b) Self-help Units—approximately R23 000,00 excluding land

Conventional Units—approximately R27 500,00 excluding land

INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

Burrows, Mr R M—

Own Affairs

Education and Culture, 603, 1064, 1666

Welfare, Housing and Works, 1252

Carlisle, Mr R V—

General Affairs

Home Affairs, 10

Camm, Mr M F—

Own Affairs

Education and Culture, 345

Chetty, Mr K—

General Affairs

Law and Order, 681

Eglin, Mr C W—

General Affairs

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Gerber, Mr A—

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Haswell, Mr R F—

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Herandien, Mr C B—

Own Affairs

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Jacobs, Adv S C—

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Leon, Mr A J—

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Own Affairs

Budget and Local Government, 317

Education and Culture, 109

Le Roux, Mr F J—

Own Affairs

Chairman of the Ministers' Council, 1339

Lormer, Mr R J—

General Affairs

Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, 848
The migrant workers who live in decrepit hostels are almost invariably involved, as victims or attackers, when violence flares on the Reef. The FM's Charlene Smith visited some hostels, including the great Nancefield complex.

Hostels are almost as old as the SA mining industry. As far back as the turn of the century, the black presence in urban areas was seen as migratory and transitory.

Blacks who came to the cities to work on mines were housed in compounds. Later, industry, particularly the construction sector, began housing workers in hostels. Under apartheid rule, hostels were taken from industry and placed under Native Administration Boards. Now they fall under the administration — or lack of administration — of black local authorities.

Most hostels are uninhabitable. Over the past eight months they have taken on the characteristics of vast military barracks. Some of them are bases for the smuggling and manufacture of weapons.

Hostel dwellers are generally drawn from the rural poor. Most are unskilled, taking jobs as cleaners and night watchmen, many, despite years in Johannesburg, speak little English. They tend to be scorned and feared by more sophisticated township residents, which increases their sense of isolation and resentment.

The first buildings at Nancefield hostel, close to the outskirts of Soweto, were erected in 1957. One of the original residents (he was moved there from the old Kemmer hostels) is Abednego Gasa (49). He used to work as a night watchman before becoming an Inkatha "captain" at Nancefield. He heads a 12-member committee that effectively controls life at the hostel. His two wives and nine children live in KwaZulu and he sees them once or twice a year. Other men have their wives and children with them in the hostels, which can worsen the squab conditions.

A little good may have come of the visit to Nancefield by US Senator Edward Kennedy in 1985 (whatever the senator's motives). In 1987 many of the walls were painted, and some hostel blocks upgraded — but the improvement was only relative.

In 1990 President F W de Klerk visited the hostel, but nothing much has come of that either. The toilets are open sewers, most showers have cold water only — and most are without shower heads or even taps.

Each block accommodates 16 men two sleeping areas on each side, and a small living area with a stove in the centre.

Most stoves have a single small plate for all 16 to cook on. Electric cords are illegally joined to the wires serving the street outside, or to the single light-bulb socket; these are used to power radios and improvised hotplates. No hostel block has a plug-socket.

There are benches for only eight of the 16 men. There is one table and no kitchen shelves, lockers or cupboards for clothes. This means there is no privacy and much insecurity and smouldering resentment.

Not all the men who live in hostels join war parties, but it is apparently very difficult to Men who refuse to participate are regarded as suspect, perhaps as collaborators with other political groupings, which puts them in danger. Some hostels in Nancefield have empty beds vacated by Xhosa people in the recent violence, leaving only Zulus, Sothos and Shangaans.

In the old sections of the hostel men pay R12.50 a month for a bed, in the new sections, R17.50. All of them told the FM they would be prepared to pay more if conditions were better.

They are better that they continued to pay for their beds during the five-year township rent boycotts, and that the improvements evident in the townships have yet to reach the hostels.

There is no outside lighting at the Nancefield hostel. It is a huge, sprawling complex with about 50,000 inhabitants (no one is sure of the total). It is one of the biggest of the dozen hostels around Johannesburg.

The lack of outside lighting is important. There are no roads or paths, only rough tracks through high grass. Crime is a serious problem, especially as many residents have to commute in darkness.

Toilet and shower blocks are in the middle of each double row of blocks. They are not only inadequate, but a disgrace. They have no lights, so people who return at night have to shower in the dark. Nearly all the shower and toilet blocks have impressive waterfalls gushing from broken taps, rusted cisterns or broken pipes. In some places gushing water combines with scraps of leftover food, from where men kneel on the concrete to rinse their plates under taps. In the toilets urine and faeces spill from the doors, or seep under walls.

The toilets and showers lack windows, there are huge gaping holes in the walls. The areas were dank and chilly, even on the warm day the FM visited the hostel.

The showers lack soap holders, there are no hooks or rails on which to hang towels or clothes, and no slatted boards to dry feet.

In the living areas there are no comfortable chairs. The walls are sooty from coal stoves. The men hang their clothes from wires strung across the roof — there is no ceiling — although some have bought lockers.

Some have given up trying to keep the hostels clean. But others, like security guard Ben Mdlandlo, make sure that the concrete floors and the showers and toilets are kept clean. The sleeping areas are neatly stacked against walls.

Mdlandlo, like many others in the hostels, is against scrapping the system. They do not want to bring their families to live dangerously in Johannesburg, but they also do not want to live the way they are. "like pigs."

As the FM toured the hostel, a large impo formed at the western end of the hostel, chanting war songs with spears, pangas and rifles held high. There was a rumour the ANC would attack at 2 pm. No attack came — but it did not stop the war party growing by the minute.

On the eastern fringe of the hostel are green prefabricated bungalows, housing municipal policemen. They watched the impo nervously, confessing they were terrified.

The policemen were all from Durban. The previous day the Soweto Town Council switched off their water and removed the roofs from their tin toilets and showers. No reason was given. The FM failed to find anyone at the council who knew about the incident.

It is clear that some of the recent violence might have been prevented if conditions at hostels had been vigorously dealt with. Physical insecurity breeds suspicion and fear, which can easily flare into fighting — often based on rumour and counter-rumour.
He said residents had to pay a R41 flat rate for water and other services. This excluded payment for electricity consumption for which accounts had been sent to residents.

"We are not talking about arrears for other months but about payment from the month of April only. We will, however, monitor the situation until noon and see what happens," he said.

Louw said up to Thursday fewer than nine percent of residents had responded to legal notices sent to them and advertised in Sowerton and on radio and television on May 16.

The notices warned residents of the cuts unless payment was received from at least 70 percent of ratepayers.

Sowerton residents were not paying at all. Louw gave the percentage response from the township as almost nil.

Chairman of the Vaal Civic Association Mr Malik Madise said yesterday the council had negotiated with residents in bad faith and was coercing them to pay.

This will be the first time that residents in the Vaal Triangle have experienced a blanket electricity cut-off since the boycott of rent increases in September 1984.
More townships face blackouts

By Abel Mushl
and Melody McDougall

A total of 54 of the 82 black townships in the Transvaal are in arrears with electricity accounts. Six have had their supply cut off, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Six more townships, all in the Vaal area, face cut-offs by 2 pm today.

Those without electricity are Katlehong and Tokoza on the East Rand, Atteridgeville near Pretoria, Tshane near Hartbeesfontein in the western Transvaal and the eastern Transvaal townships of Siyutuka near Belfast, and Silobela near Carolina.

The switch-offs were implemented because their councils had such huge arrears that their bulk suppliers could no longer afford to continue rendering services, said Magda du Toit, liaison officer for the TPA.

While the other 48 town councils are also in arrears, albeit of a smaller scale, electricity supplies were being continued because of negotiations with bulk suppliers, who in most cases are nearby white town councils.

In some instances, interim rates are being paid while the rent and services problem are discussed.

Tokoza Town Council owes the Alberton Town Council R1.9 million.

Its supply was discontinued on December 1

According to the Transvaal Provincial Council, Atteridgeville had its power cut off on May 13, Katlehong on April 2, Siyutuka on May 28, Tshane on March 26, and Silobela on October 16.

Interim rates

Amounts owed by other townships were not immediately obtainable.

Lekoa Town Council has threatened to switch off electricity to six Vaal townships — Sharpeville, Sebogeng, Zamdela, Retsengkgoa, Xophelo and Bolatong — today if they have not settled outstanding accounts.

Chairman of the Vaal Civic Council Mark Madise told The Star that it expected the Lekoa Town Council to go ahead with the switch-off, although some residents had begun paying interim rates of R67.50.

A spokesman for the Lekoa Town Council yesterday said that only about 12 percent of affected residents had responded to an appeal to pay their accounts by last week's deadline date.

Residents, however, were granted up until noon today to pay accounts.

Mr Madise added: “We regard this action as one to coerce residents to pay up, regardless of ongoing negotiations on the seven-year rent and services boycott.”

The civic association intended taking “drastic steps” against the Lekoa Town Council in the interest of those who had begun to pay for services.

Mr Madise said that the move could possibly “affect escalating violence and secret killings”.

Should this happen, the civic association would put the blame on the Lekoa council and the provincial authorities, he added.

The TPA was not a bulk supplier, and was therefore not responsible for any switch-offs, explained Mrs du Toit.

“The TPA gives grants in the form of fixed amounts of money to townships that have infrastructural problems,” she said, adding that some councils had enough money to run their townships without the TPA’s assistance.
Death threats to town planners

By Helen Grauer

Town planners involved in the redevelopment of single-sex hostels in Tembisa have been threatened with death — and some planners in other war-torn townships have temporarily abandoned their projects on hostel redevelopment.

An unexpected surge of resistance by hostel dwellers to the conversion of hostels to family units has bedevilled plans by town councils to sell and redesign the buildings, The Star has learnt.

A prominent developer involved in several conversion projects, Ian Berhardt, said political struggles in townships on the East Rand had presented a bigger problem than developers and planners had expected.

"On the face of it, the conversion of hostels is straightforward, but it has turned into an extremely complex and sensitive problem."

"Planning officials have been told they will be done in if they enter Tembisa hostel," he said.

Town council planners in both Tembisa and Dobsonville, where hostels have been advertised for sale, agreed that ongoing political violence had become a major deterrent to potential hostel developers.

Tony Roux, planner at the Dobsonville Town Council — which has advertised for the sale of two hostel complexes — said contractors were particularly concerned about their safety.

"Relocated"

"There have been tremendous problems experienced by contractors working on regional services council projects in the township."

"The seasoned contractors have learned to live with it — and I understand they get protection money. But others feel threatened."

Mr Roux said the council had encountered resistance from hostel dwellers to being relocated during the period of conversion.

Tembisa Town Council, which has also advertised the sale of a hostel, is experiencing the same problems.

Although no deals have yet been made, Tembisa town planner Deon Theron said he expected contractors would be unwilling to work in the township unless they were offered some kind of security.

He also envisaged resistance from hostel dwellers when they had to be moved.

Both the Tembisa and Dobsonville councils intend to have the converted family units sold at low cost and, in the case of the Dobsonville hostels, some of the current residents will not qualify financially to buy units.

Mr Theron said rented accommodation was not being considered, because of the difficulty experienced in the past of getting rental from the hostel dwellers.

"We are not looking at rented accommodation, because the council has had no income in the past from these hostels. With rented accommodation, this situation will just continue," he said.
Education draft has ANC support

CAPE TOWN — A major education reform plan, which will involve compulsory attendance at primary schools, has been discussed by the ANC/government education working group and has the tacit approval of the ANC.

Government officials yesterday stressed that the Education Renewal Strategy document would not be implemented without consultation with all political parties.

Key features of the plan, to be announced tomorrow, are free and compulsory primary schooling for all South Africans, with a marked shift in emphasis towards job training.

The officials said government was not ruling out holding a major conference at which the document would form the basis of a far-reaching discussion on a new education system.

The plan is the product of a 15-month investigation led by National Education director-general Johan Garbers.

Democratic Party education spokesman Roger Burrows said the plan was in line with recommendations by the World Bank, which stressed the need for universal primary education and a technical secondary education.

National Education officials were cagey about details, but said the plan envisaged a dramatic shift from the academic bias of the present system.

Key features of the plan include:
- All children provided with compulsory, free education up to Std 5.
- That this formative education be centred on a course syllabus of reading, writing and arithmetic, to produce literacy and numeracy by the age of 13.
- Parents paying part of the cost of schooling if they wish their children to pursue a conventional academic secondary education.
- Dramatic changes in "streaming" secondary education, and
- Far-reaching changes in tertiary education, including the upgrading of university entrance standards and the expansion of technikon facilities.

Sapa reports the education plan has been rejected by the Azanian Students' Convention (Asasco), which said it would not attend any conference on the proposals.

Asasco publicly secretary Sipho Maseko said in a statement that the plan "does not in any way address itself to the crisis in education from primary school through to tertiary level in a black perspective."

Ruling on Fedlife deal is expected tomorrow

A RULING on the validity of the deal which will give Fedlife a 30% controlling stake in Saambou will be given in the Rand Supreme Court tomorrow.

Saambou shareholders Nwee Suid-Afrikaanse Prinsulple Beleggings (Pty) Ltd and the CC Exchange (Pty) Ltd brought an urgent application last week, challenging the validity of the merger deal.

They have asked for an order declaring the agreement, which provides for Fedlife's acquisition of 30% of Saambou, void and unenforceable.

Both companies have also applied for an order declaring invalid approval for the deal given by Saambou shareholders at a meeting on May 15.

Nwee Suid-Afrikaanse Prinsulple Beleggings and the CC Exchange hold 8.5-million and 3.2-million shares respectively in Saambou.

They maintain implementation of the deal will not be to the advantage of Saambou shareholders.

Fedlife already holds a 2.6% stake in Saambou.

The agreement between Fedlife and Saambou on January 31 this year provides for the issue of convertible debentures by Saambou to Fedlife.

If Fedlife exercises its option to convert the debentures into shares it will hold 31.5% of Saambou.

Counsel for Nwee Suid-Afrikaanse Prinsulple Beleggings and the CC Exchange, Schalk Burger SC, argued last week that the deal was unenforceable because it did not comply with the new Deposits Taking Institutions Act which came into effect on February 1 this year.

It was also argued that 6.7-million of the 12-million votes cast by Saambou shareholders in favour of the merger deal were invalid as the representative of Main Street Nominees, who held the shares, had a proxy to vote against the deal, but without authorisation voted for it.

Mr Justice Ralph Zelman is to give judgment.
Soweto services: boycott threat

THE Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) has warned that residents would stop paying for services should the Witwatersrand Regional Services Council not be given responsibility for providing electricity to Greater Soweto.

At a recent media briefing, SPD official Cyril Ramaphosa said it was hard to predict the consequences of the “extremely serious situation” emerging in Soweto, Diepsloot and Meadowlands.

“...The councils are, to all intents and purposes, financially bankrupt,” he said, and claimed the councils were planning to increase service charges by 300% (from R50 to R170) a month in a desperate attempt to survive.

This was denied by Soweto City Council spokesman Johan van der Westhuizen. He said the council would discuss the electricity supply issue.

Ramaphosa told the briefing that services in Soweto continued to deteriorate, and residents could not be expected to pay increased tariffs. “We will resist increased fiercely through negotiations and various other mechanisms that will bring pressure to bear on the councils,” he said.

He warned that residents would stop paying for electricity and services should the Soweto councils refuse to hand over responsibility for the electricity supply to the RSC.

The Soweto crisis had earlier this month been discussed by the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, of which the SPD and the three town councils are members.

“The chamber resolved that the RSC be requested to take over the responsibility for Soweto’s electricity supply,” he said.

An RSC spokesman said the council would consider the request tomorrow.

 Dobsonville and Meadowlands councils could not be reached for comment.

SAPA reports that in Parliament last week Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing Minister Herus Kriel said residents of black Transvaal areas owed nearly R1bn at end-December for back rent, electricity and service charges.
Townships R180m in debt to Eskom

ESKOM said yesterday that arrears on payments for electricity supplies to black townships had soared to R180m by the end of April and were continuing to rise.

Allen Morgan, deputy GM distribution and marketing, said arrears were running at an average of R12m a month and were escalating dramatically as winter set in.

Eskom's announcement follows yesterday's cut in electricity supplies to the Lekoa City Council, which owes Eskom and the Vereeniging City Council R29m for bulk electricity supplies to Sharpeville, Sebeneng, Zamde, Refengkogo, Bophelong and Bopatong.

It is understood that Eskom will institute legal proceedings against Lekoa to recover the arrears.

Eskom accounts show that local authorities' arrears of more than 90 days amounted to R115.5m at April 30, while accounts of less than 90 days amounted to R64.2m.

Morgan said that in terms of previous agreements Lekoa payments had looked "very poor" to the extent that some of the towns which Lekoa served had been at payment levels of about 7%.

He said that while there was a stable payment level in general, it was still not meeting accounts.

"And the situation will not get much better until Eskom, in tandem with other suppliers, resolves the whole issue of financing local authorities."

The Metropolitan Chamber, formed as a result of the Soweto Accord last October, has so far been unable to come up with an equitable solution for the struggling councils. The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (RSC) has had to step in with additional financial assistance to Greater Soweto over and above its agreed level.

Morgan said the problem was that black dormitory towns had little economic viability.
Roodepoort ratepayers to pay extra R21

Roodepoort ratepayers will on average pay R21 extra each month for rates and services.

A R203 million budget was approved by the Roodepoort Council at a special meeting held last night.

Tariff increases in assessment rates, electricity and sewerage rates were announced while refuse removal tariffs remained unchanged.

Sewerage fees went up by 15 percent after remaining constant for the past four years.

The electricity account for household consumers was increased by 6.5 percent.

A new valuation roll becomes effective from July, which means that property prices will rise by 16 percent on average.

The budget includes an operating budget of R248.4 million and a capital budget of R64.8 million. The capital budget is up by 13.9 percent from last year.

Municipal expenses announced included a R200,000 masterplan to solve the city's stormwater problem.

A sum of R8 million, financed by the Regional Services Council, will be spent on Hendrik Potgieter Road; R2.6 million on the development of recreation facilities; and R4 million on a new banquet hall and conference complex.
Power cut to 6 Vaal townships

By Melody McDoigall
Vereeniging Bureau

The electricity blackout in the Vaal Triangle was extended to two more townships this morning, bringing to six the number of towns in the region without electricity.

Lekoa council cut power in Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Bosapington and Bophelong yesterday afternoon, and at 8 am today the supply to Zamela and Reengkotsa was disconnected.

Lekoa town clerk Klasie Louw said Zamela was cut after some Basotho industries had indicated their willingness to help with service payments but were unable to pay 70 percent of the townships' April bill by yesterday afternoon.

"The blackout followed a 6½ year-rent and services boycott by approximately 25,000 electricity customers, as well as fruitless negotiations involving the Lekoa council, TPA and Vaal Civic Association.

Expressing his regret about the council's drastic action, Mr Louw said it was unfortunate that those who had been paying their accounts also had to be affected by the blackout."

However, as soon as 70 percent of the bill was paid, electricity would be restored.

Vaal Civic Association chairman Malik Madeshe said today the VCA was disappointed by the council's action.

A statement would be released following a meeting with his committee today.

A police spokesman said this morning no incidents of violence had been reported in the affected townships.
350 000 people hit by power cuts

ABOVE 350 000 people in the Vaal Triangle are without electricity after the Lekoa City Council cut off power in six townships, including Sebokeng and Sharpeville, yesterday afternoon.

Lekoa town clerk Klasie Louw said electricity was switched off at 2pm after "70% of the residents failed to pay their April and May accounts".

"But residents are responding well to our pleas for payment for services and as soon as 70% of them have paid their accounts, we will restore power to their houses," Louw said.

About 350 000 people who occupy the 38 000 houses in Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bophelong, Boipatong, Zamdela and Reenkgoitso were affected by the power cuts, he said.

Vaal Civic Association (VCA) chairman Malik Madise accused the council of reneging on an agreement with his organisation that no essential services would be cut during negotiations, which began last year.

"A certain percentage had paid an interim monthly rate of R67.50 and it is unfair that they should suffer. Drastic action will be taken against the council on behalf of these people," Madise said.

He added that the council should take full responsibility for crime and violence which might "escalate be-
cause of the electricity switch-offs".

Louw said residents had been informed they had to pay their electricity accounts for April plus R41 for other municipal services. "For May residents have to pay R41 for services, including electricity," he said.

The Vaal Triangle power cuts — the first since residents embarked on rent and services boycotts in 1984 — brings to 12 the number of Transvaal townships without electricity as a result of non-payment for services. Other townships without electricity are Albertsdal, Thokoza, Katlehong, Tugane, Slobela and Sibututaka.

Louw said the decision to cut off power was taken after the coffers of the Lekoa City Council had been depleted by a "longstanding rent and services boycott".

Negotiations with the VCA had broken down and the council had no financial resources to pay the R6,6m it owed its bulk suppliers — Eskom and the Vereeniging Town Council.

"The city council is now compelled by chaotic circumstances beyond its control to stop the supply of electricity to all townships," Louw said.

He added his council remained willing to discuss "fair" tariffs for municipal services.
Blackout for 38,000 homes

THE Vaal Triangle's 38,000 homes are now in the dark.

Last-minute efforts, including a petition to the State President, failed to prevent a blanket power cut in all six townships yesterday.

The Lekoa Council switched off power at 2pm as scheduled in spite of an 11th-hour meeting between a delegation from the Vaal Council of Churches and the council.

The cuts came amid a rush by many residents to the council offices to pay.

Town clerk Mr Nikolaas Louw said the council appreciated the effort but it was not enough to prevent the cuts.

There are 350,000 people living in Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bophelong, Bopatong, Zamdela in Sasaolburg and Refepkgoiso in Denayeville.

The blackout will affect everyone whether they have been paying or not.

He said power would be reconnected as soon as 70 percent of residents had paid the R41 flat rate for water.

By THEMBA MOLEFE and Sapa

other services and their electricity accounts for April and May.

Lekoa's debt is about R240 million.

Electricity to Zamdela might not be cut off as local industries have indicated they might pay the township's account.

Louw said power could be reconnected as soon as this week if payment was forthcoming.

Sharpeville's response to calls to pay was almost nil, he said.

He said clergymen had sent a memorandum to President FW de Klerk yesterday asking him to intervene.

This is the first time that residents in the Vaal Triangle have experienced blanket electricity cuts since the rent boycott and violence sparked off by increases on September 3, 1984.

The area was the first to boycott rent payments which later led to the lengthy Delmas Treason Trial from 1985 to 1988.
Civic movement tries hard to shrug off the past

The violence on the Reef has made it difficult for the NICC to span political divides, reports Jo-Anne Collinge

The fact that the Government is considering legislation to promote and recognise new forms of 'intem local government', instituted on a voluntary basis by white and black local authorities and by non-statutory bodies like the cvics, confounds the picture. Nobody is sure what the Government intends by these structures, which have been described only in the broadest terms.

The controversy around the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber — approved by the influential Soweto Civic Association, but spurned by others — is a symptom of this lack of clarity on how the cvics should handle the transition.

It also stems from the unique history of the civic associations, which typically spring into being in response to distinct crises in individual townships. There was little uniformity, as they took decisions in accordance with demands from residents influenced by the highly variable actions of local government.

The Soweto Civic Association may see it as fruitful to sit down with various white Reef councils in the Metropolitan Chamber, but the Krugersdorp Residents Organisation is at loggerheads with the Conservative Party council in its town and has encouraged a crippling boycott of shops in Krugersdorp to bring pressure to bear on the council.

Every effort is being made to bring greater coherence to the civic movement as it engages in immediate negotiations on housing, land, service provision and the financing of black residential areas.

When it comes to national constitutional negotiations, the national civic organisation does aspire to a place at the table. But it will attempt to influence submissions of participating parties on matters such as the Bill of Rights, local government, metropolitan structures and land issues.
AN acute water shortage in Tokoza at the weekend and yesterday was not linked to the rent boycott, the local council said yesterday.

Residents were without water since Friday and could not cook food or flush toilets.

They accused the council of cutting the supply without notice because of the rent boycott.

The administrator of Tokoza, Mr. Gert Muller, denied the allegations.

"He said the main water pipe, shared by Tokoza and Katlehong, was damaged by a contractor last week."
Hardline stand against power cuts is likely

By THEMBA MOLEFE

THE Civic Association of Southern Transvaal has threatened to stop talking to the Transvaal Provincial Administration on local government issues, as more townships continue to experience electricity cuts.

CAST said it had called an urgent meeting with the TPA to be held at 2pm tomorrow to address power cuts.

The ANC in the PWV region, which joined CAST in condemning the cuts, said it was planning a march for June 15 to demand the restoration of electricity to affected townships and to back other demands.

Yesterday CAST accused the TPA of reneging on agreements reached concerning joint investigations into services.

It said power cuts continued in spite of the setting up of a sub-committee consisting of two delegates from each side.

The committee was established on May 29 and still had to start investigations, CAST said.

The association said it had proposed to the TPA, as a basis for further negotiations, that local government talks be about two issues:

* That the Government be approached to increase the size of the inter-governmental grant by R288 million; and,

* That a regional approach was needed to determine the cost of basic services in each area.

CAST said it also proposed that the CAST/TPA regional forum be a body where broad agreement on policy approaches could be negotiated.
Cast threatens to halt

talks over power cuts

THE Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) yesterday warned it would consider suspending negotiations “at all levels” retaliation for power cuts in Transvaal townships.

Cast secretary-general Sam Ntuli said at a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday his organisation had called for a moratorium on electricity switch-offs pending the outcome of negotiations between it and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

He said that at a meeting between Cast and the TPA a week ago, it was agreed that a four-member joint committee should be formed to look “into the whole question of the electricity cut-offs”.

Vulnerable

“We are disappointed that cut-offs happen to be the order of the day even before the committee starts its investigations Cast sees the cutting off of services as jeopardising negotiations at local level,” he said, adding that his organisation would consider suspending talks at all levels.

ANC FWV region publicity secretary Bonnie Mamoaopa accused the TPA of using power cuts as a means of undermining civic formations and rendering township dwellers “vulnerable to unfavourable agreements”.

“We therefore call for a moratorium to be declared on the suspension of basic services to the townships pending negotiations of regional tariffs between Cast and the TPA, the introduction of a single tax base for all metropolitan areas and a constitution for interim non-racial local government structures,” Mamoaopa said.

He added that Cosatu and the SA Communist Party were organising a march next week in support of the demands for the restoration of power to the townships.

The TPA has repeatedly dissociated itself from power cuts saying decisions to cut off power were taken by local authorities themselves.

There are 10 townships without electricity in the Transvaal. These are the Vaal Triangle townships of Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bopatong and Bophelong, Atteridgeville (near Pretoria), Thokoza and Katlehong (on the East Rand), Tugane (in the Western Transvaal) and the three Eastern Transvaal townships of Siyobela (near Carolina) and Syatutuka (near Belfast).

Power to the four townships in the Vaal Triangle was cut this week by the Lekoa City Council after 70% of the residents had failed to pay April and May accounts.

Lekoa town clerk Klaus Louw said negotiations with the Vaal Civic Association (VCA) had broken down and the council had no financial resources to pay the R6.6m it owed Escom and the Vereeniging Town Council.

VCA chairman Malik Madise has accused the council of reneging on an agreement it reached with his organisation that no essential services would be cut during negotiations, which began last year.
Cluster schemes getting smaller

A TREND towards smaller schemes with fewer, more luxurious units is emerging in the cluster housing market, says Montagu Homes developer Elize Rosenmann.

"Economies of scale are still achievable without a development taking on a look of sameness," he says.

He rates Sandton as the country's leader in innovative cluster developments, with special attention being given to "design aesthetics and inherent security."

With the move to smaller schemes and access to top architectural teams with many years of local experience, the new Rosehill development in Strathavon, Sandton, is set to attract buyers, Rosenmann says.

The development will consist of four units, priced from R926,000 to the "early R1,5m range."

It is situated close to Sandown High School, the Sandton Health and Racquet Club and the M1.

The development is a joint project between Montagu Homes and the Perm, with construction on the first unit already complete and ready for occupation, Rosenmann says.

The other three units should be ready within three weeks.
Alexandra smear tactics attacked

The Alexandra Civic Association yesterday dis-associated itself from a smear pamphlet critical of its counterpart, the Alexandra Civic Organisation. Mr Mike Bea said 5,000 pamphlets vilifying the ACO were distributed in the township.

The pamphlets claimed that the ACO viewed the ACO as a "sellout" which had caused the deaths of innocent children and residents.

Both civic bodies are aligned to the ANC.
Housing plan is ‘on course’

PLANS to help 200 families acquire their own homes at Ennerdale, a coloured residential area south of Johannesburg, through a self-help scheme are on course, says project manager Louis van der Walt of the Department of Local Management, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives.

The interest in the project was so great there was a waiting list of 1400. Unfortunately there is only enough money to help 200 people,” he says.

The idea of the self-help project is that people build their own homes with “all possible assistance.” For instance, plumbing and electrical wiring will be done for them.

The waiting list of 1400 will be analysed with the help of a property consultant, and the 200 “most suitable” people will be selected to take part in the project.

Van der Walt describes these as the people regarded as “a low risk.”

Participants in the project can choose between a conventional concrete brick home or a panel house.

While general building costs are about R800m, the Ennerdale project will cost between R250m and R300m.

“Everything is being done under supervision and according to the regulations,” Van der Walt says. Material is available on site and is supplied in phases, and the new owners have 12 months in which to complete their homes.

Although the department can help only 200 people at this stage, Van der Walt says the private sector is ready to enter the project and help others on the waiting list.
Cast seeks moratorium on township power cuts

THE Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) said it would meet the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) in Johannesburg today to discuss power cuts in black townships.

But TPA spokesman Piet Wilken could not confirm this. "The only meeting I know about between the TPA and Cast will be on June 12," Wilken said.

Cast secretary-general Sam Ntuli said that in today's talks Cast would push for a moratorium on power cuts pending the outcome of negotiations between Cast and the TPA on the issue.

The announcement of today's meeting follows Cast's threat to suspend talks "at all levels" in retaliation against the power cuts, introduced this week.

Ntuli said he was disappointed power supplies were being cut despite an agreement between Cast and the TPA that a four-member joint committee would look "into the whole question."

Ten Transvaal townships are without electricity: Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bop Katong and Sophiatown in the Vaal Triangle, Atteridgeville near Pretoria, Thokoza and Katlehong on the East Rand, Tugane in the western Transvaal, and the eastern Transvaal townships of Sibela, near Carolina and Soweto.

In another development, the Tembisa Residents' Association (TRA) yesterday called off a consumer boycott launched a month ago to force the Tembisa Town Council to restore power.

TRA president Amon Msane told a news conference the decision to call off the boycott was taken after the town council had restored power to "certain parts" of Tembisa last Friday.

"We are, however, calling upon the council to restore power to the whole township," Msane said.

Msane said residents would continue their five-year rent and services boycott even if power was restored.

"We have submitted a number of grievances, such as the shortage of land and availability of land, to the council and the TPA. The rent boycott will never be suspended until those demands are met." Sapa reports that the Central Witwatersrand RSC was last night negotiating with the various Soweto city councils to take over the control of electricity supplies to Greater Soweto.

"We have agreed in principle to taking control of electricity to these areas," said RSC CE John Griffiths.
Boycott blamed

The Daveyton Town Council said yesterday the community suffered from a shortage of ambulances because of the ongoing partial rent- and service charges boycott in the black township near Benoni.

The council was investigating recent allegations by residents that deaths had resulted because of delays - Xone.
Atteridgeville power will be reconnected

Pretoria Bureau

Pretoria City Council is to reconnect electricity to Atteridgeville today.

The township has been without electricity since May 13 following the township council’s failure to pay for bulk power from Pretoria.

The reconnection was confirmed by the local administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, who said the city council had decided to reconnect the power on a month’s trial to see if residents would pay the new tariffs.

These range between R75 and R190 for houses with circuit breakers covering 3 to 15 amps. Metersed houses would pay according to electricity consumption.

A spokesman for the Atteridgeville Council would not confirm the reconnection but said a statement would be made later today.

Sources said the decision to reconnect power followed meetings between the city council, the administrator and a group of concerned Atteridgeville residents.
300 evicted from 63 bachelor flats

About 300 black tenants were evicted from 63 bachelor flats in the Polly Lodge building in central Johannesburg yesterday in terms of a court order served on them by the owner, M Cohen.

Act stop representative George Seaphala said flat dwellers were given one day's notice. All were served with similar orders, claiming rent arrears.

According to Mr. Seaphala, negotiations deadlocked on the issue of the arrears.

Efforts to talk to Mr. Cohen were unsuccessful and lawyers acting for him refused to say anything on the issue.
Switch-off blunder leads to deadlock with council

Concerned residents try to light the dark

WHEN the Atteridgeville/Sawsville Residents Organisation signed an agreement with the local administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson earlier this year little did they know that the agreement would be far from solving the rent problem.

Aro and Jacobson had pledged to end the nine-month-old rent boycott and agreed that residents would pay an interim monthly flat rate of R50 a household.

A few weeks after the agreement, Jacobson notified residents that the flat rate plus a community trust fund of R5 a household was “too little” to cover the costs of running the township.

Aro pointed out that the flat rate was an interim measure which would last until the end of June.

The R50 was to cover the running costs while negotiations for a fair tariff were being conducted.

Upgrading

Another issue on the agenda would have been the upgrading of the township.

The Atteridgeville Council, meanwhile, could not settle accounts for essential services provided by the Pretoria City Council.

The service charge arrears bill totalled nearly R1 million at the end of April.

The Pretoria Council was growing impatient. They wanted that account settled immediately.

Efforts by the administrator to seek an extension from the council before any drastic action was taken drew a blank.

On Monday, May 13 at 8.04am, (this reminder is still reflected on the watch of my kitchen stove), the Pretoria Council switched off the electricity supply.

All 11 000 houses were affected. So was the local council office and the police station.

Kaiserling Hospital survived the action.

Tenants who had paid the stipulated R55 on their May accounts were angry.

“What the hell is going on? We paid our account,” they complained.

Aro accused the Pretoria City Council of “racism” and said the action was endorsed by “sadists who want to freeze us to death during the cold winter months”.

The Pretoria Council said the decision was not political but in line with their economic policy that those who failed to pay for services should have them cut.

The question that arose after the cutting of the electricity supply was: “Whose blunder was it that led to the electricity cuts?”

Aro pointed an accusing finger at Jacobson: “He must abide by the agreement,” said Mr John Ramatsui, Aro’s publicity secretary.

The administrator said although Aro had signed the agreement, almost half the householders were not paying the R50 flat rate.

Aro argued that there was no proof to substantiate the claim that half the residents were not paying.

The good work that ended the rent boycott that started on April 1 last year and led to the signing of the agreement turned from bad to worse and then it became ugly when certain Aro officials, in a fit of anger, forced the Atteridgeville council officials from their offices and warned them not to return until electricity was restored in the township.

The administrator, after receiving this report, dropped a bombshell:

Suspension

“This money could be used to augment the R50 flat rate to get the lights back,” some residents said.

After the suspension of talks between Aro and the administrator, a group of concerned residents formed an interim committee following initiatives by the local branch of the Pan African Congress.

The committee held a meeting with Jacobson and reported back last week that the talks had been fruitful.

In a statement released this week, Aro requested the “concerned residents” to stop negotiating with the administrator.

“Proper and meaningful negotiations can only be achieved by Aro because we have entered into an agreement with the administrator,” said Mr Simon Tshidi, Aro’s secretary general.
Switch-off blunder leads to deadlock with council

Concerned residents try to light the dark

WHEN the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation signed an agreement with the local administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson earlier this year little did they know that the agreement would be far from solving the rent problem.

A few weeks after the agreement, Jacobson notified residents that the flat rate plus a community trust fund of R5 a household was “too little” to cover the costs of running the township.

A week pointed out that the flat rate was an interim measure which would last until the end of June.

The R55 was to cover the running costs while negotiations for a fair tariff were being conducted.

Upgrading

Another issue on the agenda would have been the upgrading of the township.

The Atteridgeville Council, meanwhile, could not settle accounts for essential services provided by the Pretoria City Council.

The service charge arrears bill totalled nearly R1 million at the end of April.

The Pretoria Council was growing impatient. They wanted the account settled immediately.

Efforts by the administrator to seek an extension from the council before any drastic action was taken drew a blank.

On Monday, May 13 at 8.04am, (this reminder is still reflected on the watch of my kitchen stove), the Pretoria Council switched off the electricity supply.

All 11 000 houses were affected. So was the local council offices and the police station.

Khatifong Hospital survived the action.

Tenants who had paid the stipulated R55 on their May accounts were angry.

“What the hell is going on? We paid our account,” they complained.

A week later, Jacobson accused the Pretoria City Council of “racism” and said the action was endorsed by “sadists who want to freeze us to death during the cold winter months.”

The Pretoria Council said the decision was not political but in line with their economic policy that those who failed to pay for services should have them cut.

The question that arose after the cutting of the electricity supply was: Whose blunder was it that led to the electricity cuts?

Asro pointed an accusing finger at Jacobson “He must abide by the agreement,” said Mr John Ramatuli, Asro’s public relations secretary.

The administrator said although Asro had signed the agreement, almost half the househoders were not paying the R50 flat rate.

Asro argued that there was no proof to substantiate the claim that half the residents were not paying.

The good work that ended the rent boycott that started on April 1 last year and led to the signing of the agreement turned from bad to worse and then it became ugly when certain Asro officials, in a fit of anger, forced white Atteridgeville council officials from their offices and warned them not to return until electricity was restored in the township.

The administrator, after reading this report, dropped a bombshell.

Suspected

“Negotiations with Asro have been suspended with immediate effect,” he said in a statement.

Residents were left out in the cold.

Jacobson then came up with proposed tariffs ranging between R70 and R2450 depending on the consumption of electricity for metered houses.

Residents who attended Asro’s area committee meetings rejected these proposals. Others agreed to a monthly tariff of R70 on condition the authorities upgraded the township and gave a guarantee that lights would not be switched off again.

Others said R30 was enough for essential services.

Those who telephoned and visited Saulsville offices said the rent problem had been turned into a political issue and recommended that Asro suggest a tariff to the residents to get the lights restored.

The electricity cuts began to bite as some businesses closed. Butchers could not stock meat.

Those who used generators complained about the running costs.

A large number of residents complained that they were spending more each day to buy paraffin, meat and candles.

“This money could be used to augment the R30 flat rate to get the lights back,” some residents said.

After the suspension of talks between Asro and the administrator, a group of concerned residents formed an interim committee following initiatives by the local branch of the Pan African Congress.

The committee held about three meetings with Jacobson and reported back last week that the talks had been fruitful.

In a statement released this week, Asro requested the “concerned residents” to stop negotiating with the administrator.

“Proper and meaningful negotiations can only be achieved by Asro because we have entered into an agreement with the administrator,” said Mr Simon Tshidi, Asro’s secretary general.
Tenants evicted from 63 flats

About 300 black tenants were evicted from Polly Lodge apartment building in downtown Johannesburg yesterday, in terms of a court order served on them by the owner, Mr M Cohen.

Resident Actstop representative Mr George Sephapha said they were given a day to vacate the 63 bachelor flats - housing on average four people each - before their possessions were impounded for rent arrears.

Mrs Emily Mohco said some of her furniture was taken by the owner’s representatives and is to be sold to recover rent arrears of R1 623.50.

Arrears

All the tenants have been served similar orders, claiming for rent arrears of R1 623.50.

Sephapha said rent for the units had been increased from R250 to R360, which they agreed to pay.

But the owner then increased the rent to R460 a month, Sephapha said, and also demanded that arrears accumulated since 1987 be paid in full.

Polly Lodge has been the subject of litigation since 1987 when residents tried to enforce controlled rent of R34 a month.

Sapa
Talks on power cuts to resume next week

Staff Reporters

Provincial authorities and civic associations failed yesterday to reach an agreement on the reconnection of electricity to 12 townships that have been in darkness through non-payment of accounts.

However, a flood of late rent and service payments yesterday in Sebokeng, one of six Vaal Triangle townships which had power cut on Monday, has led to the restoration of power in some areas of the township.

Power was restored to Zone 10 on Wednesday after nearly 70 percent of residents had paid their bills.

Zambele outside Sasolburg was also scheduled to have electricity restored today if 38 percent of residents had paid by yesterday afternoon.

Power was expected to be restored in Atteridgeville yesterday for a trial period.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST) met for an hour in Johannesburg yesterday and agreed to meet again next week.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said “CAST wants a moratorium on cut-offs, they want to buy time. They want services to be supplied while talks continue. But we explained that the TPA did not switch off the electricity, the bulk suppliers did.”

CAST spokesmen could not be reached for comment.

In a statement after the meeting, MEC for institutional development and negotiation Olaus van Zyl said the province did not have money to support “any kind of moratorium.”

It was assisting black local authorities with inter-government grants for backlogs in infrastructure. This money was not meant to subsidise rent and services boycotts.

“It seems that, although it is easy for civic organisations to instigate payment boycotts, apparently in many cases they cannot encourage their supporters to start paying after agreements on payment have been reached.”

Mr van Zyl said the TPA was concerned about the deteriorating situation in black townships.

He warned that black local government might collapse if boycotts continued.

Problems should be resolved through negotiations and such talks were taking place at 64 areas in the Transvaal.

TPA chief director of community development Jan van der Walt said sections of Sebokeng were to have electricity restored yesterday following a “dramatic” increase in payment of outstanding accounts.

“In Bophelong, between 25 and 30 percent of residents have already paid their accounts, and if the current rate of payment continues they may be reconnected today or early next week,” Mr van der Walt said.

Lekoa Town Council switched off power at Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Bolatong and Bophelong (Vanderbijlpark) on Monday afternoon and on Tuesday morning at Zambele and Refengkotsi (Sasolburg).

The blackout followed a 6½-year rent and services boycott in townships in the Triangle.
Residents object to electricity discussions

PRETORIA. — The Atteridgeville Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Astor) yesterday reject-
ed township administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson's negotiations with other residents' groups as un-
representative.

Astor chairman Mr Reeves Mabitsa said Thursday's reconnection of electricity in the
township did not alter a January agreement be-
tween Astor and Dr Ja-

He said new tariffs suggested by Pretoria City Council would be
discussed at a mass meeting tomorrow.

Dr Jacobson said earlier that during certain discussions with an in-
term committee representing "broad-based
community organisations", the group agreed to present the proposed
tariffs to the community.

But Astor maintains that the group, led by the local PAC chairman, Mr Fortesque Mthimkulu,
did not have a mandate.

Residents of Zamdela in the Vaal Triangle had electricity re-
stored yesterday after the intervention of a ma-
jor oil company. — Sapa
ALL AGLOW: Mapana Motloung (12) of Atteridgeville reflects the joy of the township folk when power was restored on Thursday night. But that joy was dimmed yesterday when the township residents' organisation denounced an agreement between the administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, and a group of concerned residents under which there would be higher tariffs to reduce the huge amount owed to the Pretoria City Council for services. There will be a public meeting tomorrow to discuss the new crisis.

'Services must be paid for'

CAPE TOWN — Government will not budge on its insistence that township residents should pay for their basic services and electricity.

"On this principle there can be no compromise," Constitutional Development and Provincial Affairs deputy minister Dr Tertius Delport said in Parliament yesterday.

Government was looking at ways to improve services, reduce charges and rationalise administration.

"The Government cannot, however, scrap or ignore the world-wide accepted and acceptable principle that services must be paid for.

Racism was not suggested.

AN article published in the Saturday Star on March 9 this year alleged that certain doctors in Witbank did not keep records of cash-paying black patients, and quoted an officer of the National Health and Dental Association as saying racism interpretation."

Battle rages on over Doornkop fees

BRINK Estates – one of the agencies which marketed the Doornkop sites for Safrich – is refusing to refund hundreds of clients the administration fees charged for processing their site applications through the Soweto councils and the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The company, owned by estate agent Eddie Meisel, is a franchise of the Durban-based Brink Property Group. His agency sold an estimated 600 of the 1,300 Safrich sites and took deposits of between R800 and several thousand rands.

In addition, buyers paid the agency administration fees of between R150 and R200 and a further R61 for site fees, which the agency was to pay to the TPA. Safrich could not obtain finance for the project, so cancelled all contracts. All deposits are now being refunded.

Brink Estates refuses, however, to refund any of the estimated R120,000 it took for administration fees. It also collected almost R24,000 in site fees payable to the TPA but never paid the money over. These fees will be returned.

Meisel told City Press the administration fee was not refundable. He had paid his staff “to do all the running up and down getting permits.”

According to the TPA, the sites were only for people on the councils’ waiting lists but applications processed by Brink Estates – for which it charged the R200 fee – were processed for anyone.

The Housing Advice Project of the Legal Aid Bureau is helping many people obtain refunds.

“The Doornkop project is but one disgraceful example of the housing rip-off which occurs daily in this industry,” said HAP director Brian Levenson.

“People believe developers will act in their interests and in Doornkop, unfortunately, they were misled.”

“This development should not have been marketed before financial backing was assured. We can only hope the authorities will prevent any repetition of this fiasco.”
Mass action is planned for Vaal

Activists are expected to call for mass action in Vaal Triangle townships next week, where authorities cut electricity after a breakdown in talks to resolve a seven-year-old rent boycott.

Civic leaders, the Pan African Congress and African National Congress agreed on mass action on Saturday but have to consult with residents and supporters before issuing a formal call.

"The organisations agreed that the Vaal community needs to embark on mass action to force the authorities to restore power to some 300 000 in six townships," Mr Paul Stibole, a senior official of the Vaal Civic Association said.

Meeting

The nature of the action would only be known after a meeting on Thursday.

Sections of Sêbokeng have had power restored after residents stepped up payments this week but Stibole said this was a tactic to "weaken the resolve of the people."

An attempt by the Civics Association of Southern Transvaal for a moratorium on punitive action by the authorities received an initial blow on Thursday when the Transvaal Provincial Administration rejected the idea. - Sapa
**Pretoria rent hike is rejected**

HUNDREDS of Atteridgeville residents yesterday rejected new rent tariffs, ranging between R75 and R190, introduced by the local administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, last week.

The residents rejected the proposals at a public meeting organised by the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation at the local community centre.

Instead, they unanimously agreed to continue paying the monthly flat rate of R50 a household.

They also lashed out at a committee which negotiated the new tariffs "without a mandate from the masses".

The new tariffs, announced last Thursday, a few hours before the Pretoria City Council reconnected the electricity supply to the township.

The council switched off the power on May 13 after the Atteridgeville Council failed to pay arrears totalling R800 000.

Astro's secretary general, Mr Simon Tshida, criticised the interim committee which negotiated the new tariffs with Jacobson.

He said: "This committee blundered by negotiating for us without us. These new tariffs will result in mass evictions."
Move to take over councils’ powers

Sowetan 10/6/91

By DON SEOKANE and KENOSI MODISANE

THE Soweto Peoples Delegation is involved in a move to strip the three Greater Soweto councils of their power to supply electricity to the area, a SPD spokesman said yesterday.

The SPD has recommended that the townships’ electricity supply be transferred to the Witwatersrand Central Regional Services Council.

The CWRSC said it was investigating the possibility of taking over the supply of electricity from the Greater Soweto councils.

SPD spokesman Mr Kgabis Mosunkutu said the move was “brought about by the councils’ inability to run financial affairs in the townships.”

“We have discovered that the financial structure of the townships has collapsed and this has been kept secret from the residents.”

“The council has instead sent statements with abnormally high electricity charges in a bid to cover up for the discrepancies,” he said.

Mosunkutu said people were not paying because they did not receive their bills in time and that, in most cases, the bills were not accurate.

On July 1, the CWRSC will take over responsibility for supplying electricity to Alexandra.

A similar move in Greater Soweto has caused anxiety among the three councils.

Addressing the Diepmeadow Council two weeks ago, management committee chairman Mr Freddie Phiri said the Greater Soweto council had vowed not to relinquish responsibility of supplying electricity to the area.

Diepmeadow town clerk Mr Johan de Jager told the council meeting that the move to take over the townships’ power supply would be temporary as “the council cannot waive its responsibility without the approval of a Minister.”

However, the Diepmeadow Council declared against accepting the recommendation before its management committee studied the proposals.

CWRSC chairman Mr John Griffiths said they had accepted that the distribution and maintenance of electricity supplies to black local authorities was an essential service that should not be interrupted.

The Soweto Council, in particular, is experiencing a shortfall of nearly R3 million in arrears for electricity supplied to bulk consumers, including local businesses and State departments.

Soweto Council spokesman Dr Johan van der Westhuizen said although the council was experiencing difficulties with payments, tariffs would not be increased without negotiating with interested parties.
Pretoria civic bodies establish CAST region

More than 200 delegates from 35 civic associations around Pretoria townships, KwaNdebele and Moutse met at Mendza near Pretoria on Saturday to form a sub-structure of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST).

A spokesman for the new body, John Ramatsui, said the body was named "the Central Transvaal Civic Association (CTCA), which was made up of three zones.

He said the zones were: Odi/Moretele (in Bophuthatswana), Pretoria Central (Mamelodi, Soshangwe and Amandege) and KwaNdebele/Moutse.

Mr Ramatsui said the meeting did not decide on any programme of action to be taken by the steering committee, which would hold meetings in their respective areas to co-ordinate meetings. They would table suggested programmes of action to be taken to a general meeting, on a date to be decided.

Those elected to the executive committee were: the Rev Smangalisile Mkhathwa (chairman), Isaac Ditshogo (deputy chairman), Staf Vilakazi (secretary), Don Makola (assistant secretary), Pasty Malele (publicity secretary) and Reeves Mabitsi (treasurer). — Sapa
New civics group is formed

A NEW organisation known as the Civic Associations of Central Transvaal has been formed.

The formation and launch of the group was announced by its publicity secretary, Mr Fasty Malefo, in Pretoria yesterday. He said 32 civic bodies were represented at Moduna on Saturday.

By ALINAH DUBE

Father Smangaliso Mkhathwa of the Soshanguve Residents Organisation was elected president. Other executive committee members are Mr Isaac Ditshego of the Mootse Civic Association, Mr Star Vilakazi, Mr Donny Makola of the Garankuwa Civic Association and Mr Reeves Makutsi of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation.

Malefo said priority would be given to the demand for a non-racial local government for Pretoria. This would help address matters.

"Although the meeting did not have time to work out a programme of action, the central executive committee will meet soon to iron out matters of importance," Malefo said.

His organisation believed that Pretoria was what it is because of the labour drawn from areas such as Garankuwa and Mabopane and yet people there were considered to be Bophuthatswana citizens.
Lekoa may face mass action

City Council after it cut essential services to six townships last week. Vaal Civic Association (VCA) chairman Malik Madase said yesterday.

"The VCA, Cosatu, the FAC and Azapo on Saturday agreed to take mass action. Its form will be decided upon on Thursday.

As the seven-year rent and services boycott had built up a R246m debt, the council cut off power supplies to 38 000 Vaal township households on June 5, Lekoa city treasurer Piet Hoets said yesterday.

However, electricity had been restored to townships where 70% of residents had made their current monthly payments, he said.

Lekoa's council reportedly owes Eskom and Vereeniging City Council R26m for bulk electricity supplies.

Madase warned residents against agents who were trying to persuade them to pay their bills. "The VCA is aware that now that the townships are dark, some people are trying to throw residents into confusion. The VCA has not called on residents to start paying," he added.

"Lekoa town clerk Klein Louw said residents had been informed they had to pay their electricity and services accounts for April and May.

The townships affected by the power cut are Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bophelong, Bopatong, Zamdela and Refenkgozo."
New power cuts loom in township

THE Pretoria City Council yesterday warned it might cut off electricity to Atteridgeville again next month unless residents paid new tariffs ranging between R75 and R190.

A spokesman for the council said the management committee was due to meet on July 16 to review the situation.

Power supply to the township was discontinued on May 13 after the Atteridgeville Council failed to pay arrears totalling R800 000 to the Pretoria Council.

Electricity was restored last Thursday following discussions between local administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson and an interim committee representing broad-based community organisations, the Pretoria Council said.

A spokesman for the Pretoria Council yesterday warned that "a strong possibility exists that the power will be discontinued again next month if residents do not pay the proposed new tariffs".

A large number of residents who attended a meeting convened by the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation on Sunday resolved to ignore the new tariffs and to continue paying the R50 monthly flat rate.

Crisis

The Pretoria Council had said the R50 flat rate was not enough to pay for administrative costs and sewerage in the township.

"Let alone electricity" Atteridgeville acting town clerk Mr Daan Mouton expressed concern about the rent crisis and said large numbers of residents were still not paying the R50 flat rate.

The arrangement signed by ARO and the administrator in January for the payment of R50 a house is due to expire at the end of this month.

ARO chairman Mr Reeves Mahatsa asked residents at Sunday's meeting to determine how much they wished to pay from July.

Stayaway protest plan by students

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE South African National Students Congress has declared a week of action against Gazankulu Chief Minister Professor Hudson Ntsanwini in protest against the closure of Twumben College.

Sanaco's Northern Transvaal chairman Mr Robinson Ramute said yesterday the organisation had decided that Friday would be marked by a stayaway and marches at all tertiary institutions in the region.

Twumben was closed indefinitely in March following class boycotts to demand that Ntsanwini relinquish his post as chancellor of the college and for the recognition of the constitution of the students representative council.

Sanaco has tried several times to persuade the Gazankulu government to reopen the college.

A delegation that staged a sit-in at the offices of the department of education in April was frog-marched out by police.

Strike threat by steel workers

By MONK NKOMO

STEEL and engineering employers are forcing trade unions into a strike, the Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa said on Monday.

"If we are not able to reach an agreement I believe we are heading for a crisis," Mewusa general-secretary Mr Tommy Oliphant said in a statement, referring to deadlocked pay talks.

Trade unions and employers' representatives who are involved in national wage negotiations in the industry were due to attend a dispute meeting in Johannesburg yesterday.

The 12 unions facing the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa in the talks have declared a dispute with the employer grouping, Oliphant said.

Metal industry talks deadlocked on May 29, despite unions having drastically reduced their demands, he said.

Seifsia has refused to amend its wage offer, despite Mewusa reducing its across-the-board demand to R1,30 an hour, Oliphant said.
Residents of Tamboville, Wattville, protest outside the Benoni town hall on Monday to show their anger over the allocation of stands in the area.

Row brews over land in Wattville

THE Wattville Concerned Residents Committee has lashed out at the Benoni Town Council over the allocation of stands at Tamboville on the East Rand.

WCRC chairman Mr Abe Nyalunga said they had been given the mandate by the Benoni Town Council to allocate stands in Tamboville, near Wattville.

The Wattville Council was not represented and not involved in the allocation of stands.

Benoni's town clerk Mr Denys Conradie said the WCRC had permitted the allocation of 242 stands to the Wattville Council following a meeting on June 6.

Nyalunga said the Benoni Town Council was trying to involve the Wattville Council in the matter.

"In an emergency sitting of the Benoni Town Council, part of the agreement was annulled in order to provide 242 people on the Wattville Council's waiting list with stands."

"All stands in Tamboville have been allocated and there is a confrontation looming between people who were allocated stands by WCRC and those who were on the waiting list."

"By involving the Wattville Council in the Tamboville affair the Benoni Town Council is trying to bring violence into the area," Nyalunga said.

If violence broke out the Benoni Town Council would have to take responsibility, he said.
New bid to solve electricity and boycott crisis

Political Reporter

The joint working group between the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST) will meet again today to discuss electricity cut-offs and rent and services boycotts in Transvaal townships.

TPA spokesman Magda du Toit said the meeting in Johannesburg was part of an ongoing process.

The group would make arrangements for a larger meeting some time next week between representatives of the two bodies.

CAST general secretary Sam Ntuli said the meeting would look at all the problems in the townships.

Talks between the TPA and CAST last week failed to find solutions to the electricity cut-offs in 12 townships.

CAST called for a moratorium on cut-offs while negotiations were being held on the non-payment of rent and services accounts. But the TPA said it could not accept the request because it was not responsible for the cut-offs.
We hope to have at least three members in every street, or a total of 120 members in Alexandria. The Star Peace Corps (APC) was formed in Alexandria two weeks ago, and we will not be paid for services rendered to the community.

- Mr. Mabena said the APC is a very successful initiative. We are not only outsourced but we are waiting for them to take part in the project. We have already approached them and they are interested. We hope we have a role in helping the people of Alexandria.
Mass protests planned for Vaal Triangle, S Tvl

The Vaal Triangle and Southern Transvaal are the targets this weekend of mass action protests against township electricity cuts and to pressure the Government into solving the education crisis.

What has been described as the first in a series of mass protests following power cuts in Vaal Triangle townships last week will hit Vereeniging this weekend.

Cosatu education officer in the Western Transvaal, Shelle Papi, confirmed yesterday that a protest march was being organised in the town for Saturday.

Freedom

He said about 10 000 residents were expected to protest against the blackout in townships, and to demand peace, jobs and freedom.

The march, he said, would start at the Vaal Showgrounds at 11 am and move along Beaconsfield and Leslie avenues, ending opposite the post office, where a memorandum would be presented to the police district commandant, Colonel Jaap Venter.

The Vereeniging Town Council has given permission for the march, which requires the approval of the chief magistrate, with whom an application has been lodged.

Vaal Civic Association chairman Malik Madise said on Tuesday a meeting would be held tonight at Cosatu House in Vereeniging at which the association, ANC, PAC, Cosatu and other organisations would look at suggested mass action in the Triangle.

The Southern Transvaal region of the National Education Co-ordinating Committee is planning mass protests on Saturday to put pressure on the Government to address the education crisis.

Amon Msane, regional general secretary, told a media conference in Johannesburg that the protest would include marches to all Department of Education and Training offices in the PWV, culminating in nationwide rallies on Sunday to mark the 15th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprisings.

"We call on all our masses in the factories, schools, townships, suburbs and cities to come out in strong support of our just cause," said Mr Msane.

The NECC has accused the DET and the Government of failing to address grievances, and has called on the Minister, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, to resign by June 16 if these grievances are not addressed.

"This year, we commemorate the deaths of those children 35 years ago in the struggle to normalise education," Mr Msane said.

Begged

"Since the beginning of the year, we have demonstrated, we have demonstrated, we have petitioned, we have begged, we have appealed, we have negotiated with every decision-maker in the DET hierarchy, including President de Klerk, all to no avail."

He said most pupils were still without books halfway through the school year — Vereeniging Bureau-Education Reporter.
Soweto is warned of electricity cuts

THE Soweto Council said yesterday it would cut off electricity within two weeks unless residents and traders paid their accounts.

The council said in a statement yesterday that all traders would receive final notices this week giving them until June 25 to pay.

The deadline for residents is the end of the month.

The council’s new public relations officer Mr Mojalefa Moseki said the council would also conduct random inspections throughout the township to check on illegal electricity connections.

He acknowledged, however, that the association had not received payments from some residents who used their services.

Moseki said it was imperative that the civic and the traders’ organisations meet the council to iron out differences.

However, Mogase reiterated the Soweto Peoples Delegation’s intention to have the council stripped of its control to supply electricity to the area.

The SPD wanted this responsibility to be transferred to the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council.
Pay up or face power cut-off, Soweto told

Staff Reporter

The Soweto Council yesterday warned traders and residents in the area of an impending electricity cut-off if they did not pay their bills within the next two weeks.

In a statement, the council said final notices would be served to all businesses in the area, whereby they would be given 14 days (until June 25) to pay up or face the cut-off.

Arrears

The council also made an appeal to residents to pay their electricity and water bills by the end of this month to avoid a services cut-off.

Power would only be restored upon payment of at least 10 percent of arrears or three months' consumption, an undertaking to pay off the balance, and payment of the current (June) account, the statement said.

Random inspections to check unauthorised electricity connections would be conducted and spot fines imposed on culprits. Failure to settle such fines would lead to prosecution, said the statement.

The statement further said the council noted with regret that the Soweto People's Delegation had either not fulfilled its obligations in the Soweto Accord or had failed to persuade the 80 percent residents to sign claims to represent them to pay for services or to restrain residents from tampering with the council's property.

The council also rejected claims that it had inflated electricity bills because it was bankrupt.

"Bills sent to residents are an accurate reflection of their electricity consumption, either metered or the flat rate, agreed upon by the signatories of the Soweto Accord," said the statement.

However, those who had complaints about their accounts were urged to contact the council.
Hostel dwellers to march

By MONK NKOMO

EXECUTIVE members of the Mamelodi Civic Association will lead a march by hostel dwellers to the local council offices tomorrow.

The march, from 9am, is to demand that hostel residents pay R6.50 each for boarding in terms of an agreement by residents at a meeting held last month.

Residents decided at the meeting to pay a flat rate of R50 a household, which was rejected by the council.

Meanwhile, president of the Civics Association of Southern Transvaal, Mr Moses Mayekiso, will address a rally at HM Ptte Stadium on Sunday.

The rally will start at 10am and the other expected guest is Mr Isaac Mashgo of the newly-formed Central Transvaal Civics Association.
Do not cut Soweto power during talks, council told

THE Soweto City Council had no right to cut off power to businesses and residents while talks on handing over management of electricity supply to the Central Water and RSC were continuing, the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) has said.

The council has threatened to cut electricity to businesses by June 25, alleging they had built up a debt running to hundreds of thousands of rands since the rent boycott started seven years ago.

It claimed that the business community was not covered by the Greater Soweto Accord which last year wrote off a R515m debt for residents under the Diepsloot, Doornville and Soweto councils.

SCA technical committee member Lawrence Boya said parties represented in the chamber were working on an agreement on handing over management of electricity to the RSC.

"The chamber is not in a position to give authority to the handover, but the parties in the chamber have to ratify the agreement," Boya said.

"So we would not accept any cutoff of electricity supply just yet," he said.

The SCA hoped to meet the council before June 25 to resolve the situation.

Boya said the council also be acting in bad faith if it carried out its threat to cut power to residents if they did not pay by the end of this month.

It would be an unfortunate situation because the matter of interim charges for electricity is still under negotiation.

Soweto Mayor Oscar Maseko could not be reached for comment yesterday.

RSC chairman John Griffiths confirmed yesterday that the issue of the handover was discussed at a meeting with the three councils "The councils are still considering the proposal," he added.

Doornville Mayor MacFarlane Phenethi also confirmed that the subject had been discussed "The issue has to go to the (chamber's) joint technical committee first and then to the Metropolitan Chamber. So I don't have a comment yet."
TWO residents yesterday brought an application in the Rand Supreme Court against the Evaton Council to have some of its by-laws set aside.

Mr William Titu Mogapi and Mr Solomon Kehla Mashinini, members of the Evaton Standowners Association, asked for an order to declare the by-laws void, claiming that the council had not complied with them.

Mr Justice MS Stegmann will hear the application again today.

They maintain that the council had, for a considerable period, charged them land tax on their properties while it had no authority to do so.

Residents were also being charged rent despite the fact that they had freehold rights.

By-laws

Mr J du Toit, for the council, submitted that the council had the authority to enact the by-laws as it had complied with regulations.

The residents claimed the council did not comply with the regulation requiring newspaper advertising before enactment.

The applicants submitted that the council had misled residents in the advertisement, giving the impression that residents have rights to object or comment on the proposed by-laws ended two days earlier.

The adverts were placed in Sowetan on May 27 and 29 last year.

Du Toit said residents did not suffer great prejudice.

Mr Paul Kennedy, for the applicants, asked that the by-laws be set aside because they were so vague that they confused residents.
Talks to end boycott fail as councils endure bankruptcy

AS provincial authorities and civic associations failed to reach agreement this week, more than 2 million township residents could be left without essential services by the end of July.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (CWRSC) have jointly warned, if consumers continue with the boycott of payment for services, local authorities will no longer be able to provide those services.

Employees of the bankrupt councils are also faced with retrenchments as there is no money to pay their salaries. Already, Thokoza Town Council, on the East Rand, has retrenched 37 percent of its employees, due to bankruptcy caused by the continuing rent and services boycott in the township.

Administrator for the town council Gert Muller said on Tuesday the crisis could force further retrenchments.

Power cuts

Nine black townships were plunged into darkness due to the non-payment of services accounts by residents in those areas.

Power has however been restored to some areas of Sebokeng, in the Vaal Triangle and the whole of Atteridgeville, Pretoria and Thokoza — following agreements signed by the TPA and civic organisations and a flood of late services charges payments.

Mr John Griffiths, chairman of the CWRSC, said the situation might be averted if residents paid for what they consumed and if the Government increased its bridging funds to the councils.

He predicted that in a month's time, town councils would be unable to pay their employees' salaries, let alone paying for bulk services or township development projects.

"It's my view that with the level of income at the moment, both from consumers and the Government, there would be a breakdown of services by the end of July.

"All parties involved should address this issue very soon as councils will find it difficult to pay employees and even more difficult to pay for bulk supplies of water and electricity," Mr Griffiths said.

His view was fully shared by Olaus van Zyl, MEC for Institutional Development and Negotiations.

"The TPA is very concerned about the deteriorating situation in black towns. We believe the problems must be resolved through negotiation, and such talks are presently taking place at 64 places in the Transvaal," he said.

He said the only solution would be reached when residents fulfilled their responsibility for paying for services.

Money intended for development purposes was used for the payment of essential services such as the provision of water, sewerage and refuse removal.

"As a result of this, very little new infrastructure can be developed," Mr van Zyl said.

In another development, the CWRSC had accepted to take over the distribution and maintenance of electricity supplies to black townships in its region, after they had been requested to do so by the Metropolitan Chamber.

"We are waiting for the councils to approach us and then we can negotiate an agreement," Mr Griffiths said.

The CWRSC had always been against a total curtailment of power to the areas and was in favour of withdrawing power from individuals that do not pay for their consumption.

Mr Griffiths made an impassioned appeal to residents to pay for what services were used.

At the moment, electricity is cut off at the following towns: Lekoa (four towns), Stilbela (Carolina), Siyututuka (Belfast), Tugane (Haartebeesfontein), Katlehong (Germiston) and Munsieville (Krugersdorp).
Urban co-government is closer as CAST relents

AFTER much arm-twisting, the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (CAST) has finally bowed to pressure from constituents eager for it to take part in the controversial Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber (MC).

MC spokesman Nigel Mandy sighed with relief at the news, which ended months of uncertainty.

He had previously accused the mass-based CAST of adopting a “dogmatic approach” to the MC. In the past, CAST had dismissed any ties with the MC, saying this would indirectly give black councillors undeserved recognition.

On the other hand, most of CAST’s affiliates in the Witwatersrand have been independently echoing groundswell support for participation in the MC.

And, although this week, CAST reiterated it would not deal with the MC, civic bodies affiliated to the MC stayed on as members of CAST.

Besides dividing the leadership of CAST, the MC saga has also exposed cracks in the relationship between CAST and its associates since the MC’s constitution was signed on April 9.

And while the latest developments could amount to just a plastering over of those cracks, Saturday Star can reveal that heated debates over whether or not to participate in the MC had previously led to:

- The resignation of Cas Coovadia as assistant general secretary of CAST.
- The threat to get Cyril Ramaphosa sacked from the pro-MC Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD), the “negotiating task force” of the Soweto Civic Association (SCA).
- An appeal to ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela to mediate in the squabble.

The threat of a split within the SCA itself hardliners argued that participation in the MC could only be acknowledged once the black councillors relinquished control over township finances.

Now the rough spots have apparently been ironed out, CAST this week described its affiliates as autonomous.

In the meantime Mr Coovadia, who believed the weaknesses of the chamber could best be fought from inside, not outside, has yet to learn whether his resignation has been accepted — five weeks after submitting it.

It was not clear why CAST had taken so long to make its stand-point known. CAST president Moses Mayekiso said the general council would take a decision at the end of the month.

Mr Coovadia said he would return to his job if asked to do so.

Isaac Nogase, president of the SCA, said his organisation had always been committed to the MC. He said the MC was established as a result of the Soweto accord signed last year.

He warned that black councillors were “on their way out.” All would be forced to resign.

Approached for comment on participating in the MC, Johannesburg’s central civic body, Actstop, said no decision had been made yet. General secretary Pressage Nkosi said his organisation was waiting for a mandate from members “Otherwise,” he said, “in principle, we support the chamber.”

The Alexandra Civic Organisation was also attending the MC meetings.
Civic body to confront city council

THE CP-controlled Pretoria City Council (PCC) will soon be confronted with mass action from the newly formed Civic Associations of the Central Transvaal (Cact).

Cact's publicity secretary, Pasty Malale, warned that "for too long" the PCC has proved to be insensitive towards the impoverished black townships surrounding Pretoria and therefore deserved any form of action.

Top on Cact's agenda would be a demand for non-racial local government for Pretoria, and a single tax base for Pretoria and the neighbouring townships.

Negotiations would be entered into with the PCC, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the business community to find common solutions, Mr. Malefo said. "The black local council would be snubbed.

The new civic body was launched at the Medical University of South Africa last weekend.
Unity in Vaal rent talks

THE Vaal branches of the ANC, PAC and Azapo joined forces this week in negotiations with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) to end a seven-year rent boycott in Vaal township.

The joint force has called on residents to pay rent and service charges pending an agreement with the TPA.

The unity announcement was made at a meeting held at Vereeniging's Cosatu House.

It was attended by members of Cosatu, Nactu, the National Forum, the Azanian Students' Organisation, Azanian Youth Unity, the ANC Youth League and the PAC.

Vaal Cosatu Association chairman Malik Madue blamed the TPA for delaying negotiations in the past.

"They could not guarantee the supply of services if residents agreed to pay R41 for services and R45 for electricity," he said.

Madue denied that an agreement had been reached with the Lekoa City Council to pay for electricity bills only if the TPA meets the demands of the joint delegation, it could end the boycott which has cost R16-million.

Residents' demands are:
- No negotiations with councillors;
- Writing off arrears;
- Transfer of houses to residents;
- Cessation of threats and evictions;
- No expropriation of property;
- Conversion of hostels into family units; and
- Upgrading of services.
EMBATTLED MP SAYS

FAMILY ARE VICTIMS

OF BRUTAL VENDETTA

A dispute over a township housing shortage erupted into open warfare this week, when National Party MP Don Makhele was attacked and his house was burned down in a series of explosions.

The attack, which occurred on Wednesday night, is the latest in a string of attacks on members of the party in the Western Cape.

Mr. Makhele's home in the township of Khayelitsha, was targeted by a group of men armed with guns and Molotov cocktails.

The attack comes after Mr. Makhele had previously denounced the ANC-led government for its failure to address the housing crisis.

The ANC has accused the National Party of being幕后黑手, using such attacks to disrupt the run-up to the local government elections.

The National Party has denied any involvement in the attacks and has called for an end to violence.

Bribes

The probe, headed by retired magistrate Judge John Dube, has been investigating allegations of corruption in the Western Cape.

Dube has said that the probes are necessary to bring about transparency and accountability in the province.

The probe has received hundreds of complaints from citizens, who have beensheeting the amount of corruption in the region.

The findings of the probe are expected to be released within the next few months.

Mystery

The murder ofa local businessman, who was found dead in his home last week, remains unsolved.

The police are investigating the matter, but no suspects have been identified so far.

The businessman, who was known to be involved in the local business community, was last seen alive on Wednesday.

The police have appealed to the public for information that could help them solve the case.

The families of the victims said they were demanding justice and were not willing to accept any compromise.

The National Party has condemned the attacks and called for an end to violence.
Cast will join Met Chamber

AFTER much arm-twisting by its constituents, the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal has agreed to take part in the controversial Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

MC spokesman Mr Nigel Mandy sighed with relief at the news, which ended months of uncertainty.

He had previously accused the mass-based Cast of adopting a "dogmatic approach" to the MC.

In the past, Cast had unequivocally rejected any ties with the MC, saying its involvement would indirectly give black councillors undeserved recognition.

On the other hand, most of Cast's affiliates in the Witwatersrand have been independently echoing groundswell support for participation in the MC.

Dividing

And although this week Cast reiterated it would not deal with the MC, civic bodies affiliated to the MC stayed on as members of Cast.

Besides dividing the leadership of Cast, the saga of the MC has also exposed serious cracks in the relationship between Cast and its associates since the MC's constitution was signed on April 9.

Heated debates over whether or not to participate in the MC had previously led to:

* The resignation of Mr Cas Coovadia as assistant general secretary of Cast;
* A threat to get Mr Cyril Ramaphosa sacked from the pro-MC Soweto People's Delegation, the "negotiating task force" of the Soweto Civic Association;
* An appeal to ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela to mediate in the squabble, and
* The threat of a split within the SCA itself.

Hardliners

Hardliners had argued participation in the MC could only be acknowledged once the black councillors first relinquished control over township finances.

Now that the rough spots have been ironed out, Cast this week described its affiliates as autonomous.

In the meantime Coovadia, who believed the weaknesses of the chamber could best be fought from inside, has yet to learn whether his resignation has been accepted - five weeks after submitting his letter.

It was not clear why Cast has taken so long to make its standpoint known.

Mr Moses Mayekiso, president of Cast, said the general council would take a decision at the end of the month.

Coovadia said he would return to his job if asked to.

- Sowetan Correspondent
Honour to FW angers 65 groups in Stanger

MORE than 60 organisations in Stanger are bracing themselves for a confrontation with local authorities over a decision to confer the freedom of the town on State President FW de Klerk.

In a strongly worded advertisement, the ANC and 64 local organisations warn the Local Affairs Committee and the town council that residents will mount campaigns to resist an attempt to confer the honour on De Klerk.

The ANC has written a letter to De Klerk asking him to decline the offer to "show respect for the wishes of the people of Stanger".

Attempts by the ANC to meet with the town clerk to resolve the issue have been unsuccessful.

"The Stanger and Grootville branches of the ANC condemn the Stanger LAC and the town council’s decision that Mr de Klerk be given the freedom of Stanger. Such a move is insensitive and inappropriate," a joint statement from the chairmen of the ANC Stanger and Grootville branches states.

"The conferring of the honour on the State President is no more than the wish of a few persons and for them to think that they have the support of Stanger’s people is presumptuous in the extreme," the statement says.

"Should they wish to proceed without testing the views of the town’s people, the local branches of the ANC will mobilise the people and will take such steps as may be necessary to prevent the freedom of Stanger being given to Mr De Klerk."

Stanger town clerk Mr WT Byrnes said the town council had noted the sentiments expressed by the ANC but stood by its decision.

"Furthermore, the Stanger town council is of the opinion that it is not necessary to meet with representatives of the ANC as it may serve no useful purpose," Byrnes said.

The advertisement taken out by the ANC and other organisations says:

"The LACs in their insistence not to reconsider their decision are ignoring the wishes of the people."

"The ANC and the town council, rescind your decision or face the wrath of the people."

Sovetani Correspondent.
after black days, black months

Thokozan I'm go on

Sponsorship

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, June 17, 1991
Vaal mass action plan shelved

THE Vaal Civic Association (VCA) has shelved the mass action planned after the Lekoa City Council cut off electricity supplies to Vaal Triangle townships.

VCA chairman Malik Madise said during a meeting of delegates from the PAC, Conatu, ANC, Azapo, Nactu and the National Forum that instead of deciding to seek resumption of talks with the TPA, the organisations and their substructures decided to work for an accord with the TPA, the question of mass action would depend on the outcome of the talks.

A Lekoa council spokesman said last week the council switched off power to 25,000 households after talks with the VCA deadlocked on the resolution of the R240m arrears which residents had built up over seven years of rent and service charge boycotts.

The council reportedly owes Eskom and Vereeniging City Council R23m for bulk electricity supplies.

Lekoa town clerk Klaas Louw said power had already been restored to 25% of the 25,000 households because they had paid 70% of their current monthly accounts.

Townships affected by the power cuts were Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bophelong, Bethel, Bopatong, Zamdelas and Refengote.

THEO RAWANA
Civic group shuns chamber

THE umbrella group of township civic organisations in the Transvaal said yesterday its decision not to participate in the Metropolitan Chamber had not changed.

"Cast has never decided to participate in the chamber and at present the position is that Cast is not going to participate," said Mr Moses Mayekiso, president of the Civics Association of Southern Transvaal.

Mayekiso was approached for comment on a newspaper report that pressure by members had forced the group to cave in.

Some civic groups are affiliated to the MC. The report gave no source of the claim.

"Cast does not support signing constitutions at regional level while there are negotiations pending for a national constitution," said Mayekiso, a leading member of the South African Communist Party.

Cast has declined to join the chamber because of the presence of township councillors, who it accuses of being unrepresentative and corrupt.

"The chamber is silent about these councillors who represent nobody," Mayekiso added.

Campaign

Cast has been on the frontline demanding the resignation of councillors in a campaign that has virtually destroyed several councils, forcing the authorities to appoint administrators.

Mayekiso accused the authorities of decentralising political power in a move that could bring an apartheid through the back door.

"We believe that the chamber is one step towards that direction. Why should that decentralisation come now that we are about to get majority rule. We believe they want to accommodate rightwing sentiments of group rights," he said.

He said municipalities in conservative towns would rush to create racial structures. - Sapa.
Power cut hits Reef train commuters

THOUSANDS of commuters in the PWV area were left stranded or arrived late for work yesterday as suburban trains ran up to an hour late.

A spokesman for Spoornet said the problem was caused by a failure in the power supply from Eskom.

The spokesman said Eskom power lines in Tembisa had been cut down and stolen during the weekend.

As a result, the power supply to Spoornet substations was "too weak to pull the trains".

The entire PWV area was affected and all suburban trains were running late, the spokesman said.

"There is nothing we can do. We just don't have enough power to pull the trains."

Sowetan Correspondent.
Tokoza electricity is on again

By GRACE RAPHOLO

ELECTRICITY: Tokoza has been switched on after a six-month blackout.

This follows the suspension of a 15-month rent and service charges boycott.

Transvaal Provincial Administration chief director Jan van der Walt said the Alberton Town Council had agreed to the switch-on even though an amount exceeding R1.9 million for electricity supplied before the cut-off could not be made yet.

The town council required the Tokoza Council to pay an amount of not less than R12 000 a day to ensure a continued supply of electricity.

"As a gesture of goodwill, the TPA has paid the Alberton Town Council R120 000 to enable the electricity supply in Tokoza to be switched on."

For June and July, households with electricity are to pay R71 a month while others will pay R21 a month to the Tokoza Council. From August onwards, residents would pay for metered electricity, water, sewerage, refuse removal and other services according to set tariffs.

Van der Walt said it was essential that residents should start paying the amounts which were negotiated on their behalf by the Tokoza Civic Committee.

The Tokoza boycott was called off following the signing of an agreement by the TPA, Tokoza’s administrator, Gert Muller and the Tokoza Civic Committee.

The TCC is made up of ANC, Inkatha Freedom Party, PAC, Tokoza Civic Association, Tokoza Chamber of Commerce, Tokoza Ministers Fellowship and Tokoza Ratepayers Association.
Heated debate over Sandton rates

By Mark Suzman

Sandton residents' assessment rate will increase by 12.6 percent and interest on unpaid council revenues will rise to 24 percent as a result of the new Sandton budget passed last night.

In a somewhat acrimonious meeting, with some councillors accusing the council of lacking proper direction and of building power cliques that restrain dissent, the town's new R254 million budget was approved after a 2½-hour meeting.

Introducing the budget, Councillor Bruce Stewart, chairman of the management committee, criticised the Government for keeping local budget increases to 13 percent.

"This constraint is considered to be unreasonable since inflation is currently in excess of 14 percent and Sandton continues to be one of the most rapidly developing towns in South Africa with a growth rate of 6 percent," he said.

In order to balance the budget, the council has limited the creation of new posts and deferred the filling of some vacant posts.

In addition to raising rate and interest charges, the budget calculates that water, electricity, sewerage, refuse removal and other taxable services will increase by a further 12 percent after the introduction of VAT in October.
Residents fume as geyser system turned off

By John Miller

As temperatures plummeted on Monday night and demand for electricity in the PWV region hit an all-time high, thousands of Kempton Park residents were fuming when they were left with no hot water after the council's ripple-control system switched off the geyser.

Mike Pheifer, one of the many residents who was affected by the shutdown, said he had to boil numerous pots of water on the stove and use a kettle and microwave to obtain hot water after his geyser was switched off.

"Surely this defeats the object of saving electricity by cutting off the geyser? I feel that if I pay for electricity I should be entitled to receive it. I have no choice in the matter and they certainly did not have my permission to install a ripple control in my geyser?"

The town's electrical engineer, Jan Malan, said the ripple-control system was installed about 12 years ago and controlled maximum demand during peak periods.

He said staff had been caught off guard with the sudden cold weather and the cut-off point of 199 Mva was in fact too low.

Yesterday it was set at 200 Mva and increased to 294 by the afternoon to meet the high demand.

The system is controlled by computer, and at a predetermined point a signal is sent out and geyser systems shut down for a few hours.

An Eskom spokesman said Monday night's record consumption of 22 140 MW was 166 MW higher than the June 1989 figure of 21 974 MW.
Hostel dwellers warned of cuts

THE Mamelodi Council has warned local hostel dwellers of possible electricity cuts should they boycott rent, writes ALINAH DUBE.

The council made this warning reacting to the march on Saturday by hostel dwellers who were demanding a flat rate of R6.50 for their boarding.

Bulk electricity

Chairman of the Mamelodi Civic Association, Mr Lazarus Nzwayize, led marchers to the council offices.

"People should realise that if they do not pay the usual levy the council will not be able to pay for the bulk electricity supply and finally they may lead to power cuts.

"Hostel dwellers insisting on paying the flat rate suggested by the civic association will have to brace themselves for the consequences of their move," the council spokesman said.
Steep hike in Jo'burg rates likely

JOHANNESBURG ratepayers face steep property rates increases after the city's annual budget is tabled tomorrow, council sources said yesterday.

The council was not expected to announce an increase in the assessment rate but a dramatic increase in property values following the most recent municipal valuation would see ratepayers paying more.

Residents will start paying rates on their new property values from the beginning of the council's new financial year on July 1.

Council could be expected to offset the rates hike with less severe increases in tariffs for electricity, water and other services, sources said.

Electricity tariffs could be expected to be kept below 5% and other service charges below the 14% inflation rate.

The general valuation of property — which takes place every three years — resulted in an average 60% to 70% increase in the value of Johannesburg properties, city valuer Nic Botha said yesterday.

However, it could not be assumed that the percentage increase in rates would equal the percentage increase in property value. He said he assumed that the 55% rebate applicable to residential properties would continue in the coming year.

Other sources said that in most cases the increase in assessment rates would be high.
Moving in New South Africa

A RUDE awakening awaits prospective homebuyers who think that, after the demise of the Group Areas Act, they can move to any of the historically white suburbs.

The reason is in the price of property, which is rising. Soweto has been a target for developers and speculators, but the real estate market in the township is not as competitive as it once was.

The result is that prices in the township have increased significantly, making it difficult for middle-class buyers to afford homes. The situation is compounded by the fact that many homes in the township are in poor condition and require significant repairs.

However, there are some positive developments, such as the construction of new homes and the renovation of older ones. This is likely to increase the demand for homes in the township, leading to higher prices.

The best approach for homebuyers is to stay informed about the market and to work with a knowledgeable real estate agent who can help navigate the复杂市场.

In conclusion, the real estate market in Soweto is dynamic and constantly changing. Homebuyers who are willing to adapt to these changes are more likely to succeed in finding a home that meets their needs.

Mayelana namapho maphetha awo wonke umuntu onefisoe Sokuzathengela indlu noma ukwakhe, singakohlwa yilowo ofuna ukulondoloza kona belu ukwakhe.

Lalela ulelelo i-Penn Home Line ku-Radio Zulu nyalalo ngwane-Sine wesibili phakathi kuka 8 8 9 kushilwa, Lapha uzokwuka u-Sula Mntse nezimnye izwenzetho, bophendula yisiphiwayo uThembelakho nayi uMngeni nayo Ukuthengwa, ukwakha, ukuthula izamali, ama-diphoxo nokunugi.

Nghako-ke lalela ulelelo i-Penn Home Line ngoLwesane ushayele kulonqembeleni yokcino, (011) 714-8030 uma unomuzobu Thembela kubona, bona-bezokuswa ngezinkange ezxamayela nukozholoza indlu.

Perm Home and Savings Uma uyinga ongangcika kuyena.

To Page 25
Tokoza electricity switched on again

THE 15-month rent and service charges boycott in Tokoza has ended and electricity to the Alberton township has been reconnected after a six-month blackout.

Transvaal Provincial Administration chief director Mr Jan van der Walt said the Alberton Town Council had agreed to the switch-on although an amount exceeding R1.9 million, for electricity supplied before the cut-off, had not been paid.

The town council required the Tokoza Council to pay an amount of not less than R12 000 a day to ensure the continued supply of electricity.

"As a gesture of goodwill, the TPA has paid the Alberton Town Council R120 000 to enable the electricity supply in Tokoza to be switched on." He said for the months of June and July, households with electricity connections were to pay R71 a month and others R31 a month to the Tokoza Council.

**Payments**

From August onwards, residents would pay for metered electricity, water, sewage, refuse removal and other services according to set tariffs.

Van der Walt said it was essential that residents started paying the amounts which were negotiated on their behalf by the Tokoza Civic Committee.

"Unless sufficient payments are made to the Tokoza Council, it will not be able to keep up its daily payments to the Alberton Council and that would lead once more to the disconnection of electricity supplies and further deterioration of other services."

The Tokoza boycott was called off following the signing of an agreement by the TPA, Tokoza's administrator, Mr Gert Muller, and the Tokoza Civic Committee.

CAST 'not asked to join chamber'

By Mekeed Kotolo
Pretoria Bureau

The Civic Associations of Southern Africa was not invited to take part in the Metropolitan Chamber, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

MEC for institutional development and negotiations, Olme van Zyl, was reacting to CAST's reported decision not to take part in the chamber.

Mr van Zyl said: "As far as we are aware, CAST, as an organisation, was never asked to participate.

He said some of the civic associations taking part in the chamber were members of CAST, but that was a matter between them and CAST.

Mr van Zyl could not understand why CAST president Moses Mayeku had said his organisation would not join the chamber because of the presence of town councillors.

He said Mr Mayeku had been "part of the negotiations and the agreement" reached in Alexandra. The talks had included the local council."
Rates beating for Jo'burg suburbs

RATEPAYERS in Johannesburg's north and northwestern suburbs can expect their monthly rates and services bills to increase by between 20% and 30% from July 1.

Details of the different overall increases expected in various areas will be outlined during the city's annual budget meeting today.

They range from 30% to minus 0.7% depending on suburbs' updated property values.

The morning management committee chairman Ian Davidson will again announce a record budget — expected to top R2.5bn.

The council's main capital expenditure in the coming year is expected to include the Africana Museum, sewerage projects as agent of the Central Witwatersrand RSC, the Kelvin power station and another installment for the Civic Theatre, which should be completed in November 1992.

TANIA LEVY

Davidson will explain how the management committee has restructured the budget, as promised last year, to reduce its reliance on profits from electricity tariffs and increase the emphasis on rates income.

Domestic ratepayers should welcome the resultant reduction in electricity bills, which will be announced today.

In general, businesses have been loaded with higher tariffs because they are tax deductible.

This year the council expects to double the amount it collects in rates, while the amount from electricity, gas, water, refuse removal and sewerage tariffs will increase less than 5% on aggregate.

Tariff increases have been kept low to offset the impact on assessment rates of the new valuation roll.

In some areas property values have been increased substantially and their rates bills will follow suit. In general, the values of properties in the south, and the far south in particular, have shown biggest increases. In other areas, such as the north and northwest, increases have been substantial, in some cases as much as 250%.
Vail, power crisis deepens.

By Wally McBeth

In recent weeks, Vail has been facing a power crisis that is deepening. The town is struggling to meet its energy needs due to a combination of factors, including an aging infrastructure and increasing demand.

Vail has been relying on power generation from a nearby dam, but recent maintenance issues have caused delays in repairs, leading to intermittently insufficient power. This has forced businesses and residents to implement rationing and conservation measures.

The situation has escalated over the past week, with power outages becoming more frequent and prolonged. The town has been working to implement emergency power solutions, including the deployment of mobile generators and the exploration of alternative energy sources.

Officials are urging residents to conserve energy and be prepared for potential disruptions. They are also working with state and federal agencies to address the crisis and restore reliable power to Vail.

The crisis has highlighted the need for more robust energy infrastructure and the importance of investing in renewable energy solutions.

The town of Vail, located in the Eagle County, is a popular destination for skiing and summer sports, attracting millions of visitors annually. The power crisis has the potential to impact tourism and the local economy.

As the situation continues to develop, Vail officials are hopeful that they can withstand the crisis and emerge stronger, with a renewed commitment to sustainability and resilience.

Wally McBeth
THE Civies Association of the Southern Transvaal was not asked to participate in the Metropolitan Chamber, the Transvaal Provincial Administration has announced.

Reacting to Cast's reported decision not to participate in the chamber, MEC for institutional development and negotiations Mr Olaus van Zyl said:

"As far as we are aware, Cast, as an organisation, was never asked to participate. Therefore, it is not really relevant whether Cast wants to participate or not."

Van Zyl said the chamber comprised representatives of local authorities, management committees, civic and resident organisations and the TPA. Bodies such as the Regional Services Councils, Eskom and the Development Bank participated as observers.

Councillors

"Some of the civic associations participating may, however, be members of Cast and their participation is therefore unavoidable between them and Cast," he said.

Van Zyl said he found it strange that Cast's president, Mr Moses Mayekiso, said his organisation had declined to join the chamber because of the presence of town councillors on the body, while he was a member of the Alexandra Joint Negotiation Forum, in which councillors participated. - Sapa.
Power costs cut, rates up in Jo’burg

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

Johannesburg householders will pay 10 percent less for electricity from July 1, but property owners in affluent areas face up to 30 percent increases in their rates bill.

This was revealed in the record R5.8 billion city budget tabled yesterday.

It was described as a "VAT-efficient budget" by management committee chairman Ian Davidson.

Service tariffs were kept low to even out the high increases in rates in some areas when the new properly valuation roll comes into effect on July 1.

Introduction of the new roll means the effect on ratepayers' household accounts varies from minus 6.7 percent to 33 percent.

Profits

In the restructured budget, more emphasis has been placed on reducing the operating budget with funds from rates rather than from service tariffs.

In the new financial year, the city council will receive 50 percent 'more' money from domestic rates than at present.

A 10 percent decrease in electricity for domestic users was announced, and a low 5 percent increase in electricity for commercial and industrial users.

This means electricity profits to the council will be cut by R100 million.

Other proposed changes:
- Domestic refuse removal — up 14 percent.
- Non-domestic refuse removal — up 30 percent.
- Domestic gas use — no change.
- Commercial gas use — up 5 percent.
- Sewerage service — up 25 percent.
- Domestic water use — up 4 percent.
- Commercial water use — up 15 percent.

Ratepayers have been warned to budget for 12 percent VAT to be added to their service tariffs from September 30.

The R548 million capital budget is up 41 percent on last year and the operating budget of R5.1 billion up 22 percent. The total Johannesburg municipal budget is larger than that of Namibia as well as the Natal and OFS provincial budgets.

The management committee is confident the council can make savings in the next financial year. A deficit of R10.5 million has been allowed for.

"In previous years the council has budgeted for a small surplus. I would rather have the surplus in the hands of the ratepayer than the council," Mr Davidson said.

Johannesburg had a major role to play in the new Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber by rendering assistance to black councils.

"However, we have made it abundantly clear that we do not see the obligation of mandating services to, or rehabilitating the municipal areas falling under the control of, the black councils as being solely the responsibility of Johannesburg," he said.

"A common fiscal base must be established, but it must be understood that all the bodies within the metropolitan area should share in the common wealth, and that must include those established local authorities which are mainly responsible for generating such wealth."
ANC versus the... Residents’ groups determined to be independent

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Phokanoka, who is head of the regional political education desk, was part of a delegation last Thursday that met Ramodike to discuss a planned stayaway by the NTCA.

Insiders said Ramodike was infuriated by the idea of a stayaway to protest against the opening of his legislative assembly, especially as other businesses such as Gazankulu, Kangwane and KwaNdebele had not been subjected to marches or stayaways.

The insiders said Ramodike, who was billeted as one of the major speakers at last weekend’s rally at the FNB stadium, told Phokanoka and regional chairman Mr Joel Ntsihlenzhe that if the ANC did not stop the NTCA’s stayaway, he would pull out of the FNB rally along with the busloads of people he had organised.

The ANC agreed to prevail on the NTCA to abandon the stayaway. Ntsihlenzhe accepted that this was the position when he addressed a news conference with Ramodike on Thursday afternoon.

Stayaway

But when Phokanoka addressed a meeting with the task force of the NTCA, Azapo and the PAC that evening, it was ANC members who told him plainly thanks, but no thanks.

Khanyo and Sekonya told Sowetoan after the meeting that as the NTCA they were not bound by ANC agreements with Ramodike.

"In the same way that we would not be bound by agreements between Azapo and anyone, we have refused to cancel our stayaway and it is going ahead as planned."

"The fact that we are ANC members is immaterial as we are at this juncture operating as the civic and in that capacity, we are non-aligned and non-sectarian."

"We represent the views of our community and we are bound by their decision to call a stayaway," they said.

And indeed, as they said, Lebohogomo was affected by a stayaway on Friday, with shops closed for half the day as ordered, and taxis not running.

Considering that the leaders of the civics are ANC members and that the formation of civics was an ANC campaign, what is happening?

Natal Midlands leaders Mr Blade Nzimande and Mr Mpane Sishosana effectively argue in their joint article in Mayibuye that civics are ups and up governing ANC branches and are unnecessary now that the organisation can wage its battles legally.

Conflicts

The two say there are widespread conflicts between civics and ANC branches in many regions also, many of the civics are becoming alternative power centres to the national liberation movement.

Rejecting the NICC basis that civics take up day-to-day issues such as rent, housing and water while the ANC takes up political issues, Mzwandile and Sishosana say, "The danger of the argument that civics should take up issues of rent, electricity, roads and the ANC branch (undefined) political issues, is that it falls squarely within the strategy to separate the ANC from its mass base.

"What political issues does an ANC branch take up other than the very political questions of rent, electricity, township administration and grassroots structures, have left many ANC activists disillusioned and angry, the source said.

"If the July conference in Durban can produce a leadership that would be seen to be towing the same line as now, structures such as the NICC are going to openly canvass against the ANC, pushing for a more militant line that saw the UDF grow from a ragging army of activists to the grant that it was until the state of emergency put many of its leaders behind bars," said the source.

"It is therefore important that where there are civics, ANC branches should work closely with them, but where there are no civics, our efforts should be directed towards strengthening ANC branches and not the formation of civic organisations."

The need for watchdogs over a future government, the article argues, should not obscure the more important issue of ensuring that the ANC takes over.

What the articles appear to demonstrate is a developing rift between the official ANC structures and structures whose membership is populated by ANC members.

Many ANC members, frustrated by the organisation’s slowing hot and cold over many issues such as sanctions, bantustan collaborators, the acceptance of Captain Dirk Coetzee into the organisation and the sports and cultural ballot, are turning to civics as a power bloc to uphold "the true principles of the ANC", one ANC insider said.

Angry

The link with Gazankulu chief minister Hudson Ntsani was when he has closed down a college controlled by an ANC-aligned SRC, and with Ramodike who is still experiencing problems with...
CALLERS support ‘watch’ groups

Mr Moropa from Deepdood said one way to stamp out crime and gangsterism was through the formation of street committees He said without a protective structure everybody was afraid because there was no one to report to

“I believe that if we come together we can fight these gangs”

Fath from Vosloorus also said the solution to fight gangs lay in street committees.

She said she did not have much confidence in the police because of a personal experience.

He said the courts should be harsh so that criminals would know what to expect when they broke laws.

“I am living in fear and I do not know what to do because gangsters terrorise us. Civic associations must try to do something to deal with gang,” he said.

Vusi said he believed that the escalating violence was caused by the high unemployment rate.

“Crime is on the increase because of disruption in education. If schooling problems can be corrected, then things will get back to normal and crime will decrease.”

One caller, Charmaine, said residents should establish neighbourhood watch groups similar to those operating in white suburbs for protection.

According to her, police cannot do more than they are already doing.

Rogal from Zondi said although it was the duty of the police to get rid of gangs, he believed the community must also help.
New tariffs divide community groups

THE Atteridgeville and Saulsville Interim Committee yesterday distanced itself from the new rent tariffs recently announced by the Pretoria City Council.

It had signed an agreement with the local administrator for a monthly flat rate of R90 a house, a committee spokesman said.

Shortly after the agreement was signed the administrator announced the new tariffs ranging between R75 and R180.

The interim committee distanced itself from these new tariffs and warned Asro to stop its campaign of misleading residents that the committee was party to the new tariffs.

Speaking at a meeting at the community hall to clarify the position, Mr Nonko Molala, said his committee viewed with contempt the dangerous campaign of vilification, distortions and disinformation by Asro against them.

Molala said his committee was formed last month after the administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, suspended talks with Asro during the electricity cuts.

Several community-based organisations were invited to participate with a group of residents who wanted to negotiate the reconnection of electricity.

Although Asro and the ANC were invited they failed to attend without giving reasons, Molala said.

The interim committee met the administrator and senior officials of the Pretoria City Council and the TPA and signed the agreement to pay the flat rate of R90 a month.

The meeting, which was well attended, was nearly disrupted by a group of youths outside the hall who heckled and voiced their dissatisfaction with the R90 flat rate.

Deputy president of the PAC, Mr Dikgang Moseneke, appealed to residents not to be threatened by any organisation and urged them to depoliticise civic organisations.

Asro general secretary, Mr Simon Thabu, was asked to leave the stage after addressing the meeting for a lengthy period amid chants of dissatisfaction from the audience.

A few people threatened to take the microphone from him but an incident was prevented by the intervention of Dr Leroloe Mabe, a senior member of PAC.

Molala said after the incident that it was clear certain people and organisations wanted to disrupt the meeting "to score political goals".

At the end of the meeting residents resolved to discuss the R90 flat rate with their respective organisations.

Another meeting is scheduled for next month.
Pirating of essential services rife - claim

THE Attendgeville City Council has launched an intensive investigation into claims that scores of residents occupying private houses are not paying for essential services because they are not properly registered.

An investigation by Soweto has revealed that a large number of residents living in private houses do not receive accounts for essential services because the council does not know of their existence.

Most of these residents are not registered at the local council offices where each resident is supposed to have a file detailing all personal particulars, including the date of entry, address and names of family members.

This negligence, which costs the council thousands of rands a month, could be as a result of certain contractors who have not notified the council of names and addresses of people who had bought their houses, investigations revealed.

A woman who stays at Extension 11 and did not want her name revealed for fear of reprisals, said she bought the house through the bank from a contractor without bothering to report her presence at the town council office.

She said: "I stayed for about eight months without paying for essential services. I did not receive any accounts from the council. My file was only opened when I enrolled my child at school. The principal insisted that I present a letter from the council to prove that I was a resident." Mr Dean Mouton, Attendgeville's acting town clerk, said the council has launched an extensive investigation into claims that most of the residents occupying private houses are not paying for essential services.

"We cannot deny or confirm these claims. We have heard about them. We are obviously concerned. We are going to check on these houses and get things straightened out," Mouton said.

Another resident, who also insisted on anonymity, told Soweto he had been staying in his house for four years without paying for services rendered by the council.

"I have never received accounts from the council in the four years I have been staying in this house. I bought the house through the bank, got my key and took my family in.

"I think the negligence lies with the contractors because they should inform the council of our existence. I have not yet gone to the office to register. But I hope to do that soon." Mouton declined to comment on the claims that certain contractors were to blame.
BUSINESSES who owe about R10 million to the Soweto Council have until today to settle their service charges accounts or face having their water and electricity supplies cut off.

The council’s public relations officer, Mr. Mapalela Mosela, said yesterday the council had decided to take strong action against defaulters following a warning a fortnight ago.

He said business owners who had not paid for services since last year or more would be treated as the “worst cases” and would be the first to have their power cut.

Mosela said the council would institute legal action against those who failed to pay.

Legal action might lead to the attachment and auctioning of the property by the Messenger of the Court in order to recover money owed to the council.

Action would also be taken against traders who tried to reconnect their electrical supplies after the cut-off.

He said the switch-off operation would continue until every business in Soweto had paid up.

Residents who have not paid their electricity bills since the signing of the Soweto Accord last September have also been warned of power cuts.

Switch-offs for residents will be implemented later.

Mosela confirmed that the council had already switched off electricity to some households in Protea South.
Call for boycott amid confusion over tariffs

THE rent crisis in Atteridgeville took another turn yesterday when the executive committee of the local civic association called on residents to stop paying rent until the issue was clarified.

The general secretary of the Atteridgeville and Soutville Residents Organisation, Mr Simon Tshidi, said the decision was taken at a special meeting on Sunday.

Tshidi said their constituents would be urged this week to stop paying rent because of confusion created by the local administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, who had agreed to three sets of different tariffs to be paid by households.

Confusion

He added that Asvo had signed an agreement with Jacobson early this year in which he agreed to an interim monthly flat rate of R50 a house.

A spokesman for the interim committee, which was formed during the electricity cuts in the township last month, announced on Sunday that they had signed an agreement with the administrator to pay a flat rate of R90 a household.

Shortly after this agreement the Pretoria City Council announced its tariffs ranging between R75 and R190 a house, depending on the type of circuit-breaker.

"Our people are now confused. They do not know which of the tariffs are to be paid," Tshidi said.

The Pretoria City Council has threatened to cut electricity supplies from July 16 if residents did not pay their (Pretoria Cowlhill's) set of tariffs.
Power cuts 'cause increase in illness

By Mceeked Kotelo
Pretoria Bureau

Illness and domestic accidents had increased in township homes where electricity blackouts were in force, a PAC media officer claimed in Pretoria yesterday.

Fortesque Mtumkulu said many Atteridgeville-Saulsville township residents, particularly children, had fallen ill as a result of the strong paraffin or gas fumes they had inhaled.

He said people were turning to gas stoves, paraffin, generators, candles and coal.

"We know of cases where people were either burnt as they operated the apparatus or had their hair or belongings burnt by either candles or paraffin stoves."

Yesterday, the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Interim Committee agreed that residents would pay a provisional flat rate of R90 for services because residents were actually spending more on electricity alternatives during blackouts.

Some businesses had preferred to close during the blackouts "to avoid unnecessary expense".

Mr Mtumkulu also complained about the high rate of theft from vehicles as well as house burglaries under the cover of darkness.

"At the end of the day, we have enriched white businesses more than we had to because we purchase almost all the apparatus from town."

In response to the complaints, Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation secretary-general Simon Tshidi said sick people "would go to the doctors."

Local police station commander Lieutenant-Colonel P Matjeka confirmed an increase in burglaries during the period May 13 to June 6 when electricity was cut.

In May, 16 cars were stolen, 26 were broken into and 25 homes burgled in the township.
Soweto Switches Off

A report from a correspondent in Soweto:

The power supply to Soweto has been cut off by the South African government in an attempt to curb the growing black unrest. The action was taken in response to the recent violence and looting that occurred in the township.

The government has stated that the power cuts are a necessary measure to ensure law and order in Soweto. They have also announced that the cuts will be lifted once the situation has calmed down.

Meanwhile, the residents of Soweto have been left without electricity, leading to widespread complaints and protests. The government has urged the public to remain calm and avoid confrontations with the police.

The situation is closely being followed by international bodies, who are concerned about the impact of the power cuts on the economy of Soweto and the wider country.
 Talks over hostel rent

THE Mamelodi Civic Association will meet Transvaal Provincial Administration officials today to discuss rent-related issues and the demand for a R6.50 flat rate for hostel dwellers in the township.

A spokesman for the MCA said hostel residents would stop paying the usual monthly levy until a settlement had been reached with the TPA. - Sowetan Reporter
Power cuts are ‘unfair’

THE Soweto Council was being unfair in its strategy to cut off electricity to defaulters, callers to Soweto/Radio Metro Talkback Show said yesterday.

Callers told Radio Metro DJ Tim Modise that the council should first investigate the circumstances of the people because many residents were unemployed and others were pensioners.

“I regard it as inhuman and brutal,” said Steve from Tshane.

However, one caller, Poppo, said she felt the cut-offs were right provided residents were given sufficient notice.

Washington from Tokoza on the East Rand said the council should charge reasonable rates and bear in mind that black people did not earn enough and could hardly clothe their children.

He said that in Tokoza lights had been switched off for seven months and it was “terrible.”

Spindle from Johannesburg said the Government should consider subsidising electricity for the unemployed.

Themba, also from Johannesburg, felt that electricity, if supplied, should be paid for.

However, he said the system of selective cuts could lead to intimidation of those who have been paying their bills.

The same anxieties were also expressed by Grace from Soweto, who also felt that the Government should consider subsidies to the poor.
No power for Soweto cops

JOHANNESBURG. — Police stations in Soweto could have their electricity cut off at any moment because their bills have not been paid.

Mayor Mr Oscar Maseko said yesterday that the city council had ordered officials to cut water and electricity to bulk users in the area who had not honoured undertakings to pay for services.

These included police stations, post offices and other government offices, as well as hundreds of businesses, he said.

Last night the lights were still on at police stations.

Council PRO Mr Mojalefa Moseki said businessmen, government departments and other bulk consumers collectively owed more than R12m.

An SAP spokesman said the Public Works Department was responsible for police station services.

Vaal triangle civic leaders met officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration last night and agreed to resume talks to resolve a seven-year-old rent boycott in the area.

Mr Paul Sithole, a publicity spokesman for the Vaal Civic Association, told Sapa the two sides had agreed to resume discussions on July 2.

TPA spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment.
Council warns of power cuts

By Abel Mabelane and Stan Hlophe

Businesses, which owe more than R12 million in electricity payment arrears, have a week to pay up or have their power cut off, the Soweto City Council announced last night.

A spokesman said Government premises such as post offices and police stations would not be exempt from action.

Electricity was cut to two houses in Protea yesterday after it was discovered that the meters had been interfered with.

This follows a warning by the council that businesses had until yesterday to settle their accounts.

Business owners who had not paid for services since last year or more would be treated as "worst cases" and be the first to have their power cut, it warned.

Business owners have also been threatened with legal action, which could lead to the attachment and auctioning of their property by the Messenger of the Court in order to recover money owed to the council.

Action would also be taken against traders and household heads who tried to reconnect their electrical supplies after it had been cut off.

The switch-off operation would continue until every business in Soweto had paid up, the council said.

• Tembisa Council has collected R561,094 for rent since power was switched on in the township, mayor Solomon More said yesterday.

He said that although the council had collected half a million rands, it had spent more money to have power restored.

He told a council meeting yesterday that the interim flat-rate payment did not apply to business people.

Mr More also said the interim flat-rate payment did not mean that the residents were excused from the money they owed the council.

He said some business people had complained that their meters were not being properly read.

The council had received reports that some businesses were threatening meter readers, he added.
Actstop: a change in policy

By Shirley Woodgate

Actstop is undergoing a major policy change to move into line with the recent scrapping of apartheid laws.

"Focused since 1976 on evictions under the Group Areas Act in the inner city residential areas of Johannesburg, the logical new direction was "a shift from purely protest politics to the politics of development", said spokesman Mohammed Dangor.

"There is a need for flat dwellers to set up building cooperatives where people living in specific blocks will combine to buy the property after forming a non-profit Section 21 company.

"Former tenants become shareholders in the company, selling their holdings back to the co-operative when they leave the property."

Mr Dangor said approaches for financial backing for the scheme would be sought by way of guarantees from either the multi-billion rand Industrial Development Trust (IDT) or foreign sponsors.

Actstop called on the Johannesburg City Council to reduce rates for inner city buildings providing accommodation. It warned that unless this was granted, many of the residential blocks would be converted by landlords into more profitable commercial space.

Unless authorities viewed the housing situation in the inner city areas with more compassion, Greater Hillbrow would inevitably deteriorate into a second Harlem or Bronx as landlords would be reluctant to upgrade their properties, Mr Dangor said.

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Vaal leaders and TPA in rent talks

VAAL Triangle civic leaders met officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration on Tuesday night and agreed to resume talks to resolve a seven-year rent boycott.

Mr Paul Sithole, a spokesman for the Vaal Civic Association, said the meeting lasted for two-and-a-half hours. The parties agreed to resume discussions on July 2.

He said the talks on Tuesday did not touch on power cuts.

Four townships are still without electricity, which was cut by the authorities on June 3 to punish residents who were in arrears on rent payments.

"The priority today was to ensure negotiations are resumed," the civic leader said.

TPA spokesmen could not immediately be reached for comment.

-Sapa
Rable leads the market

"Consistent maintenance and a high level of customer service have contributed to our success," said Mr. Harris. "Our customers always return because they are satisfied with the quality and value they receive."

"The company's policy of offering multiple-choice of design and finish, coupled with efficient and prompt construction, is a key factor in our success," added Mr. Harris.

The company has also recorded high sales figures of 300 units in Toboez, 200 in Vioscorus and 150 in Kumbang, bringing the total of units sold to 650 in the past two years.

"Our customers have always been satisfied with the quality and value of our homes," said Mr. Harris. "We are committed to providing our customers with the best possible service and satisfaction.

"The fact that we have achieved consistent sales growth (over the past five years) is also due to the hard work and dedication of our staff," added Mr. Harris. "Our success is the result of the combined efforts of everyone involved in the company, and we are grateful to our customers for their continued support."
Switch-offs continue in Soweto

By Abel Mash

The Soweto City Council said yesterday it was continuing with its punitive electricity switch-offs on defaulting businesses.

Council spokesman Mojalefa Moseki said the extended "grace period" of seven days, which started on Tuesday, applied only to residents and not businesses.

He said only residents who had tampered with their meters had their electricity cut.

The grace period follows an accord reached between the council and the community's representatives.

About 1,000 private and Government-controlled businesses owe the council more than R12 million — some as much as R100,000.

Mr Moseki said about half the township's 110 bulk consumers had their power supplies cut.

One of those was a telephone exchange, he said.

According to Mr Moseki, the general response of the public had been positive.

And while some businessmen responded immediately by settling their accounts in full, some had paid part of their debts and undertaken to settle the balance.

Only those who did not co-operate had their electricity supplies cut, he said.
Power cuts also hit the innocent

By MONK NKOMO

ILLEGAL reconnection of electricity in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, during the township blackout imposed because of the rent boycott, has now resulted in daily power failure in certain areas. ☐[23L.17]

"Several electricity power lines have been overloaded since the illegal reconnection by residents early this year. This results in power failures in certain parts of the township everyday," Mr Daan Mouton, acting town clerk, said yesterday.

Certain areas of the township, including those bordered by Segola, Tantum, Seholo, Komane, Makgatho and Mofole streets, have been plagued by electricity cuts after the official reconnection by the Pretoria City Council on June 6.

The blackouts normally occur from 6.30pm.

Residents interviewed said the electricity only came on after 10pm when most people were asleep and the overloading maintained.

"We cannot watch or listen to the news on TV despite the fact that we do pay rent and TV licences," residents complained.

Mouton said the council was doing its utmost to repair the damaged electricity lines and power stations.

"Our aim is to offer a good service. Affected residents should please bear with us while we try to remedy the situation," said Mouton.

The council has presently engaged the services of a construction company to upgrade the electricity network in the township.

After the council cut the electricity supply early this year following the rent boycott that lasted eight months, residents, mostly youths, took to the streets and illegally reconnected the power in a campaign known as "operation switch-on".


While Dunkeld's planned walls may have been breached, there seems little doubt that Sandton and Randburg are rapidly showing a preference for walled-in living.

An estimated R800m is in the process of being spent on between 75 and 80 new cluster housing developments in Sandton and Randburg. Included in this are around 80 housing units with price tags in excess of R1m. 

The figures come from Camden's Scott McRae who questions whether it makes business sense to develop such upmarket properties — particularly in such large quantities when the market for them is limited.

Addressing the Sapoa convention on the state of the residential property market, he conceded that cluster housing units were among the most popular forms of housing because of modern lifestyles and the security they offered.

"Nevertheless, we have a serious glut of upmarket cluster housing in the Sandton and Randburg areas. I would like to know where we're going to find buyers for these developments."

In contrast, he noted that there was a dearth of new cluster housing units in Durban. "Quite obviously developers are not doing their homework. The situation calls for a drastic re-evaluation of strategies, firstly to move the existing stock as quickly as possible, and secondly to avoid a similar glut occurring in future."

While McRae expressed optimism about the new "high-rise" developments, he suggested that they would have to be "smart" developments to be successful. "In order to avoid a housing poverty scenario, such an approach must be adopted in order to find a solution to the problem of high-rise living."
Different tariffs cause confusion

THE Atteridgeville and Pretoria municipalities should perhaps first put their houses in order before embarking on punitive measures such as electricity cuts in the township.

So far the local Administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson has agreed, in writing, to three sets of tariffs in Atteridgeville this year.

This has caused confusion among residents and senior officials of the Atteridgeville Council because they do not know how much to charge householders.

Jacobson agreed to a monthly interim flat rate of R50 with the local civic organisation, Asro. He warned, however, that this amount was too little to run the township.

Problems

During the electricity cuts last month, the administrator signed an agreement with the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Interim Committee for a monthly flat rate of R90. Shortly thereafter the Pretoria City Council announced their own tariffs ranging between R75 and R180, depending on the consumption of electricity and water.

Rent problems in Atteridgeville, which could have its electricity supplies cut again soon, seem to be getting worse.

Asro this week called on residents to stop paying rent and to reject plans to install pre-paid electricity meters in the township—a move which was seen by authorities and certain community-based organisations as the best solution to the rent crisis.

A number of residents this week complained that Asro called on householders to stop paying without getting a mandate from them.

"They instructed us to stop before we were given a chance to discuss the matter," residents said.

Asro’s general secretary, Mr Simon "Choppa" Tshidi, told the Sowetan in an interview that the installation of these meters would divide the community.

"This move will weaken our campaign to fight together. We reject these plans out of hand. The time is not yet ripe for the installation of (pre-paid) meters in our township," he said.

Amid confusion over how much should be paid for essential services, Tshidi said Asro still stuck to the R50 interim flat rate agreed to by the local administrator earlier this year.

Asked if Asro had an alternative offer which could help run the township without any power cuts, Tshidi said the civic organisation was "prepared to shift from the R50 flat rate but only if the authorities implement development projects in the township."

He added "The Atteridgeville Council must first upgrade the township and tar and clean the streets, improve water reticulation and refuse removal service and then we can influence residents to pay increased tariffs."

Several organisations and individuals have recently voiced their concern over the running of the civic organisation, questioning its leadership and arguing that most of the officials serving on the executive were not permit holders and as such could not resolve problems of householders.

Meetings

Others accused Asro of being closely linked with the African National Congress and of popularising it at its meetings.

"We accept the fact that we are leaning too much to the ANC. But you must understand that civic organisations are not apolitical. The problems they tackle daily are a direct result of the unjust laws of this country," said Tshidi. He added "It is not mistake to lean towards the ANC. Our link is historical."

Tshidi said the criterion of leadership in Asro was not based on whether a person was a permit holder or not. "Leaders should be responsible adults. But I concede that final decisions should be taken by permit holders after everybody has participated in discussions."

Committee

Asro's executive committee was prepared to meet the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Interim Committee to resolve the problem of electricity cuts. Tshidi said they would not.

"These people are local residents who should express their views at their respective area meetings of Asro. In fact we believe that they can help us resolve a number of problems facing us daily."

"They should also tell us of any problems they encounter outside the organisation. In fact they also have a right to influence residents at meetings to either be political or to align themselves with political organisations of their choice."

"They can also bring along flags of their political parties at our public meetings."

Tshidi conceded that a good number of residents were in favour of paying up to R100 a month for services and were in fact "seek and tried" of electricity cuts.

"Residents must understand that Asro cannot negotiate for affordable tariffs from a weak position of being threatened with power cuts each time the authorities want us to pay high rent."

Residents

"That is why we do not know how much should be paid for services because of the introduction of different sets of tariffs every day," said Tshidi.

A number of residents have urged Asro officials to resume positive negotiations with the administrator and to guide or recommend a reasonable tariff to be paid.

"We cannot be talking about rent problems throughout the year. A long-term solution must be found as soon as possible. We have a lot of things to attend to," Mrs Angelina Mmam, a resident said.

The Atteridgeville Council should now commit itself to upgrading the township by, among other things, cleaning and tarring the streets and attending to the constant power failures in some areas.

Residents on the other hand, must also prepare themselves to pay reasonable amounts for services rendered.

Maybe then we will stop talking about electricity cuts in this township."
Council, residents blamed

THE Soweto Council has failed to provide efficient services to its residents, and residents had also not observed the spirit of the Greater Soweto Accord reached in September last year.

This was the opinion of two guests on the Soweto/Radio Metro Talkback show. Soweto Civic Association spokesmen Mr Chris Ngcobo and Mr Lawrence Boyya.

While electricity is a right and a service that is considered as essential, residents also had the responsibility to ensure that the service is continued by paying for it, Ngcobo said.

The SCA was opposed to ensuring that electricity bills were paid by cutting off power and said people should, instead, be advised and encouraged to pay their bills.

Residents who had not been paying rent and electricity since September last year after the resolution of the rent boycott, were guilty of not observing the agreement reached between the council and their representatives.

A caller who wished to remain anonymous found the council at fault for not sending out electricity bills and advising residents to pay even a portion of it.

Themba of Jabulani was advised by Ngcobo that residents should also learn to report technical failures in the supply of water and electricity.

The SCA is also in the position to advise residents on related matters.
Planning 'based on ideology not needs'

Town planners had helped mould an apartheid SA and had based their planning on ideological rather than community needs, civic campaigner Cas Coovadia said yesterday.

Coovadia was addressing the Transvaal branch of the SA Institute of Town Planners' one-day conference at Wits University on planning in a post-apartheid SA.

He said an example of this "top-down" planning was the creation of "miseducated" cities, where the poorest section of the population had been allocated land furthest from the CBDs.

"This is, as you know, the reverse of most international experiences. Such flawed planning has, in our opinion, been a factor in impeding economic growth because it creates substantial hidden costs."

One example of this is the vast amount of money spent by the poor to commute and from their "places of work." If community-based town planning had taken place, the money could have generated economic growth.

Coovadia said a further problem created by an ideological approach to town planning was that of differentiated standards. The gap between black and white standards was "immensely wide."

"The ideological approach to town planning has deepened this differentiation. This legacy of apartheid is such that even new developments, having a community-orientated approach to town planning, will not deliver standards for black people that are at a level presently enjoyed by white people."

"The practice of standards being determined by town planners must stop and the community must be empowered to negotiate standards by being provided with sound information and alternatives."

He challenged the institute on several points which included that:

- They should promote community-based structures to facilitate community participation in the development process.
- Their promotion of community-based structures must include the building of an institutional infrastructure for such community-based structures. Black local authorities presently had neither the capacity nor the political will or legitimacy to do this, yet white ratepayers' associations were subsidised by white city/town councils. Such inequalities had to be eliminated, and
- There needed to be a fundamental shift on the part of planners and other professional people in the field of development. They needed to become advisors to the communities rather than the privileged dispensers of specialised knowledge.
Council meets over electricity

SOWETO councillors have voiced strong opposition to the Central Witwatersrand RSC taking over management of electricity supply from the Soweto City Council.

The council's monthly meeting was closed to the media yesterday when Transvaal MEC for institutional development and negotiations, Olaus van Zyl and MEC for housing and community development, John Mavuso, addressed councillors.

Sources said councillors opposed having the function of selling electricity to residents taken from them. Many felt finance needed to be provided to Soweto to upgrade its services.

Councillors were heard arguing outside the chamber that the RSC had no magic formula to get the residents to pay but would resort to supply cutoffs as well.

The RSC recently offered to take over the service from the three Greater Soweto councils after Diepsloot, Dobsonville and Soweto had found it difficult to get residents to pay.

Mavuso said yesterday it was not the TPA's offer that was discussed, but a recommendation from the council's executive committee that councillors accept the RSC offer in principle. He said he did not know what the councillors had decided.

Gordon Shuya, an electrical engineer who is a consultant to the council, said the council had asked for time to consider the proposal.

Shuya added: "I can't see how the RSC is going to succeed where we as blacks are seen to be failing to make the people of Soweto pay.

He said the council, with the aid of 11 electrical consultants, would perform better in the supply of electricity.

Soweto Council PRO Mopalela Mosokeng refused to say what was discussed, but said: "Electricity wouldn't have been a separate issue from all those addressed by the Metropolitan Chamber had the Soweto People's Delegation and the Soweto Civic Association fulfilled their part of the Greater Soweto Accord - getting 80% of the residents to pay for services.

He said the two should not be pushing for the handover of electricity management while it was still being discussed."
Civic groups 'played role' 12

WILSON ZWANE

CIVIC organisations had fundamentally shaped the nature of SA's recent urban transition, Planact urban consultant and former Wits University researcher Mark Swilling told yesterday's conference.

"The outcome of the Soweto rent boycott points to the centrality of social movements (including civics) in the overall process of urban social change. This is important because existing conceptions of how urban policy changes over time either ignore or underplay positive roles played by social movements in shaping the process of urban social change."

In contrast to Urban Foundation reports, which described social movements as delaying urban deracialisation and prolonging instability, social movements had fundamentally shaped urban transition.

In essence, the Soweto case revealed the impact a powerful and well-organised social movement had on policies and strategies.

"Although there were structural reasons for the crisis of the apartheid city, the rent boycott finally drove home the unviability of urban apartheid," Swilling said.
Housing & Hostels — Transvaal

1991

July - August
Tembisa residents yesterday decided to end the rent boycott as soon as the Tembisa Residents Association and the Transvaal Provincial Administration reached an interim agreement.

The mass meeting followed a breakdown in talks between the TRA and TPA recently when, according to the TRA, the TPA made it clear that other organisations be included in the talks

TRA publicity secretary George Bila said yesterday that Tembisa had decided to put forward proposed interim tariffs to the TPA.

He said interim tariffs should stand until the TPA fulfilled demands made when the rent boycott started in 1986.

He said the initial demands included the scrapping of all rental areas, the transfer of all old dwellings to residents at no charge and the dismantling of all hostels.

The tariffs proposed by residents range from R50 a month for a four-roomed house with bathroom and electricity to R10 for a two-roomed house without electricity and for hostel rooms.

Businessmen are expected to pay R100 a month.

It was proposed that pensioners who do not have relatives staying with them should not pay rent. — Sapa
Police suicide rate outstrips civilians' worries

BLACK policemen, who make up about 48% of the SAP, are 3.6 times more likely to commit suicide than black civilians, an SAP psychologist says.

In the SAP generally, policemen were nine times more likely to kill themselves than civilians were.

The SAP's Institute of Behavioural Sciences head, Col Kobus Truter, said the alarming — and increasing — suicide rate among policemen was attributable to very high stress levels and a lack of recognition.

Long hours of shift work — up to 12 hours a day and seven days a week in dangerous situations — and being absent from their families for long periods were major factors contributing to severe depression and stress.

Changes

Young policemen had to adapt quickly to demands of a very wide "role repertoire", from intervening in vicious township conflict to arresting a drunk or interviewing a sexually abused child.

Continual postponements of court cases and inconsistent judgments handed down also played a major role in high stress levels.

The changes policemen had to make to adapt to new political circumstances also caused anxiety, Truter said.

In the white population, 17 of every 100,000 people would commit suicide, while 57 black policemen out of every 100,000 would take their lives.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Capt Craig Kotze said the police force, especially black members, were subjected to "extraordinary stress" by organisations which still "fanned the flames of hatred against the police".

Police patrolling townships to maintain law and order faced constant danger. They were often shot at with AK-47 rifles, petrol-bombed and attacked.

There had been no reduction in the number of murders of black policemen.

Kotze praised the resilience of black policemen who continued to serve the SAP despite the danger and stresses they faced.

Truter said that since June 1 this year, all police recruits underwent thorough tests to determine intelligence, attitude, interests and personality as part of a major preventive psychology campaign.

Psychologists evaluated individual's stress tolerance and tested their levels and direction of hostility.

In the last evaluation, 72% of policemen tested were passed for work in dangerous political situations in townships.
Residents to end boycott

By DON SEOKANE

The Tembusa Residents Association has asked to negotiate the end of the rent boycott following an agreement by residents to pay at most a R50 flat rate for service charges.

Spokesman for TRA Mr George Bilu yesterday said the community endorsed the decision of the TRA’s general council that people with electricity should pay R30 for four rooms, while those with four rooms without electricity should pay R25.

Bilu said businesses are required to pay R100 flat rate.

However, local mayor Mr Solomon More said the TRA cannot make recommendations or process council matters without the council’s knowledge.

More said the council requested that people should pay R75 for those with electricity and R25 for unfitted houses.

“We had to negotiate with Eskom for those tariffs, because the amount is too little to cover electricity consumed,” R25 charged for people without houses is only for water, sewerage and refuse removal.”

The mayor said residents response to pay R75 and R25 respectively has been wonderful and that the rent boycott to most people in the township has been over.

He also rejected the R100 flat rate which has been recommended to be paid by business owners.
Sweden pledges R2.5m for Alexandra 'court'

SWEDEN has pledged R2.5m for the establishment of a dispute resolution centre in Alexandra township, Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) official Ben Dhlomo said yesterday.

Plans to set up the township's dispute resolution centre or a "community court" — the first of its kind in SA — were at an advanced stage and "depending on the availability of funds the centre will open its doors to the public within two weeks", Dhlomo said.

US support

"The 11 people being trained in mediation mechanisms by a team of legal experts are almost ready to begin their work at the centre."

"The only obstacle to opening the centre to the community is a lack of funds."

"But Sweden has pledged R2.5m to the project and other countries, including the US and Canada, have indicated they would support the venture," Dhlomo said.

The centre would mediate in community disputes, he said.

ACO president Moses Mayekiso has said the "negative" reaction of Alexandra residents to the "white" judiciary and escalation of crime in the township had prompted his organisation to resolve to establish community-oriented courts.

Mayekiso said these community courts would be unlike the notorious kangaroo courts, which "were often constituted at a whim of individuals".

The Justice Department has said the establishment of a dispute resolution centre in Alexandra had much in common with its desire to make the administration of justice accessible to all people of all levels.

The Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and lawyers in private practice are contributing to the Alexan dra project by training people in dispute resolution mechanisms.

A spokesman for the Wits centre, Edwin Molakhele, said if the project was successful it could be used in other communities which "want this kind of assistance".
Power deal averts threat of boycott

THE Soweto City Council announced yesterday that it would be prepared to let the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council administer electricity supply to the township, provided there were no moves to take over ownership of the R350m electricity infrastructure.

The move averts a confrontation with the Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) which had warned of a full-scale rent and services boycott unless electricity supply to residents was handed over to the RSC.

The RSC had offered to take over power supplies from the three Greater Soweto councils — Diepmeadow, Dobsonville and Soweto — which were having problems getting residents to pay rent and service charges.

About 55% of Soweto residents have been paying their electricity bills since the signing of the Greater Soweto Accord, which wrote off R516m arrears last September and ended a five-year boycott.

Informed sources said yesterday the Dobsonville council had agreed to transfer administration of electricity supplies to the RSC, while Diepmeadow had rejected this because it was expecting Soweto to do the same. It was possible that Diepmeadow councillors might have a change of heart, the source said.

Soweto council spokesman Mogalefa Moses said in a statement yesterday the council had agreed in principle to “man-date” the RSC to administer the power supply on its behalf.

It was reported that other parties could be given the task. Moses said the council’s decision set the stage for negotiations with the RSC or any other body the council deemed fit to administer the service on its behalf.

He said a full council meeting passed the motion last Thursday after an exhaustive debate during which its implications were thoroughly considered.

Specific

Moses said conditions adopted with the agreement — to safeguard the interests of Soweto residents who own the R350m electricity infrastructure — were that:

- The agreement should address and relate to Soweto’s specific needs.
- The council should approve of decisions on the supply of electricity taken by the mandated party.
- The final draft of the agreement should be approved by the full council before being signed.
- There should be provision for a procedure through which the Soweto council could terminate the agreement if it felt that the other party was not fulfilling its part of the contract.
- The duration of the contract should be clearly specified.

NECC seeks meeting on Orange Grove school

THE National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC) is seeking an urgent meeting with government to discuss the transfer of the Orange Grove Primary School to Alexandra high school pupils.

NECC southern Transvaal general secretary Am Mosane said yesterday his organisation had requested an urgent meeting on Wednesday with Education and Training Minister Stoefel van der Merwe and Budget, Welfa Housing and Works Minister Sam de Beer.

“We also want clarification on Van der Merwe’s announcement last week concerning the transfer of some white schools to blacks,” Mosane said. He had said some black schools would in future be handed over to black authorities with “a minimum of red tape.”

The offices of the Ministers could not confirm if the NECC’s requests for a meeting had been received.

Mosane said Alexandra’s East Bank High School pupils would try to occupy Orange Grove again on Friday “if NECC hopes that the meeting with the ministers will be an obstacle to the occupation.”

He added that the occupation of the school — and number of others in the PWV region — was not “publicity stunt but a genuine campaign to highlight the mess black education is in.”

Other Johannesburg schools the NECC has identified for occupation by black schools include Joabert Pa Primary School, Winchester Ridge School and General de Wet Primary School in Westonaria.

De Beer said at the weekend the future of the Orange Grove school would have to be renegotiated with various interested parties, and welcomed representations by institutions with a vested interest in education.

SAPA reports that the head of Azapo’s education section Tatat Gomolemo Mokele told a Johannesburg news conference yesterday the organisation did not support the campaign to occupy empty schools and took “offence to the notion to settle for the crumbs of the white man.”

The Azanian Student Convention charged it was aim at political pont-scoring and put black lives at risk. 
Devolution the answer, says Kriel

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter 27/9/91

The solution to town planning problems in the Transvaal lay in a devolution of responsibility so that people at ground level could take the decisions, Planning and Provincial Affairs
Minister, Hernus Kriel told Johannesburg councillors and ratepayers yesterday.

Democratic Party MPs Dr Zach de Beer and Peter Soal invited Mr Kriel to tour the northern suburbs, at the request of ratepayers, to see the effect of the Removal of Restrictions Act on established residential suburbs.

The Minister was taken to Houghton Island and other areas where, despite vehement objections by the Johannesburg City Council and ratepayers, business rights were granted to developers by Pretoria.

A document proposing changes to the system was presented to Mr Kriel by Northern Areas Ratepayers' Federation chairman Tony Challenger, and Flo Bird of the Parktown Residents' Association.

Ms Bird said they wanted Mr Kriel to ensure that the procedures regarding the removal of restrictions on properties were equitable, that reasons be given for decisions, that provision be made for appeal to a proper appeals board, that property rights be addressed specifically in the decision-making and that ad hoc rezonings be avoided so that planning could proceed in an orderly manner.

"Ratepayers no longer have any faith in the system or in the ability of the city council to control the situation," Ms Bird said.

Mr Kriel said he would study the proposal and pass it on to the committee investigating a new land-use Bill due to be published next year.

"I hope the new Bill will enable landowners to know what their rights are and what they can do with their properties. I believe the answer lies in devolution so that the people on the ground can take the decisions."
Blackout for those with unpaid bills

By Montshwana Moroke

The countdown to the electricity blackout in Soweto has started for those residents who have not paid their accounts since the signing of the Soweto Accord in October.

The Soweto Council's public relations officer, Mogulela Mosiki, said yesterday that residents had until the weekend to pay their bills, otherwise their power supply would be suspended on Monday.

Those who had paid would not be affected.

Mr Mosiki said 26 homes and about 80 business premises had had their electricity switched off since the council started its campaign on June 12.

Initially 110 businesses had been targeted as being heavily in arrears, including the Jabulani flats, Chawelo flats and Mzimhlope women's hostel. They would be among the first to be affected, he said.

He said 12 residences in Protea South and 14 in Moiloa had had their power cut off either because they had been in arrears since last year or had tampered with their meters.

"There has been a positive response from some Government institutions. The police and the Post and Telecommunications departments have undertaken to settle their outstanding accounts."

"However, the Department of Education and Training has not yet responded, but we will not be switching off electricity to schools as that would encourage disruptions (to education)," Mr Mosiki said.

He said the council had collected more than R1 million from businesses in the past two weeks. There were five tills at each of the nine offices in the township and they had not been able to cope with the rush by residents to pay. The deadline for payment is Saturday.

At least half of Tokoza's residents paid their rent and service charges at the weekend — but the income was only enough for the council to pay for electricity until Monday, said administrator Gert Muller.

The council paid R12 000 a day to Alberton for electricity.

Mr Muller said local businesses had boosted the council's coffers by paying more than R15 000 in rent arrears.

He said he hoped the rental payments would improve after local pensioners collected their money tomorrow.

He said he was pleased that, until now it had not been necessary to cut off power supply.
Rent defaulters blacklisted as ‘credit risks’

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg — Thousands of township residents have been “blacklisted” by credit organisations after judgments were awarded against them for failing to pay rent.

Credit organisations automatically list people as “credit risks” as soon as a debt judgment is issued against them.

The Information Trust Co. which provides clients with the credit ratings of credit seekers, says its information is confidential and was not classified according to race or type of judgment.

Several black town councils have been awarded judgments against thousands of rent defaulters as a result of rent boycotts.

Julie Mohamed, of Valli, Mthembu Attorneys, said she had dealt with rent cases from 1983 and covered townships in the PWV and Wessels, Davel and Carolina.

“A lot of people are still feeling the effects of the judgments awarded against them. They cannot get credit,” she said.

She said most judgments were issued in townships where the civic associations were not organised. Where the civic association were “well organised”, lawyers stepped in before judgments were awarded.

In some areas the councils had two law firms issuing summonses and getting judgments “Thousands of people were involved,” she said.

An employee at Krish Naudo, a law firm which handled rent cases at the time, said about 1,200 cases of people with judgments against them for not paying rent were handled.

“We got most of these orders rescinded but, there are thousands of others who did not go to any lawyer and waited for the boycott to end. These will find that they are blacklisted,” she said.

Soweto city council spokesman, Mojalefa Moseki, said figures were not available but the council at the time issued thousands of summonses in an effort to get residents to pay their charges.

Lekoa town clerk, Klaas Louw, said at the height of the rent boycott in 1986 the council issued summonses, but they were “far less than 500 summonses out of 30,000 defaulters”.

A Katlehong man was told he had a rent judgment against him when he tried to get a loan from Wesbank. Mr Dlamini (not his real name), said others in Katlehong were also told they had debt judgments against them when they tried to get loans from various organisations.

Financial institutions, however, seem to adopt a lenient attitude when faced with such cases. Wesbank and Standard Bank said they did not evaluate applications for credit solely on the defaults.

Terry Powers of the Standard said, “We evaluate every case on its merits”.

Wesbank’s Piet van Zyl said he was aware of Dlamini’s case but there were other issues involved and these were being sorted out.

“Wesbank, however, would not decide solely on the rent default as we know about the problems in the townships,” he said.

Nonetheless, fears are that other organisations, more so those with conservative credit policies, may not take such a liberal view, particularly in borderline cases.
Rent for flats set to rise, say agents

FLAT rentals are set to rise on fears of a major move by black tenants into some former white areas, rampant inflation and the fact that few new buildings are being built for rental purposes, rental agents say.

In addition, the imposition of VAT from September 30 will increase almost every cost for the landlord, resulting in rent rises before the end of the year, a Campbell and Seward spokesman said.

"In the two years up to about June 1990, flat rentals were depressed, and increased by between 19% and 15% a year. However, since the beginning of 1991 the market has become more buoyant," he said.

"The lack of new buildings for rental purposes, the fear of racial integration and increased costs due to inflation saw rentals in the southern suburbs, one of the areas in which we play a predominant role in the rental market, escalate by a much as 50%.

"The rental for a one-bedroomed flat in the southern suburbs — Roodepoort, Turffontein and Mondeor — has increased from about R275 a month in early 1990 to about R475 at present. A two-bedroomed flat rented previously at between R450 and R485 a month now fetches between R590 and R650.

"The southern suburbs traditionally attract blue- and white-collar workers. The escalation in rentals is in keeping with increases in the northern suburbs," the spokesman said.

Certain areas of Hillbrow and Berea have become unpopular as people are frightened off by the militancy of some tenants. While this issue has become less of a problem recently, the areas have deteriorated, he adds.

"While rentals have increased, the cost of running the buildings is greater, which puts renewed pressure on rentals. The average cost for a one-bedroomed unit in a renovated building is between R425 and R525 a month."

Luis Wenberg says there is a desperate shortage of flats in the north. He adds that no new buildings are being built for rental purposes, as they do not offer sufficient return.

"Even owners of older buildings, who have very small bonds or no bonds at all, are converting their buildings to sectional title. The rental situation is difficult and can only get worse," Wenberg says.

Rental increases in the northern suburbs have increased by about 15% in the past year. In most cases, VAT has been taken into account, but it will probably increase the landlords' costs by about R40 a flat a month. This will then be passed on to the tenant, he adds.

"Even at their present levels, rentals offer value. The rental on a flat that would cost R100 000 is considerably less than the bond repayment would be," Wenberg says.

The inflow of blacks to formerly white areas will exacerbate the problem on two fronts. Firstly, more flat space will be required for rental and secondly, a large group of whites will move to outlying areas. This will increase the demand for space and strengthen rentals in these areas.

The latest Roda report says that when flat or house rental levels overtake or exceed even approach bond repayment levels, tenants will consider buying property.

This should lessen the demand for rental accommodation and lead to an easing of rentals. "Although our historic data on flat rentals are still fairly limited, they do show a similar trend to that of national house prices," the report says.
Township rent boycott leads to credit blacklist

THOUSANDS of township residents have been "blacklisted" by credit organisations after judgments were awarded against them for failing to pay rent.

Credit organisations automatically list people as "credit risks" as soon as a debt judgment is issued against them.

The Information Trust Company, which provides clients with the credit ratings of credit seekers, said its information was confidential and was not classified according to race or type of judgment.

Several black town councils have been awarded judgments against thousands of rent defaulters as a result of rent boycotts.

Attorney Jule Mohamed said she had dealt with rent cases from 1985.

"A lot of people are still feeling the effects of the judgments awarded against them. They cannot get credit," she said.

In townships where the civic association was "well organised", lawyers stepped in before judgments were awarded.

An employee at Krish Naidoo, a law firm which handled rent cases, said about 1,000 cases of people with judgments against them for not paying rent were handled, and while many orders were rescinded others waited for the boycott to end. "These will find that they are blacklisted," she said.

Soweto City Council spokesperson Motlatsi Moseki said figures were not available but agreed thousands of summonses were issued.

Lekoa Town Clerk Klaas Louw said at the height of the rent boycott in 1986 the council issued "far less than 500 summonses out of 38,000 defaulters".

A Krielham man was told he had a debt judgment against him when he tried to get a loan from Wesbank Diamani (not his real name), said this was the experience of others when they tried to get loans.

Some financial institutions, however, seemed to adopt a lenient attitude in such cases and did not evaluate applications for credit solely on the defaults.

The Standard Bank's Terry Powers said, "We evaluate every case on its merits."

Wesbank's Piet van Zyl said he was aware of Diamani's case but there were other issues involved and these were being sorted out. "We would not decide solely on the rent default as we know about the problems in the townships," he said.

Fears are that other organisations, particularly those with conservative credit policies, may not take such a liberal view, especially in borderline cases.
Soweto power: talks sought

THE terms under which the Soweto City Council would accept the handover of administration of electricity supply to the Central Wits RSC would have to be discussed before an agreement was signed, RSC CE Len de Wet said yesterday.

De Wet was reacting to Soweto's acceptance of the transfer and its condition that there should be no move to take over possession of the R350m electrical infrastructure.

Soweto also rejected the type of agreement signed with Alexandra Town Council, which it said handed over the running of electricity supply without negotiations.

De Wet said the RSC had responded to a proposal from the Wits Metropolitan Chamber that the three Greater Soweto council areas - Dlaminiweg, Dobsonville and Soweto - should hand over administration of power supply to the RSC.
3 Lekoa areas still without electricity

Staff Reporter

Three Lekoa townships are still without electricity after residents failed to meet their payment obligations adequately last month, the Transvaal Provincial Administration said yesterday.

The TPA and the Vaal Civic Association (VCA) had recently agreed that Lekoa residents should end a boycott of electricity payments, but last month only certain extensions in Sebokong exceeded 70 percent of their debt, the TPA said.

Power had been reinstated there, but not for the Sharpeville, Bophelong and Bopong townships.

Discussions between the TPA and the VCA over the boycott resumed yesterday and were conducted in a constructive spirit, TPA delegation leader Nigel Mandy said in a statement.

He added that Zamdelela and Refenkgotso townships fell under the Free State Provincial Administration.
Pay up or else

By DON SEOKANE

The Tokosa council is poised to introduce selective power cuts if electricity payments do not improve.

The township's administrator, Mr Gert Muller, yesterday said only 10 percent of residents had paid during the first two days of July.

The council had to pay the Alberton municipality R12 000 daily for electricity.

"We have no reserve funds, so the council has to generate money from the residents," he said.

The council had money to pay the Alberton council until Friday.

"The situation will be reviewed on Monday and the council will consider switching off power supply to individuals who have not paid," he said.

Tokosa's electricity to the township was restored last month after a six-month blackout.

After months of negotiations, the council signed an accord with a newly-formed Tokosa Civic Committee, whose members have been drawn from Inkatha Freedom Party, the Pan Africanist Congress, the ANC-aligned Tokosa Civic Association and the National Council of Trade Unions.

Agreement

However, payments have not improved since the signing of the agreement, according to Muller. In June, only 50.6 percent of house owners paid.

"If we do not honour our agreement with Alberton (to pay R12 000 daily) they might switch off our power without further notice," Muller said.

Meanwhile Soweto residents are responding in large numbers to the local council's battle against non-payment of electricity bills.

The council's spokesman, Mr Mojalefa Mosaka, yesterday said the council was giving people a chance to pay their bills before power would be switched off.

He appealed to those who have problems meeting the Monday deadline to approach the council.
Alarm over 5 000 shacks

THE shortage of housing in Atteridgeville has reached alarming proportions.

The announcement by the local town council yesterday that there are nearly 5 000 shacks in the township is proof of this.

Administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson said land to the west of the township, earmarked for the building of some 3 500 houses if fully developed, would "under present circumstances cater for needs up to the year 2000".

Responding to certain demands made by the local civic organisation, Asro, Jacobson said in a letter that the council was negotiating with the Department of Land Affairs and the TPA for the purchase of the land which was owned by the SA Defence Force, Iscor and other private companies.

Referring to a request by Asro that residents be allowed to apply for houses at the nearby Indian town, Lotus Gardens, Jacobson said the House of Delegates wanted to alleviate their housing backlog before this request could be heeded.

By MONK NKOMO

A socio-economic survey conducted two years ago indicated that about 85 percent of the housing needed in Atteridgeville was "in the low to very low income groups".

"There are about 5 000 structures in backyards in Atteridgeville," he said.

Jacobson also conceded that conditions at the Saulsville hostel were poor and there was a great need for improvement.

The council had also made another application to the National Housing Commission for the conversion of hostels to low-cost family units. Only two hostel units had been converted so far.

Jacobson admitted that in general services in the township were poor, which could largely be attributed to the age of the township and the infrastructure but lately also to the rent boycott and the low tariffs paid by residents.
ANC claim shocks us says Asro

By MONK NKOMO

THE Saulsville/Atteridgeville Interim Committee yesterday said it had been “shocked” by recent official announcements that the local civic organisation was aligned to the ANC.

In a statement released yesterday Mr Nicoli Molala, liaison officer of SAIC, said: “Residents’ organisations can ill afford ideological affinities because nowhere do we find in residents, uniformity of political affiliation.”

SAIC was reacting to an article in Sowetan last Friday, in which the general secretary of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents’ Organisation, Mr Simon Tshidi, admitted that the civic organisation was “leaning towards the ANC”.

Organisation

Molala said a residents’ organisation which was affiliated to a political organisation “does not only cease to represent all residents, but also turns into a political organisation and, without really meaning to do so, actually divides the community it sets out to serve”.

The SAIC, which negotiated the reconnection of electricity last month after agreeing to an interim flat rate of R90 a month with the local Administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, said: “We either stick to the R50 monthly flat rate, plunge ourselves into darkness or pay the R90 flat rate, retain the electricity supply and negotiate areas of concern. The choice is ours to make.”
Hani, Maharaj differ on strategies of negotiation

DURBAN — Two reputed ANC hardliners, Chris Hani and Mac Maharaj, yesterday expressed greatly differing views on the strategies used in, and results achieved from, the negotiation process.

Umkhonto we Sizwe: Chief of Staf Hani expressed strong commitment to the process during a media briefing at the ANC’s national conference yesterday. He said murders of ANC and MK members by right-wing elements opposed to the process was no reason to withdraw from negotiations with government.

However, in a separate briefing, Operation Vula commander Maharaj said he believed the ANC had made too many concessions to government and that had gained nothing in return.

He said the August 6 1990 decision to suspend armed action was seen as a sign of weakness by government.

Further hinting at the reasons behind the decision he took last year to return from the ANC NEC, Maharaj said he believed the ANC had failed to adequately mobilise its membership in support of its strategic goals.

Maharaj has been nominated for re-election to the NEC and has agreed to stand, citing grassroots pressure on him to do so.

Hani said the ANC had to accept that its members were living with people who had been indoctrinated into believing apartheid would always exist. “They feel let down and some will use force to defend the status quo.”

He called for an integrated defence force during the transition period, incorporating the SADF, Umkhonto and the armed movements of the PAC and other parties accountable to the interim government.

“The ANC cannot have a private army. A number of organisations have built up forces. We need a need for an integrated force during the transition period that will be accountable to the government of the day. Umkhonto should be part of this.”

Hani said the setting up of self-defence units in the townships was in its initial stages but the ANC was worried about them degenerating into vigilante groups.

“We want very firm control, discipline and accountability.” The units should not be used to maintain the domination of political organisations, he said.

Maharaj said government had yielded to pressure of the armed struggle and sanctions to engage in talks with the ANC. However, mass struggle should continue.

“We should actively pursue the talks about talks as a terrain of struggle and we should combine it with mass actions. This is not to destabilise the current position but because we still do not have the vote.”
Hevans, not out to stop ANC
Stop paying rent, urges Asro

By MONK NKOMO

Residents of Atteridgeville, Pretoria, were yesterday urged to stop paying rent until tariffs had been completed with the authorities.

Speaking at a public meeting at the Super Stadium, general secretary of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organization, Mr. Simon Tshidi, also appealed to residents to consider paying more than the current R50 monthly flat rate.

Asro recently promised to consider a month if the council could not meet the demand, which include upping the

Tshidi urged residents to stop paying rent until negotiations on a fixed tariff had been completed with the local Administration.

Asro signed an interim agreement with Jacobsen early this year to pay R50 a month.

Tariffs

Jacobsen signed an

interim agreement

with the Saulsville

committee for the

payment of R50 a month.

The Pretoria City Council also announced another set of tariffs ranging between R190 and

Asro's chairman, Mr. Mahlal, said residents had been asked to discuss at their area committee meetings the inclusion of rent from R50.

Asro's executive committee met to discuss the rent crisis. Another meeting between the organization and TPA officials is scheduled for July 15 to discuss the proposed increased.

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Asro's executive committee met to discuss the rent crisis. Another meeting between the organization and TPA officials is scheduled for July 15 to discuss the proposed increased.
COUNCILS TACKLE POWER PROBLEM

A TEAM of representatives from the three greater Soweto councils would draw up a plan in terms of which the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (RSC) would run their electricity supplies, electrical consultant Gordon Sibuya said at the weekend.

The city councils of Diepsloot, Dobsonville and Soweto last week agreed that the RSC should be mandated to administer their townships' electricity supply.

Sibuya said Soweto City Council, in accepting a Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber proposal that it consider handing over the running of electricity to the Central Wits RSC, had rejected the terms under which Alexandra's town council recently signed a similar agreement with the RSC.

Soweto council's conditions of agreement were that:

☐ There be no move to take possession of the council's R350m electrical infrastructure;

☐ Decisions taken by the RSC on the supply of electricity be approved by the council;

☐ That a procedure through which the Soweto council could terminate the contract should be provided; and

☐ The final draft of the agreement be approved by the full council.
Residents pledge to stop paying until satisfied

By McKeed Kotolo and Sepa

A residents' meeting convened by the Atteridgeville-Sakisville Residents Organisation (Asro) yesterday resolved to stop paying rent and service charges until residents were satisfied with the upgrading of services currently taking place in the township.

The residents also threatened to occupy houses in Lotus Garden — a new Indian township adjacent to Atteridgeville — from September 1 if no agreement to allocate certain houses to Atteridgeville residents, at present on the waiting list for housing, was reached within the next two months.

Asro secretary-general Simon Tshidi admitted that the authorities had already started with the upgrading process in the township and also expressed Asro's preparedness to pay more than the current R50 flat rate if residents were satisfied with the developments.

Mr Tshidi, however, appealed to the residents not to pay until they were happy with the upgrading programme.

He also said no payments should be made before the authorities had issued monthly accounts reflecting the R50 flat rate agreed upon by Asro and Atteridgeville administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson at the beginning of the year.

He expressed Asro's willingness to discuss the problems of the township with the authorities and said the organisation would be meeting the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Dr Jacobson and the Pretoria City Council on September 15.

The Pretoria council, bulk supplier of electricity, water and other services to the township, has twice disconnected electricity to the township since the beginning of the year because the Atteridgeville council failed to pay its instalments.

Those attending the meeting expressed concern when the chairman of the local hostel committee, John Malema, showed a dilapidated bed and said: "This is what the administrator says is worth R30 per month for an inmate."
Residents’ group takes legal action

By MONK NKOMO

MEMBERS of the Saulsville/Atteridgeville Intern Committee have briefed lawyers about inciting statements made against them by an official of the local civic organisation who threatened to abduct and “work on them” at a public meeting on Sunday.

The threats were made by Mr John Malema, the chairman of the local hostel committee of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation.

Speaking at an Asro public meeting on Sunday, Malema said they also had addresses and registration numbers of vehicles belonging to SAIC members.

Malema said they were going to fetch these members from their homes and take them to a meeting where they would be asked who had given them the mandate to negotiate rent tariffs with the local administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson.

Shocked

The SAIC recently signed an interim agreement with Jacobson to pay R90 a month during the electricity switch-off in the township.

In a statement issued yesterday, SAIC’s media liaison officer, Mr Nkosana Molala, said: “We are shocked by the inflammatory, inciting and threatening statements made by Malema against the lives, limbs and property of members of the SAIC.”

Rent

Molala challenged Asro’s executive committee to either endorse or to distance themselves from the inflammatory utterances.

“We believe that this is not only a step in the right direction, but also serves as a vote of confidence in our position,” Molala said.
Gunmen kill two
Bible class pupils

By Jonathan Reed

GUNMEN shot and killed two young children and wounded a youth when they sprayed a Bible class meeting in rural Natal with an AK-47 rifle on Monday night.

SAP spokesman Lt Bala Naidu said the Rev Benjamin Ngidi's four-year-old son Sabela and six-year-old Duma Siyabonga were killed at Ndzimande, was wounded and was in a satisfactory condition at the Fort Shepstone hospital, the SAP said.

Naidoo said the motive was unknown as Ngidi was not politically aligned.

Police yesterday reported another three people were killed in unrest in the province. Police said they were killed in Duvale township near Durban after finding a man shot dead and a Tokarev pistol and spent cartridges on the scene.

The gunman fled after the SAP patrol returned fire and a wounded man was arrested, the daily SAP unconfirmed report said.

A body with bullet wounds was found at Pretoria near Richmond and another man was found dead in Old Crossroads near Cape Town in the ongoing taxi feud in the area.

A number of shooting incidents and deaths in Natal at the weekend were reported by police yesterday.

Unrest monitors yesterday confirmed nine people died in weekend violence. One monitor said those who believed Natal violence had quelled down were "dreaming".

Moves to make AIDS notifiable

PRETORIA - Government was investigating legislation to proclaim AIDS a notifiable disease, National Health and Population Development Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said yesterday.

At a news conference to announce the launch of a national campaign against the spread of AIDS, she said the implications of such legislation would be examined thoroughly before a decision was made.

The news conference was held shortly after Venter met health ministers from the six-self governing territories.

Gerald Reilly reported Venter said the new anti-AIDS programme would be based on a communications strategy document which would be presented to Cabinet.

She said the number of confirmed AIDS cases had risen dramatically to 663 since 1982. It was estimated that 100,000 people in SA were already infected with the HIV virus, about half of whom were likely to die within the next 10 years.

"Moreover, the pandemic continues to spread rapidly and at the current rate, the number of HIV infected people will be at least 200,000 by this time next year," Venter said.

AIDS education and curbing the alarm spread of the disease had become a high government priority.

"We believe it to be of extreme importance to get the co-operation of all the political parties, trade unions, business leaders and others mobilised in a massive effort to stem the spread of the disease," she said.

She said a major objective was that children should be "AIDS literate" by Std 6.

AIDS cost SA about R20m a year, including R5m spent by the Health Department.

Venter said AIDS was spread mainly through heterosexual intercourse, she said.

Mother to unborn child transmission accounted for many of the other cases.

Venter said other issues discussed included the need to identify the doctor-to-population ratio in the self-governing territories - one doctor to 15,635 people, compared with one to 1,009 countrywide.

The shortage of doctors in rural areas had to be addressed.

She said there was an urgent need to restructure health services. The present system failed to satisfy five basic conditions accepted by Cabinet: access, affordability, effectiveness, acceptability and equity.

She said it seemed the health status of South Africans was deteriorating.

Government unable to sell its township houses

PRETORIA - Despite intensive selling campaigns, government has sold fewer than half its 335,000 units of township housing put up for sale in 1994.

A TPA spokesman said total sales to date nationwide were 125,855 units.

In Transvaal, the sales of houses had been even less successful than the national average.

Gerald Reilly, Housing minister.

"About two-thirds - 146,934 - of houses available for sale were unsold at the end of March."

"A parliamentary spokesman on black housing Douglas Gibson said the difficulties in selling the houses stock could be partly ascribed to red tape and bureaucracy. He called for the appointment of a Black.

Ivory Park squatters whose homes were demolished yesterday morning. Picture: Catherine Moss.
White union to monitor race mixing

Action committees will be formed to monitor neighbourhoods opened to all races by Eskom and mining houses, the all-white Mineworkers Union said in a statement in Johannesburg yesterday.

"The opening of residential areas by Eskom could lead to a chain reaction where most of the Conservative Party-controlled towns would be mixed in a very short time," the statement said.

It was accepted that Eskom's example would soon be followed by the mining houses, Sasol, Sascor and other big corporations.

These companies supplied housing for their workers on the East Rand and in towns such as Vanderbijlpark, Welkom, Secunda, Witbank, Middelburg and Klipsdrift and various parts of Pretoria.

Company housing was usually provided at a very reasonable rental, and affordability would not be a problem for the lower-income groups.

This would inevitably lead to mixed schools, a fall in property prices and neighbourhood standards as well as mixed town councils, the statement said — Sapa
Rent crisis meeting delayed

A MEETING scheduled for yesterday between a delegation from Sohanguve, north of Pretoria, and the Deputy Minister of Education, and Development Aid, Mr Piet Marais, has been postponed.

Chairman of the Sohanguve Residents Association (Sorea), Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, said the meeting had been postponed until July 29 at the request of the deputy minister.

The meeting was to discuss the three-month-old rent and services boycott in the township.

Mkhathshwa said the residents' resolution, taken three months ago to boycott rent and services, was still in effect and residents should ignore recently issued accounts.

The local manager of Sohanguve, Mr N Liebenberg, said residents' response towards payment for rent and services was poor.

Residents resolved to embark on a boycott at a mass meeting held at the local stadium on April 14, following complaints of irregular meter readings and what they describe as exorbitant electricity and service bills. - Sapa
Power cuts

The Pretoria City Council yesterday warned that electricity supplies to Atteridgeville could be cut next Tuesday unless residents settled their accounts. The council said the management committee will meet on July 16 to decide the issue.

The council disconnected electricity supplies to Atteridgeville last month and gave residents until next Tuesday to pay the new tariffs ranging between R75 and R190 depending on the circuit breaker of each house.

Officials of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation asked residents to stop paying rent until an affordable and fixed tariff had been negotiated with the authorities.

By Monk NKOMO
Land-occupation threat

By DON SEOKANE

The Alexandra Civic Association has threatened to launch a campaign to occupy empty houses and stands at the exclusively Indian Marlboro Gardens near the township.

ACA chairman Mr Mike Beza said the Marlboro area - which also includes an industrial site - was allocated to the Indian community in 1987 and has been exclusively used for Indians while thousands of Alex-

andrans are squeezed into one-room shacks and dilapidated houses.

Meeting

"ACA has already put the matter to the Sandton council and the Marlboro executive committee. We expect a meeting with the two parties within 14 days."

If the matter was not resolved, ACA would propose the following actions be taken by the community:

- Consumer boycott of all business centres in Sandton, Kew, Wynberg and the Indian-owned shops in Marlboro and a defiance campaign, specifically to occupy empty houses in Marlboro.

Efforts to reach Mr Jacob Magda of Marlboro Gardens committee for comment were unsuccessful.
Fight over land use hots up in posh areas

Northern suburbs residents' associations and Johannesburg city councillors have launched a campaign to win new planning rights — and to protect the nature of their suburbs.

They took Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing Herman Kriel on a tour to show some effects of the application of the Removal of Restrictions Act and Townships Board decisions.

Ratepayers say the Removal of Restrictions Act ignores certain fundamental legal principles: in that the Townships Board, which hears objections and inspects the site, makes a secret recommendation to the Minister.

"The Minister, in turn, is not required to give reasons for his decision or to inspect the site. There is also no right of appeal."

Appeal

With the municipal Town Planning and Townships Ordinance, the Johannesburg City Council's Town Planning Tribunal's decision is made public, reasons are available and there is an appeal process.

Northern Areas Ratepayers Group chairman Tony Challenger said "Ratepayers no longer have any faith in the system or in the ability of the city council to control the situation."

"Great bitterness has been engendered by a distant authority which never gives reasons for decisions, which does not even have to inspect the site, or hear arguments before changing the character of our suburbs."

Mr Kriel was taken to Houghton Island, where 31 luxury homes are to be demolished for a Sandton office park.

The developer was given the go-ahead by the Minister in spite of objections by the city council and some residents who are still refusing to sell and face being surrounded by offices.

Residents recommend that a new body be constituted to be called the Town Planning Appeals Board with a senior legal counsel as chairman assisted by two assessors, that decisions and reasons be placed on public record, and that Appeals Board decisions be final.

An Appeals Board should have the power to both remove restrictions and to award compensation.

Residents said that there was widespread dissatisfaction with the Act and asked Mr Kriel to ensure that when the Act was amended:

- Procedures be equitable
- Reasons for decisions be given.
- Provisions be made for appeal to a proper Appeals Board
- Property rights be addressed specifically in the decision-making
- Ad hoc rezonings be avoided so that planning can proceed in an orderly manner.

Mr Kriel said the solution to the town planning problems in the province lay in a devolution of responsibility so people at ground level could take the decision. He appointed Dr Charlie van Tonder, Director of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, to investigate a new land-use Bill, due to be published next year.

Townships developed before 1946 were controlled in terms of restrictive conditions of title, because it was only in that year that Johannesburg obtained its Town Planning Scheme. Mr Challenger said:

"All the older suburbs therefore have title restrictions so that when a change in land use is proposed, the applicant usually has no choice but to remove these and very naturally does so via a simultaneous removal of restrictions and rezoning, instead of lodging two applications, one to remove restrictions and the second to amend the town planning scheme."

Intrusion

When the rights have been granted and the precedent created, the community and local authority may be forced into a position whereby they develop a planning policy in response to intrusion by business.

What often happens, say ratepayers, is that those who were granted lesser rights apply to increase their rights to match their neighbours' and ultimately the development is much greater than was envisaged.

Parktown resident Flo Bird said most northern suburbs residents felt vulnerable, scared of "another Parktown" and helpless because even if the Townships Board had given heed to objectors, ultimately the speculators seemed to win.

"Our homes are threatened — this is our biggest single investment, and our most basic security. The response to this threat is a growing anger and outrage at a system which ignores the wider issues, overlooks local concern and operates with little regard for the most basic principles of justice," Ms Bird said.
'Electricity cards' opposed

THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation has vowed to block a R95,5m "smart card" electricity meter project planned by the Pretoria RSC.

The budget economy control system, announced by the RSC yesterday, would enable 11,467 Atteridgeville households to pay in advance and would save administration fees, Atteridgeville administrator Exnne Jacobson said.

Credit available would be registered on a plastic card to be inserted in meters in township homes and businesses.

Publicity secretary John Ramatsui said yesterday the residents' organisation objected to the meters because they were a waste of money which should have been spent on other services such as housing, health and sewage.

"What's more, the council did not consult us before deciding to install this new system. These meters will give the authorities power to increase tariffs whenever they feel like it."

"We will oppose this. We will stop the contractor from installing the meters until the system is negotiated with us," he added.

The Atteridgeville council owes Pretoria R800,000 as a result of a rent and service boycott in the township of 200,000 people.

Jacobson said the card would be phased in over the next 16 months. "The card enables people who work on a cash basis, to pay in advance, either weekly or monthly, and there are six points of renewal.

Meanwhile the three greater Soweto councils' decision to mandate the Central Wits RSC to administer electricity supply would come up for endorsement at a Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber meeting before the end of the month, the council's spokesman Mogalela Moseki, said yesterday.

PEANUTS

How can you teach someone who thinks the great canvas was in the Old Testament? I help him change.
Civics: It's a TPA ploy to prolong suffering

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration's unilateral decision to cancel Friday's conclusive meeting for the resumption of electrical power to more than 100,000 Vaal Triangle residents was "a deliberate ploy to prolong the suffering of our people," the Vaal Civic Association charged.

VCA spokesman Mr Paul Sithole on Friday afternoon told a Press conference that agreement had been reached for the return of electricity to thousands of residents in the Vaal Triangle following five weeks without power.

Sithole said Friday's scheduled meeting was to conclude the agreement for the return of power to four townships in the area, but the TPA pulled out at the 11th hour.

The reason given by the TPA was that it was about to appoint four local authorities headed by administrators and that negotiations with the VCA on the electricity issue would only resume after the appointment.

"This shifting of the goalposts once more clearly shows that the TPA and the government are not serious about seeking a negotiated settlement to the problems of Vaal residents but are determined to continue with their policies of imposing their own decisions on our people," Sithole said.

He expressed concern that the move to establish local authorities in terms of the Black Local Authorities Act was a move back to apartheid structures.

Mr Nigel Mandy, the TPA's urban consultant and negotiator, however rejected the VCA's claim that agreement had been reached for the resumption of power to portions of Sebokeng, all of Sharpeville, and parts of Bopatong and Bophelong. - Sapa
unemployment in Alexandra, study finds

MORE than half of Alexandra’s adult population is unemployed, according to a recent survey.

The survey by the Education for Employment Campaign (EEC) also found that the township’s population had risen by about 30% during the past year to 328,000.

EEC director Dave Jackson said only one-fifth of Alexandra’s children of school-going age were at school.

The remaining 76,000 children were turning to crime.

"Many unemployed people, including children, when asked how they survived, replied 'We have to steal — how else do you expect us to live?'' Jackson said.

The EEC seeks to train township residents in practical matters and is funded by the Independent Development Trust, local industries and foreign interests, including the European Community (EC).

Jackson said that 90% of Alexandra’s population pinned their hopes for the future on the education of their children.

But certificates of education were virtually useless if the holder could not speak English well, he said.

"There are people out there with BSc degrees who are not able to communicate properly in a factory and therefore cannot find jobs," he said.

The EEC programme aims to upgrade school facilities, provide training, counseling services and employment facilities for the unemployed and management training for community leaders.

The latter was vital to help diffuse tensions between rival township political groups, Jackson said.

The programme is being set up mutually in Alexandra.

The EEC hopes to provide the service in other townships as well.

Soweto ‘gives most support to govt’

GOVERNMENT has a higher level of support in Soweto than any other political formation, according to a survey of township residents’ political preferences.

The report, by the University of Witwatersrand’s Centre for Policy Studies, found that Soweto residents were “very moderate” and gave government a higher level of support than they did the church, trade unions, the ANC, employers and the Azapo.

The survey of 906 township residents across SA, showed 86% of respondents were satisfied with the leadership of De Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela, but in Soweto De Klerk got 20% more support than the ANC.

The ANC would, however, get the votes of 60% of all township residents nationally in a general election.

Civic associations, street committees, the SA Communist Party and Cosatu enjoyed lower levels of identification in Soweto than in other townships.

On the East Rand, virtually all political formations had a lower endorsement than elsewhere, except for Inkatha.

Inkatha had “overwhelming support” among hostell dwellers, who gave positive ratings to both the state and employers.

Most striking about hostell dwellers, the researchers said, was that they rated all other agencies and movements, including the church, relatively poorly.

Farmworkers victims under law report

SUSAN RUSSELL

THE exclusion of farmworkers from industrial and labour legislation made the law a weapon in the hands of farmers, according to a report published by the Black Sash and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac).

University of Witwatersrand researcher Lauren Segal, the author of the report, said the relationship between farmers and labourers operated along the lines of a medieval master-serf relationship rather than according to contractual principles.

“With no written obligations to bind him, the farmer is free to dismiss his worker for whatever reason he wishes and to decide on his own terms,” she said.

“SA’s 1.3-million farmworkers are not legally protected and conditions on some farming operations have revealed that there is no bottom line to how bad such conditions may be under the law.”

She said farmworkers were excluded from the Labour Relations Act, the Wages Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Factories Act, and had no right to public holidays, sick pay or leave pay.

There was no legal limit to working hours or any statute compelling farmers to pay overtime and as there was no minimum age for farmworkers, child labour was endemic, she said.

Legislation which could be used against farmworkers included the Illegal Squatters Act, the Trespass Act and the General Law Amendment Act, she said.
Daveyton readies itself for seminar

Sowetan reporter

DAVEYTON residents formed task groups during a workshop on Saturday to prepare for a Nation Building seminar in the township on August 24.

Representatives of the youth, parents, teachers and the clergy who attended the workshop will focus on problems discussed with different groups and present their recommendations at the forthcoming seminar.

"The most common complaint is of communication breakdown between the different groups. The seminars provide a forum to get together, discuss problems and work through ways to solve them," said organiser Ms Di Sutherland.

"Professional people like clinical psychologists and community health workers at each seminar will provide advice and help set up local action groups."

Series

The seminars, sponsored by Pick 'n Pay, are part of a series of Nation Building events being taken by Sowetan to various towns around the country.

The next seminar will be held in Bloemfontein on July 27.
Pay or face cuts, residents warned

ATTERIDGEVILLE administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson yesterday appealed to residents to pay at least R90 a household to avoid electricity cuts.

The Pretoria City Council's management committee is scheduled to meet today to decide whether to continue to supply electricity to the township.

The council had given the township's residents a month's grace, beginning from June 5, to pay new tariffs that ranged from R75 to R190.

"I appeal to the residents to pay at least a flat rate of R90 to help us pay our accounts for services rendered by the Pretoria council," Jacobson said.

He said they would plead with the Pretoria City Council to give them more time.

Most residents received their accounts only last week while many others had not yet received them, according to Jacobson.

At a public meeting last Sunday the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation called on residents to stop paying rent until "a fixed and affordable rent" had been agreed to between them and the relevant authorities.

Asro has, however, urged residents to consider paying more than the present R50 flat rate.

A meeting between Asro's executive committee and the Pretoria City Council's management committee, which was scheduled to have been held yesterday, was indefinitely postponed because some of the Pretoria council's members were not available.
Unionists march

ABOUT 100 members of the 'South African Black Municipal and Allied Workers' Union yesterday marched on the Wattville Council offices, demanding that they were allegedly promised by the municipality.

They have given the council until July 19 to respond.

The workers, all employees of the council, demanded that houses be built of 16 sites which they were allegedly promised by the council.

Their grievances also included improved working conditions, better salaries and increases of between 25 and 35 percent.
PAY UP OR FACE CUTS - COUNCIL

ATTERIDGEVILLE residents have been given until tomorrow to pay up or face cuts again, writes MONK NKOMO.

Dr Pieter Smith, chairman of the management committee of the Pretoria City Council, urged residents to pay their accounts and said a final decision to continue the power supply would be taken tomorrow.

Tariffs proposed by the Pretoria City Council, which ranged between R75 and R190, would enable the township to meet its obligations.

The council also suggested that hostel dwellers pay R30 a month; businesses pay promulgated tariffs and residents with metered houses pay a base tariff of R40 as well as metered consumption.
Alex residents take over 31 Marlboro houses

By ISAAC MOLEDI

THIRTY-ONE unoccupied houses, which were set for occupation by Indians in Marlboro Gardens near Alexandra, were yesterday unlocked by the Alexandra Civic Association (ACA) for occupation by destitute local families.

Marlboro Gardens was taken away from Alexandra and reserved for Indians in 1987 by the Government.

ACA chairman, Mr Mike Beea, who was later escorted by police to a police station, told Sowetan that his organisation could not sit back and watch many destitute families in Alexandra without houses while a place near them, which by right belonged to the residents, had been vacant since March.

"We all need houses and comfort in a democratic country," he said.

ACA secretary general Mr Sidney Hlaza warned of a possible consumer boycott of Indian-owned shops in the area if Beea was not released within 24 hours.

Some residents, who were to occupy the houses, dispersed when police arrived in Casspurs and vans. Others moved into the houses.

Curtains and papers were put on windows of the houses and some residents could be seen in some of them.
Township given two
days to pay lights bill

Pretoria City Council has given At-
teridgeville residents a two-day period
of grace before it cuts off electricity to
the township, which owes R800,000.

A statement after yesterday's man-
agement committee meeting said a fi-
nal decision on the cutting of supplies
had been postponed until tomorrow.

Pretoria warned last month that
power could be cut this month if resi-
dents did not pay new tariffs of be-
 tween R75 and R190 a month.

The Atteridgeville/Sandiville Resi-
dents' Organisation decided last month
to ignore the new tariffs in favour of a
monthly flat rate of R30.
Protests loom over switch-off

By Musa Mapisa

Mass action, including a rent and consumer boycott of white businesses, was on the cards in Middelburg following the cutting of electricity to Milini township on Monday, Middelburg Residents Organisation spokesman Ace Mathibela indicated yesterday. Mhuluzi town clerk Karen Haycock confirmed the switch-off and said it resulted from residents' failure to meet their bills.

Mr Mathibela said his organisation was prepared to resume negotiations with the town through the Middelburg Forum.

The forum, consisting of businessmen, trade unions and community organisations, was formed last year to address community problems in the area, he said.
Houses grabbed, police act

JOHANNESBURG.—The chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association, Mr Mike Beea, was arrested on Tuesday after township residents occupied houses in the nearby Indian suburb of Marlboro Gardens, Sandton.

SABC TV news reported that, the occupation of 32 houses was supported by the association.

Police were called to the scene, arrested Mr Beea and also requested residents to disperse, which some of them then did.

Some of the houses, which belong to the Indian House of Delegates, were broken into by Alexandra residents.

A spokesman for the Indian community in Marlboro Gardens said they did not object to blacks moving into the houses — as long as it was done legally.

The Acting Minister of Housing and Chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Delegates, Mr Baido Dookie, said yesterday that the occupation of the houses highlighted the crisis among homeless blacks.

He appealed for a review of the protest action and for those who had been allocated the homes to be allowed to occupy them.— Sapa
‘No English-speakers’ rent ad for Pretoria flat slated

Pretoria Correspondent

A Pretoria resident is up in arms over an advertisement for a flat to rent that excludes applications by English-speakers.

Mr Botha said that by limiting the market for the flat, the owner was not infringing on the rights of anyone but himself. “An owner can legally limit the occupation or sale of his land to people who wear size 12 shoes if he wants, and there’s nothing to stop him.”

The northern Transvaal, chairman of the South African Property Owners Association, Jan van Straten, said the issue was a private matter between an owner and a prospective buyer or renter.

If it became commonplace, he said, perhaps the Government would introduce legislation to combat it.

Des Reed, a director of Mid City, said he would like to see legislation to outlaw discrimination.

The advert also has a “no kids, no pets” clause.

It irked Rob Barnes, who has lived in South Africa for 20 years since coming from Britain. He said he was shocked and appalled by the advert.

A Pretoria property lawyer, Willem Botha, said there was no remedy to the situation short of Government intervention.

He said the free-market system enabled landowners to decide whom they would rent or sell their property to.

“There is no legal remedy for Mr Barnes. The law would uphold the flat owner’s right to decide who lives in his property”.

Mr Botha said that by limiting the market for the flat, the owner was not infringing on the rights of anyone but himself.

“An owner can legally limit the occupation or sale of his land to people who wear size 12 shoes if he wants, and there’s nothing to stop him.”

The northern Transvaal, chairman of the South African Property Owners Association, Jan van Straten, said the issue was a private matter between an owner and a prospective buyer or renter.

If it became commonplace, he said, perhaps the Government would introduce legislation to combat it.

Des Reed, a director of Mid City, said he would like to see legislation to outlaw discrimination.
Estate agents will defy arson threat

By Al-Ameen Kafar

Standerton estate agents say they will defy a threat to burn down their homes and offices if they sell any houses to blacks.

Four of the five agents in the town received a letter, handwritten in Afrikaans, on Monday warning them not to sell any houses in "white" residential areas to blacks.

An agent at the fifth, Heno Christo Agency, said the firm had not received the letter. He was unable to explain why they had been left out.

An eastern Transvaal police spokesman, Major Themba Mhlangu, said yesterday that Standerton police were investigating the matter.

The Star obtained a copy of the letter from Aida Holdings Ltd, which holds a franchise in Standerton.

The letter reads: "This is not a warning. It is war. Sell one house in Standerton to blacks (anderskleuriges) and we will burn down your houses and offices."

Aida Holdings managing director Aida Geffen yesterday strongly condemned the letter.

Mrs Geffen said her franchise holders had sold quite a number of homes to blacks in the Transvaal and Free State.

She said some of the houses belonged to very conservative people who requested that the sales not be made public until they had left town.

One man at Van Biljon agency said "The letter was very childish and we don't take it seriously."

The other agents - who requested not to be identified - said the letter would not discourage them from selling homes to blacks.

They said a number of blacks had inquired about buying homes in "white" areas.

Eskele Jawitz, chairman of the Estates Agents Board, said the board would advise all estate agents to ignore similar threats.

"The board will take a very serious view if consumers bring complaints to us of estate agents refusing to deal with them because of threats like this," he said.
Cuts to defaulters only, says council

By MONK NKOMO

The rent crisis in Atteridgeville, Pretoria - which was threatened with power cuts this week - took another turn yesterday with the announcement that plans were underway to switch off electricity to rent defaulters only.

Township administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson met the Pretoria City Council’s management committee yesterday to discuss this system.

Jacobson described it as being fair to residents who met their obligations. A number of residents had been paying their accounts since Monday.

Appeal

Jacobson appealed to residents to pay at least R90 a household to enable the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents’ Organisation to pay its bulk suppliers.

Jacobson stressed that electricity supplies to the whole township would not be cut.

Asked if he was prepared to meet the executive committee of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents’ Organisation after suspending talks with them two months ago, Jacobson said “I am more than willing to meet them but they have not yet met the conditions I set in our last meeting.”

“I would like to meet Asro and resolve this rent issue once and for all,” said Jacobson.

In a statement released this week, Asro accused the Pretoria City Council of being reluctant to negotiate and resolve the rent crisis in the township.

Asro’s general secretary Mr Simon Tshabangu said they had sought a meeting with the council on Monday to clarify three sets of tariffs announced this year.

This meeting did not take place after the council said some of its members would not be available.
Pretoria mayor warns vandals

By ALINAH DUBE

THE Mamelodi Council has warned residents who restored electricity to the houses of rent defaulters to stop breaking down water meters and boxes or be prepared to face prosecution.

The mayor, Mr Simon Mokone, said in a statement that some of the people in the township were "vandalising meter cabinets" by breaking their locks.

He said this was being done in the process of restoring electricity to houses of people whose supply was cut off as a result of being in arrears amounting to R500 or more.

"The council would like to warn such culprits that if found, they will face prosecution. Any house owner who accepts the illegal restoration of electricity is also liable for prosecution."

"To be on the safe side, (house) owners are advised to refuse to be party to such an illegal act and to report the culprits to the police."
Atteridgeville's power to be cut off next week

Pretoria Correspondent

Atteridgeville's electricity supply is to be cut off on Monday. The decision to cut the township's power supply was taken yesterday by the Pretoria City Council's management committee.

The city council said the Atteridgeville City Council owed it R3.6 million for electricity, R1.2 million for water and R939 681 for sewerage.

The management committee indicated that it could no longer tolerate the situation and that the council could no longer afford to lose thousands of rands because some residents were refusing to pay for services.

Electricity in Atteridgeville was restored on June 6 after negotiations between the township's Administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson and an interim committee which consisted of local residents.

Power was restored on condition that residents paid new proposed tariffs which ranged between R75 and R150.

The council said payment so far has been poor. Only 15 percent of the residents responded positively.

The council said it had showed its goodwill towards Atteridgeville by giving the township more than enough time during the past few months to show some willingness to pay for the services rendered.

The council stated that Dr Jacobson would soon lay down conditions under which electricity will be resupplied to individual consumers.

"This action is aimed at dealing with non-payers and to motivate residents who have been paying their accounts."

The council said a meeting requested by the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation last Monday could not go ahead as the memorandum submitted by the organisation did not contain any new information.
**Townships pay more for electricity, says Eskom**

TOWNSHIP residents pay more for electricity than people living in white towns, an Eskom spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said in an interview yesterday that “demand patterns” for electricity in areas where there were industries or mines were favourable and Eskom could therefore supply them with electricity at a much cheaper rate.

In the townships electricity was more expensive because some lacked industries and there was an exodus to the towns.

A spokesman for Vosloorus Town Council confirmed that the non-existence of industries in the township and their erratic demand made electricity more expensive than most white towns.

Eskom said that they used electricity to bulk operators — such as municipalities and mines — at 7.5 cents a unit but Vosloorus residents pay 11.26 cents a unit, 0.54 cents more than Johannesburg residents pay.

The Vosloorus spokesman said every municipality sold electricity to its customers at a higher price than what it paid Eskom.

**Reason**

“After checking the meter and maintain the electrical network and to be paid.

So it stands to reason that we should sell electricity at a higher price than what we get it for from Eskom,” he said.

The Vosloorus spokesman would not be drawn on what profits the council made on the sale of electricity.

**Power cuts will hit non-payers**

**THE Atteridgeville Town Council will selectively cut power to non-paying residents in a bid to avert a total cut-off, the Pretoria City Council said yesterday.**

Pretoria has threatened to cut power to Atteridgeville — a move which would affect all 170,000 residents — because most residents have not paid their monthly tariffs which range from R75 to R100. Atteridgeville owes Pretoria R5.5m.

The Pretoria management committee said in a statement yesterday payment was disappointing and only 15% of residents were paying the new tariffs.

Pretoria rejected a last-minute attempt by the Atteridgeville-Salisville Residents Organisation to convene a meeting because it had “no new information.”

**'Smart' challenge to prepayment meters**

**ALTECH** has become the fifth company to launch a "smart" electricity meter.

The meters, which are less bulky and easier to install, have been on sale for a year to 100,000 units this year.

**Row flare**

**THELMA** has become the fifth company to launch a "smart" electricity meter.
Stanprop's income is 29% better

STANDARD Bank Property Fund (Stanprop) has posted a net distributable income 29% up at R25.91m for the six months to end-June.

The improvement was attributed to a generally improved rental profile and its move out of the residential market.

The figure translates into net distributable income 12.5% higher at 9.5c a unit.

Said Stanprop management and leasing agent, Fountainhead MD Mike Aitken: "We expect the fund to perform in line with these figures in the next six months.

"We have R80m invested in the money market, which probably creates a distortion in the results.

"However, we are looking to put this cash into prime investments...when the economic climate has improved."

The fund has five Berea and Hillbrow residential buildings, with a cost value of about R20m, left in its portfolio. It hopes to dispose of them for about R45m by mid-1992.

Fund MD Steward Shaw-Taylor said the fund would look at the specialised sector, for example hospitals and hotels, when it wished to replace the residential component of its portfolio.

Stanprop sold its Bedford Gardens residential property, for R90m during the period under review, giving it a non-distributable surplus of R90.8m.
About 250 white workers gathered at Megawatt Park last night to voice their outrage at Eskom's decision to desegregate its residential areas.

The stormy open-air meeting at Eskom's head office, organised by the Mineworkers' Union (MWU), was also attended by members of right-wing paramilitary groupings, the Conservative Party and Transvaal Agricultural Union. Individuals shouted racist slogans and a banner bearing the legend "Open our town! One black, one bullet" was raised during an address by Mineworkers' Union general secretary Peet Ungerer.

Reading a petition handed to Eskom officials before the meeting, Mr Ungerer said Eskom had set a precedent which would be followed by other big companies.

"These companies are not concerned about what will happen to the prices of homes, residential standards, separate white lifestyles and the peaceful nature of our residential areas," he said.

"They are also not concerned about the effects of such a step for white schools, voting lists and own community life."

At the meeting, the formation of Aksie Ee Woongebuede (AEW), an action group aimed at combating residential integration countrywide, was announced.

Mr Ungerer said: "We say today 'Up to here and no further!' The whites are in their last trench. We will not submit."

Sapa reports that the delegation of MWU members was met by by Eskom's personnel manager, Dane du Plessis, and industrial relations manager Ruan Neethling.
Making a Plan from Planning: from Town Council to the next Council

Wheelyburg plan with not on people
town council has dream to

JAMES CLARKE

Sanctions demanded

NEWS
Narrow escape... Lloyd Molo and daughter.

Mayor's home is bombed again.

By MONIKA F. LIAM IN-basket

Mayor Lloyd Molo and daughter, Emma, escaped by a narrow margin when their home was bombed again yesterday afternoon. The estimated damage to the house is about $10,000.

Mayor Molo was at home with his wife and daughter when the bombing occurred. He was on the front porch when the explosion took place.

The bomb was placed in the garden area of the house, and the blast knocked down several trees and bushes. The police have not yet determined the cause of the explosion.

Mayor Molo expressed his relief at being able to escape without injury to himself or his family. He has been under a constant threat of assassination for many years.

The police are investigating the incident and are awaiting further information.

Mayor Molo requested that the people of the city continue to support him and his administration in the interest of peace and tranquility.

The bombing comes as a shock to the city, and the mayor has appealed for calm and support from the citizens.

The police are warning the public to be careful and vigilant in the coming days.

Mayor Molo has asked for the public's cooperation in the investigation.

He is hopeful that justice will be served and that the person or persons responsible will be brought to justice.

Mayor Molo has requested that the city council provide additional security measures to protect him and his family.

The city council has promised to act on the mayor's request and has allocated funds for additional security measures.

The mayor has also requested that the city council consider new legislation to address the issue of political violence.

The city council has promised to consider the mayor's request and has allocated funds for additional security measures.

Mayor Molo has appealed to the people of the city to continue supporting him and his administration in the interest of peace and tranquility.

He expressed his appreciation for the support of the people and his determination to continue serving the city.

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He expressed his appreciation for the support of the people and his determination to continue serving the city.
A PENSIONER who has been homeless for the past six years was given a house this week — on the eve of a report from a commission of inquiry into housing shortages and corruption in Johannesburg's coloured townships.

Mr Johannes Bankies, 58, who keeps his family on a monthly disability grant of R300, told the commission in May that he had been forced to live in a car despite being on the housing waiting list.

Pressure

After his evidence, Mr Bankies, his wife and four daughters aged four to 13 were given shelter by Mrs Eileen Pieterse, a member of the Westbury Tenants' Association. They slept in the tiny sitting room of her two-bedroom council flat in Newclare, south of Johannesburg.

On Wednesday evening Mrs Pieterse left Mr Bankies at a local shop run by councillor Andrew Booyse in an effort to pressure him into helping Mr Bankies.

Heated

She claimed yesterday that, after a heated confrontation, the councillor placed Mr Bankies and his family in a dilapidated house in Newclare that is too run down to rent out.

Recommendations by the commission chairman, retired magistrate Mr JJ Loaw, will be presented to the Transvaal provincial administrator tomorrow.
Atteridgeville to face electricity blackout today

Atteridgeville residents will experience an electricity blackout as from this morning, the townships' Administrator, Dr Ezrie Jacobson, warned yesterday.

Jacobson said the decision to cut the electricity supply to the townships was taken after "a careful consideration".

He said despite his appeal to the residents to pay their July accounts and avoid another power cut, only 24 percent of the 11 284 householders had paid.

In a statement released yesterday, Jacobson said "power will be restored per zone if more than 75 percent of a zone has paid their accounts!".

He added that a scheme would soon be implemented to act against rent defaulters.

"The time has come that the Atteridgeville administration must act in a responsible manner towards its law-abiding citizens. "

"Resident organisations have failed to honour their agreement upon undertakings," Jacobson said.

Water

The chairman of the Management Committee of the Pretoria City Council, Dr Pieter Smith, yesterday said the Atteridgeville Council owed them more than R3.6m for the bulk supply of electricity, R1.2m for water, and R939 361 for sewerage.

"The Pretoria City Council cannot afford to lose millions because of some residents refusal to pay for municipal services," Smith said.
Chaos at crisis talks

A meeting to resolve the rent crisis which has plagued the area since May last year. The council is to introduce electricity cuts in the township today.

The council’s administrator, Mr Peter Collin, told residents at the meeting that his council could no longer meet its commitment to Eskom. Electricity supply to the township will be cut between 9am and 2pm today.

The council is demanding that residents increase their payments.
Lights to go out in Atteridgeville again

ELECTRICITY supplies to Atteridgeville will be switched off at 8am today, the council has announced.

This decision was taken after a lengthy meeting between Atteridgeville's administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, and the management committee of the Pretoria City Council.

The chairman of the management committee, Dr Pieter Smith, said in a statement released after the meeting that the administrator would soon lay down conditions under which electricity would be re-supplied to individual consumers.

"The action is aimed at dealing with non-payers and to motivate residents who have been paying their accounts all along," Smith said.

The announcement was made shortly after Jacobson had indicated in Sowetan that plans were under way to cut electricity supplies to residents who did not pay their accounts.

Owed

Smith said the Atteridgeville Council owed the residents more than R3.6 million for the bulk supply of electricity only, R1.2 million for water and about R939 360 for sewerage removal.

"The management committee of the Pretoria City Council can no longer tolerate the situation and the council can no longer afford to lose millions of rands because of some residents refusing to pay for municipal services," Smith said.

He added that the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation submitted a memorandum to his committee at the weekend.

"The memorandum did not contain any new information and as a result it could not convince the management committee to have a meeting with Aso, as such a meeting would not have any purpose," said Smith.

The Pretoria City Council, Smith added, had given Atteridgeville residents "more than enough time during the past few months to show some willingness to pay for the services they receive."

Smith said his council had, since June 6 - when the electricity supply was restored for the second time this year - appealed to residents through advertisements and pamphlets to pay between R75 and R190 a month but to no avail.
People’s interests must be first, civic groups are told

The need for civic associations to be politically non-sectarian in their dealings dominated the opening session of the Northern Transvaal Civic Association general council in Soshanguve on Saturday, writes MATHATHA TSEDU.

The tone was set by NTCA president, Mr Kamela Sekonya, in his opening address in which he called on affiliate associations to strive to serve all people without regard to political affiliations.

Sekonya said “the NTCA and the civic movement” in general aimed at developing “maximum civic unity in action”. This would enable them to fight for affordable housing, free education, recreational facilities and community empowerment through political power.

He said the civic movement had to develop a code of conduct and discipline and ensure that the people’s interests were served at all times and that accusations that the ANC was inclined to the NTCA were false.

“We serve all our people,” he said.

“Perhaps it is a measure of the unpopularity of the NTCA that the liberation movements have not deemed it fit to be with us here today despite invitations and confirmations”, Sekonya said.
MORE than 38 000 families in the Vaal Triangle's townships face another blanket power switch-off on Thursday.

Lekoa town clerk Mr Nikolaas Louw said yesterday the cuts would affect all five townships, including parts of Sebokeng where the supply was reconnected after 70 percent of households had paid their April bills.

"We will reconnect electricity only after 70 percent of all consumers have paid their May accounts," said Louw.

By
THEMBA MOLEFE

He said it was difficult to penalise individual defaulters at this stage because fewer than the required number of households had paid their May bills.

"We appeal to the Government to intervene on the grounds that it is its responsibility to intervene in matters contributing to the violence in this country," SACC general secretary, the Rev Frank Chikane, said.

Meanwhile, 40 clergymen who staged a sit-in protest in the Lekoa Council chambers on June 3 when the first blanket cuts were imposed will appear in the Sebokeng Magistrate's Court today.

The SACC said the clergymen had gathered at the council offices to present a letter written to the State President in an attempt to halt the intended June 3 cuts.

"The SACC is very concerned that the violence in the Vaal Triangle appears to have escalated since the cutting off of the electricity supply."
Anger at power cuts

By MONK NKOMO

HUNDREDS of Atteridgeville residents expressed their anger at the local city council’s decision to cut electricity supplies to householders who had not paid their current accounts.

And in another development, the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation threatened to take the matter to court after getting an order directing the township’s administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson, to adhere to the agreement that residents pay an interim monthly flat rate of R30.

Residents yesterday reacted angrily at the council’s decision to cut power to people who had paid their July accounts.

Jacobson had promised that electricity would be cut for rent defaulters only.

In a statement released on Sunday, he said power would be reconnected to each zone where 75 percent of the people had paid.

"This is unfair. What if only 30 percent have paid in my zone?" an angry woman asked.

"The council must take action against those who do not pay. This is the system that is applied in white suburbs. And it is a fair system," she added.

Aso's general secretary, Mr Simon Tshid, confirmed that they had sent a letter to Jacobson demanding that electricity be restored forthwith, failing which the matter would be taken to the Supreme Court.

Legal Resources Centre, whose lawyers represent Aso, sent a letter of demand to Jacobson yesterday stating that they had been instructed that the cutting off of electricity was a breach of agreement reached between him and Aso.

Agreement

The letter also said the local business sector, following an agreement with Jacobson in April, had been paying promulgated tariffs.

"Our instructions are to demand the restoration of electricity supplies to all households and businesses forthwith, failing which our instructions are to make an urgent application in the Supreme Court for the restoration of electricity without further intimidation," the LRC said.

Jacobsen could not be reached for comment as he was in a meeting at the time of going to press.
Atteridgeville

Electricity to Atteridgeville township, near here, was cut at 8:30 am yesterday, and the Atteridgeville-Saulsford Residents' Organisation plans to bring an urgent Supreme Court interdict against the town council to have it restored.

The action follows a warning by the township's administrator, Dr. Ernie Jacobson, that each household should pay at least R90 towards their July accounts.
Marlboro occupation was 'attempt to divide'

JOHANNESBURG — The attempted occupation last week of homes in the suburb of Marlboro here was an attempt to create a racial flare-up between Africans and Indians, two residents' organisations said yesterday.

"This act of aggression is condemned; for it is designed to undermine legitimate and democratic structures," the Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) and the Marlboro Area Committee (MAC) said.

Last week, Alexandra residents belonging to a rival civic group tried to take-over 32 unoccupied houses in adjacent Marlboro Gardens, which had been sold to Indian people on a waiting list — Sapa.
Takeover of empty houses criticised

By Abel Mash"h

The Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) has dismissed last week's occupation of empty houses in nearby Marlboro, Sandton, as a ploy to sow division in neighbouring black and Indian communities.

Addressing a press conference organised jointly by ACO and the Marlboro Area Committee (MAC), ACO general secretary Richard Mnakane yesterday condemned the action, which he said was being carried out by "opportunists" or a group of individuals purporting to represent the residents of Alexandra.

"We view this as another attempt by some external or hostile forces to create a racial flare-up between Africans and Indians living in this area," he said.

Last week black residents belonging to the Alexandra Civic Association, led by Mike Beza, tried to take over 32 unoccupied houses in adjacent Marlboro Gardens. They had been sold to Indians on a waiting list.

The action, the ACO executive said, undermined the Alexandra Accord whose aims included the creation of a non-racial democratic local government for the region, which includes Marlboro.

ACO executive member Mxandile Mayekiso said: "We suspect it could be an attempt to create tension in the community. That is why we are saying the (Alexandra) council and the security police are behind it, to undermine the Alexandra Accord."

Mr Beza did not have the support of progressive structures in the area, said Mr Mayekiso.
I, 2 million, says MEC
Land available to house

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, July 23, 1998
Councillors in Johannesburg's southern suburbs have reported a surprisingly pain-free "greying" of the south, despite its traditionally conservative residents.

However, councillor Cecil Long of Roberts ham said he felt the situation was unnatural, and that if there was no housing shortage in Indian, coloured and black areas, they would not "impose themselves" on whites in the south.

Mr Long added that about 30 to 40 families of "other races" had moved to Roberts ham. Other councillors reported a trouble-free process.

For a more in-depth look at the grey ing of the south, read the lead article in the Southern Focus, which can be found in The Star at outlets in the south.

If it is not distributed in your area, copies of the Southern Focus can be obtained from the The Star, 47 Sauer Street.
Council to restore power to residents

BY MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville administration is devising ways and means of restoring electricity supplies to residents who have paid their accounts.

Administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson said the Pretoria City Council and his department were "still busy with certain technicalities and appealed to residents who had paid to bear with them."

The announcement followed angry reaction from residents who accused Jacobson of failing to keep his promise that electricity supplies would be cut for rent defaulters only.

"The whole township was plunged into darkness after the switch-off on Monday."

Jacobson urged residents to pay tariffs reflected on their accounts to help the Atteridgeville Council pay for the bulk supply of essential services.

Atteridgeville owes the Pretoria City Council R3.6 million for electricity, R1.2 million for water and R939 361 for sewerage.

Meanwhile, the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation briefed lawyers yesterday with the intention of challenging the Atteridgeville Council's decision to discontinue electricity supplies to the township.
IN a major step towards realising the dream of "electricity for all", Eskom and the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) have teamed up in a partnership which will see the DBSA financing electricity to under-developed areas of southern Africa.

The agreement, to be signed today, provides for the application of Eskom's and DBSA's resources to alleviate the plight of poor communities as regards electricity.

An Eskom spokesman said yesterday he expected the agreement to have a major impact on the provision of electricity to many under-developed areas.

In terms of the agreement, a liaison committee has been established by DBSA and Eskom which would give co-ordinated attention to communication with government and local authorities.

DBSA spokesman Deon Stassen said it was intended that the DBSA mobilise concessional finance as well as providing its development expertise, while Eskom provided the technical and commercial base for the projects.

Stassen said the DBSA had applied for a ceiling or time frame to the loans and would only determine the viability of each project upon application.

One of the first beneficiaries of the undertaking has been the KwaNkwa Electric Supply Company (Kescor).

The company has obtained a loan of R17m for electricity supply in KwaNkwa.

Kescor has estimated that 4 000 households in rural and urban areas of KwaNkwa will receive electricity through this project in the next two years. This will bring electricity to an estimated 20 000 people.

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Move to selectively restore power

MOVES were underway to restore electricity to more than 30% of households in Atteridgeville yesterday.

"The plan is expected to be implemented within weeks," he said adding that at least 32% of Atteridgeville residents had paid their electricity accounts.

A Pretoria City Council spokesman confirmed the council and Jacobson were looking at ways in which to selectively cut power in Atteridgeville.

"This, however, involves certain complicated technical investigations on which the city engineer is working," he said.

Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation general secretary Simon Tsahnd said his organisation was consulting legal advisers with a view to making an urgent court application for the restoration of electricity in the township.

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Lekoa City Council has announced it will cut power in five townships under its jurisdiction tomorrow.

The council says payments have dropped in all the townships within the Lekoa area, including seven zones in Sebokeng.
Brain drain 'will hobble growth'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The draw of professional and skilled workers would be a serious constraint on growth once SA's economy started to pick up, experts warned yesterday.

They were reacting to a Market Research Africa survey which disclosed that more than 200,000 white SA adults saw themselves as potential emigrants.

Central Statistical Service figures show SA has lost 315 medical doctors, 807 accountants and 1,469 engineers since 1986.

However, the total loss of 7,600 professional, semi-professional and technical personnel in the five years is balanced to some extent by almost the same number of immigrants in these categories.

J.R. Scott, president of the SA Association of Consulting Engineers, said that while Japan had 300 engineers per million people, the US, 570, and Europe, 260, SA had only 35.

"If a new SA is to take its rightful lead in the development of southern Africa, it will have to attract engineers from abroad and undertake a massive education drive," he said.

National Personnel Institute economist Jan de Jager said with sanctions easing, SA could soon move out of the economic stagnation of the past two years. The skill drain would hobble growth.

White Paper on tourism expected

MARCIA KLEIN

SIGNIFICANT changes to SA tourism are expected following yesterday's release of a "strategic framework" by the industry.

The Strategic Framework for Tourism Development in South and Southern Africa, which provides principles and guidelines for the future development of SA's tourism industry, was produced by the SA Tourism Board (Soutour) and the Development Bank of SA.

Their proposals, with a report produced by the Board of Trade and Industry last year, would be considered by Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism Org Masa and his department, and a White Paper would be issued by the end of August, outlining government's response.

The framework outlined three major institutional adjustments, including establishment of a community-driven structure to ensure "bottom-up participation" from various regions.

The second adjustment was Soutour's repatriating an international marketing arm and promote generically, and Soutour would start its focus to development.

The framework also suggested a Cabinet committee be established "to facilitate co-ordinated management of tourism by public sector institutions on a national basis".

The document said the tourism industry, which employed more than 300,000 people and earned R5,5bn in forex in 1989, was of "strategic and economic significance to SA". Tourism was a labour-intensive industry, had a strong multiplier effect, and had forex earnings potential.

Extensive growth in the industry had not occurred because of its sensitivity to the investment climate, sensitivity to apartheid, and the need for personal safety. International arrivals had increased 19% between 1988 and 1976, and had slumped to 1,14% between 1976 to 1989.

With current trends towards a more normalised market situation, significant growth in the industry could be achieved. It was critical that the industry be carefully managed. Tourism in SA was insignificant in terms of the contribution the industry made elsewhere in the world.

United anti-apartheid health organisation to be formed

TANIA LEVY

Anti-apartheid health organisations will unite in their fight to replace discriminatory health services with a more acceptable system.

At a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday, the SA Health Workers' Congress (Sahwco), the National Medical and Dental Association (Namda), the Organisation of Appropriately Social Services in SA and the Health Workers' Society announced that a formal decision on unity had been taken at the weekend.

The four organisations would formally dissolve early in December and the new united organisation would be launched in March.

Its aims include eradicating discrimination in health and welfare services, unifying the various health disciplines, promoting equality and appropriate training for health workers, and protecting the standard of health and social services in SA.

Namda president Mvuyo Tom said the unified national organisation would present a "formidable front to advance the struggle for equal health for all".

Until now government had been able to exploit the space created by the fragmentation of the progressive health sector, he said.

Together the four organisations have a paid-up membership of more than 4,000 people and an active campaign will take place in the next six months to include as many other health organisations as possible.

A name and constitution for the new body would be decided on in due course.

Tom said unification would allow the progressive health sector to pool resources and to use funds, from local and international sources, more efficiently.

The EC and the Kaiser Foundation in the US had been among foreign donors which had funded the organisation's projects and conferences in the past, he said.

Council action sparks stayaway

TANIA LEVY

BUSINESS in Nigel, on the East Rand, has been hit by an indefinite stayaway called by the Duduza Civic Association (DCA) in retaliation to the local town council's decision to seize the property of four rent defaulters.

DCA official Saku Kekana said yesterday the stayaway, which enters its third day today, was "100% effective".

It would be maintained until the council returned the property it had seized.

Nigel Chamber of Commerce chairman Bernard Fitton said the stayaway had been about 70% effective.

"We are recommending to our members adoption of a no-work, no-pay policy," he said.

He would not say how hard businesses in the town had been hit by the stayaway.

The Duduza Town Council could not be reached for comment.
Court action planned over power cuts

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville Council has still not restored electricity supplies to residents who have paid their accounts despite assurances to do so by the administrator, Dr Ernie Jacobson.

Angry residents yesterday accused Jacobson of "playing the fool with us".

The council switched off electricity to the entire township on Monday despite promises by Jacobson that the cuts would only affect householder who had not paid their July accounts.

Jacobson announced on Tuesday that he and the Pretoria City Council were devising ways and means of restoring supplies to residents who had paid.

Consulted lawyers

Later in the day he was quoted on SABC news as saying the supplies to these residents would only be restored at the weekend.

Scores of residents telephoned Sowetan yesterday demanding that the supply be restored because they had paid. Some residents yesterday consulted lawyers with the intention of turning to the courts to force Jacobson to reconnect the power.

The supplies were cut off on Monday because the Atteridgeville Council owed the Pretoria City Council R3.6 million for electricity, R1.2 million for water and R993 361 for sewerage.

The local civic association, Aso, was yesterday due to file an application in the Pretoria Supreme Court seeking an order directing Jacobson and his council to reconnect the supplies.
Discord could end Alex accord

By DON SEOKANE

THE Alexandra Town Council has threatened to pull out as signatory to the township's accord

The accord was signed in February this year by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Alexandra Town Council and Alexandra Civic Organisation.

The township's mayor, Mr Prince Mokoea, said he wanted to withdraw because residents were dissatisfied with it and were not consulted before it was signed.

Arrears

The Alexandra Civic Association, led by Mr Mike Beca, did not sign the accord.

The agreement revolves around the writing-off of arrears, payment of services, transfer of rented houses to the people, transfer of land known as the Far East Bank to a Land Trust administered by the representatives of Alexandra's people and the implementation of a low-income housing programme.

Arrears of R9.3 million have been written off.

However, the agreement seems to have failed to end the rent boycott.
Place of peace and tranquility

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

BASIL Read Homes' Delmore Gardens development, which got off the ground in January this year, is rapidly taking shape.

More than 146 homes have been completed and many have already been occupied.

The company started marketing the development to blacks in anticipation of the scrapping of the Group Areas Act.

More than 50 percent of the homes have been sold to blacks. Delmore Gardens, which is about 2km from the Boksburg central business district, was developed to give middle-class residents of the neighbouring Reiger Park an opportunity to raise their standard of living.

Since most clients are first-time homebuyers, the company ensures that all aspects such as bond applications, registrations, transfers, local authority deposits and connection fees are taken care of.

A Basil Read spokesman said: "With the ongoing uncertainty in the black areas, clients are delighted to settle in this quiet suburb, free from problems that they experience in most of the townships. "The suburb represents a unique opportunity for prospective buyers in the 'new' South Africa," the spokesman said."
Council demands R700 a household for ‘shoddy’ rewiring

By BEATHUR BAKER

THE Johannesburg City Council is asking residents of Noordgesig to pay R700 per household for the rewiring of their homes — despite residents' accusations of cheap material, poor workmanship, inadequate power supply and faulty connections.

Residents had not been consulted or informed about the nature of the installations beforehand. And now the city council has allowed a deadline for repairs to pass without informing the residents that such a deadline existed.

The project is funded by a loan obtained from the Witwatersrand Regional Services Council for R1,73-million.

Many residents have lodged formal complaints at the local rest office, only to be referred to the city council where they are told that "regrettably" the council can do nothing.

George Huntley, deputy director of the Housing Department for the council, explained that a private engineering company was employed to do the installations. However, he claimed it was "not policy" to divulge the name of the company. He referred to hassle with a Joe Reaney, the chief engineer overseeing the project. Reaney also refused to reveal the name of his company to The Weekly Mail.

He did point out that, in terms of the contract between the council and the engineering company, a three-month "retention period" is stipulated during which repairs have to be attended to. This period, he added, has expired.

The local civic association has been handed numerous affidavits from residents setting out problems. All of these have in common the allegation that the engineers placed switch boxes behind heavy furniture, damaged property and walls and left ugly cracks and holes on working surfaces.

Added to these complaints are alarmingly high electricity bills, faulty sockets and frequent main switch trips.

The Civic Association claims that the engineers were working to a deadline and, to cut time, rushed through installations — often completing up to 60 houses a day.

On February 28 this year, the civic association handed a petition by Noordgesig residents to the council's director of housing. It demanded that "electricians come back and undo their shoddy workmanship". The civic also claimed that residents who refused to have their houses rewired were intimidated.

The Housing Department denied knowledge of these incidents, according to a civic representative. In fact, he said, a council spokesman termed the project "a generous offer".
I'm not sure what to say.

After all, we're just two people standing in front of a mirror, trying to figure out who we are.

But then, I thought of something.

The English Language.

I've been reading about it all my life.

And I've always wondered about the magic of words.

But now, I see it differently.

Words are not just letters on a page.

They are a way to connect with others.

A way to share our experiences.

It's not just about understanding the words themselves.

It's about understanding the emotions behind them.

I want to learn more.

I want to express myself.

But I'm not sure how.

I'm not sure if I can.

I'm not sure if anyone can.

But I'm willing to try.

I'm willing to learn.

I'm willing to grow.

And I'm willing to help others do the same.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

They mean a lot to me.
IDT to host seminar on hostels

A WORKERS' hostel seminar to be attended by leading representatives of 28 organisations across the political spectrum will be held at Midrand on August 1.

This was announced by the Independent Development Trust this week. Extra-parliamentary groups, civic organisations, trade unions, the private sector and the Government will be involved in the seminar.

Discussions would explore how locally affected communities could participate in finding solutions to hostel problems and would confirm a development approach to the issue. Follow-up task groups would be appointed after the seminar.

Appeal

"The diverse nature of these proposals has led us to conclude that there will be considerable benefit in evolving a shared appreciation of the opportunities and constraints among the principal actors in this area of activity," IDT chairman Mr Jan Steyn said.

"Therefore we took the liberty of informally contacting interested parties with a view to initiating a process to deal with these issues."

He appealed to participants to respect the sensitivity of the hostels issue and to avoid unnecessary speculation, conflicts and tension. - Sapa

Hostels in the good old days - Page 29
Battle to sell elite township homes

By MONDU MAKHANYA

THE EXODUS by wealthy blacks into white suburbs is set to drive house prices down in elite black areas.

Many wealthy blacks, who built their six-figure priced homes in the era of the Group Areas Act, are now finding it increasingly difficult to sell their homes.

The logic behind this is that there are few people prepared to buy a highly priced property in a township if one can now purchase a house in a white suburb for roughly the same price.

An ironic spinoff of this, however, is that the inability to find suitable buyers for their township houses is also hampering some blacks from moving to white suburbs.

While this movement itself has thus far been insignificant — mainly as a result of affordability — a number of very wealthy blacks are slowly infiltrating white suburbs. Insofar as Johannesburg is concerned, says Aida Estates managing director Aida Geffen, there's been a number of sales to blacks in the northern suburbs while the southern suburbs have proved quite popular.

"This is because there are more areas in the south which are within the price range of middle-class blacks," notes Geffen.

Also preventing blacks from "invading" suburbs as was expected are the recession and high interest rates.

According to a Soweto estate agent who herself is having difficulty selling her house, "people want to flock to town but they cannot find buyers for their houses."

But those blacks who are able to overcome these obstacles, believes Real Estate Surveys director Erwin Rode, will see a 20 percent depreciation in their house prices.

However, he believes this devaluation will bring these houses to their real value and thereafter prices will start climbing again.

Also exerting downward pressure is the fact that value does not necessarily equal cost. Therefore, a lot of houses that cost a certain amount to build, will, by virtue of their location in the overwhelmingly working class townships, not be worth their cost price.

Basil Elk Estates managing director Basil Elk explains: "The general principle in residential housing is that the most expensive house in a lower priced area will always devalue."

But Geffen believes wealth discrepancy within the black community is also responsible for the devaluation.

"In the black community there is very little upward mobility. As a result you have a small top echelon and then there's the rest. Those in the top echelon are having difficulty selling because there are very few people to sell to," says Geffen.
OF the 334 293 homes available for sale by black local governments, a total of 126 044 had been sold since 1984, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

This amounted to 37.3 percent of the total number of houses offered for sale.

"According to statistics, 167 houses were sold by the local authorities in the Transvaal during May this year."

"This brought the total number of houses sold by the local authorities in the Transvaal since 1984 to 83 838."

"About 36.9 percent of the houses available in the Transvaal have already been sold."

Rented

A TPA spokeswoman said houses which were not yet sold were rented out, but the option to buy remained.

The TPA would not reveal the amount the houses were being sold for, but said they were geared towards the "middle income group". However, the TPA was also concerned with the provision of homes for the lower income groups, she said. - Sapa.
TPA house sales soar

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DRASTIC action would be taken against workers who had ignored the stayaway called by the Duduza Civic Association, Nigel Chamber of Commerce and Industries chairman Bernard Pitton warned yesterday.

Pitton said the stayaway, which entered its fifth day today, was wreaking havoc on businesses in the East Rand town.

"About 80% of the Duduza workforce has not been turning up since the stayaway began and industries' production has dropped by as much as 50%," he said.

Pitton said his chamber would recommend that its affiliates take "very drastic" action against their employees when they returned to work. Businesses canvassed yesterday acknowledged the stayaway was affecting them.

OK Bazaars manager Dirk Kotze said his store's turnover was down by at least 20%.

Checkers said it would only assess the impact of the stayaway today.

The stayaway was called by the civic association in retaliation for the Duduza Town Council's decision to impound property of rent defaulters.

At a mass meeting this week Duduza residents resolved to continue a work stayaway until the council had returned the impounded property.

A spokesman for the civic association claimed the stayaway was 100% effective.

"Apart from demanding the return of the four comrades' goods, we are also demanding the recognition of a rent agreement between itself and the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the resignation of local councillors," the spokesman said.

In terms of the agreement which was reached last year, households with electricity are to pay R50 a month while households without electricity and shack dwellers are to pay R25 and R10 respectively.

The Duduza Town Council could not be contacted yesterday.

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Guns for Inkatha: Coetsee meets attorney-general

NATAL Attorney-General Mike Imbenzani last Justice Minister Khoie Coetsee yesterday after receiving a report on a police investigation into allegations that Maritzburg security police bought guns for Inkatha.

Some of the weapons were allegedly used in political murders in Natal.

The police report was ordered by a Natal judge after evidence about the purchase of 24 revolvers from a Maritzburg gun shop. Evidence in the case was that the weapons had been given to Inkatha members.

DP MP for Greytown Pierre Cronje said two of the weapons had been ballistically linked to political murders.

Police said last night no decision had been taken regarding the suspension of the security policeman who allegedly bought the weapons.

Suggestions of security police involvement in the purchase of the weapons emerged in January during the trial of Inkatha gunman Siembiso Dumakude, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing four people and wounding four others on March 5, 1989.

Dumakude, who four days after his initial attack injured several more people in a petrol bomb attack on a night vigil for the dead, allegedly used one of the weapons bought from a King's Sports shop.

The store manager Tony Wessels said yesterday that late in 1987 the shop was asked to supply the guns. Three or four men later paid cash for the weapons. Most of the guns were collected by black men over the next year.
**Alex accord on the rocks?**

**By THEMBA KHUMALO**

THE landmark "Alex Accord" seems to be heading for the rocks barely four months after several influential civic bodies in Johannesburg's Alexandra township and its surroundings signed on the dotted line.

Alexandra mayor Prince Mokoena this week announced that his council had withdrawn from the accord because of "community pressure" about the mandate to sign the accord.

However, two of his councillors are still backing the accord. They say Mokoena had taken the decision to pull out unilaterally — and the council never met on the issue.

The accord was signed in February by officials from the TPA, Sandton Town Council, Regional Services Council, Alexandra Town Council and Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) — resulting in the Joint Negotiating Forum (JNF).

The pullout seems to stem from a political dispute between Mokoena and ACO leader Moses Mayekiso.

Mayekiso is a pro-ANC Cosatu official and Mokoena has strong Inkatha leanings.

Mokoena cited his rift with Mayekiso as one of the reasons for pulling out. "Those Sandton whites are hobnobbing with him because they think he has a constituency. They'll be shocked to learn that he hardly has a house permit in Alex," said Mokoena.

"He has two houses outside Alex and he owns a flat in Hillbrow. That proves that he and his ACO comrades have no constituency in the township. The white signatories drew him into the JNF because they thought he was the godfather of Alex residents."

"I realised we were mere passengers in the JNF and the main players were whites. They exert tremendous influence in the forum because they have the financial resources to manipulate us. We in the council didn't want to continue to be used as pawns in this game," he said.

Mokoena's reasons for his decision were denied by Mayekiso and ACO general secretary Richard Mdkakane.

Mayekiso said: "I was chosen by the Alex people to lead them. It's true that I've bought a house, but in Phase Two in Alex and not in Vosloorus. I have a flat in Hillbrow and I have a right to it."

"The fact that he doesn't know that I bought a house in Alex shows he is out of touch with township matters."

Mayekiso added that Mokoena was brought to Alex by the Joint Monitoring Council officials to "impose him upon the township residents."

Several anti-Mokoena demonstrators had been held by residents who want him out.

Mdkakane denied that all local councillors had pulled out of the accord and said on Thursday two councillors attended the JNF meeting at which they gave their unqualified support to the pact.

"The two councillors actually told the meeting that Mokoena had withdrawn unilaterally and the matter was not decided by the council."

Local ANC publicity secretary, Obed Bapela, said although they were not consulted about the signing of the accord, they would only decide at their annual conference in September whether they endorsed it or not.

Darkie Rametsa of the Alexandra Builders' and Allied Traders Association said the accord was rejected at a recent residents' meeting by delegates from local structures.
Services please, residents tell govt

DOORNKOP residents say the government has not provided adequate services to the almost 6,000 sites in the new town.

The new Doornkop Civic Association (DCA) last week called on the Transvaal Provincial Administration to improve sewerage and water provision and to install high mast security lights as a matter of urgency.

The DCA said that although Doornkop was specifically intended for occupation by poor, homeless people, the lack of facilities such as schools, clinics and public transport made it one of the most expensive places to live.

Doornkop residents, many of whom moved from backyard shacks or illegal squatter sites in Dobsonville, claimed it cost much more to live in Doornkop than it did in Dobsonville.

The DCA says residents are unhappy about the "aqua-privy" toilet system because the smell from blocked toilets is unbearable. The toilets - which should last up to 10 years - have only been used for a few months.

The residents are also unhappy about the provision of only one tap for 20 sites, according to DCA executive member Cecilia Phentu.

"This water system is really making us suffer. We accept that the government says it doesn't have enough money to build proper houses for us, but at least we should have one tap a site," a fellow DCA executive member Matlholo Tshako said it was very dangerous to have to walk in the dark streets at night to fill water buckets.

"Another big problem is the lack of schools in Doornkop. Our children still have to attend school in Dobsonville, which means they have to walk about 4km each way. Taxi fare was R4.50 a child for a single journey but we have just negotiated with the taxi owners to reduce it to R1.50 return. This still means that the poorest families have to find R1.50 a day for each child to go to school. It's impossible," said Tshako.

A TPA official said the administration was holding discussions with residents to try to alleviate some of the immediate problems.

The TPA said the price of land in Doornkop was kept as low as possible - R5.100 over 30 years, which translates to R27.50 per month - so there was no money to provide a high level of services such as flush toilets and tar roads.
TPA to act on Doonkop scam claims.

The TPA has decided to act on Doonkop scam claims. Following is a press release issued by the TPA:

TPA to act on Doonkop scam claims.

Twenty years is totally inadequate and causes them undue hardship.

WE NEED WATER... Doonkop residents say that one in every three families in the area is waterless.

Michelle A. Brown
SHAKE IT UP, BABY. . . . What better way to beat chilly Jo'burg winds than to work up a sweat with a solid jive? These twilight kids have found the answer to the bitter cold — heavy clothing and the jitterbug. ■ PIC: BOY GEORGE MASHININI

By THEMBA KHUMALO

THE Doornpoort Council is about to increase rent tariffs and retrench staff because of a lack of funds, according to a report tabled before the councilors recently.

The report said the R25-million given by the TPA to the council as bridging finance this year was insufficient to cope with rising costs. The staff salaries and wages amounted to R2.6-million a month and this was likely to increase by 10 percent in the next few months.

"The Treasury Department has in its possession R4-million worth of cheques owing to creditors that it is not in a position to release due to lack of funds. Creditors are going to increase their demands at an alarming rate and council will be facing litigation," the report said.

Eskom is owed R605 625.22. The council had entered into an agreement with the Regional Services Council to pay all income from electricity directly to Eskom weekly, but due to lack of funds the council was violating the pact.

To overcome the financial crisis, the Treasury Department has recommended that

■ The council takes all possible measures to recover arrear accounts of defaulters,
■ That council employees negotiate on the possibility of voluntary retrenchment, and
■ That the council negotiate with the RSC to defer certain projects until funds are available.
New ideas for township homes

Sunday Times Reporter

THE Alexandra Development Foundation put on a dozen homes on show yesterday in an attempt to present new housing ideas for an established township.

The ADF, under chairman Colin Adcock, is a non-profit organisation which develops houses. It is funded by businesses including JCI, Anglo-American and De Beers.

The show site, which is surrounded by the homes of 30,000 shack-dwellers, presented its own problems to the builders. Four of the vehicles delivering materials were hijacked during June and July; materials disappeared from the site and a squatter family living in a shack had to be rehoused.

The range of homes features high-density development on stands of about 100 square metres, with housing units starting at 20 square metres.

- The cost of the homes - ranging from R16 940 to R32 320 - is within reach of people earning from R1 000 to R1 800 a month.

Dinkins, excited about visit to S

By PATRICIA CHENET

WASHINGTON

NEW YORK mayor David Dinkins will visit South Africa in September at the invitation of Mr Nelson Mandela.

Mr Mandela urged Mr Dinkins to visit South Africa when the ANC president stayed at the mayoral residence, Gracie Mansion, last year during a triumphal tour of New York.

Although details of the trip were described as "very preliminary" by Mrs Annabelle Franceschini, Mr Dinkins' spokesman, she said that he planned to arrive in SA on September 19 and would stay until September 24 or 25.

The mayor will be accompanied by a large group of New York dignitaries representing labour unions, anti-apartheid groups and city officials.

"He is very excited about the trip," Mrs Franceschini said.

"He has been wanting to visit South Africa for some time."

Mr Dinkins will also stop in Lagos, Nigeria.
Jo’burg in dark

GREATER Johannesburg has been suffering intermittent power failures, which started at 4.30am yesterday.

The power dips caused occasional breaks in systems and some hospitals in the area switched over to their emergency generators.

Spokesman for the Johannesburg municipality’s electricity department and Eskom said the problem was caused by excessive moisture and pollution on the high-tension wires being fed into the Johannesburg grid.

The present mist, laden with aerial pollution, was coating the wires, causing short-outs and power dips.

Mist

Both spokesmen said the problem would be solved once the mist had cleared.

Eskom’s telephone lines were kept busy with complaints from electricity consumers, including hospitals, according to Mr Pieter Smith - Sapa
THE Alexandra Accord, which is on the brink of collapse, should be cancelled because its contents and implications had not been discussed with residents before it was signed.

This is according to Alexandra Civic Association chairman Mr Mike Bea.

The accord was signed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Alexandra Council and Alexandra Civic Organisation - which is led by trade unionist and South African Communist Party official Mr Moses Mayekiso.

The two civic bodies in the township, ACA and ACO, have different views on the squatted conditions in the township and how to resolve them. Hence, the ACA refused to sign the accord and the ACO agreed.

Arees

Issues intended to be resolved by the accord include writing-off of an estimated R3.5 million in arrears, ending of the rent boycott, transfer of Far East Bank land to a land trust to be administered by representatives of the people of Alexandra, dissolution of the Alexandra Council and other local authorities in the immediate vicinity; the creation of a single local authority.

Parties in the negotiations for the accord also agreed to form a joint negotiation forum which includes Enkon, the Rand Water Board, Development Bank of South Africa, Randburg and Sandton town councils and the Central Gauteng Legislative Regional Services Council.

Bea’s problems with the accord starts with the way that it was conceived and the fact that the community was not asked for approval.

Alexandra’s mayor, Mr Prince Joseph Mokoena, even admitted that the agreement signed with the ACA and TPA has not been well accepted by the community.

But Mokoena could not shed light on why the community was not involved in the beginning.

He appeared on television last week with Mayekiso, supposedly to discuss why he was pulling his council out of the accord, but the discussion went off track.

BY DON SEOKANE

The two engaged in a slanging match about their places of origin and not being genuine Alexandrians.

Mayekiso charged that Mokoena was from the East Rand and also did not stay in the township, hence he was out of touch with developments.

"Even if he can pull out of the accord, it (the accord) will go ahead because he does not represent the residents," said Mayekiso, adding that Mokoena was just "President De Klerk’s mayor.”

Mokoena retorted that Mayekiso was from Transkei and also did not stay in the township. He was a resident of Hillbrow. That was all the two could talk about on television and the accord was discussed only in passing.

Transkei

In a later interview with Sowetan Mokoena admitted that he was an "exiled mayor" but "when your house is bombed so many times, how you still expect to be safe in it? " he asked.

The two leaders of Alexandra, who – loosely speaking - in their own words, are not residents of the township and who both claim to represent the interests of Alexandrians are at loggerheads about an agreement they both signed and agreed to.

The lack of involvement by residents is what is bothering Bea, not whether the two leaders are residents of Alexandra.

"If the people who are appointed leaders have the expertise to administer the township in the best interests of residents then there would not be any problem of the leaders not being Alexandrians," said Bea.

Bea, again, explaining why the accord appears to be failing, said that the community was not involved from the beginning - when the accord was discussed.

It was taken for granted that residents would accept the contents of the accord as being in their interests, explained Bea, but that was not the case.

"Not with Alexandrians, they do not take anything prescribed to them, especially with leaders who are only seen on television and read about in the newspapers."

Section 21 of the accord which dealt with "the interests of the people" states that "The parties (which signed the accord) record that they are of the unanimous opinion that this agreement is in the best interests of the people, and has been accepted by their various communities".

During the television debate on the accord, Mokoena agreed that people had not been informed about the implications of the accord before and even after the signing of the agreement.

Newspaper

To which Mayekiso replied that his organisation had consulted their people in the township and that residents were aware of the contents of the accord except for Mokoena’s "sidekicks" and those landlords who illegally bought the stands so as to charge high rents to people.

According to Mokoena, legitimate Alexandra residents had been insulted by Mayekiso for remarking that they were his sidekicks and had bought the stands illegally.

Bea concurred with Mokoena that the remark was an insult to Alexandrians and he urged Mayekiso to apologise to residents.

"Alexandra is not any other township, residents used to have property rights, and freedom rights not a 99-year leasehold," said Bea.

Almost five months since the accord was signed on February 27, payments have decreased from 16 percent in January to 12 percent in June.

"And for saying that they are Mokoena’s sidekicks and that they bought those properties illegally was tantamount to insulting them," said Bea.

The contentious aspect of the accord is seemingly the transfer of the Far East Bank land to a Land Trust administered by representatives of the people of Alexandra.

Bea said the Far East Bank issue should not have been included in the accord, as it had nothing to do with the accord.

Benevolent

"We fail to understand why the Far East Bank land was included in the accord and still how the Sandton and Randburg councils have suddenly become so benevolent in the Meanwhile, the out of town councilors have neglected Alexandra for so many years."

Bea accused the Sandton Council of allocating the previously unused Maribor land to the Indian House of Delegates and overlooking squatted conditions that Alexandra residents have endured for so many years.

Mokoena said the accord would collapse because some interested developers wanted to capture the development of the Far East Bank land and themselves and that this would not be in the interests of the residents.

Priority for the development of the Far East Bank land should be given to the black developers in the township, according to Bea, adding that they should not be regarded as sub-contractors.

"We do not need white developers in the township dictating terms to us and making a mockery of residents here," said Bea.

Almost five months since the accord was signed on February 27, payments have decreased from 16 percent in January to 12 percent in June.
Five hurt in wake of power cut

FIVE people, including a three-year-old girl, were injured in an explosion while they were pouring petrol into a generator in Atheridgeville, Pretoria, at the weekend.

In another incident, a couple and their three-month-old baby narrowly escaped death when a fire caused by a candle gutted the room they were sleeping in early on Saturday.

The two incidents are the first reported casualties of the week-old electricity cuts in the township.

Mr Robert Maleka of 41 Makhasa Street, Saulsville, Mr Titus Khalo and three-year-old Katlego Maleka sustained serious burns when a generator exploded while they were filling its tank with petrol on Friday night.

The explosion caused extensive damage to the kitchen.

Katlego's mother, Ms Christina Maleka, said she was in the bedroom when she heard the explosion.

"I rushed to the kitchen where I saved my daughter from the flames. Robert and his colleagues were screaming in another room," said Maleka who sustained minor injuries.

The five were taken to Kalsfong hospital by ambulance. Both Maleka and Khalo were admitted.

Mr Ellington Madumo, his wife Thamaris and their three three-month-old daughter Tidimalo of 100 Soso Street escaped death when a burning candle caused extensive damage to their outside room about 2.30am on Saturday.
Women give vent to gripes

SCORES of women were expected to march on the KwaGama Town Council near Witbank yesterday to protest against service payment hikes.

According to the ANC, the march - due to start in the morning - was spearheaded by the organisation's Witbank branch of the ANC Women's League.

The protesters are demanding, among other things, the resignation of the remaining three councillors and the suspension of certain white council employees.

Lieutenant Colonel Goosen of the Western Transvaal police liaison office confirmed a march was to take place in KwaGama yesterday.
A steady trickle of blacks are moving in

THERE are 150 000 whites living in Sandton.

The council estimates there are at least as many blacks living in the city's backyards.

There are also over 500 000 blacks living in Alexandra township within the city's borders.

Council officials say what happens to these people will have a vital bearing on the future of Sandton.

Sandton Chamber of Commerce president, Tony Leftwich, says, "There has been a steady trickle of black people moving into Sandton in the past few years."

Leftwich says a number of Indians and blacks have been living and running businesses in Kelvin for some years and the numbers will increase now the<r> racism legislation has been abolished.

A senior council member says discussions are under way between Sandton, Alexandra and other neighbouring councils, including Miederfontein, about the fate of Alexandra.

"Sandton cannot take on all of Alex's problems without bankrupting itself," he says.

Sandton council takes on an ad hoc responsibility to cope with some of Alexandra's needs, running its fire service and supervising refuse collections.

"But the process will require a rationalisation of funds."

People will have to ask whether they need enormous highways and fancy landscaping schemes when faced with the enormity of Alexandra's problems.

"Most people in Sandton are bright, educated and informed enough to know that we have to sort these things out.

"As it is, the bashing out of Alexandra is happening at enormous speed."

Peri-urban sprawl is now a dynamic business centre

DURING the last two decades, the gentle slopes to the north of Johannesburg have been transformed from what Sandton council calls a “peri-urban sprawl” into a dynamic business centre and one of the world’s most famous residential districts.

Sandton — the name was born of an amalgamation of Bryanston and Sandown ranks with Neattly, Hampstead and Beverly Hills as one of the world’s most prestigious suburbs.

Its white resident population is only 150,000 — complemented, according to council estimates, by at least the same number of “floating” black residents.

It boasts over one million square metres of office space.

When projects in its various business nodes are completed, it will have more than one and a half million square metres.

Assistant town planning director, Nicholas Head, says attaining a balance between demand for office facilities and maintaining Sandton as a residential area has been the most persistent problem facing the council during the last 20 years.

At the same time, the council has made an effort to restrict the industrial area of Sandton to Wyndberg, on the “wrong” side of the M1 motorway.

### Density plan

“We are trying to stop things from going mad on the office front and have adopted a residential density plan to prevent the area getting too built up,” says Head.

“By the mid-’80s, the shape of Sandton had become structured by market forces.

“Then the council called in planning consultants to draft a plan for the future.

“The plan that evolved, which is still in operation, split Sandton into four “nodal” business districts, with restrictions on building office space in any other areas.

“After the development in the town centre is complete, there will be no more offices built.

“The existing infrastructure can cope, but no more — and it is not our intention to build any more roads in the area,” says Head.

The four nodal areas are the town centre, based on the municipality-Sandton City axis, Rivonia, Sunninghill and Fourways.

The problem with the town centre is that it is not really a town centre.

Sandton City is only a shopping mall and office area, albeit a big one, and the council buildings across the road hardly qualify as a nucleus.

Thus, the Sandton Square project, an Italian-style piazza surrounded by shops, restaurants and offices across the road from Sandton City, with an overhead link to the existing shopping area.

On the same block of land, next to the municipality buildings, plans are in the pipeline to build a major cultural centre, incorporating a 2,000-seat concert hall which could be home to the National Symphony Orchestra and facilities for art exhibitions.

“It would give Sandton a heart, a real town centre,” says Head.

The Rivonia project will also build on an existing base, in this case the old trading station of Rivonia.

But the area is striving to keep its village-like feel.

The Sunninghill development is the largest of the planned business nodes, and is still incomplete.

By the time it is finished, it will provide around 380,000 m² of office space.

The Fourways’ development, still embryonic, is part of the council’s plan to extend the urban and suburban areas to the borders of the municipality.
Sandton ranks with Neuilly, Hampstead and Beverly Hills as one of the world's most prestigious suburbs. But, unlike its famous counterparts it is a city in itself. With over 1-million square metres of office space, attaining a balance between demand for office facilities and maintaining Sandton as a residential area has been a persistent problem. DARIUS SANAI reports.

R40m village-style shopping area will rejuvenate Rivonia

THE former trading station of Rivonia earned its world-wide fame by sending its name to the trial that sent Nelson Mandela and 16 others to jail for political crimes.

Rivonia hardly deserves such infamy, having grown to be a dynamic and developing "business node" in the northern part of Sandton.

A new development, Rivonia Village, has prompted the rejuvenation of the area while building on its commercial history.

Rivonia Road, Sandton's main artery leading south towards Johannesburg and north towards Pretoria, has been diverted along a kilometre-long stretch near the town centre, allowing the development of a quiet boulevard and construction of a village-style shopping area.

Sandton council plans Rivonia will house 180 000m² of office space after the completion of the Rivonia Village scheme.

Old Mutual is developing the R40m village, which will see over 10000m² of shops' opening on November 1.

Available

Around 6000m² of office space and four levels will be available early next year.

Another phase of shops, which will include a Woolworths and "other major retailers" will open at the same time as the offices.

There will be separate parking for offices and the shopping areas, and an extra basement parking zone.
Daveyton braced for cuts

AUTHORITIES are poised to cut electricity supplies to Daveyton today and residents are bracing themselves to hit back. Sowetan 31/7/91.

A source said residents were planning a stayaway and total boycott of payments for services. Residents are paying a R70 flat rate to offset its estimated R5 million debt, a source said - Sowetan
European politics is vital. Important.

The European Community, the organization of European countries, is facing a crucial decision. The European Council, the highest level of the European Union, is holding a summit to discuss the future of the Union. The summit is expected to decide on the future of the European Union, including the question of whether to expand or remain unchanged.

The question of expansion is a contentious issue among the member states. Some countries, such as the United Kingdom and France, are in favor of expansion, while others, such as Germany and Italy, are against it. The decision will be made by a simple majority vote, which means that the country with the most votes will determine the outcome.

The summit is expected to be held in Brussels, Belgium, on the 15th of October. The leaders of the European Union will come together to discuss the future of the Union and make a decision that will have a significant impact on the European continent.

It is crucial to keep an eye on the developments and be prepared for any outcome. The future of the European Union is at stake, and it is essential to remain informed and engaged in the decision-making process.
Council averts power cuts

THE Daveyton Town Council yesterday averted a planned power cut when it undertook to pay Eskom R250 000 to ensure continued electricity supply until August 11.

Chairman of negotiations in the Greater Benoni Forum Mr Dawie de Beer said it was hoped the negotiating parties would have by then reached a mutually acceptable arrangement for the continued supply of electricity and other essential services.

Power was to have been switched off last night.

Meanwhile, at a meeting yesterday, residents decided to bypass the council and pay service charges directly to the Benoni Town Council.

DIC chairman Mr James Ncube said he hoped the committee would successfully negotiate for cheaper electricity tariffs with the Benoni Town Council.

By DON SEOKANE and Sapa

Higher

The meeting concluded with a stayaway called by the Daveyton Interim Committee.

Residents resolved to pay the same tariffs as Benoni residents who are apparently charged R12,80 for sewerage, R13 for refuse, an average of R14 for water and R59,80 for electricity.

He, however, warned that tariffs charged by the white municipality could be higher.

Residents pay a monthly flat rate of R70 for electricity consumption which, according to the council, is not enough to cover Eskom’s bills.
Committee established to focus on crisis at hostels

By Brian Sokute

Leaders from extra-parliamentary organisations, business and the Government yesterday agreed on the setting up of a permanent steering committee to address the country's hostel problems.

The meeting, held in Johannesburg and attended by more than 50 representatives from the ANC, PAC and other political organisations, is believed to be the first at high level since the outbreak of violence at Reef township hostels.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the Independent Development Trust (IDT), which organised the seminar, will liaise with extra-parliamentary organisations and the Government over proposals on hostels.

Among the delegates were Thokwamile Botha, head of ANC's local government department; Moses Mayekiso, trade unionist and SACP executive member; and Kgaigojo Trust national director Eric Molobi.

An estimated 1 million migrant workers from Ciskei, Transkei, Natal and southern African countries lived in 220 hostels countrywide, IDT chief executive Jan Steyn told the seminar.

The IDT and the DBSA had received many applications for assistance in upgrading hostels.

"We both realised, however, that to rush into ad hoc responses that cannot be sustained on a national basis would compound rather than solve problems.

"After sounding out the different organisations and interests represented here, we felt that a preliminary discussion of the subject should take place. The objective would be to seek a broad-based consensus on broad process through which an acceptable and sustainable outcome could be obtained."

Steps taken so far to upgrade hostels were inadequate.
Group seeks new mandate

CIVIC leaders at Vosloorus have called a meeting of residents for Sunday for a fresh mandate to negotiate with authorities over the ongoing service charges crisis.

"Mr Keith Montsali, spokesman for the local civic association, said yesterday a rift had emerged within the ranks of the negotiating team. He said the position of the Vosloorus Civic Association was being challenged by its negotiating partners. "We will seek a mandate from the community on whether to carry on negotiating under such conditions or withdraw," he said.

SAPA
Asro pulls out of council talks

THE Atteridgeville Residents Organisation yesterday pulled out of crucial talks with the local and Pretoria municipalities aimed at resolving the problem of electricity cuts in the township.

Asro’s general secretary, Mr Simon Tshudu, said this action followed the decision by the authorities to invite about 18 community-based organisations to the talks when it was common knowledge that Asro represented all these organisations.

“[Pretoria City Council] wants to unfairly occupy centre stage by dictating the negotiation pace. Pretoria’s aim is to divide the community. They believe that by inviting community organisations, they will secure their interests.

“We will not attend such meetings. However, we will not stop others who have been invited,” said Tshudu.

In a statement released this week, Mr Cor Uys, deputy chairman of the management committee of the Pretoria Council, announced that a meeting with the Atteridgeville organisations would be held at Munotorsa at 4pm yesterday.

The Pretoria City Council cut electricity supplies to the township last Monday. Despite assurances that the action was only aimed at rent defaulters, the whole township was affected by the switch-off.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the TPA yesterday confirmed that Dr Ernie Jacobson, the Atteridgeville administrator’s term of office ended on Wednesday, his successor would be named soon.
Call on council to resign

The Mamelodi Civic Association is urging residents to intensify the campaign to force councillors to resign.

Following continuing threats of electricity cuts to individual households in the township, the chairman of Mam, Mr. Lazarus Mzwayeni, said yesterday that residents should pay an interim flat rate of R59 a household and R6,50 for hostel dwellers.

He said Mam had not received a response from the Transvaal Provincial Administration to a memorandum of residents' demands and grievances which included the dissolution of the council.

Mzwayeni said councillors had been discredited by residents because of allegations of corruption, including the use of council vehicles and money for private use.

He said a programme of action would be announced after the general council meeting of the Central Transvaal Civics Association due to be held this weekend.
Rent boycotters face credit ban

TOWNSHIP residents with default judgments against them because they did not pay rent fear they will be blacklisted by banks and credit bureaus.

Lawyers representing civic associations from boycotting townships say it is impossible to quantify the number of default judgments granted against boycotters because the defendants are often ignorant of the fact that action has been taken against them.

One attorney puts the number of judgments against boycotters in the Transvaal and Free State at "several thousand."

Sam Ntshu, general secretary of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast), estimates the number of township residents involved in boycotts at more than a million.

Political

But credit bureaus say the circumstances surrounding judgments are checked before a decision is taken on creditworthiness.

Kreditinform managing director Ivor Jones says credit managers are sensitive to the fact that a default judgment against a rent boycotter does not necessarily fall into the normal category of debtor delinquency.

"Most people understand the situation in the townships. It is a politicised issue and the boycotter may be subject to intimidation. A credit manager may disregard the judgment as evidence of the person's ability to pay accounts."

Deon de Kock, chief credit manager for the Edgars group which includes 1.5 million Edgars and 500 000 Sales House account holders, says any judgment is investigated, but may not necessarily preclude granting of credit.

"We are not as strict as the banks. A person may still get credit with us after a judgment. But it is not a certainty."

Tony Leng, managing director of Information Trust Corporation, says there is no systematic compilation of records on the paying behaviour of boycotters.

"In any event, if a person was involved in a rent boycott this would not be a reflection of his ability to pay his bills."

In spite of the repossessions, legal representatives for civic associations say default judgments against boycotter's count against them when applying for credit. Banks are said to be particularly strict on credit facilities.

A default judgment counts against loan applicants.

Trevor Bailey, an attorney with the Legal Resources Centre, which is representing 14 civic associations in the Transvaal and Free State, says once a judgment is taken against a boycotter, his name is automatically gazetted by the credit bureaus.

"I represent Emerald Extention 5 residents who are involved in a dispute with the Johannesburg City Council over the quality of houses which they have bought.

"As a result of the dispute the council obtained judgments and the civic association has told me some of the residents claim to have been blacklisted."

Mr Bailey says negotiations to end disputes with local authorities continue in most areas. Some negotiations are going well and residents in several areas had agreed to pay an interim fee pending full resolution of the disputes.

Most of the rent boycotters centre on the quality of service and housing.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) said in April that rent and services arrears of R3-bilion had accumulated since boycotts began in earnest in March last year.

In this time 50 out of 82 townships under the TPA suffered service cuts for a time. In April, 23 black municipalities in the Transvaal and Free State were without water, sewerage and electricity as a result of boycotts.

Upgrading

Dan Rosengarten, an attorney with Bell, Dewar & Hall, representing several civic associations in Southern Transvaal, says efforts have been made to get councils to suspend legal actions while negotiations are under way. The has succeeded in some cases.

There are many issues at the centre of these disputes. In some cases we are trying to get the TPA and town councils to transfer the houses to residents and write off arrears, to upgrade stands and services in the area and formulate a single tax base.

Sums were issued to boycotting residents while negotiations were under way in several townships. Residents of Mamelodi were issued with summonses. But action by Cast resulted in residents returning all summonses to the council and suspension of legal action.

Residents in the six Vaal townships falling under the Lekos council, including Sosheng and Sharpeville, have been involved in a rent boycott for more than five years.
E. Rand township to pay Eskom

CP Correspondent

About 25,000 Daveyton residents, this week, agreed to pay the Benoni City Council, R100 a month for service arrears and undertook to pay future power bills directly to Eskom.

Agreement was reached after a one-day stayaway in the East Rand township organised by the Daveyton Interim Committee.

Early this year the committee, the Daveyton council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration, agreed that residents should pay a flat rate of R70 a month and that the council would pay directly to Eskom.

But Eskom complained that some residents were not paying and cut off power several times.

The new Benoni tariffs are: R60 for electricity; R12.80 for seweage; R13 for refuse removal and R14 for water.

ANC Daveyton secretary, Zizi Nduna, accused the Daveyton council of “using resident’s payments for staff salaries.”

“This is why they must resign,” they considered their stomachs before the residents.

Daveyton Council spokesman, Mr. Morama, would not comment on the allegations.”
Rent boycotters face credit ban

TOWNSHIP residents with default judgments against them because they did not pay rent—fear they will be blacklisted by banks and credit bureaus.

Lawyers representing civic associations from boycotting townships say it is impossible to quantify the number of default judgments granted against boycotters because the defendants are often ignorant of the fact that action has been taken against them.

One attorney puts the number of judgments against boycotters in the Transvaal and Free State at "several thousand." Sam Ntuli, general secretary of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Casat), estimates the number of township residents involved in boycotts at more than a million.

Political

But credit bureaus say the circumstances surrounding judgments are checked before a decision is taken on creditworthiness. "Reputable" managing director Ivor Jones says credit managers are sensitive to the fact that a default judgment against a rent boycotter does not necessarily fall into the normal category of debtor delinquency.

"Most people understand the situation in the townships. It is a politicised issue and the boycotter may be subject to intimidation. A credit manager may disregard the judgment as evidence of the person's ability to pay accounts," Deon de Rok, chair credit manager for the Edgars group which includes 1.5 million Edgars and 96 000 Sales House account holders, says any judgment is "investigated, but may not necessarily preclude granting of credit."

"We are not as strict as the banks. A person may still get credit with us after a judgment. But it is not a certainty," Tony Leng, managing director of Information Trust Corporation, says there is no systematic compilation of records on the paying behaviour of boycotters.

In any event, if a person was involved in a rent boycott this would not be a reflection of his ability to pay his bills," Leng says.

In spite of the reassurances, legal representatives for civic associations say default judgments against boycotters count against them when applying for credit. Banks are said to be particularly strict on credit facilities. A default judgment counts against loan applicants.

Trevor Bailey, an attorney with the Legal Resources Centre, which is representing 14 civic associations in the Transvaal and Free State, says once a judgment is taken against a boycotter, his name is automatically gazetted by the credit bureau.

"I represent Enerdale Extension 5 residents who are involved in a dispute with the Johannesburg City Council. A default judgment is taken against a boycotter," Bailey says. The judgment was delivered last month.

As a result of the dispute the council obtained judgments and the civic association has told me some of the residents claim to have been blacklisted."

Elaine says negotiations to end the dispute with local authorities continue in most areas. Some negotiations are going well and residents in several areas had agreed to pay an interim fee pending full resolution of the disputes.

Most of the rent boycotters centre on the quality of service and housing. Some boycotts started in 1984.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) last April that rent and services arrears of R1.2 billion had accumulated since boycotts began in earnest in March last year.

In this time 56 out of the 62 townships under the TPA suffered service cuts for a time. In April, 23 black municipalities in the Transvaal and Free State were without water, sewage and electricity as a result of boycotts.

Upgrading

Dan Rosengarten, an attorney with Bell, Dewar & Hall, representing several civic associations in the Southern Transvaal, says efforts have been made to get councils to suspend legal actions while negotiations are under way. This has succeeded in some cases.

"There are many issues at the centre of these disputes. In some cases we are trying to get the TPA and town councils to transfer the houses to residents and write off arrears, to upgrade stands and services in the area and formulate a single tax base." Summons were issued to boycotting residents while negotiations were under way in several townships. Residents of Mamelodi were issued with summonses. But action by the TPA resulted in residents returning all summonses to the council and suspension of legal action.

Residents in the six Vaal townships falling under the Lekos council, including Sebokeng and Sharonville, have been involved in a rent boycott for more than five years.
The general secretary of the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation, Mr Simon Tshidi, was held by police yesterday when 40 local residents tried to occupy empty houses in nearby Lotus Gardens.

Tshidi was held "for questioning" by a white policeman named Gerder.

The residents arrived in the Indian residential area led by Mr Jeff Ramathale at 11.15am to protest against the area being reserved for Indians only.

The residents were leaving the area after discussions with members of the SADF when Gerder and another white policeman arrived.

An Indian man, who appeared to be drunk, told the police, "We do not want these black people here".

Gerder then gave the group 10 minutes to disperse. Tshidi asked under which Act the group was barred from being in Lotus Gardens.

Gerder told Tshidi not to shout at him.

An ANC flag seized by an SADF member was later given back to the group who queried the police action.

 Asked by Sowetan if Tshidi had been arrested, Gerder replied, "No, he is just being held for questioning."

Tshidi was with his attorney, Mr Dabula Manzi. Tantsi. At the time of going to press, it was not known if any charges had been laid against Tshidi.
Soshanguve to resume rent payment

Soshanguve residents yesterday suspended their rent boycott and resolved to pay an interim monthly flat rate of R30 for August and September to avoid an electricity switch-off. (12R)

The decision was taken at a report-back meeting by the Soshanguve Residents Association (Sorea) after its meeting with a Development Aid Deputy Minister. Dr P.G. Marais

Negotiations between Sorea and Dr Marais will continue. — Pretoria Bureau
CAST REVERSES METROPOLITAN CHAMBER BAN

TOWNSHIP civic associations are poised to participate fully in negotiations for new local government structures following a reversal of the stance of their umbrella body.

The Civics Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) yesterday urged its members to present demands for new structures to the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

The negotiations for a new local government dispensation were planned to coincide with constitutional talks at national level, Cast president Moses Mayekiso said.

He was elaborating on Cast's change of mind following its earlier decision not to participate in the chamber.

Mayekiso said Cast's decision had been prompted by the ANC decision last week to enter multiparty talks.

It was important that negotiations at all levels proceed simultaneously so that decisions taken at a local level did not contradict national decisions, for example.

Cast's decision was likely to be adopted by civic associations around the country, Mayekiso said.

Sapa reports that Cast general secretary Sam Ntuli said civic associations should attend chamber meetings to make their demands known.

Cast also announced a campaign of marches aimed at pressing the Transvaal Provincial Administration and Eskom to "depoliticise electricity and other supplies" to township communities.

It accused Eskom of not honouring agreements in terms of which residents would pay bills directly to Eskom.

Cast is also to attend government's national transport conference.
Cast reverses policy

IN a major reversal of policy, the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal has said it would now encourage member civics to present their demands to the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

Addressing a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday, Cast general secretary Mr Sam Ntuli said its organisation might "participate in the Metropolitan Chamber in order to change it".

Cast's assistant general secretary, Mr Cas Coovadia, resigned from the organisation recently because it refused to participate in the chamber.

Ntuli said civic associations should attend chamber meetings to make their demands known.

Campaign

Cast also announced it would embark on a campaign of marches to pressure the Transvaal Provincial Administration and Eskom into "depolitisation of electricity and other supplies" to township communities.

Cast president Mr Moses Mayekiso said the civics wanted to cut the township councils out of the process of paying service accounts because of alleged corruption among councillors.

"Eskom should fix its house and show itself to be a service company, not a political organisation," Mayekiso said.

He charged that Eskom had not set up the neutral pay points in Alexandra township as agreed.

Cast also announced it would attend the national transport conference being organised by the Government.
Inquest probes Daveyton deaths

AN INQUEST began in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday into the deaths of 14 people — among them a policeman and an eight-year-old girl — in a clash in Daveyton near Benoni earlier this year.

On March 24 a group of ANC supporters was holding an outdoor meeting next to the Daveyton swimming pool at the same time that an Inkatha rally was being held at a nearby stadium, when the incident occurred.

Police allegedly fired at the ANC group after ordering it to disperse.

Sgt Jan van Wyk was allegedly attacked with pangas and certified dead on arrival at hospital.

The other victims were eight-year-old Tami Nomathansanga, Zwelangile Diko, Leitton Ndlabi, Simon Mdlazi, Mbuswela Nqchuka, Simon Naoafrica, Aaron Prusent, Nonusa Stuurman, Gabilekile Mkhozie, Douglas Noobcha, Zingle Pheza, Tembinkosi Vekelo and Suleman Ngqozi.

Immediately after the incident police announced the formation of a special investigation team under the command of Deputy CID chief Lt-Gen Jaap Joubert.

When the inquest court convened yesterday, presiding judge Mr Justice B O' Donovan said he would ensure all parties were able to present evidence.

Transvaal Deputy Attorney-General Anton Ackerman, who has been appointed to lead the evidence, said the purpose of an inquest was not only to investigate the cause of death and establish whether the deaths were caused by any act or omission amounting to a criminal offence.

An inquest, he said, had also to administer justice and instil confidence, satisfying the public and interested parties that a fair investigation had been made.

The court was then adjourned to allow the judge and legal representatives to conduct an inspection in loco of the site where the incident occurred.

Proceedings continue today.

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Benoni help for neighbour

THE Benoni Town Council had agreed in principle to take over distribution of electricity and other services to the neighbouring Daveyton township, a source close to the Daveyton Interim Committee said yesterday.

Benoni had told the multiparty Greater Benoni Forum that it was prepared to take over the distribution of bulk services from Daveyton provided "the rates it is charging its residents are accepted by Daveyton residents", the source said.

It is understood Daveyton residents have indicated to the council that they would pay the Benoni tariffs if their demands are met. These demands include the scrapping of all rent and services arrears.

The source said the Great Benoni Forum would hold a "crucial" meeting tomorrow at which it was hoped the TPA would come forward with proposals that could lead to a Greater Benoni Accord.

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PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

HOW COULD WE HAVE LOST THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON FIFTY-THREE TO NOTHING?!

WHY COULDN'T THE SCORE AT LEAST HAVE BEEN FIFTY-THREE TO ONE?!

WE WERE ROBBED!!!
Illegal extensions blamed for blackouts in Soweto

By Thabo Leehlo

Soweto’s illegal backyard electrical extensions were playing havoc with the township’s electricity supply, causing constant power failures, the Soweto City Council (SCC) said yesterday.

Public relations officer Molefe Moseki was responding to residents’ allegations that constant power failures in the township were being used as a “weapon” to force them to honour the Soweto Accord.

He said the mushrooming of “two-room-and-a-garage” extensions, many built without council’s approval, had doubled the number of electricity users, resulting in an overload.

The extra rooms are normally let out.

“We are completely in the dark about how much power we should supply because we do not know how many such extra buildings there are,” Mr Moseki said.

The Soweto Accord, aimed at ending the four-year-old rent boycott, was signed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, SCC, Eskom and the Soweto People’s Delegation last October.

The parties agreed that Soweto’s R516 million rent debt be written off, the boycott be ended and a monthly flat rate of R4950 be paid.

Many residents failed to honour the agreement.

“The council has taken it upon itself not to deny people electricity during winter and will only start acting against defaulters later,” Mr Moseki said.

He said there had been a positive response to the council’s threatened blanket blackout for defaulters last month, and many had paid up.

The Soweto council was in the process of upgrading the electricity-supply service and would install meters in houses.
SAP role in cut-off queried

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Middelburg Residents Organization (MRO) has accused the South African Police of adopting a political role by taking part in actions calculated to counter the recently resumed service charge boycott in Mhluza township.

According to MRO office-bearers, two police armoured vehicles escorted an official around the township as he pleaded with residents to resume paying for electricity and water, and also conceded that the MRO had failed.

The action was taken only hours after electricity was cut off and water supplies reduced.

A police liaison officer for the eastern Transvaal said the official relaying the message was employed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

She confirmed that Casspers had been used, "but the police were only there for the protection of the official."

The interruption of services by the Middelburg Town Council is a response to a debt of more than R1 million run up by residents of Mhluza despite the termination of a service charge boycott in October.

In terms of the agreement reached at that time, residents should have returned to paying an economic service rate by February, said MRO secretary Godfrey Maseko, township administrator.

Peter Colin said at a recent public meeting that payments fell short of target by about R280 000 a month.

But Mr Maseko insists that the authorities are for "quick fix" solutions and ignore socio-economic conditions.

He added that MRO's attempts to motivate residents to pay were hampered by such factors as the failure to install a prepaid electricity metering system by July, as scheduled.

Residents have responded to the cut-off by renewing the service fee boycott and launching a consumer boycott of white-owned shops.
Boost for local govt talks as CAST supports chamber

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

Negotiations for a new democratic dispensation for local government are back on track after a decision by the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal to encourage civics to take part in the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

At a press conference, CAST announced it had resolved to support all national initiatives and agreements at local level, such as the Soweto Accord, Alexandra Accord and the Metropolitan Chamber.

Johannesburg City Council representative on the chamber, Sue Reyneke, said CAST's decision was a step forward.

"It's wonderful, now things are finally coming together. This is what we have been working towards," Mr Reyneke said.

CAST general-secretary Sam Ntuli said it would encourage civics to take part in the chamber and protest within.

"We haven't changed our objections to the participation of black councillors in the chamber, or the structure and status of business and white local authorities in negotiations,"

Mr Ntuli denied that the decision was a major reversal of opinion. "We have always said we agree in principle with the Metropolitan Chamber. Our problem has been the format and that some civics never had a mandate to participate.

"Now we are going to protest from within and negotiate on certain changes."

The organisation has appointed heads of department to deal with transport, local government, land and housing development, finance, legal, cultural and economic development issues.

At yesterday's press conference, CAST also criticised Eskom and the Transvaal Provincial Administration for their attitude towards the civics in dealing with the issue of electricity and other services.

CAST's general council also condemned the Government and the TPA for their support to "decredited" black local authorities.

It resolved to demand that the hostel system be abolished immediately, and that the Government intervene in the transport and housing crisis.
Naledi trenches are 'dangerous'

Naledi Extension residents are up in arms against the Soweto City Council (SCC) and Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council, and have threatened mass action because of "dangerous trenches".

The trenches were dug to replace underground water pipes and to install individual water meters.

"The council has no regard for our safety. This kind of thing is totally unheard of in white suburbs," said Ebenezer Mathate, vice-chairman of the Naledi Extension Civic Association.

The SCC said it was unaware of the problem — Staff Reporter.
Move to plug gov't into electricity deals

CIVIC associations are set to establish a national forum to negotiate township electricity supplies directly with government.

Civics Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) president Moses Mayekiso said this week provision of electricity was an issue which needed to be tackled "by trade unions and other mass-based organisations at national level."

Mayekiso, who is also general secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa), said Cast would ask the organisations to convene a national workshop soon at which the "whole electricity issue" would be thrashed out.

"It is hoped the workshop will pave the way for the forum, which will in turn negotiate with government about provision of electricity to townships," he said.

Such a forum was necessary because agreements reached by local civic structures and Eskom had not been honoured. Eskom was reneging on these agreements, in terms of which township residents would pay bills directly to Eskom.

"Eskom has not, as yet, set up neutral pay points in Alexandra township as agreed," he said. Establishment of such points was provided for in the Alexandra

Electricity

the South

Accord signed by Eskom, the Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO), the Alexandra City Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) early this year.

Mayekiso reiterated Cast's call on Monday for a campaign aimed at encouraging Eskom to depoliticise electricity.

Eskom corporate electrification manager Johan du Plessis said the utility fully supported the belief that electricity should not be depoliticised. "We are a service organisation, not a political one."

He added that the Alexandra accord had not been implemented as yet and the utility was ready to collect payments directly from residents as soon as it was.

TPA spokesman Pet Wilken said Cast was free to take the electricity issue to central government level, "but our doors are always open for discussions."

To Page 2
Civic groups to formulate local policies

TOWNSHIP council organise.

As soon as possible, a date will be set for a conference to be held at the Council offices, to discuss the formulation of local policies. The conference will be attended by representatives of all the civic groups, including the township council, the local government, and the local business community. The aim of the conference is to ensure that all aspects of the community are represented and that the policies formulated will be in the best interests of the town.

The conference will be chaired by the council chairman, and will include representatives from all the civic groups, including the community associations, the business community, and the local government. The conference will be held on a Saturday morning, and will be attended by at least 50 people.

The agenda for the conference will include discussions on the current state of the town, the challenges facing the community, and the policies that need to be adopted to address these challenges.

The outcomes of the conference will be presented to the council for approval, and will form the basis for the development of local policies.

Addressing a diverse range of issues such as education, health, housing, development, and the electricity supply, the civic groups are well placed to provide valuable input and ensure that the policies formulated are in the best interests of the town.

The council is committed to working closely with the civic groups to ensure that the policies formulated are effective and sustainable.
Historic home is linked with ANC

THE house that once belonged to ANC founder-member Dr AB Xuma, and the only one to escape the bulldozers when Sophiatown was razed 31 years ago, is up for sale.

The stately home, situated at the corner of Toby and Edward streets in what is today called Triomf, is being sold for R270 000.

The house survived bulldozers in the late 1950s when black people were forcibly removed from Sophiatown.

A spokesman for the estate agent handling the transaction said: "It would be nicer if the property was bought by someone related to him, considering the historic background of the house.""  

By KENOSI MODISANE

"We also would have appreciated selling to the ANC, considering Xuma's links with the movement."

The ANC said yesterday they were not aware of the sale.

The Xuma family could also not be reached for comment.

Most of the features in this four-bedroomed house, which was built in the early 1930s, are original.

Apart from its historic value, features include the fact that it was built on a double stand (1 139 square meters), its entrance lounge, study, family room, a Victorian fireplace, double electronic gates, a double garage and servant's quarters with full bathroom.

The front portion of the house which belonged to Dr A Xuma of the ANC. This house survived when the bulldozers razed Sophiatown.

The kitchen in the house boasts state-of-the-art accessories.
Jane's warns SADF may be unprepared in future

SA MAY not be able to deter aggressive military moves against itself or its neighbours if further defence budget cuts are made, a recent analysis has warned.

The survey of SA's military capabilities is published in the latest issue of Jane's Defence Weekly.

Analysts Paul Beaver, Christopher Foss and Helmeed-Romer Heitmann argue that medium to long term strategic scenarios demand balanced and flexible armed forces capable of protecting SA and of assuring neighbouring states against potential threats.

With the exception of the SA Navy, the SADF could perform these functions adequately in the short to medium term, but major re-equipping was necessary if SA was to continue the role in the longer term.

Jane's warned that more complex scenarios would have to be procured soon if they were to be in service in useful numbers when existing equipment was retired.

Military spending cuts were to be expected when the SADF wound down its operations in Namibia.

LINDEN BIRNS

"However, the government has imposed further cuts that have gone rather deeper than seems safe given the equipment needs of the armed forces. The army has yet to complete the re-equipping begun in the mid-1970s in response to the Cuban deployment in Angola, the air force faces block obsolescence of fighters and transports and lacks maritime patrol aircraft, the navy has lost its anti-submarine warfare capability and will retire its strike craft and submarines around 2000 to 2005."

ARMSCOR

It seemed unlikely that defence would receive adequate funds in the near future.

As long as the rand was weak, the SADF would have to focus its procurement on Armscor, which could be paid in rands and whose products were optimised for the SADF.

Certain major foreign equipment purchases would become necessary and possible if the arms embargo was lifted within a useful timeframe, and could include an air superiority fighter, maritime patrol and medium transport aircraft, submarines and frigates. Local manufacturers will be relied on to provide customised systems and sub-systems supporting these acquisitions.

Government also faced a dilemma regarding ground forces personnel. With the franchise extended to all races, a similar extension of national service obligations would seem logical, using a ballot to draft men to the standing units and the Citizen Force.

"There is, however, a preference in government and other circles for fully professional armed forces. How they would be funded remains uncertain," said Jane's.

"With funds already tight, the SADF may have to choose between adequate strength and no equipment, or a reasonable balance of equipment and men but with ground forces too weak to serve their purpose."

Spokesmen for the Defence Ministry and the SADF were yesterday unable to comment on the Jane's analysis or on SA's defence priorities.

LENASIA BODY SEeks END OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

THEO RAWANA

THE founding of the Lenasia Civic Association (LCA) on Sunday would mark the formation of the first all-embracing civic body for Lenasia, spokesman Kista Moonsamy said on Tuesday.

Moonsamy said the LCA, which would fight the scrapping of government-created local management committees, would seek membership of the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber and work for a non-racial Johannesburg City Council.

The launch of LCA at the Lenasia Civic Centre on Sunday would be addressed by ANC National Working Committee member Popo Molefe and community leader R A M Saloojee.

"The LCA, a successor to the Federation of Residents Associations (FRA), will represent all sectors of the community — traders, workers, professionals, the unemployed and the homeless.

"It is an organisation dedicated to taking up all the problems of the people — housing, poor transport, high water and lights rates, crime, land and site allocation and all other community issues."

Local management committees had to be scrapped because they kept apartheid structures alive. Through the LCA the community had to ensure change in SA was meaningful and real at grassroots level.

The LCA would initially take observer status at the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, but would soon apply for full membership, Moonsamy said.

BLACK NEGOTIATOR/PR MAN SEEKS ASSIGNMENTS
Poison gas alert in Sandton

From Page 1

Mr. Plooy said, "We isolated the leak within 15 minutes and alerted the Sandton Fire department. We were unable to detect any sulphur trioxide at ground level, we only saw what was a white cloud. We are not aware of any inconvenience to any people."

As the massive emergency campaign swung into action, the Sandton Commando of the South African Defence Force and local traffic department was called out, a bus service to evacuate residents was placed on standby, regular radio reports were issued, and the Johannesburg Hospital was immediately alerted.

"It could have been ugly if the gas had been more concentrated, and if they hadn't stopped the leak as soon as they did," Mr. Pienaar said.

The traffic department set up roadblocks on streets leading to Bucaluch to warn people of the danger of entering the area.

Jeanette Boers, a Bucaluch resident, said she had not felt it was necessary to leave the area. She said some people had panicked and were running down the suburb's main thoroughfare, Gibson Drive.

Mrs. Boers said she had seen a "whitish cloud."

Mr. Pienaar said that, although the gas could still be smelled at about 8:30 pm, the danger had passed by then.

Calling for more stringent checks at the nearby factories, local councillor Jo Marais stressed that this was the first leak she was aware of in the last 20 years.

"People were aware of this situation when they built and it is no good beating a drum about relocating at this stage as it is financially impossible," she said.

Ratepayer chairman Axel Joosten said residents had lived with the situation for many years and had a "good relationship" with the chemical factory proprietors.
Residents told to seal homes in Sandton poison gas scare

Hundreds of residents of Buccleuch and Kelvin were told to seal their homes or evacuate the area late yesterday afternoon after a highly poisonous acid gas leak, drifting in cloud form, was detected over the Sandton suburbs.

Sandton management committee chairman Bruce Stewart said a broken pipe at the National Chemical Products (NCP) factory in Chloorkop was responsible for the leak of sulphur trioxide, "a potentially dangerous gas in concentrated form, which is converted to sulphuric acid when converted to liquid."

After a spate of callers had alerted Sandton's crisis control centre at about 6 pm, the fire department mounted a door-to-door campaign warning residents of the danger, particularly in low-lying areas near the Jakes River, and advising them to close doors and windows.

Asthmatics and people with babies were advised to leave the area until the danger had passed, said fire chief Pienaar.

"We did not have to evacuate anybody," said Mr Pienaar. "We told them that if they felt uncomfortable, if they had respiratory problems or small children, they should go and visit some friends for a while and call us later to see if it was safe to come back."

He said several families did this and there had been no panic.

Apparently the areas worst hit by the cloud, which Mr Pienaar said smelt "like a gun that has just been fired," were the low-lying areas near the river.

Roy Pithey, chairman of NCP, said that at about 5.30 pm a gasket failed at the Chloorkop plant causing about 60 kilograms of sulphur trioxide to escape.

Mr Pithey said the gas did not disperse over a wide area as there was no wind last night. However, a ghostly white cloud of noxious gas drifted towards the Sandton suburb of Buccleuch.

To Page 3
Breakthrough on Benoni services

MEMBERS of a forum representing the Benoni Town Council and residents of Daveyton and Wattville townships in the East Rand have agreed to consolidate their water and electricity provision and payment procedures.

Consultant to the Greater Benoni Forum Nigel Mandy said yesterday the forum's tariff working committee had agreed on recommendations which would avert a power cut due on Sunday.

The working group recommended Benoni's tariffs for electricity and other essential services be introduced in Daveyton and that metered electricity and water charges be resumed in Daveyton and Wattville from next month.

The group also agreed to consolidate accounting procedures of Benoni, Daveyton and Wattville.

The forum is expected to endorse the plan on August 15. It is believed the agreement will be the first of its kind between a white municipality and neighbouring black authorities.

Mandy said the forum's objective was to work for a "combined democratic and non-racial municipal government for the Greater Benoni area."
Inkatha advances

Clean up... so why

Inkatha activists to help residents

U

ESTIMATES lend the sense of
CAST’s ‘yes’ on Chamber still a ‘maybe’

THE Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (CAST) did an about-turn this week on its participation in the Metropolitan Chamber, but its general secretary Sam Ntuli denies the organisation has changed its stance.

And he also warned that CAST could still pull out if crucial conditions are not met, including the removal from the Chamber of “corrupt and discredited town councillors”.

For some weeks now CAST has been saying it would not participate in the chamber, headed by Dr Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert and established to thrash out a model for non-racial local government in the new South Africa.

Mr Ntuli said CAST had never been opposed in principal to the Chamber, and the about-face decision to participate did not mean CAST now accepted the Chamber’s structure.

He said workshops had been held by CAST’s member coven in the Johannesburg area, who decided it should take part.

“But before we do anything, we want to clear away the obstacles, including the removal of the councillors. If nothing is done about this we will have to reconsider our position.”

Assistant general secretary Cas Coovadia said he believed CAST’s original decision not to participate was based on an incorrect understanding of the Chamber’s aims.
Racists in home attack

A WHITE man was seen running away after a bomb exploded at the home of a town's first black family yesterday.

The blast damaged divorcee Mrs. Yamma Woods' car.

Mrs. Woods, 41, said she would not be driven out of her new home in Roodepoort, on the West Rand, where she lives with her four children.
New residential area for Jo'burg's CBD

Peter Gally

The creation of a multimillion-rand residential area in the Johannesburg CBD will become a reality within the next 18 months, says City Council planning and development committee chairman Eddie Magid.

Interviewed at the weekend, he said massive urbanisation in the city stressed the need for a middle class residential development.

This was compounded by the creation of 5 000 new jobs by the BankCity development and, with other developments in the CBD coming on line, this figure was probably closer to 10 000, Magid said.

The present road and parking facilities would not be able to cope with this surge in traffic. It was in council's interests to have people living near their work, he said.

The area would be designed for the middle-income market. "We are looking at the area east of Eloff Street, adjacent to the Small Street Mall, and plans for this are already under way.

"Council will have to offer developers incentives to develop residential properties here as there is more profit to be made in the development of retail and commercial property," Magid said.

Such incentives could include allowing developers free bulk, where they could build on existing structures and a "tax holiday" provided profits from this went back into the cost of development.
THE Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) is formulating a set of demands for the restructuring of the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

It was to present the ideas to its umbrella body, the Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast), at the weekend.

Last week Cast called on its members to join the Metropolitan Chamber's deliberations on future local government structures, after earlier refusing to sanction such participation. Cast said its change of heart had been prompted by the ANC decision to enter multiparty talks.

ACO president Moses Mayekiso said at the weekend his organisation's executive committee and housing and development committee were discussing demands for a "new-look" Metropolitan Chamber.

ACO is demanding a total overhaul of the chamber's constitution. Mayekiso said if the demands were not met, they did not see themselves participating in the chamber.
JOHANNESBURG residents are paying more for electricity than other consumers in SA, this year’s National Utility Services (NUS) international price survey shows.

The survey shows that Johannesburg consumers are paying 11.5¢ per kilowatt per hour (kW/h) up 13.85% on last year’s price. It is also a whopping 25% higher than Eskom’s average base cost of 8.8¢ kW/h, and 10% higher than SA’s average rate of 10.1¢ kW/h.

National Utility Services marketing director Peter Cornelius attributed the high rates in Johannesburg to the city’s continuing involvement in the upgrading of transmission systems in heavy industry areas and the fact that the municipality generated about 50% of its own power.

In terms of price increases (with Eskom’s 8% increase for the year to March 1991 as the base), Pretorians fared the worst with their municipality increasing tariffs by nearly 15%. However, Pretoria still has the second lowest average price/unit — about 7% more expensive than Eskom.

Lowest increases were in Durban where tariffs went up only 10.55%. Cape Town pushed its prices up by 12.06%. An unweighted average of all municipal price increases yielded a country-wide price hike of 11.61%, to 10.2¢ a kW/h.

In rand terms this is still the lowest electricity price in the world. Of 14 countries analysed, SA electricity comes in the cheapest, with only Australia (10.8¢ a kW/h), Canada (12.8¢ a kW/h) and Sweden (14.8¢ a kW/h) within comparable levels.

Conversely German consumers paid the highest price at 27.4¢ kW/h, although this is an average 1% down on last year’s prices, while Italians suffered the highest price increase, at 13.9%, bringing their total cost of electricity to 26.8¢ kW/h.
Alex to accept ‘credit cards’

THE Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) is pushing for the electrification of the township and is ready to accept the controversial prepaid meter or “credit card” system of payment.

Electrification through the installation of meters will be high on the agenda when the ACO meets Eskom this week.

ACO official Richard Mdakane said his organisation was in favour of the meters as “such an installation will enable people to buy electricity directly from Eskom.”

“Electricity is the right of the people — not a privilege. We want the whole of the township — not 20% of it — electrified. The people are prepared to pay for electricity provided they are getting it directly from Eskom and not via the town council.”

In some townships the pre-paid meter system has been rejected by residents as it cannot be used as a bargaining chip in dealings with local authorities.

He said another “horny” issue to be discussed at this week’s meeting was the call by the Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cass) for Eskom to “depoliticise” electricity.

Eskom corporate electrification manager Johan du Plessis confirmed that officials from his company would meet representatives of the Alexandra residents to discuss the supply of electricity.

The call to “depoliticise” electricity was not on the agenda but would be discussed if brought up by the civic body.

Mdakane also said the Alexandra Accord — signed by the ACO, the Alexandra Town Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration earlier this year — would be implemented following its endorsement by residents at a mass meeting on Sunday.
Alex ready for ‘credit’ power

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Power cuts remain as talks go on

THE TPA will continue with negotiations aimed at resolving the electricity crisis in the Transvaal, MEC for institutional development and negotiations Mr Olans van Zyl said yesterday.

Nine local authorities in the Transvaal are without electricity.

Van Zyl said progress had been made in negotiations with communities at 70 out of 82 local authorities in the Transvaal. Unfortunately services charges boycotts were still in force in about 50 local authorities.

Negotiations alone would not bring an end to electricity cut-offs, said Van Zyl. He appealed to communities to start paying all their municipal accounts.

Van Zyl said the bridging finance provided by the TPA was not there to subsidise boycotts, but for shortfalls of authorities which did not have economic bases.

* He also attacked the ANC-led consumer boycott of white-owned businesses in the PWV areas in protest against electricity cut-offs. Van Zyl said the boycott was unfair because white businesses had nothing to do with the cut-offs - Sapa
Powerlines for trees: residents appealed

By Shirley Woodgate

The launch of an environmental impact study in Sandringham to test the effect of replacing trees with powerlines has drawn tentative approval from residents.

Announced by council management committee member Paul Asherson last night, he said the independent study would cost about R25 000.

"While I am not prepared to ride roughshod over residents' wishes, we must also be aware of costs. This study, affecting some 800 trees, will go a long way towards making a final decision."

The replacement of trees — in the valley near Huddle Park and Royal Johannesburg golf courses — with powerlines from Kelva to an Orchards sub-station, has raised a storm.

But Mr Asherson maintains the cost of putting the lines underground will be R3,5 million and the council is not prepared to foot the additional bill.

Reacting to the appointment of an environmental impact study team, Val Klein of the Tree Society of Southern Africa welcomed the move.
Transvaal too costly to electrify, says Es kom

A PROGRAMME to bring electricity to townships and rural areas in the Transvaal alone would cost about R3bn, according to figures made available by Es kom.

Eskom said the electrification of the Transvaal alone would cost nearly half the total amount required to bring electricity to the 23-million South Africans without it.

Eskom corporate electricity manager Johann du Plessis said the Transvaal would account for the bulk of the cost of electrifying all of SA.

But, at the same time, the company was not prepared to fund a programme of that size by itself.

Hurdles

Du Plessis said while Eskom had the generating capacity to supply everyone in SA, the infrastructure costs would have to be covered by other, cheaper funding.

To that end Eskom was looking to government institutions such as the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the IDT, the DBSA and others. But the company would not be approaching the private sector.

Du Plessis, however, pointed out that there were still major hurdles to be overcome if Eskom was to realise even a part of its vision of "electricity for all". One of the biggest problems was non-payment by townships.

Latest figures show that 27 townships countrywide owe Eskom more than R200m. Of those, according to Du Plessis, Eskom had summoned 23 and had judgements against 20. However, Eskom had not yet taken the decision to execute those judgements.

Du Plessis said the present system of de-centralisation of supply was not optimal, and suggested there could be better synergy with other models.

He said there was a general problem of inaccurate accounting and the general politicisation of electricity supply.

On the positive side, Eskom and the DBSA were already linked up in a multi-million rand funding scheme to bring power to underdeveloped areas in other parts of SA. For instance, they were planning a R60m, five-year plan to electrify the two KwaZulu townships of Madadam and Cauwen.

One of the first beneficiaries of the scheme has been the fledgling Kagnwane Electricity Supply Company, which recently received a R17m loan to supply about 4,000 homes, or about 20,000 people, with electricity.

Du Plessis said discussions were ongoing with the DBSA, the IDT and the IDC on a "But it will be a mammoth task to bring electricity to all," he said.

He said an important aspect was the new technology being utilised, such as the "ready board" which would replace the wiring of houses. "The fact is that we have to largely adapt our standards in some cases we are putting electricity into mud houses and shacks".

BRENT VON MELVILLE
Talks on lights in
Pretoria put off

A MEETING to resolve the three-week-old electricity blackout in Atteridgeville on Monday has been postponed indefinitely because not all local community-based organisations were represented.
Death toll in Alex fighting now at 23

A TOTAL of 23 people have been killed and 53 injured since violence broke out between Zulu hostel dwellers and squatters in Alexandra on Saturday, police said yesterday.

Police and SANDF reinforcements had been sent to the township in a bid to keep fighting factions apart and to monitor the situation, Witwatersrand police spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman said.

Attacked

The Pretoria police liaison directorate said most of the dead had been shot. Of the injured, 25 had been shot, 26 hacked or stabbed and two treated for burn injuries.

The directorate said SAP members had been attacked 23 times, but did not say how many policemen had been injured.

"The SAP deplores the unnecessary loss of life and damage to property and will not hesitate to take action against those who are responsible for these senseless attacks," the directorate said.

Groups meet to evaluate stayaway

POLITICAL groupings, including the ANC, would meet today to evaluate the effects of the two-day stayaway which ended in the Vaal Triangle yesterday, Vaal Civic Association chairman Malik Madise said.

"Madise said the stayaway — called by the association, the local branches of the ANC, Cosatu, National Union of Azapo and the PAC — was more than 90% effective.

Businesses canvassed yesterday said they had suffered.

"SA Breweries" (Vereeniging depot) manager Andre le Roux said no disciplinary action would be taken against any worker for honouring the stayaway, but a "no work, no pay policy" would be enforced.

"I am not happy that the effect of the stayaway by stepping up production last Friday and turnover had dropped 15% to 20%," Tshor said only 20% and 10% of its black work force stayed away on Monday and yesterday respectively.

A Vanderbijlpark Sokakamer spokesman said the stayaway and the week-long consumer boycott in the area was crippling business. He said his organisation had a long-standing policy of "no work, no pay.”

Madise said townships in the Vaal Triangle were quiet yesterday following sporadic incidents of violence on Monday.

The stayaway and the consumer boycott were called to demand the immediate reconnection of electricity to the townships in the Vaal Triangle, the closure of Sebokeng’s Kamadala Hostel, an end to the violence, the need for a constituent assembly and an interim government, and the release of all political prisoners.
Service cuts loom as tariff row drags on

By Jo-Anne Collinge

No fewer than nine Transvaal townships are at present affected by service cuts — and in four cases this is at least the second suspension of electricity and water supplies within a year, according to figures supplied by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

A year after the first service cuts were effected, negotiations are continuing in 70 out of 82 black local authorities in a bid to resolve the service payment boycott and resulting financial crisis.

The suspension of services remains a tangible threat.

Accord

The TPA’s recent figures reveal that there has been no dramatic improvement in the situation that prevailed late last year. For instance, in November the TPA said 10 townships were subject to power cut-offs at that point.

Townships now subject to a second round of cut-offs are Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, Mhluzi, near Middelburg, Siatluthuka, near Belfast, and Ngwenya, at Waterval Boven.

Even in areas where a formal accord has been concluded between civic associations, township councils and white municipalities, the resumption of service payments has generally fallen far below target.

Mhluzi is a case in point. Despite an agreement which bound residents to make flat-rate payments after township councillors, residents and Middelburg Steel and Alloys paid back-payments, debts to the Mhluzi council have again mounted rapidly, and it has been unable to pay the R1 million it owes the Middelburg council.

In Soweto, despite the signing of the Greater Soweto Accord, which formally ended the boycott almost a year ago, payments are far below the agreed level and far from enough. According to the TPA, the average payment for electricity is about 45 percent of the billed amount, and only between 60 and 63 percent of residents are paying the flat rate negotiated in respect of other services.

“The TPA believes negotiations on their own are not a passport to resolve the problems in connection with services in the communities. The only way in which people can ensure their services are not disconnected is by paying their accounts,” the province says.

The capacity of residents to pay for services is also pertinent, says National Interim Civic Committee co-ordinator Pat Lephunya.

Just a week after services were cut in Mhluzi, a Government-led development project, Hlunsasa Lebu, was launched in the area with project leader Marusa Butha claiming that unemployment in the township was 81 percent, while more than 75 percent of residents lived in poverty.

Mr Lephunya says the administration of accounts is mostly still in the hands of township councils, and continued inefficiency angers residents and sometimes makes payment impossible.

He adds that the development objectives mentioned in agreements often do not materialise, and that payments again fall off, with residents saying “We are paying for nothing in return.”
Richard (84) vows not to pay rates increase

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

At 84, Richard Nesbitt of Kensington is considering breaking the law. Not with malicious intent, but because he cannot afford to pay the latest Johannesburg City Council increase in his rates.

Mr Nesbitt, a handicapped social welfare pensioner with an income of R360 a month, has written to the City Treasurer to say he cannot pay the R30 increase in his assessment rates after the recent steep increases in the value of properties in northern areas of the city.

"The council can take me to court if it wants to, but I am not leaving my home," he said.

Deputy city treasurer Lukas Opperman said the full effect of the council's 10% increases in electricity, water, waste and refuse removal tariffs for this financial year had not yet been felt in municipal accounts.

He explained that the reduction in the electricity tariff would to a large extent reduce the aggregate percentage increase of municipal accounts.

He admitted, however, that the "relief" would not last after VAT came into effect on service tariffs on September 30.

Mr Nesbitt, who has lived in his home for 50 years, is one of the hardest hit, having bought in an area which has only recently become trendy and resulted in increased land values.

Orange Grove councillor Clive Gilbert said "I believe the council should call a meeting with all the ratepayers' associations in the city to discuss the issue."
Light rail — council told to keep promise

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

Ratepayers have warned the Johannesburg City Council to stick to its promise to hold full public participation meetings “this time” on the effects of a light rail system and immediately do an environmental impact study.

Parktown ratepayer Flo Bird reacted with scepticism to assurances that no plan would be implemented without the full involvement of ratepayers.

“We warn that if they are going to look at elevated railways, we urgently need an environmental impact study.”

The Department of Transport and the city council will host a public meeting at 5.00 pm on September 12 at the Braamfontein Civic Centre to discuss the proposed mass transit system.

“We’ve heard that before,” was the reaction of Melville/Northcliff Ratepayers’ Association chairman Wendy Potgieter.

Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive Marus de Jager said he welcomed the release of the report.
No services ‘within 3 weeks’

Soweto faces bankruptcy

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

The central Witwatersrand is facing a major financial crisis because 2 million people in Greater Soweto will be without essential services within three weeks if funds are not found.

The Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber was warned that services in Soweto, Diepsloot and Dobsonville were near collapse. Eskom alone was owed R100 million.

Civic associations have demanded the immediate resignation of the three Greater Soweto councils and the establishment of an interim administration.

In a statement, Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) spokesman Cas Coovadia also called for a massive education campaign to explain what was happening.

A joint statement by Diepsloot, Dobsonville and Soweto councils, the SPD, Soweto Civic Association and Transvaal Provincial Administration said a major crisis was looming not only for Soweto but the entire Witwatersrand.

“At issue in the current negotiations is the fact that there is simply not enough money to pay for the supply of even the most essential services of water, sewerage, refuse and electricity.”

Urgent meetings will continue between the SPD, Soweto councils and the TPA next week to discuss an increase in service tariffs.

All parties realised that the present tariffs were too low and that the rate of collections had to be improved, the joint statement said.

However, while the councils and the TPA expected residents to pay more for services, the SPD and SCA felt residents could not be expected to pay much more as the people were poor and there was little confidence in the black councils or the standard of services.

MEC for institutional development and negotiations Olaus van Zyl said tariffs agreed to in the Soweto Accord were supposed to be increased once the chamber was established, but this had not happened.

He said it was totally unacceptable that the Government continued to pay 80 percent of the service charges and the people of Soweto only 20 percent.

Mr Coovadia said the SPD had consistently argued that the solution to Soweto’s problems did not lie within the borders of the township.

“Indeed, the current crisis is simply the logical conclusion of the apartheid system. As it goes into the final stages of disintegration, the State expects the people to suffer the consequences.”

Service cuts loom

— Page 8
Move to keep out of Soweto slated

THE Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce has condemned a project designed to accommodate companies doing business in Soweto in premises just outside the township.

The venture, initiated by property development and marketing company Investmark, was advertised in Business Day on Friday and Monday.

It calls for companies servicing Soweto, Lenasia and Eldorado Park to take up office space in a three-storey complex “strategically located” at Midway. The advertisement reads: “You can reach offices without driving through Soweto.”

Chamber publicity committee member MacDonald Tanana said Soweto needed companies which did business in Soweto to set up offices and warehouses in the township so a healthy rate base could be developed.

“Soweto has no industries and has to depend on housing for a rate base. We condemn the idea of people who do business in Soweto placing themselves outside the area. These companies need to be part of the chamber’s plan to change Soweto from a labour reserve into a city.”

Investmark spokesman, Malcolm Laphokwa said his company was trying to attract clients who sought to establish a market base in Soweto but were scared of possible violence.
Services crisis still rampant

NINE Transvaal townships are presently affected by service cuts, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

In four cases it is at least the second suspension of electricity or water supplies within a year.

A year after the first service cuts were effected, negotiations are continuing in 70 out of 82 black local authorities.

The suspension of services remains a tangible threat in several of these areas.

The TPA's recent figures reveal that there has been no dramatic improvement since late last year. For instance, in November the TPA said 10 townships were subject to power cuts.

There are now four townships subject to a second round of cuts.

Middelburg council for services

In Soweto, despite the signing of the Greater Soweto Accord which formally ended the boycott almost a year ago, payments are way below the agreed level.

According to the TPA, "the average payment for electricity is about 45 percent" of the billed amount and only 60 to 65 percent of residents are paying the flat rate negotiated in respect of other services.

"The only way in which people can ensure that their services are not disconnected is by paying their accounts," the province's statement said.

Nonetheless, argues National Interim Civics Committee co-ordinator Mr Pat Lephumya, the capacity of residents to pay is also pertinent.
Soweto councils appeal to creditors for time

THE Greater Soweto councils, faced with a financial crisis that threatens essential services, are appealing to the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber to hold off creditors while they find a solution.

The councils — Diepsloot, Dobsonville and Soweto — faced a collapse of such essential services as water, electricity, sewerage and refuse collection, because there was no money, Metro Chamber chairman Van Zyl Slabbert said this week.

If everyone paid the interim charges required from residents in terms of the Greater Soweto Accord — which wrote off a R16m debt — the income would meet only 20% of Soweto’s needs.

Only R1.5m of a recent month’s electricity account of over R10m was collected from consumers. And Eskom was owed more than R180m, Slabbert said.

All the principal parties to the accord — the TPA, the Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) and the councils — agreed that tariffs presently being paid were too low.

Councils’ PRO Mojalefa Moseli said yesterday payments had gradually improved since “switch-off threats were issued”.

Now all the other parties would be working to find a solution to the problem, Moseli said.

Slabbert had said the councils, the SPD and the TPA would meet early next week to resume negotiations on the increase of interim tariffs.

General meetings of residents would also be held.

WILSON ZWANE reports parties to the Greater Benoni Forum yesterday reached consensus on a plan to consolidate water and electricity provision and payment procedures of Benoni, Daveyton and Wattville, forum chairman Dawie de Beer said.

The plan for the greater Benoni area — spelt out in last week’s recommendations of the Greater Benoni Forum’s tariff working group — is the first of its kind.

Modifications had been made to the recommendations and a formal statement would be issued next week, de Beer said.

The tariff working group recommended that Benoni’s tariffs for electricity and water charges be introduced in Daveyton and that metered electricity and water charges be resumed in Daveyton and Wattville from next month.

The group also recommended that accounting procedures of Benoni, Daveyton and Wattville be consolidated.

The forum comprises the town councils of Daveyton and Wattville, the DIC, the Wattville Concerned Residents’ Committee and the TPA. Eskom, the East Rand Regional Services Council and the Rand Water Board have observer status.

*Comment: Page 12*
ESKOM has agreed to install the prepaid or "encoded number" system of payment for the metering of electricity in at least 50,000 households in Alexandra township within the next few months.

Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) official Richard Mdakane said yesterday Eskom had agreed to install the prepaid meters in the Johannesburg township at a meeting it held with the ACO on Wednesday.

"Eskom has agreed to have meters installed in these 50,000 houses by November," Mdakane said.

Further installations would depend on the demands of the residents, he said.

Alexandra residents were in favour of the installation of prepaid meters in the township "as such an installation will enable people to buy electricity directly from Eskom," he said.

"Electricity is the right of the people — not a privilege. The people of Alexandra are prepared to pay for electricity provided they are getting it directly from Eskom and not via the town council," he said.

**All promissory notes recovered**

ROBERT GENTLE

The fraud, disclosed in the Sunday Press, involved the presentation of R3.7bn in forged promissory notes to a number of Zurich and London banks.

On the notes were a falsified United Bank stamp and forged signatures of senior United Bank officials and Reserve Bank Governor Chris Stals.

In an interview, United Bank deputy MD Natha Bosman described the attempt as a "very amateurish".

Firstly, the notes were printed on ordinary paper, not security paper or official United Bank paper. Secondly, foreign banks had no knowledge of the notes' existence.

Initial investigations had shown that no United Bank staff had been involved in the affair, Bosman said.

Godwin Webb, 43, in police custody, was refused bail in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Tuesday. The trial will resume on September 4.
Cosatu Witbank march goes on

Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) in Witbank has decided to go ahead with a protest march on Saturday, even though the town council has refused permission.

Cosatu spokesman Mr Meshack Masumpa said workers would go ahead with the march, irrespective of whether permission was granted.

The town clerk, Mr JH Pretorius, said the council had refused permission for the march because there was little time allowed for consultations and the planning of alternative routes for the march.

Protect

Pretorius expressed optimism that future problems about protest marches would be sorted out at the newly created forum representing community organisations, the Afrikaanse Sakekamer, the local chamber of commerce and the Town Council.

The marchers will present demands on high electricity tariffs and the formation of one town council with a single tax base for Witbank.
To Pure Residents: Rage About Rates Increase
Soviet Sliding into Dark

The West should go to war.
UST clouds billow out from tiny, metal-framed doorways, followed by the deafening blows of hundred-pound jack-hammers striking at hard concrete, shattering the silence of a deserted compound.

A few more blows will mean their last day of work, so the tired, sweaty workmen race against the clock to demolish one last remaining bunk in the City Deep single sex hostel.

Unknown to the workmen, they are making history. Their months of labour have ended a key symbol of the oppressive conditions in which the Johannesburg City Council housed its migrant workers.

"These bunks were reinforced and wired into the walls for safety, making them both costly and very difficult to remove, but we keep in mind the comfort of our workers," says Ben Syman, housing director of the Johannesburg City Council.

In just over one year, 912 built-in concrete bunks were knocked out of 38 dormitories of the council's 14 hostels on the Reef. The cost of the operation was R250 000, but meant more than a monetary loss.

By removing the bunks, a third of the original sleeping area per dormitory was lost. The original 24 concrete bunks per dormitory were replaced by 10 single beds.

"The rest of the men have gradually been incorporated into existing vacant dormitories or moved to other hostels of their choice," says Syman.

Is the city council spearheading the improvement of hostels — the single source of accommodation for migrant workers — or is their campaign to improve them being done only to attract more migrants?

A visit to the three largest hostels for council workers, at Atwana, City Deep and Selby, refuted many preconceived ideas about conditions in hostels.

The tiered layers of compressed living spaces are joined by a maze of endless corridors, this is the familiar face of hostels everywhere. Yet, these turned out to be clean and even comfortable.

The workers' neat — if cell-like — dormitories suggest the pride their occupants take in maintaining them. Starched white bedcovers embroidered in colourful, floral designs compete for attention.

The sparse contents of plastic bedside tables and improvised wall decorations above the beds create a tidy atmosphere, and reveal a little of each individual's personality in the carbon-copy rooms.

This is all the result of close cooperation between hostel-dwellers and the city council.

The council has taken up suggestions forwarded by house committees representing hostel residents from each of their 14 hostels on the Reef. It has, wherever possible, made budget provision for most requests for facilities in the hostels. This year the amount budgeted for hostels is R20 million.

At the Atwana hostel in Langlaagte, for example, the newest facility is a gymnasium, with mirrored walls, exercise equipment and weights "as requested several months ago by the residents." "Soccer was found to be the most popular sport with residents, but because the average age in our hostels is 44 years, some men too old to play prefer activities like the brass band or choir," says Syman.
Soweto's essential services 'near collapse'

ESSENTIAL services in Greater Soweto could collapse within weeks, plunging the entire central Witwatersrand into major crisis, Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber chairman Van Zyl Slabbert said at a chamber meeting last night.

And the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) called for the dissolution within three weeks of the councils of Soweto, Dobsonville and Diepkloof.

Reading a statement by the Greater Soweto principal parties, Slabbert said there was simply not enough money for even the most essential services of water, electricity, sewerage and refuse collection.

The parties are the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the SPD, the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) and the city councils of Soweto, Diepkloof and Dobsonville.

Slabbert said all parties agreed that present tariffs were too low and that collection rates had to be improved.

The councils and the TPA expected residents to make up at least part of the shortfall, while the SPD and SCA felt that most were too poor to do so and had little confidence in the council's ability to ensure the standard of services they provided.

Sapa reports the problem arises from a R1.5m-a-month shortfall in Soweto's services payments. Currently, Soweto residents are paying about 20% of the total cost of supplying services, the balance is made up in government subsidies. The shortfall is about 30%.
THE Alexandra Civic Organisation (Aco) and the Alexandra Land and Property Owners' Association (ALPOA) are again locking horns.

ALPOA has accused ACO of fomenting a rent boycott.

This follows a conflict between property owner and ALPOA executive member Sarah Molefe and her former tenants, whom she evicted after her house was torched on February 7.

Her family home was razed after a tenant's shack caught fire.

She claimed R20,000 damage and the council is rebuilding the house.

Before that, tenants had twice defaulted on rent payments - in 1989 and in April last year.

Molefe said the tenants had paid rent “without complaint” until they were “told by Aco” to withhold payment.

ALPOA has accused ACO of calling for a boycott because “there are no property owners in this township.”

The owners have accused the civic organisation of sowing division in the township.

Molefe also took a shot at Alexandra Town Council, claiming it was permitting tenants to stay in her yard free.

She says she no longer wants tenants.

She told City Press: “The council must deal with these tenants.”

However, the council’s director of Community Services, Albert Mnuthu, said tenants were entitled to reoccupy their ground as their leases had not yet expired.

He denied that the council was allocating land to tenants on privately-owned property:

“We allocate land for tenants only on council land,” he said.

The council wanted to avoid getting involved in the dispute with ACO, said Mnuthu.

ALPOA secretary Yeli Mahopha said his organisation had been through a long dispute with ACO, which persisted in accusing ALPOA of being “parasites.”

“We are not parasites, we are providing a good service to the people who need a roof over their heads,” he said.

“We don’t want slums,” he added.

ALPOA’s goal is to build proper houses for the people,” he said.

ACO spokesman Mzwanele Mayekiso denied that ACO was stoking up the boycott. He said angry tenants were generating the move.

“They are rejecting government-imposed property ownership,” he said.

Mayekiso said property owners had been used by the government as rent collectors since the 1986 rent boycott.

He said “The government took advantage of the fact that all prominent community leaders were in jail at the time and imposed this system.”

This caused tension among the people, who resisted the sale of their property to selected property owners.”
By SOPHIE TEMBA

VAAL Residents hold their breath when the name “KwaMadala” is mentioned.

Residents in the Vaal Triangle and political organisations allege Iscor’s KwaMadala Hostel is the stronghold of Inkatha which houses the organisation’s warlords.

It has also been said KwaMadala is accommodating criminals and is the base from where violent acts are planned and executed against ANC members and township residents.

This week the interdepartmental Women’s Ministries of the Vaal Council handed a memorandum, which listed grievances about KwaMadala and its inmates, to Iscor personnel manager Hannes Viljoen.

The memorandum said KwaMadala was used as a springboard for terrorist attacks against residents and that on various occasions people, including young children, had been abducted and kept at KwaMadala against their will.

It stated that residents were perturbed by the spate of violence in the area since July 22, 1990, especially in Boipatong.

It demands an end to intimidation, abduction of people and violence, and calls on Iscor to stop harbouring “these enemies of peace”.

It also asked Iscor whether it enjoyed seeing men and women killed and children orphaned.

The memorandum said the violence has claimed more than 100 lives so far.

“We and our kin live under constant fear, due to threats and intimidation,” the education of our children has also been affected as a result of threats and attacks on students by KwaMadala residents at schools – like at the Lebohang Secondary School in Boipatong,” the memorandum said.

The memorandum reminded Iscor management that it had promised a delegation of ministers last year that if just one of the culprits was found to be residing at KwaMadala, then Iscor would order all the occupants out of the complex.

This week, I visited KwaMadala and spoke to leader Moses Mandla Mthembu.

In a three-hour interview, which City Press will run next week, Mthembu told how Inkatha and the ANC became trapped in a spiral of violence dating back to 1986.

Iscor’s management this week strongly denied the allegations made against KwaMadala.

A statement said that following an investigation no evidence could be found to convince management that KwaMadala Hostel should be managed differently to that of Iscor’s other hostels, KwaMasiza.

Iscor evaded the issue of attacks on township residents, and instead said an investigation into the allegations was called off after “interested parties” told them they felt “the differences between the inhabitants of the two hostels should be resolved by themselves”.

City Press had never asked Iscor about “differences between the inhabitants of the two hostels. Iscor,” said city editor, saying that during recent raids by the SAP, no evidence was found of illegal occupations.
THREE points of interest this week

- Residents of the black townships in the PWV area are currently paying less than 10 percent of their monthly bill for services.
- The World Bank's Urban Sector Reconnaissance Mission reports that bridging finance to black local authorities has contributed substantially to central government deficits and now represents "a large leakage into current consumption".
- Municipal rates in Johannesburg's northern suburbs were trebled.

And the ANC still insists there is no redistribution of wealth.
Demolition squads head for hostels

By NOMANDU

THE demolition of the controversial KwaThema Hostel in Springs began this week following an agreement between the council and the local civic association. Residents interviewed in a spot survey agreed that the hostels should be completely demolished. Jerry "Staff" Shabala, 26, said inmates were "provocative" and should find alternative accommodation. Captain Ida van Zeeuw said the police had no record of attacks on residents by official inmates of the hostel.

But City Press investigations revealed that the latest incident was sparked by an inmate living in Room 22, Block C. Last year more than 24 people died after a confrontation between residents and hostel inmates.

Township residents are unhappy because four blocks -- regarded as Inkatha strongholds -- are to remain standing. Stephen Muller said the unoccupied part of the hostel attracted vagrants and had to go. It was decided to demolish the complex after eight people were killed by hostel dwellers three weeks ago.

Police spokesman Jerry Shabala, 26, said inmates were "provocative" and should find alternative accommodation.
Residents urge Asro not to go it alone

By MONK NKOMO

A group of Attridgeville residents have appealed to the local civic association to unite with other locally-based community organisations and help restore the electricity supplies in the township.

In a statement released at the weekend, the group also appealed to Asro officials to stop trying to "gain political mileage or to score political points by trying to play it alone in a matter that concerned all residents."

"We have established through newspaper reports that the TPA wants to meet those organisations, brief them and, together, help restore electricity", residents said.

They complained that they could no longer afford the cost of running a household without electricity.

"We are sick and tired now. Some houses have burnt down, parents and children sustained injuries through burning candles and a lot of women are sick as a result of inhaling paraffin while 'cooking every day'," said the residents.
Breakthrough for E Rand residents

IN a major breakthrough, the Benoni Town Council yesterday announced it would assume administrative functions whereby residents of Daveyton and Wattville would pay the same rates for essential services as Benoni residents.

Based on metered consumption of 466 kW units of consumption and 15 kilolitres of water, the account of a typical Daveyton resident for those services plus sewage and refuse removal should be about R97 a month.

"Benoni is to act as agent for these black local authorities in supplying electricity to their residents. This has been made possible by special arrangements with Eskom," a statement said.

The deal would come into force in Daveyton on September 1 and Wattville a month later.

"It was also agreed that leased houses should be transferred to tenants, taking into account the legal, financial and social aspects."

"These agreements are seen as the first step towards achieving the stated objective of a joint administration for the supply of all services for the greater Benoni area," said the statement released by the Benoni Town Council; the Daveyton and Wattville Town Councils, the Daveyton Interim Committee, the Wattville Concerned Residents Committee and the Transvaal Provincial Administration - Sapa.
Two guilty of 'necklace' murder

TWO men who repeatedly kicked a black passerby before putting a tyre over him and setting it alight were found guilty of murder in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Joffe, sitting with two assessors, found that Deon Frederik van Deventer, 25, and Evert Boonzaaier, 23, both of Newlands, had intended killing Johannes Masango when they assaulted him in Newlands on September 14 last year.

Van Deventer was also found guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm for throwing a stone at Philemon Motiona who was with Masango at the time, but who then ran away.

The judge rejected defence submissions that alcohol had lessened the blameworthiness of the pair. The pair had not been intoxicated to the extent that they were unable to act rationally, he said.

Giving evidence in mitigation, Van Deventer said he was "not proud about what had happened. We didn't think, we were drunk." Asked how he felt about blacks, Van Deventer said he believed in apartheid. "But we would not have attacked them unnecessarily. If they were not us first," Boonzaaier told the court he had spent nights thinking about the dead man's family and whether they had been able to afford a funeral.

Mr Justice Joffe will pass sentence on Friday.

Deal signed to end rent boycott

AN AGREEMENT to end a seven-year rent and services boycott in townships on the Vaal Triangle was signed yesterday.

The document was signed by, among others, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Vaal Civic Association (VCA) at a ceremony in Johannesburg.

The agreement, regarded as a major breakthrough in the nationwide rent and services boycott, was negotiated over nine months and took eight drafts to complete.

Meanwhile, TANIA LEVY reports that the East Rand Regional Services Council (RSC) is to provide R23.6m to prevent a collapse of essential water, refuse removal and sewerage services in East Rand townships.

At its monthly meeting this week, the RSC resolved to provide R16.5m for sewerage treatment, R6.3m for partial payment of costs involved in refuse removal and R4m for water supply. The funding would be provided over the next 11 months.

The RSC said the funding was aimed at averting health dangers and the total collapse of essential services in the townships of Thokoza, Katlehong, Vosloorus, Tembisa, Daveyton, Waterval, Kwa-Thema, Ratanda, Tsakane and Duduza.

The RSC would not finance payment of the rents, which were being demanded to prop up non-viable black towns and prevent possible health hazards.

RSC CE Gerre Swart said yesterday that black local authorities around the country could not generate enough income even if all their residents paid their services accounts in full.

The TPA had requested RSCs to help it make up shortfalls to ensure continued services.

The East Rand RSC had decided not to assert with electricity but to concentrate its financial assistance mainly on waste water treatment.

The RSC also decided to allocate R15m a year, for the next three years, to regional community projects such as clinics, creches, sports facilities and libraries.

Yesterday Vaal Civic Association public relations officer Paul Sathole described the historic agreement with the TPA as "realistic".

TPA negotiator Nigel Mandy, who negotiated the document said the TPA would ensure that "framework for much better things in the future".

Mandy said that whether the agreement would function depended on residents resuming payments in terms of the protocol.

It sets out service and electricity charges, which for a typical household would be R30 for services, R17.50 for the electricity service charge plus the metered electricity consumption.

Electricity would be reconnected if 70% of township residents paid their accounts. In order to facilitate this process, the Vaal townships have been split into smaller "zones" for collection purposes.
Agreement to end boycott

Johannesburg — An agreement to end a seven-year rent and services boycott in Vaal Triangle townships was signed yesterday by, among others, the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Vaal Council Association (VCA). The agreement, which was signed at a ceremony here, was negotiated over a period of nine months. — Sapa
TPA stalling talks - Asro

THE Atteridgeville Residents Organisation yesterday lashed out at the Transvaal Provincial Administration for deliberately stalling rent negotiations and claimed the authorities were planning to plunge the township in darkness until October.

Electricity supplies to the township were cut on July 22 after the Atteridgeville Council failed to pay nearly R6 million in arrear service charges.

Asro's publicity secretary, Mr John Ramatsui, yesterday confirmed that residents were prepared to pay a flat rate of more than R50.

"But the TPA does not want to listen to our offer. They refuse to talk to us," Ramatsui said.

Mr CJ Wolmarans, regional director of the TPA, refused to meet Asro officials last week and said he would only discuss the rent problem with Asro and other community-based organisations.

"It is clear that Wolmarans does not want to listen to us. We are concerned about the electricity cuts because the situation is now getting out of hand. Wolmarans is deliberately creating obstacles.

"We have also received unconfirmed reports that the authorities have planned to only restore electricity in October," said Ramatsui.

He added that they expected to meet senior officials of the TPA this week to try and set up a meeting with Wolmarans as soon as possible.

Wolmarans has accused Asro of having politicised the rent issue and said the TPA was eager to resolve the problem.

An official of the Saulsville Atteridgeville Interim Committee, Mr Victor Gillinge, yesterday said his organisation was prepared to meet Asro officials to formulate a strategy that could lead to the restoration of power supplies.
Vaal pact may end lengthy boycott

AN agreement to end a seven-year rent and services boycott in Vaal-Triangle townships was signed yesterday by, among others, the TPA and the Vaal Civic Association.

The document, which was signed at a ceremony in Johannesburg, was negotiated over a period of nine months and took eight drafts to complete.

Despite the complications, which saw the signing delayed from Friday, VCA publicity secretary Mr. Paul Sithole, said the agreement was "realistic." TPA negotiator Mr. Nigel Mandy said the document set the "framework for much better things in the future." Mandy said whether the agreement would function depended on residents resuming payments in terms of the protocol.

The agreement sets out service and electricity charges, which for a typical household would be R30 for services, R17.50 for the electricity service charge plus the metered electricity consumption.

Electricity would be reconnected if 70 percent of the township residents paid their accounts.

In order to facilitate this process, the various Vaal township have been split into smaller "zones" for collection purposes.

The parties to the document also agreed in principle that housing stock in the townships would be transferred to the current lessees, and a working group was established to examine this.

The lawyers acting for the VCA, Mr. Dail Rosen, Mr. and Mrs. Sue Albertyn, said the agreement also addressed the long-term problems of the Vaal area.

"This agreement will facilitate the movement towards non-racial local authorities," Albertyn said, adding "it was significant" the TPA had recognized the long-term demands of the VCA. -Sapa.
Woman burnt in Atteridgeville electricity cuts

BY MONK NKOMO

ANOTHER Atteridgeville resident joined the casualty list of the electricity blackout when a pot of boiling water tumbled from a brazier on Monday night, scalding her back.

Mrs Thabo Mabashe of Motsepe Street and a subject adviser at the Department of Education and Training, said she was about to prepare dinner when she tripped and fell near the brazier about 7pm.

Scores of residents telephoned Sowetan yesterday appealing to the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation officials to solve the rent problem quickly to avoid more casualties resulting from the electricity cuts, in force since July 22.

Five people, including a three-year-old girl, were seriously injured when a generator exploded while they tried to pour petrol into it at house No 41 Makheza Street, Saulsville, on July 26.

Mr Ellington Maduna and his wife Thamaris and their three-month-old daughter narrowly escaped death on July 27 when a burning candle fell onto the floor while they were asleep and caused extensive damage to their garage/bedroom.

Astro's publicity secretary, Mr John Ramatsum, confirmed residents had agreed to pay more than the R50 flat rate. He accused the TPA of refusing to negotiate with Astro.

TPA's Regional Director, Mr CJ Wolmarans, last week refused to meet Astro officials and stressed he would only discuss the rent problems with the civic leaders and other local organisations.
still a priority
low-cost homes

Building the Nation
Affordable homes in Windmill Park

A LEADING Johannesburg housing developer will today launch low-cost houses in Windmill Park, part of Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg.

"A few White, Indian and Black families have already bought houses in the first phase of the township since its proclamation as a free settlement area in 1986," Mr Zion Elani of Miren Group International said.

"But, after persuading the Boksburg City Council, we have managed to bring down the price of dwellings in the area to as low as R64,000.

"This we did through utilizing the stands for duct housing so that the cost of stands could be brought down.

"Marketing will be directed in the middle to the upper income Black, Coloured and Indian families and also the beginner market for white families.

"And the EP Building Society has actually already committed themselves to finance at least a third of all applicants."

Praising the Boksburg City Council for approving the development of the township, Elani added: "The council has acknowledged the fact that they have at last come to grips with the idea of a multiracial development within their boundaries.

"They also welcomed the potential R50 million injection into the economy of Boksburg as well as the potential buying power from future residents."
End to boycott cheered

CALLERS to the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show yesterday applauded the end of the seven-year rent and electricity boycott in the Vaal Triangle.

Civic associations in other boycotting townships were urged to learn from the agreement reached by the Vaal Civic Association and the Transvaal Provincial Administration that negotiations were the only key to solving problems.

By KENOSI MODISANE

Speaking as guest on the show, Mr Paul Sethole, a VCA official who helped negotiate the Vaal agreement, said the non-interference of political parties helped ease relations between the parties involved.

"These became a solely civic matter," he said.

Justice of Klipspruit said the agreement should be fully implemented. He said it should not end up as just another paper in the bottom of the cupboard.

Consultation with grassroots people should be maintained and personal differences should be avoided, he said.

Cornelius of Kagiso said "Common sense has prevailed at last. It was unfortunate that the matter dragged for so long and this has proved once more that negotiation is the best way of solving problems."

Joseph Ngobeni of Sebokeng said "I am a little concerned about the issue of the arrears. This has not completely solved the problem."

"But I am all the same happy that some consensus has been reached," Mr Xolani of Eldorado Park said "This is most welcome. It is in recognition of the people's legitimate demands."
R23-m grant to pay township services

AN amount of R23.64 million has been made available by the East Rand Regional Services Council to 10 township councils to help them pay for water, waste water treatment and refuse removal.

But unless the township authorities themselves can provide at least 50 percent of the budgeted costs for these services, payments from the RSC grant will be halved as from January.

In a statement announcing the funding, the RSC explained that the intention was "to overcome possible health dangers and to avoid the total collapse of services".

The first payments will be backdated to July 1.

The councils to benefit are Tokoza, Kheelong, Vosloorus, Tembisa, Daveyton, Watville, KwaThema, Ratanda, Tsakane and Duduzuka.

For councils to raise 50 percent of costs upon which receiving the full grant will depend, residents' payments will have to increase considerably.

RSC chairman Mr Leon Ferreira stressed that funds would not be made available to pay for the supply of electricity to the 10 townships.

Anti-VAT campaign launch

MORE than 17 black organisations will meet at the Johannesburg Hotel today to protest against Value Added Tax.

Ms Lisa Sefile of Cosatu and the National Campaigns Committee had instructed Cosatu to launch a campaign of factory demonstrations, protest actions and notifying employers that workers would demand an immediate five percent increase if VAT was implemented.

"Our demand for the suspension of VAT is non-negotiable. We urge Barand du Plessis to reconsider. If he does not he will actually be saying the Government wants VAT and 'damn the consequences'," she said.

Civic tariffs no panacea

The impending tariff increase does not guarantee that Soweto residents will receive adequate services from the council, a spokesman for Soweto Civic Association said yesterday.

He said the SCA did not view tariff increases in isolation of structural problems related to black local authorities.

The Soweto Council owes Eskom R100 million for bulk electricity supplied. The council's current income of R1.3 million is not sufficient to pay the monthly R10 million installment.

Last Wednesday at a meeting of Metropolitan Chamber, the Transvaal Provincial Administration proposed that tariffs should be adjusted in line with the Soweto Accord signed last September.

The Greater Soweto Councils have proposed an increase of R60
Takeover of Soweto services called for

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Soweto Civic Association (SCA) wants all essential services to be taken over within a matter of weeks by authorities outside the township — namely, the regional services council, the Rand Water Board and the municipalities of Johannesburg and Randburg.

The proposal, endorsed by representatives of Soweto’s constituent townships at an SCA general council meeting at the weekend, is seen by the SCA as a solution to the township’s crisis of service delivery and payment.

The demand that the Soweto, Dobsonville and Diepsloot councils be stripped forthwith of their responsibilities for administering services was coupled with an SCA plan for levying new interim service tariffs.

A week ago, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the three Soweto councils joined the SCA in warning that the financial crisis in the township was such that essential services to 2 million people could be cut off within a month.

Pay up

It was disclosed that the interim service tariffs negotiated a year ago between the SCA and the authorities were so low that at best they could realise 29 percent of the costs — and at present they were yielding only half of this.

TPA chief negotiator Olaus van Zyl called both for a revision of the level of interim tariffs and for township residents to begin to pay up.

SCA general-secretary Pat Lephunya responded yesterday, saying “We have always maintained that solutions to Soweto’s problems do not lie within the boundaries of the Soweto.”

“In our opinion, what is needed is structural change...” (but) we con-
Soweto.

"In our opinion, what is needed is structural change... but we con-
cede that this would take a long time and would not help the situation the
TFA and the three coun-
cils currently find them-
selves in."

Mr Lephunya said it was therefore possible to iso-
late short-term struc-
tural changes. Features of this new arrangement
should be:
- The dismantling of
Soweto’s black local
authorities, starting with
the termination of their
control over services.
- The continuation of
services of an “accept-
able standard”, effected
by transferring these
services to external
authorities.
- The achievement of
high levels of payment
for services, with exemp-
tions granted only where
particular need existed.

Negotiated

Specific proposals for
the transfer of services
were:
- That the Rand Water
Board take over supply
and administration of
water as from October 1
at a fee to be negotiated
between the SCA and the
board.
- That the recently con-
cluded agreement in
principle that the Cent-
ral Witwatersrand RSC
take over electricity ad-
ministration be imple-
mented almost immedi-
ately — on September 1 —
and that the service fee
be negotiated between
the RSC and the SCA.
- That the municipal-
ities of Johannesburg
and Roodepoort take on
refuse removal at a neg-
otiated date and fee.

With regard to tariff
restructuring, Mr Le-
phunya said, the general
council had a new sys-
tem which was being
canvassed.

Firstly, a single flat-
rate interim tariff should
be abolished and re-
placed with three cate-
gories of payment based
on income.

Secondly, services
should be supplied to
shantytowns and a shack
levy introduced thereaf-
fer.

Thirdly, terms of ar-
rears payments should be
set only after an in-
quiry by a social worker.

Fourthly, neutral pay-
ment points should be es-
blished.
Northern Suburbs residents are disputing recent figures which show their Johannesburg neighbours pay the highest electricity tariffs, and say they pay almost 18% more.

A Buccleuch resident said recent figures provided by the National Utility Services (NUS) were inaccurate.

The NUS figures show that Johannesburg pays an average 11.2c/kwh, the highest rate for electricity in SA. Buccleuch residents say because they are supplied directly by Eskom, they have to pay even more—16c/kwh plus a basic monthly rate. They say they are paying far more for electricity than some of their neighbours in Sandton.

Sandton Town Council management committee chairman Bruce Stewart said Sandton was in an unusual position because its area was 76% within the confines of Eskom, and it therefore provided service to only 25% of the community.

Eskom pricing policy manager Andries Calitz said the electricity price depended on the cost of supplying a customer Size and supply voltage played an important role.

Large customers paid 8c/kwh for electricity supplied in bulk. That was the price recently quoted from NUS.
Cast steps in to settle ‘feud’

THE Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal yesterday intervened in the “feud” between two factions of Actstop following Press reports of tension between the two.

Addressing a Press conference yesterday, Cast president Mr Sandi Mgidi lane expressed his organisation’s concern over a report which appeared in a weekly newspaper on August 16.

Mgidi lane said the article speculat ed about abductions also claimed that Mr George Mosheshoe had been abducted by their rivals.

He said moves initiated by Cast to unite the two “factions” since he (Sejaphala), Cas Coovada and others walked out of an Actstop annual general meeting in May to protest the meeting’s agenda, were still on track.

Mgidi lane said it was hoped that Actstop would be in full swing within a week as reconciliation talks between the “factions” was progressing well.
Resident wants power restored

By MONK NKOMO

AN Atteridgeville resident has filed an urgent application in the Pretoria Supreme Court for his electricity supply to be restored.

Lawyers for Michael Rantho said yesterday the application will be heard today. Papers, including a letter of demand, had already been served on the respondents - the city councils of Atteridgeville and Pretoria and the Administrator of the Transvaal.

Advocate Dikgang Moseneke has been asked to act on behalf of Rantho.

In their letter of demand, Rantho's lawyers submit that there existed no justification, legally or morally, for the two municipalities to terminate Rantho's power supply as he had met his obligations towards the City Council of Atteridgeville.

Three other residents - Mr BA Sithole, Mr D Kgutsoe and Mr J Mahlangu, are also cited in the letter as residents who had met their obligations but had their electricity cut off.

The court action follows the suspension of electricity supplies to the residents who had paid.

Lawyers said the City Council of Pretoria was obliged to provide essential services such as electricity supply in the same manner and under the same conditions as in respect of the land within the jurisdiction of that local body.

Default

"Within the area of jurisdiction of the Pretoria City Council, electricity is supplied to individual consumers and is terminated only in respect of specific individual consumers who default in their payment of charges related to electricity."

"It is accordingly improper and illegal for the municipalities of Pretoria or Atteridgeville to supply electricity to our client in a manner and on conditions which are different from those applied by the City Council of Pretoria within its own area of jurisdiction."
It's time to restore power to the people

Joe Lambrango is the township planner and finds the problem is more urgent than national issues
Who reads the meters? Only the spiders

By RAY NHUMALO

"It takes a genius to figure out our electricity accounts," a Soweto resident complained this week.

A snap survey by The Weekly Mail in the township this week revealed some of the reasons for the huge backlog of unpaid bills.

Soweto residents interviewed in the survey are dismayed by the looming power cuts and insist that the problem is not of their own making.

The main reason for the backlog in payments, respondents said, was their inability to pay their June and July electricity accounts because they have not yet received them. Soweto Electricity Advice Centreombudsman Bernard Moleke said he has not received an account since then.

Respondents had a number of complaints about meter readers. It was pointed out that there is a noticeable absence of meter readers in Soweto. They were accused of spending most of their working hours on their own personal business. When meter readers did appear they never bothered to explain to residents how they count the units used.

Consequently it was suspected that the figures on residents' accounts are guess work.

One respondent, Soweto resident Bertha Mahlatsi, stated that she has not seen a meter reader check her electricity consumption for the past three months. She said the meter boxes were full of spider webs.

Many respondents said the meter boxes are in a pathetic state of disrepair and neglect.

Yet another problem was that many people found it difficult to read, interpret and understand the electricity accounts.

Moleke echoed the view that the statements are very confusing.

"It takes a genius to figure them out. Ordinary people who don't read between the lines are the hardest hit," he said.

Mahlatsi, who is unemployed, typifies the frustrated Soweto consumer. The power cable which supplies her house is faulty. She always has candles ready in anticipation of the ever looming cut.

Moleke suggested that Eskom should establish a centre from which it could sell electricity directly to the residents.

The same meter readers employed by the council could work for Eskom at its new centre where all readings could be processed. This would eliminate delays caused by an inefficient third party: it will be a direct transaction between buyer and seller.
VAT-weary consumers on Reef face new water shock

DEREK TOMMEY

The cost of water in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area could jump by more than 20 percent when the new tariff comes into effect on October 1.

The only factors that could stop such a huge increase would be the resumption of payments for water by the non-paying local authorities, or a substantial subsidy from the Government.

Several factors, including the introduction of VAT, a Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme levy and losses arising from the non-payment by black authorities are imposing a heavy burden on the Rand Water Board (RWB).

Committed

This money will have to be recovered from consumers, say informed sources.

Already the RWB is committed to imposing a levy of about 6 percent on water bills from October to help finance the Highlands Water Scheme. On top of this, it will have to levy VAT. These alone are expected to increase the tariff by around 15 percent.

But the losses arising from the non-payment of bills will also have to be taken into account. At July 29, 11 black local authorities owned the RWB nearly R16 million, and this debt is increasing at a rate of nearly R3.4 million a month.

This situation is expected to worsen because a number of municipalities, including Brakpan, Alberton and Rustenburg, want to transfer to the RWB the responsibility of supplying water to black local authorities.

The move comes about because of difficulties experienced in over payments for water supply.

Altogether, about 8 percent of the water being supplied by the RWB and about a third of the amount supplied to black local authorities, is not being paid for.

The RWB has a number of choices to improve its financial situation. One is to cut off water to the defaulting authorities. However, even this would mean that the water rate would have to be raised by another 3 percent or so to cover fixed costs already incurred. This would push the October increase to above 20 percent.

This lack of potable water could result in epidemics in the affected local authority, spreading through the whole PWV area and rendering inadequate essential medical services.

And on the political side, the cutting off of water could result in considerable unrest.

However, if the RWB were to continue supplying water to the non-paying areas, it would have to finance this by a further 5 percent increase in tariffs. This could bring the total increase in the water tariff in October to between 24 percent and 25 percent.
Black family flees white gang terror

A BLACK family were forced to move out of their luxury home in a white suburb four months after moving in because they were terrorised by a white teenage motorcycle gang.

The gang began tormenting the Nkabinde family soon after they moved into their double-storeyed house in Hutten Heights, Newcastle, in April.

The teenagers harassed the Nkabinde family by revving their motorbikes outside the house and stomping the windows and roof.

The family decided to move three weeks ago after someone had spray-painted "Mandela Sux" on a concrete wall and paint ed over one of the windows.

Mrs Jacqueline Nkabinde, 27, a nursing sister at the Meddeni hospital, and her insurance broker husband, Mac, 34, bought the house through an estate agent in March and moved in with their three-year-old son, Lungisa.

Mrs Nkabinde said the house was in a state of neglect and her husband had repainted the interior and fitted new carpets.

"It was filthy and we spent a lot of money to bring it up to the standard of the neighbourhood homes. We have now lost that money because we cancelled the sale," she said.

Her neighbours did not seem to mind the family’s presence.

Crashed

"Our immediate neighbours were wonderful and made us feel very welcome. When we told them we were leaving, they were very sad."

She said the gang started terrorising the family three weeks after they moved in.

"Mac and I were entertaining white friends one day when I heard a motorcycle pull up in front of the house. Suddenly a stone crashed through a window in the lounge where we were sitting.

"One of the guests and my husband followed the motorcyclist but lost him," she added.

Gangs

That night, stones were thrown on to the roof and more windows were broken.

Ever since moving into the house, she said, gangs of teenage motorcyclists and white motorists had stopped outside their home for no apparent reason.

"I did not pay much attention to them. The motorcyclists used to rev their engines, but this did not disturb us.

"Three weeks ago, another white visitor told the Nkabinde family that someone had painted a slogan on their outside wall.

"The next day, they found that a lounge window had been spray-painted.

"She said "I hope they are just hooligans and not members of the AWB or any other right-wing group."

"I don’t think any responsible parent would let their children do such things.""

She said the family could not identify the teenagers, but had reported the incidents to the police.

Sergeant Paul Korb of the Newcastle police said the Nkabinde family’s complaint was receiving attention.

"We will search for and find the culprits," he said.

The police are here to protect people and property and no one has the right to behave like they did towards the Nkabinde family.

Newcastle town clerk Dawie Schutte condemned the teenagers’ behaviour.

Surprised

"We have no group areas or racial discrimination here. We would not like anybody to be harassed."

"Newcastle is a peaceful town and I am surprised to hear of such an incident taking place."

The Nkabinde family have now moved to a house in adjoining Pioneer Park, where they believe they will be left in peace.
Pageview to be upgraded

CONDITIONS in Johannesburg's racially mixed area of Pageview would be improved and Indian residents would be recognised as legal tenants, Welfare, Housing and Works Minister Sam de Beer said at the weekend.

In a deal between government and the Save Pageview Association, residents would be able to buy their land and houses.

Land on which the two Islamic Mosques in the area was built would be donated to the Muslim community.

Parking would be made available, De Beer said. — Sapa
Plan to take over empty Pta houses

By MONK NKOMO

ABOUT 150 Atteridgeville families are set to occupy empty houses in Lotus Gardens, a neighbouring Indian residential area, the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation said yesterday.

Speaking at a public meeting at the Super Stadium, Asro official Mr Harold Moshwane said the occupation, planned for next Sunday, followed repeated refusals by the House of Delegates to allow blacks to live there.

Residents who attended yesterday's meeting also gave Asro the mandate to negotiate for the restoration of electricity and affordable tariffs.

Electricity supply in the township was cut on July 22.

Asro's publicity secretary, Mr John Ramatsau, blamed the TPA for refusing to negotiate with the organisation over the rent crisis.

"We have a new offer to discuss with the authorities, but the do not want to talk to us," Ramatsau said.

Meanwhile, Sowetan and its sister newspaper the Pretoria News came under fire from Asro official Mr Jackie Makwana, who accused the newspapers of "disingenuous and making up stories" about residents who complained about the organisation.

Several residents recently told the newspapers that Asro officials were delaying resolving the rent crisis and blamed the officials of politicising the issue.

Yesterdays, Asro officials and certain residents accused the newspapers of making up the stories and demanded to know why the names of the complainants were not disclosed in the reports.
Summit to decide future of SADCC

ARUSHA (Tanzania) — Leaders of 10 African states began arriving here yesterday for a summit to decide the future of their Southern African Development Co-operation Conference (SADCC), formed 11 years ago to reduce their economic dependence on white-rulled South Africa.

The SADCC’s future is being re-examined as sanctions against South Africa rumble. Today’s summit will review economic and political co-operation within the SADCC and discuss future strategies. It is also expected to agree to consider admitting South Africa when democratisation there is complete, conference sources said.

All the SADCC states — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — will be represented, mostly by presidents or prime ministers.

Over the past week, Ministers and officials in the SADCC have been reviewing the organisation’s past performance.

Tanzanian Prime Minister John Muelela described this as “pitiful”, and said a more sincere approach was needed if the SADCC was to survive.

Ministers agreed that no studies of new projects in the SADCC were also be undertaken until a backlog of projects had been reduced.

Transport

The SADCC has drawn up plans for improving and integrating transport and port systems, and for developing trade within the 10-nation area independently of South Africa.

The group’s executive secretary, Simba Makoni of Zimbabwe, said only 28 percent of the $8.6 billion (about R25 billion) needed to finance existing plans had been raised so far.

But Mozambique’s Gilbert Mabila, the SADCC’s co-ordinator for transport and communications, said traffic passing through the conference’s countries had risen from 20 to 63 percent since 1989.

While 90 percent of the region’s traffic used to move through South African ports, this was down to 30 percent.

The sources said the development of trade channels that were not dependent on South Africa would continue. “South Africa’s entry will not mean the end of regional co-operation,” they said.

But support from outside donors for projects has fallen by at least 30 percent in two years. South African finance could help to maintain the pace of development, he said.

The discussion takes place against a background of shrinking growth rates and increasing debt burdens. Conference documents estimate the debt burden for the SADCC countries — with a combined population of 33 million — at $25 billion (about R72 billion), Sapa-Reuter.

Expansion plan upsets residents

By Shirley Woodgate and Brian Sokute

The expansion of Alexandra’s East Bank with funds approved by the Independent Development Trust (IDT) has angered residents of Lombardy East, who claim that they were not consulted.

The project, launched with a R2 billion Government fund for social upliftment, of which R1.5 billion has been allotted for housing, is said to be one of 108 housing projects for the poor throughout South Africa. They will consist of 99 800 sites.

Wendy Marsh, secretary of the Lombardy East and Rembrandt Park Ratepayers’ Association, said the first she knew of the expansion was when she read in the Sunday Star that formal housing was planned on the borders of their suburb.

“This is not what we have fought for over the last 14 years,” she said. “We were promised that before Alex was extended towards Lombardy, London Road, running south of Alex to the N3, would be completed, so that Alex residents had easy access to where they work.

“This would relieve overcrowded Wordworth Road.

“We were also promised a multiracial golf course.

“Neither has happened and we were told that elite, not low-cost, homes would be built on our borders.

“Other issues are the threat of increased crime and dumping and greater pollution of the environment.

“The current smog-level which we suffer from Alex will definitely be increased.”

Supporting the argument for a golf course, Lionel Keenan, chairman of the Lombardy East Ratepayers’ Association, also expressed support for the IDT project.

“I have no problems with this project and have always supported it.

“But I insist that other services like roads and recreational facilities be built.

“If houses are built first, I foresee chaos as this will be contrary to the principles of proper town planning.

“It was decided that London Road be extended on the freeway so that thousands of commercial vehicles going through the residential area are accommodated,” Mr Keenan said.
Minrav to build 500 houses

Israeli-owned Minrav International has announced a R30 to R40 million housing development in Windmill Park, south of Boksburg.

The project entails the building of 500 duet houses ranging from 30 sq m upwards. Sales off plan will begin at the end of August.

Two houses will be built next to one another on a 500 sq m stand.

A standard unit, with two bedrooms and fully fitted bathroom and kitchen, will be sold for R64,000. This includes all ancillary costs such as bonds and transfers.

Minrav has operated in South Africa since 1965 and has specialised in the middle and upper end of the black housing market.

Windmill Park represents a breakaway for Minrav as it is being marketed on the basis of affordability only.

The project is being marketed exclusively by Alda Boksburg.
Court rejects request for power switch

A PRETORIA Supreme Court judge yesterday dismissed an application by an Atteridgeville resident to have the electricity supply to his home restored.

The court could not make an order that was impossible to comply with, said Mr Justice MC de Klerk, when he dismissed the application with costs.

Mr Michael Rantho, of Manyorola Street, Atteridgeville near Pretoria, applied for an urgent court order declaring he was entitled to electricity and that the council had to fulfill its obligation as a local authority.

Accounts paid

He said in an affidavit that power had been cut to the township on July 22 but township administrator Dr Ernie Jacobson said it would be reconnected before July 27 to all those who had paid the flat rate of R90 a month.

SA Press Association

Rantho said he had paid all his accounts.

The acting town clerk of Atteridgeville, Mr DC Mouton, said the Pretoria City Council had refused to continue its bulk supply to the township unless the outstanding amount was paid.

He said only 33 percent of Atteridgeville residents had paid their accounts on a monthly basis between March and August this year, and by August 16 the Atteridgeville Council was R7.2 million in arrears for electricity.

Unless residents paid their accounts the council refused to supply bulk electricity to the township.

In his judgment, Justice De Klerk said Rantho was not entitled to demand that the Pretoria City Council supply power to him if the Atteridgeville Council had failed to pay its debts. - Sapa.
Sewage plan infuriates ratepayers

By SILLA GROBSELAA

JOHANNESBURG'S southern areas may become the site of what could be the biggest sewage processing plant in the Southern Hemisphere and Africa - if the city council has its way.

Assistant city engineer Mr Tony Pitman told a meeting of Eldorado Park residents last week that the council plans to extend the plant at Oliphantstal, at the intersection of the N1 and the R29 freeway to Potchefstroom.

"Other plants are miniature compared to what is planned," he said.

What worries residents is the plant would be close to Johannesburg"s most densely populated area and could adversely affect the health of millions of people.

The areas include Soweto, Eldorado Park, Naturena, Mondeor, Alan Manor, Winchester Hills, Robertslaan, Kibler Park, Zakhuinya Park and Lenasia.

Sewage would be processed, instead of being dried in paddies as is the practice now at the three plants to the south of the city. Processing includes chemical treatment. Gases will be released into the air and will affect areas within a 10-15km radius depending on wind conditions.

Dr Laurance Lotter of the City Health Department said the odour could be controlled by deodorising it but that would put more chemicals into the atmosphere.

Pitman said there was a sewage processing plant at Meyerton but the council was not pumping sewage there because of the costs involved.

Council was still assessing its environmental impact.

The plan for the sewage plant was discovered by an Eldorado Park engineer, who read an advert in the Press calling for tenders.

Residents of Eldorado Park are up in arms over the proposed plant.

One resident who attended the meeting said they believed that it was obvious that the environmental studies were not fundamental to the council's plan as these studies should have been done first.

He said that Pitman had, however, assured them that nothing had been finalised.

But residents were sceptical.

City council delegates at the meeting made the point that they were moving in a new direction where communities would be involved in schemes which affected their lives.

But residents are wary because they were not notified of the proposed sewage processing plant by the council. Had it not been for the Eldorado Park engineer who spotted the tender notice, they are convinced they would still be in the dark.

Mr Fred Swartz, secretary of the Nancefield Eldorado Estates Ratepayers Association, wrote to the city health and engineering departments.

"They agreed to meet the ratepayers who have judged the council's exercise as futile," he said.

"The council has said it would be too expensive to pump the sludge to Meyerton but the money will simply have to be found. A sewage plant just cannot be sited in the heart of a residential area."

Swartz said Lotter admitted there would be a foul smell but it would not be a health hazard.

"We are just expected to live with the odour," said Swartz.

Former Johannesburg mayor Mr Willie Jange van Rensburg - who lives in Kibler Park - when approached for comment, said he knew nothing of the proposed plant and had not been informed about the project.

"Pitman could not be reached for comment."
Civic spurns talks

SOWETO civic leaders boycotted a meeting called this week to seek ways of addressing the township’s financial crisis.

The Greater Soweto Principal Parties’ meeting was held on Monday night and was attended by representatives of the three Greater Soweto councils and officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The councils - Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville - owe Eskom about R100 million for electricity.

Explaining the boycott, a spokesman for the Soweto Civic Association said civic leaders felt that the township’s problems should be referred to the Metropolitan Chamber.

“Our perspective differs from that of the councils. They want us to give them figures because to them it is just an issue of adjusting tariffs,” the spokesman said.

In a statement, the TPA said the meeting deplored the absence of the SCA and the Soweto Peoples Delegation.

“The three councils intend to proceed without the SCA/SPD,” the statement said.
Electricity takeover in view

By Jo-Anne Colinge

The take-over of the supply of electricity to Soweto by a "joint administration" could be effected within weeks, according to Soweto Council spokesman Mojalefa Moseki.

He told The Star yesterday that negotiations between the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council and the three Soweto councils on transferring responsibility for supplying electricity, had reached an advanced stage.

The Soweto Council had completed its final draft contract and was submitting it to the RSC for a response, he said.

The removal of electricity administration from the hands of the Soweto councils is regarded in some quarters as critical to breaking the deadlock on payment for services.

Soweto Electricity Advice Centre ombudsman Bernard Molele says the Soweto council has sent out only three electricity accounts this year.

The talks between the RSC and the councils arise from a request by the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber for the RSC to take over the supply of electricity to Soweto.
City planners win the day in Houghton

Cluster housing and business developments for Lower Houghton were approved by the Johannesburg City Council last night.

The Lower Houghton Density and Land-use policy review was accepted by councillors only after intensive consultations with ratepayers.

The area affected is part of Houghton Estate, north of Houghton Drive. Business will be permitted to the east of the M1 in a strip running north to south and along a small section of Louis Botha Avenue.

Houghton councillor Carl Stem said the planning scheme was carefully thought through.

However, he and the Houghton Ratepayers' Association could not agree with council officials on the issue of cluster housing. "We reluctantly accept, we have to let the experts win the day," he said.
By Jo-Anne Collinge

Racess share Nelspruit revenue

Nelspruit certainly represents a significant departure from the prevailing model, where the benefits of business rates revenue are firmly restricted to the white suburbs.

But it does not represent a fully nonracial model because Nelspruit is not a typical SA town — it has no black township.

The thousands of black people who work and spend their income in Nelspruit live across the kNgwane border in kNyamazane or in rural villages further afield.

So the cross-racial sharing of municipal revenue is confined to about 20,000 white residents of Nelspruit “proper”, 1,000 coloured residents of Nelville and 1,000 Indian residents of Valencina Park.

Would Nelspruit have stuck to its equitable policy if it had to contend with the vastly different population pattern created by the inclusion of Nelspruit’s black workers and consumers?

While conceding that it is easy to speculate, Mr van Rooyen ventures that “even if kNyamazane had been included I’m sure we could have worked out something”.

He adds that the view in some quarters is that the kNgwane border should not be a barrier to sharing Nelspruit’s revenue more widely.

“In consultations with the ANC and the kNgwane authorities we still have a situation where they feel that there should be some way of distributing Nelspruit’s income to kNyamazane because they also contribute to Nelspruit.”
R3,5-m to be spent on Soweto

Louise Burgers, Municipal Reporter

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council is to provide R3,5 million to the Soweto Town Council for the extension of its contract development programme. Roads, stormwater reticulation and kerbng will be built.

No money will be paid out to builders until the work is completed and the services are in use.

The CWRSC also voted R14 million to enable the Diepmeadow Town Council to provide proper registers of all properties in that area. Administrative costs incurred by Randburg and Sandton Town Councils in providing aid to the Alexandra Town Council will be financed by the CWRSC.
Could Soweto be left to either stink or swim?

For a few days this week it seemed that Soweto would have its electricity and services shut off, plunging the township into darkness to smw its own garbage. Then a last-minute agreement kept the lights burning. But the crisis continues, and it's a lot bigger than Soweto, reports JOHN PERLMAN.

The controversy around the electricity crisis in Soweto has been well documented. The crisis stems from the failure of the municipality to collect outstanding electricity bills, leading to a significant backlog in payments to Eskom. This has led to Eskom cutting off the electricity supply to the township, causing widespread disruption and hardship.

The situation has been exacerbated by the fact that many residents in Soweto have been unable to pay their electricity bills due to economic hardship. In addition, there have been concerns about corruption and mismanagement by the local authorities, which have further undermined the residents' trust in the municipality.

The crisis has sparked widespread protests and demonstrations, with residents demanding action from the authorities. The South African government has also been involved, with Minister of Energy, Jeff Radebe, calling for a meeting with Soweto leaders to discuss a way forward.

In response, the Soweto municipality has announced a number of measures to address the crisis, including a amnesty period for residents to clear their outstanding bills. However, there is concern that these measures may not be sufficient to resolve the underlying issues.

The crisis highlights the challenges faced by many African cities in managing their electricity infrastructure, particularly in the face of financial difficulties and institutional weaknesses. It also underscores the importance of effective governance and accountability in ensuring sustainable and equitable access to services for all residents.

The resolve of the residents and the government to find a solution to the crisis is commendable, but much needs to be done to address the underlying causes of the situation and to prevent similar crises from happening in the future.
PAC plans move into Jo'burg

Sowetan Reporter

THE metropolitan area of Johannesburg will get its first civic association after the PAC officially launches a branch in the region.

Members of the PAC's Johannesburg central branch - which plans to have units in former whites-only suburbs including areas like Parktown and Yeoville - will take to the streets this Saturday to promote the movement.

One of the immediate tasks of the PAC in the new region will be to campaign, on behalf of the residents in the area, against the recent increase in municipal rates, PAC information secretary in the region, Mr Nelson Veerassamy, said.

He said the idea to establish a civic association was because blacks in the region had no representation in the Johannesburg City Council.

"There are an estimated 60,000 oppressed people in the city area and they are experiencing serious problems of a lack of community life, educational facilities, lack of sports and decent recreational facilities, lack of municipal by-laws to protect them against exploitation by landlords, lack of day-care centres for children through no representation in the city council," Veerassamy said.

"The PAC intends to launch a city civic association to address these problems." "One of the first tasks of the association will be to campaign against the recent hike in municipal rates by the Johannesburg City Council. A possible march against the city council is not ruled out," he said.

Mr Benny Alexander, the PAC's general secretary, said yesterday the launch of the new branches and the envisaged civic association opened the door to all residents of Johannesburg.

He said if a person who traditionally supported the Democratic Party felt the civic association could improve living conditions, the association would take up the case.
Tshidi quits amid row over finance

THE general secretary of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation, Mr Simon "Chippa" Tshidi, has resigned from his post.

Investigations by Sowetan revealed that Tshidi's surprise move followed allegations of a power struggle within the organisation and serious problems regarding the financial statements of the civic body.

Tshidi yesterday confirmed that he had resigned in the wake of differences between officials over the financial statement which was rejected at the annual general meeting in February this year because it apparently did not reflect a true record.

Tshidi declined to confirm or deny claims that he quit his post because of a power struggle and the existing serious problems regarding the finances of Asro.

"What I can say at the moment is that..."

By MONK NKOMO

I have resigned because of certain reasons which I cannot reveal at the moment. I hope that one day I will be given the opportunity to address the residents, failing which I will convene a press conference next week to put my case across," Tshidi said.

A spokesman for the civic association yesterday confirmed Tshidi's resignation and said although he had not furnished reasons for the move, he suspected that it was because of "a power struggle between him and another executive member."

Problems

The spokesman denied that there were serious problems about certain amounts of money which could not be accounted for. Asked to submit a copy of their financial statement, the spokesman replied "The executive committee will first have to discuss that before the statement is made public."
focus on housing

Weekend talks to
can (casa) will hold a major conference on 10

THE Civic Association of the Southern Texas

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**Rightwingers locked out at NP meeting**

By Bronwyn Wilkinson

DEWETS DORP — About 150 people attended the National Party meeting behind locked doors in the town hall last night as a cordon of police held about 10 rightwingers at bay.

The khaki-clad rightwingers circled the square in a bakkie and then disappeared.

Four men claiming to be NP supporters from Bloemfontein, who arrived late for the meeting, were not admitted because they were not known by any of the guards at the door.

Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs, National Housing and Local Government Leon Wessels told the gathering neither the Right nor the Left could deal with the country's problems as effectively as the NP. He said the respect in the country for President de Klerk far outstripped that held for the NP itself.

"We will all have to work on this," he said.

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**Linden to fight highways and business development**

Staff Reporter

Ratepayers in Linden, Johannes burg, vowed last night to fight multilane highways and commercial development in their northwestern suburb.

At the inaugural meeting of the Linden Ratepayers' Association last night, about 200 residents elected a steering committee to fight business development and preserve the suburb's residential status.

The eight-man committee is headed by resident Blackie Swart.

Residents were warned their suburb was under threat from large-scale business development — including an office park in Darrenwood adjacent to Linden — and plans to turn Republic Road and Third Avenue into a six-lane highway. This would link with D.P. Malan Drive and split Linden in half.

More than 2000 children cross these roads daily, the meeting was told.

Vice-chairman of the committee, Bobby Heaney, accused authorities of attempting to use the suburb to achieve commercial aims. He said commercialisation would result in residents becoming increasingly demoralised.

"This is the warning to the authorities that residents are not interested in the upgrading of roads.

"We will find ways to make Linden the safest suburb for our children. We've got something for them and that is they ain't seen nothing yet," Mr. Heaney said.
Homes for blacks in CP town

The Palabora Mine Company is going ahead with plans to house black employees in a "white" suburb of the town, despite threats from right-wing extremists.

General manager George Deyssel told The Star yesterday that the company's first consideration was the welfare of its employees. It was simply implementing a scheme which did not allow for discrimination, he said.

"Applications from our employees for housing are treated on merit. Naturally, we expect certain minimum living standards from all who make use of company houses," he added.

He said he expected that only a few black families would be settled in the Phalaborwa suburb.

Security arrangements would be made if employees were threatened.

In a white "referendum" conducted by the CP-controlled Phalaborwa Town Council last week, 1,280 voted against the mines move and 48 in favour.

The percentage poll was 99 percent.

The local leader of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbewegung, Fritz Meyer, said he was quite happy with the poll.

The National Party and the chamber of commerce in the town said the matter had been blown out of proportion and made a highly emotional issue. They reiterated their opposition to the town council's actions.

The ANC said it was disappointed with the referendum and would go ahead with a consumer boycott.
meet over rent boycott
Vail residents are to

BLACK SHEEP
It was my duty to talk, says doctor

By Susan Smuts

A Brakpan doctor yesterday said he had a professional duty to tell a dentist and doctor that a patient and mutual friend was infected with the AIDS virus.

Dr Mathys Kruger is being sued by Barry McGarry for allegedly breaching confidence by disclosing he was HIV infected.

Dr Kruger told the Rand Supreme Court he had been playing golf with dentist Dr Andre Vos and Dr Chris van Heerden.

They were discussing AIDS and the risk to doctors Dr Kruger mentioned he had a patient who had tested HIV positive, and said he was known to Dr Vos and Dr van Heerden.

Dr van Heerden asked if it was Mr McGarry, because he had treated him earlier for a fungal fungus. Dr Kruger confirmed it was Mr McGarry.

He told Mr Justice D Levy he felt he had a duty to inform Dr Vos because Dr Vos did not take precautions with his patients. He knew this because he was Dr Vos's patient. He asked Dr Vos and Dr van Heerden to treat the information confidentially.

The Medical and Dental Council rules stipulated that people who might be placed at risk by HIV-positive patients should be warned, he claimed.

Dr Kruger said he had received the results of Mr McGarry's tests on April 3 last year. He made a note of the results on Mr McGarry's patient file and kept the file in his office until he saw Mr McGarry on April 10. His receptionist, who allegedly told his former wife about the results before Mr McGarry had been informed, did not have access to the file.

Dr Kruger said he thought Mr McGarry suspected that the results might be positive because an insurance company told him that the vial of a previous blood test had been broken.

Mr McGarry cried when he heard the news, and Dr Kruger gave him a tranquilliser.

Mr McGarry's attorney, Merven Joseph, was appointed curator ad litem (a person to represent him in legal matters) because he was found incapable of looking after his own affairs, physically or intellectually.

Neurologist Dr Charles Kaplan, who examined Mr McGarry on Wednesday night, said in a report handed to the court that it was unlikely Mr McGarry would recover sufficiently to take part in court proceedings.

The case was postponed to September 11.
his capacity as an MP, but "at no time did Mr De Pontes act on my instructions, nor anyone else you mention"

"My policy towards people who approach me in respect of armaments or military equipment has always been to refer them to the appropriate section of Armscor. I do not follow this up. I have no knowledge of what De Pontes allegedly told people, nor do I personally know the various people you mention."

A spokesman for the Foreign Minster says that Botha met Palazzolo once, in East London, at a reception after a public political meeting on April 29, 1987. Palazzolo was not involved in any of the negotiations or discussions the Minster conducted in regard to the release of Albertini. Whether Palazzolo had a part in other discussions, the Minster does not know. The French envoy was not Trouazzou-Mougin, who the Minster says he does not know, but Ferdinand Marcel René Wibaux.

Johannesburg management committee chairman Ian Davidson tells the FM that the city council had not yet been approached by the civics with their proposal, and, therefore, could not comment. However, his Roodepoort counterpart Dave Treleven says the issue would be discussed this week by the management committee and representatives of the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

Coovadia says Johannesburg and Roodepoort could take over the running of Soweto in terms of the new interim measures for local government Act. He says the civics want the black local authorities to be dissolved and their staff to fall under Johannesburg and Roodepoort.

Something similar has begun in Alexandra. Services to the township, in terms of a new agreement, now fall under the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council. Eskom will supply electricity direct to consumers in Alexandra. However, the Alexandra Town Council remains in existence.

Zebulon Thabane, deputy mayor of Diepmeadow Town Council, said the three Soweto councils would be discussing the services crisis this week. They are not keen on Johannesburg and Roodepoort taking over Soweto's services, but would prefer to follow Alexandra's lead and fall under the Wits RSC, according to Thabane.

Thabane blames the continued non-payment of electricity on the Soweto Civic Association. He dismisses residents comments that bills often reach them months late with erroneous consumption figures, the council uses a private contractor to mail the bills. He claims civic officials have removed electricity bills from private mail boxes and destroyed them. The civics reject this allegation.

The civics claim 360 000 "registered but not necessarily paid up" members from Soweto's estimated 2.5m population. Coovadia says residents will not agree to the tariff increases until social workers have determined how much residents can afford to pay.

This is ridiculous, and rational ways of avoiding similar payment crises in future are being examined. Eskom has installed more than 40 000 "budget electricity controllers" — meters with prepaid cards — "ranging from informal houses to upmarket white suburbs." The meters are similar to those used for gas and electricity in Britain, but are only installed in new dwellings.

Eskom expects the use of these meters to account for 4% of domestic sales this year.

Uitenhage is an example of how this creative approach can work. Volkswagen, the major employer in the small eastern Cape town, was keen that kwaNobuhle, the main township from which it draws employees, should be electrified. The car company got involved in negotiations with Eskom and a utilities company called Kwanoloc was formed with a 51% shareholding by Eskom and 49% from local employers. To avoid non-payment disputes, Kwanoloc opted for the meter system.
The town they are prepared to kill and die for

HAZEL FRIEDMAN

PHALABORWA — The AWB is prepared to go to any lengths to preserve Phalaborwa as a whites-only enclave. But the black communities who live in surrounding townships are equally determined to assert their right to live where they choose.

The latest controversy to erupt over the decision by those of the town’s mining companies to allocate housing to black employees in formerly whites-only suburbs.

The CP-controlled Phalaborwa Town Council held a referendum to “assess” whites opinion. It purportedly concluded on the basis of the results that an “overwhelming majority” of whites did not want to share their town with blacks.

But of the town’s white population of 8,000, only 197 people voted “no” to integration, and only 45 voted “yes.”

BLOODSTAINED

In response, the general manager of Phalaborwa Mining Company (PMC), J G Deyley, has issued a statement condemning the referendum and reaffirming the company’s commitment to provide housing to its employees on a non-discriminatory basis.

The AWB has threatened to wipe out the first black occupation — the next month — if we don’t see a referendum. We have to respond to this. We can’t allow this to happen.

AWB member Dries Kruger explains, “Blacks are just 100 years behind us. They don’t belong here. If they don’t leave our town, we will find ways to make them leave.”

When asked to elaborate on these “ways,” he says, “We can’t reveal our plans now. But you will see in future.”

Another AWB member and self-proclaimed ex-Receau, “Koosie,” is more specific about the organization’s so-called defense tactics. “We’ve got him about 10 km from here. Koosie, ex-Scouts as well as guys from 32 Battalion.”

The threats from the AWB become more sinister when viewed in the context of the ongoing racial conflict in the northern Transvaal town.

Since 1986, for example, there have been reports of KwaKlip KwaKlip lynchings by armed rightwingers. There have also been grenade attacks, allegedly by Renamo and members of the SADF, on Namakgale township.

Seven people were killed in one of these attacks, which sources say was organized from a secret commando camp near the Mozambican border.

Yet on the surface, Phalaborwa seems like any other dusty country town. It hasn’t got much going for it in the way of excitement, apart from a highly concentrated industrial sector, a shopping mall and two “international” hotels. Paradoxically, both hotels are situated next to the CP information office run by the leader of the Phalaborwa AWB Weakman, Fritz Meyer.

But the only signs of Phalaborwa can be seen in the streets, which are dominated by shanty-town communities and posters proclaiming in Afrikaans, “Keep our town white.”

Some faces harden in anger at the mention of the imminent arrival of black mining employees. Others become frightened, but not at the thought of their prospective neighbours. They are terrified of being branded traitors to the cause of “vool, one land.”

Says a Phalaborwa resident who has lived in the town for the last 20 years, “The AWB are conducting a Maoist-style reign of terror and no one has the guts to stand up to them.”

She prefers to remain anonymous, for fear of victimization. Considering the outcome of the referendum, in which four-fifths of the town refused to take part, she is not alone.

Lack

Mro de Witt, who abstained from voting in the referendum, explains, “Look, I just want to mind my own business. I’m all for human kindness but there are white families who need the houses more than the blacks. Let them (blacks) stay where they are and happy there.”

She could not be more mistaken. Parts of Namakgale township lack even the most basic amenities. There is a chronic housing shortage and most of the newly built houses are without electricity. This is because Namakgale falls under the jurisdiction of the Lebowa government, which is experiencing a cash shortage.

The Phalaborwa branch of the ANC, together with church groups, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), the Construction and Allied Workers Union and black businessmen, have planned three forms of mass action in response to the referendum.

Firstly, a consumer boycott will commence early in September. Secondly, the NUM has organized a district campaign in which workers — regardless of seniority — will apply for all the vacant houses in Phalaborwa. Thirdly, the NUM has approached Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) in Pretoria to question the legality of the referendum. On a letter addressed to Phalaborwa mayor Jan Grobbelaar, the LHR states, “We are of the opinion that you are not empowered to exclude any race group from occupying premises in Phalaborwa.”

The mayor has yet to respond to this letter.

But the housing controversy is only the tip of the iceberg. For many years, the residents of Namakgale and surrounding townships have been dissatisfied with conditions at the mining companies. Frother, one of the three mining companies embarked in the housing controversy, refuses to officially recognize the NUM, despite the union’s widespread support.

Says ANC regional organizer Edward Mododrabokwane: “We suspect there are CP sympathizers in the management.”

Other worker grievances, as explained by Abel Nicas, branch chairman of NUM, and slots, regional organiser, for PMC’s grading system based on seniority for workers’ housing allocations, as well as the ongoing backlog of houses for semi-skilled or unskilled employees.

While the Government adopts a laissez faire policy towards the conflict, Phalaborwa festers in hatred and fear.