Housing & Hostels - Transvaal
1993
Banks spurn Sanco’s R60m demand

By JAMES BRITtain

A DEMAND for more than R40-million to pay civic advisers’ salaries is at least partly responsible for the suspension of an agreement between the South African National Civic Organisation and major money lenders.

Civics chief Moses Mayekiso said this week his organisation had asked mortgage lenders to pay R3,000-a-month salaries for two years to the civics’ representatives who would help negotiate mortgage loans in the townships.

Each worker was to be paid an additional R10,000 annual office allowance.

Mr Mayekiso said banks and building societies had agreed to the demands, but “reneged” on the deal at a recent Association of Mortgage Lenders steering committee meeting.

However, an association spokesman denied that any salary proposal was officially tabled during negotiations with the civics.

Mr Mayekiso said his organisation had suspended the agreement and would meet next month to decide on further action.

Arrears

The March 12 pact was intended to reopen mortgage negotiations in the townships.

Experts in the financial sector estimate that more than 65,000 township households are in bond arrears — a debt of more than R3-billion.

In the civics’ proposed budget, Mr Mayekiso envisaged one civic adviser for every 100 cases of arrears, foreclosures and properties in possession.

Mortgage lenders’ association spokesman Jopie van Honschooten said the agreement made no provision for the continuing payment of advisers.

Mr van Honschooten said banks would not agree to pay salaries to civics leaders because it would compromise the neutrality of the financial institutions.

He said the association had agreed to pay civics staff to disseminate the agreement and for the training of field workers who inform the community of the agreement.

Mr van Honschooten said the civics were demanding support for their infrastructures from the banks.

“There is no way we can do that,” he said.
New obstacle to Soweto plan

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Yesterday it was the TPA's turn to throw obstacles in the way of the Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber's crisis plan to restore services in Soweto.

A meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Soweto Crisis took place in Johannesburg yesterday afternoon, but ended abruptly. (127)

"We weren't able to get around to considering the main issue, because at the beginning a letter was tabled by the TPA delegates. It stated that the TPA was not in a position to remove the Dobsonville councillors from their office and it was not going to apply any pressure on them to resign voluntarily," said Met Chamber chief executive Vusi Miloe.

Removed

Earlier this year the TPA removed the councillors in the other two local authorities comprising Greater Soweto.

The package agreement, concluded in principle several weeks ago in the Ad Hoc Committee, rested on the idea that all councillors would go.

If stipulated that an administrator would fill the legal position of a local authority throughout Greater Soweto, a multiparty committee would oversee his work; Johannesburg and Roodepoort would act as agents to restore services; and residents would begin to pay R45 a month for services.

The TPA's opening gambit threw yesterday's meeting into disarray. Other parties felt it was impossible to discuss the agreement if the councillor issue remained.

TPA delegates agreed to go back to their principals and a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee was tentatively rescheduled for September 8.

Observer

The ANC, which has at no stage endorsed the crisis plan, attended yesterday's meeting as an observer. ANC regional vice-chairman Mtholo Mosheshana said the ANC's PWV executive would make up its mind in the next two weeks whether to support the deal.

If the ANC fails to approve the plan, then a second influential party, the Soweto Civic Association, will almost certainly withdraw. The SCA's general council meeting at the weekend set as one of its conditions for endorsement that the plan should be broadly acceptable to all political parties.
Bond boycott plan

By Joshua Raboroko

Major banks could face action, including bond boycotts, for allegedly refusing to honour the spirit of the agreement reached between financial institutions and civic associations.

The action, which will include picketing and sit-ins, could be launched next month, sources said yesterday.

This follows the South African National Civic Association's decision to suspend the agreement it reached with the Association of Mortgage Lenders.

The agreement established new procedures by which home owners who fell into arrears could make their way out while still honouring the bond commitment. If the agreement had been properly implemented, the deal would have saved people's homes and also saved the banks millions in foreclosure, eviction and resale costs, Sanae president Mr Moses Msekwa said.

The banks were shirking the agreement by threatening home owners with eviction and resuming summonses to sell their properties if they failed to pay, Msekwa said.

"My office has been inundated with angry reports from our structures in Kliptown, Tokoza, Alexandra, the Western Cape and from our regional leadership. It has become clear to me that the banks do not want to co-operate with our people but want to co-opt them," an angry Msekwa said.

"We have therefore decided to suspend the agreement we entered into with the banks and will embark on mass action, including a bond boycott," Msekwa said. He added: "We are angry because the economy is still sour, our people have been victimised and the transition to democracy is threatened by wrong elements."
Soweto services accord hits another bump

A PACKAGE of agreements to end the Soweto service boycott ran into trouble yesterday when the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) refused to press for the removal of the Dobsonville City Council.

Central Witwatersrand Metropolitian Chamber CEO Vic Milne said the council's removal was one of the civic organisations' key demands.

The package, already in its 12th draft, was to have been ratified yesterday afternoon. The issue of the Dobsonville council had taken up the entire afternoon, Milne said, and ratification had been postponed until September 8.

Gavin Du Venage

But Milne said it was unlikely that the agreement would have been ratified anyway, as the Cabinet and the city councils of Johannesburg and Roodepoort had yet to state how much they would contribute towards the rental shortfall. The proposed tariff of R45 a household for Soweto residents was expected to create a shortfall of R28m. (12M)

The agreement package also provides for a multi-party services crisis committee to oversee service administration.

The ANC, one of the main players, has yet to accept the agreement, although the organisation did attend yesterday's meeting.

ANC local government spokesman Mathole Motshekga urged all parties in the chamber to find a solution as speedily as possible, but said serious differences and tensions existed.

Motshekga said the impression had been created that the ANC was resisting a solution, but it was tension between parties in the chamber that had resulted in negotiations dragging on for years.

13,000 policy holders, from Crucilfe to other insurance companies. He stressed it was "simply a prudent move. The provisional curators suggest there could be a potential problem," Almanza said.

An actuarial evaluation of Crucilfe's position is expected by November.

annuised premiums, from Crusader Life Assurance Corporation (Crucilfe). In a notice to policy holders yesterday, SBIB said it took the decision as a result of Crucilfe having been placed under provisional curataure.

SBIB marketing director Gavin Almanza confirmed the brokers had
Moves to halt crisis in Soweto

After seven hours of talks by parties concerned with the Greater Soweto service and financial crisis yesterday, Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber chief executive officer Vic Mhme said mid-August should see agreement on a plan to tackle the problem.

Participants emerged tight-lipped from the negotiations held at Johannesburg Civic Centre. Mhne explained that the proceedings of the meeting were confidential, but added that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Soweto Crisis was to meet again on August 12 to try to finalise a package agreement for the resolution of the crisis.

Key players in the Ad Hoc Committee are the Soweto Civic Association (SCA), the councils of Johannesburg and Roodepoort, and the TPA.

At a previous meeting, the SCA put forward the proposal that the Met Chamber should be restructured to fulfil various functions of government in the phase preceding interim local government.
Rent talks close to breakthrough

SOWETO CRISIS committee met in Johannesburg yesterday to discuss the crisis, sources indicated yesterday.

The Soweto crisis committee met in Johannesburg yesterday to discuss the 12th draft of a package to end the boycott and resume full service delivery. Discussions had been bogged down over tariffs.

Sources in the committee said the parties were close to an agreement, which could lead to an end of the decade-old boycott soon.

Parties such as Inkatha and the PAC had argued for a low tariff of about R25, while administrators had insisted that residents had to pay at least R55 to meet the township's budget, which was already 22% subsidised.

Indications were that some civic members wanted to settle for the R55 tariff, but the political backlash this might cause had led other parties to stall on an agreement.

Payment levels have dropped below 2%, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Last month some services were disrupted to save money, although these had since been restored.

Metropolitan Chamber CEO Vic Milne said yesterday the committee had decided not to issue a statement as talks were still under way. The committee would meet again next week, he said.
Township dumped

MANY essential services to strife-torn Khaledong township on the East Rand were terminated yesterday morning because of rent and services payment boycotts.

According to the Joint Council of Greater Germiston, only 5 percent of the community paid their individual accounts, making it impossible for Khaledong to maintain services to the whole community.

Services which were terminated include:
- Road and storm water drain maintenance,
- Maintenance and repair of the water supply network,
- Traffic services, including point-duty at schools,
- Maintenance of municipal buildings, and
- No maintenance or repairs to the electricity network until Eskom takes over responsibility. This could take two months or longer, and meanwhile any damage to the network will mean more people without electricity.

Services unaffected, at least for a while, include the library, which will be kept open and staffed for at least two more months, and the cemetery.

The number of social workers is to be reduced but the service will be available for at least the next two months.

Refuse removal will continue because of contractual obligations, the council said.

Water will also continue to be supplied, but only to those areas whose pipes are in good repair.

Sewage services would not be terminated but in areas where the network failed and could not be repaired, drainage would stop because of the lack of water.

Meanwhile, the Krugersdorp Consumer Boycott Committee would continue its boycott of white businesses in the West Rand town. — Sapa
al electricity rates from October 1.

New power tariffs for Soweto soon

Eskom is poised to charge normal electricity tariffs from October 1, with electricity wardens playing a crucial role in a pilot scheme to reduce the debt in unpaid bills.

Spokesman Mr Ken Green said yesterday that the giant electricity supplier would conduct final inspections with the Soweto Civic Association on the progress of Eskom’s programme to normalise services and maintenance in the township.

"After the final inspections in September, we intend to introduce metered tariffs from October 1," he said.

There would be no bulk cut-offs and individual consumers who did not pay would be warned before their supply was cut off.

CRUCIAL ROLE

Up to 450 electricity wardens will inspect faulty meters:

Electricity wardens, who will act as block representatives, would be elected within the next few weeks and should be operating by the beginning of September, SCA president Mr Isaac Mogase confirmed yesterday.

The training of electricity wardens to represent the interests of about 150,000 users is part of an 11-point plan that flowed from discussions between Eskom and the SCA when the supplier took over from the local municipality in March last year.

Eskom will pay and train the wardens to fix basic faults, respond to queries about meters and electricity and check on meter readings.

A pilot scheme of 20 block representatives will be tried for six months, with each representing between 200 and 300 consumers. If it succeeds, the scheme is to be applied throughout Greater Soweto, between 350 and 450 block wardens will be required.

Mogase said Eskom was doing random checks with the SCA’s 17 branches to check the normalisation programme.

Levels of payment, in some areas were very low and it was hoped the implementation of the plan would solve the problem, he said.

Only half of the residents have been paying the monthly flat rate of R33.80.
Eskom to set normal tariff

Johannesburg, April 18

Eskom is set to raise its tariff for industrial, commercial and domestic consumers. The new tariffs will come into effect on 1 May.

Eskom's senior executive, Mr. Green, said the decision was made to ensure that Eskom can meet its financial obligations. The new tariffs will also help to rationalize Eskom's electricity services.

There is a plan to introduce a new tariff that will be charged to all consumers who use electricity excessively. This is expected to help to reduce the number of electricity cut-offs.

Eskom's senior advisor, Mr. Smith, said that the new tariff will be affordable and will not cause any hardships to consumers. He added that the tariffs will be properly structured to ensure fair and equitable distribution of the cost.

The new tariffs will be implemented as follows:

1. Industrial consumers will be charged R5.00 per kWh.
2. Commercial consumers will be charged R4.50 per kWh.
3. Domestic consumers will be charged R3.50 per kWh.

It is important to note that the new tariffs are subject to the approval of the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA).

Eskom urges all consumers to make efforts to reduce their electricity consumption and to pay their bills on time.
Hostels cash gathers dust

By Michael Sparks

More than R$25 million has been set aside to upgrade hostels, but most of the money had stayed in Government coffers for the past year because of the lack of consensus between hostel dwellers, township residents and political organisations.

Transvaal Hostel Residents Association (THRA) consultant Sakkie Steyn said the National Housing Forum's guidelines for spending the money provided by the Government required both wide consultation and broad consensus before hostels could be upgraded.

Stumbling blocks included issues such as the fencing of hostels. Some communities also felt it was unfair that hostel dwellers received preferential treatment.
"which are still to be determined."

The R100 000 includes Sanco's proposed R27 000 for dissemination, plus R1 000 per pilot workshop in a region (another

R13 000), plus a further R55 000 for inter-

viewing and evaluating advisers (29).

The advisers, to be "drawn from locally

based community structures" (clause 6), and

not — as Mayekiso contends — "to be joint-

ly appointed by Sanco and AML," are still

not in place. The first workshop to present

the agreement to Sanco Southern Transvaal,

scheduled for the end of this month, has been

shelved.

A prime mover in the AML-Sanco agree-

ment, Standard Bank divisional GM Jope

van Hoochoeten, says working committee

agreements are only provisional until ratified

by the steering committee. An adviser to

Sanco says the lack of community advisers

locks out the vital leg of implementing the

agreement.

"How can you expect community advisers

acting on behalf of not only the people, but

the banks, to work for nothing?" asks

Mayekiso. He can't say how many volun-

tees work part-time for Sanco but claims

the organisation has 2 200 direct affiliates.

They get allowances when funds become

available through embassy and USAID dona-
tions.

Mayekiso says people are angry and local

civic may embark on bond boycotts. He

charges that since April banks, particularly

the ABSA on the East Rand, have been using

the agreement as a foreclosure tool, alleged-

citing Sanco as party to the foreclosure.

NSB GM Trevor Oliver says "It is an

inescapable banking principle that money

borrowed must be repaid. A stage is reached

when legal action must be taken against

defaulting borrowers."

AML has been asked to come up with a

counterproposal. Its stance is that, at the end

of the day, banks and clients have a private

contractual relationship. Advisers, it stress-

es, can be used "if clients choose."

Further, if AML starts funding Sanco's infra-

cultural costs, how many more organisations

claiming to represent the people may it have to

fund should they come to the fore?"

Mayekiso argues these are joint AML-

Sanco infrastructural costs to be controlled

by a joint trust and dismusses the spurious

raising "of non-existent parties."

SANCO/BANKS

Any counterproposals?

The unlikely alliance of the anti-apartheid

association of Mortgage Lenders (AML) and an

cyber SA 

National Civic Organisation (Sanco), forged

it in April to sort out non-payment of bonds in

townships and since worked out in detail in

working committees, has founded. Sanco

president Moses Mayekiso last week sus-
pended the agreement, alleging AML had

not acted in its spirit (29).

About 200 000 township bonds (worth

R7bn-R8bn) were issued in the late Eighties,

of which it's estimated one-third are in ar-

rears. The point of contention is the funding

of community advisers to help clients.

In clause 6 of the agreement, AML com-
mitted itself to make funds available "to:

with the dissemination of this agree-

ment to (Sanco's) regional structures for

implementation, and to compile a training

curriculum and facilitate the training of the

identified community advisers."

Mayekiso says since March a working

committee has been discussing how to fund

the advisers. Sanco put forward a proposal

on May 13 (3).

Besides this committee working out ways

of eradicating problems and implementing

the agreement, another is concerned with

preventing problems and deals with educa-

tion and unemployment insurance. A steer-

ing committee oversees these committees

and ratifies reports they put forward. There-

after the AML council and Sanco executive

separately approve or reject any agreements.

Because of the working committee talks

Mayekiso thought that the banks would pay

advisers but the AML council turned down

the proposal three weeks ago and — in

Sanco's words — reverted to the agreement's

limited funding commitment (3).

Sanco's proposed two-year programme

called for two-year contracts for advisers on

a monthly pay of R3 000, plus R10 000 a

year each for office expenses. No numbers of

advisers were given save for a recommenda-

tion that there should be one for every 100

outstanding cases. AML calculated that with

roughly 66 700 bonds in arrears, 667 advis-

ers would be needed. At R36 000 each a year

this totals 24m. The additional amount for

running costs is R7m in round numbers, mak-

ing a total bill of R31m a year.

This comes on top of a further R100 000

proposed by Sanco for dissemination costs

which AML is in principle prepared to pay

— but excludes training and hiring costs.
Govt clamps down on funding for townships

GOVERNMENT is to take a hardline stance on black local authority debt, ending all "bridging finance" and stressing the need for Transvaal residents to address their R1.3bn debt.

The TPA said at the weekend that only 35% of residents in the 86 black local governments in the Transvaal were currently paying for services and warned that about 20 townships would have to curtail services soon.

The cumulative debt owed by residents to their local authorities amounted to R1.325bn, with the bulk made up of R667m owed on the West Rand, R460m on the East Rand and R117m in central Transvaal.

This figure excluded amounts local governments owed bulk suppliers such as Eskom and the Rand Water Board, which were also the result of poor payment records of residents.

Black local governments still faced financial problems because they did not have business and industrial districts, the TPA said.

The grants would not be scaled down, and grants would be paid in the course of the financial year as planned and according to the budget.

"No money is left for additional aid to black towns," the TPA said.

The long payment boycott in the Transvaal had weakened the financial position of black local government to such an extent that more than 20 of them would have to make further service cuts. "Expenditure must be limited to revenue that is available," the TPA said.

Municipal services and facilities must not be "the target of political gain" as they were essential to the wellbeing of the community.

"It is up to the residents of the black towns themselves to resolve the crisis. No local government can render any service to its residents if they do not pay for those services," the TPA said.
Consumer boycott threat to Pretoria

PRETORIA — The Mamelodi Civic Association threatened yesterday to "strang[e]" Pretoria with a consumer boycott following the announcement that electricity rationing would be introduced to the township tomorrow.

The Pretoria City Council, which acts as administrator for Mamelodi, said yesterday that electricity rationing, scaled down refuse removal services and possible cuts in municipal employees’ wages had become necessary due to the parlous state of the township’s finances.

Mamelodi Town Clerk Koos Nel said the township’s residents owed almost R90m in services arrears, while the Mamelodi Town Council owed Pretoria R142m and millions more to other creditors.

"The Mamelodi City Council is now penniless," he said.

As Mamelodi’s administrator, Pretoria had decided to cut drastically municipal services expenses in the township.

From tomorrow, electricity would be provided to Mamelodi only from midnight until 10am and from 5pm to 7pm, he said.

Humane reasons dictated that the electricity could not be cut off altogether.

The scaling down of refuse removal and "further drastic measures", including municipal personnel salary reductions, also would be considered, Nel said.

The Mamelodi Civic Association and the Pretoria City Council had agreed in February this year to impose a flat monthly rate of R90 on residents, partly to address the arrears and to instil a culture of payment.

However, Nel said yesterday the Mamelodi council could not make ends meet with the flat rate and proposed a new R200 levy.

"The residents of Mamelodi are urged to pay their full municipal accounts to prevent more cost-cutting measures and the total collapse of municipal services," he said.

But the civic association reacted angrily yesterday to the rationing and the proposed cutbacks.

"We will galvanise the whole community into unprecedented mass action," a civic statement said.

This included the non-payment of the R90 levy and court action against the Pretoria City Council to prevent electricity rationing and salary reductions.

"We will strang[e] Pretoria with a consumer boycott," the statement added.

The community would be encouraged to pay more than R90 monthly if corruption was investigated and the remaining Mamelodi councillors dismissed, the statement said.
Simple dream of a happy life

BY MOKONE MOLOTE
SOWETO BUREAU

"My own, lockable room and a place to hang my clothes," is the simple dream of many men living in the dingy, sometimes squally, conditions of township hostels.

Hamilton Shezi (45) has lived at the Nancefield Hostel for the past 12 years and, in common with other hostel inmates in Soweto, he shares his quarters with many other men — in his case, 15.

His hostel block comprises a dingy hall divided into three, with a common kitchen and two sleeping sections each accommodating eight people.

The kitchen has a 1.5 m-high counter, a mini-stove and a sink.

A concrete slab surrounded by two fixed benches serves as a table. In the case of Shezi's block, the benches are broken, so battered old chairs and empty oil cans serve as seats.

There is an outside toilet for each block in the hostel. The toilets have no privacy, and neither do the showers.

Stashed

The inhabitants keep their clothes and other worldly possessions in tiny lockers. Items that cannot be stuffed into the lock-up are stashed either under the men's beds or in boxes. There is no electricity.

Inmates overcome the cramped conditions by making a big effort to co-operate with each other. It helps that they have a close kinship imported from Nquthu, Natal, where Shezi calls his home.

The biggest form of entertainment is traditional singing, with competitions held at irregular intervals. Mostly the men sit around the stove and ruminate about home. We found Shezi in one such group.

He sees his wife and nine children once a year. "No, I wouldn't like them to live with me here. They are fine where they are," he said.

Told the Government has allocated over R300 million to upgrade hostels countrywide, Shezi divulged his innermost wish: his own, lockable room and a place to hang his clothes.

"Nothing else?" "Well, perhaps working electricity," he added with a chuckle.
Residents angry at rates increase

The Henley-on-Klip Ratepayers' Association last night accused the Randvaal Town Council of mismanagement and demanded that the municipal budget be thoroughly analysed.

More than 100 angry residents met to protest against a property rate increase of 17 percent.

Chairman of the meeting, Joy Kirsten, said rates had increased by between 250 and 300 percent in four years. — Staff Reporter.
Councillors face water payment deadline today

GAVIN DU VENAGE

AT LEAST 11 local authorities in the PWV area face having their water supplies cut off unless they pay their June accounts to the Rand Water Board today.

A spokesman said the board had decided to demand payment from local authorities in arrears, and cut off supplies if necessary. It was owed, more than R40m. "We have reached the position where if they do not pay, we can no longer provide," he said. He said the sale of water was the board's only income. This had to be balanced against the costs of purchasing water, purifying it and piping it to consumers.

The board supplied more than 75 local authorities. About 32 were subject to rent and services boycotts. Most had managed to keep up payments or arrange finances through other sources, but some had fallen behind.

He said the board would accept payment from other local authorities that could step in and pay the backlog. Water would not be cut immediately, but the board would begin the process to end the service.

Most Transvaal townships are already operating on limited services. (12.7) Intergovernmental transfers and regional services councils' levies are subsidising more than 80% of township running costs, but the nearly 20% shortfall has not been made up by service payments.

Payment levels are mostly less than 5%, and much of this is provided by bulk purchasers of services, such as Eskom, institutions such as colleges and hostel owners.

Vaal townships had their water supplies reduced to a few hours a day two weeks ago, although delivery has increased slightly since bulk buyers agreed to pay their accounts early.

The TPA is responsible for service cuts and cannot provide additional funds. More than R40m has been set aside for Transvaal's 81 local authorities. Government and the TPA have said this amount will not be increased.
Ratepayers’ body wants role in talks

A newly formed association of all ratepayers’ organisations in Johannesburg will meet on Monday to determine its future involvement in local government negotiations, Northern Areas Group chairman Margrit Wolff said yesterday.

She said the Johannesburg United Residents and Ratepayers’ Organisation (Juro) had to be properly constituted before it could apply for membership of the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber and the Local Government Negotiating Forum.

If its application succeeded, the chief role of Juro would be to represent the interests of all ratepayers on a transitional local authority.

"The minute that we have nonracial, elected councils, Juro will dissolve," Wolff said.

She added that Juro would guarantee information about negotiations.

Last month, angry residents protested that their councillors were not representing their interests or keeping them informed about local government negotiations.—Metro Staff
Pretoria starts rationing electricity in Mandalodi

Adrian Hadland

The announcement of the Mandalodi electricity rationing order was made on Tuesday by the City of Tshwane's Electromechanical Systems Department. The notice stated that the rationing would begin on Wednesday and continue until further notice.

"The Mandalodi area has been identified as having the highest demand for electricity," said a spokesperson for the department. "We are forced to implement this measure to prevent the local grid from collapsing."
THE Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber's extended ad hoc crisis committee has reached provisional agreement on the administration of services to Greater Soweto, it was disclosed yesterday. (127)

The chamber's chairman, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, said the committee had considered tariffs and appropriate structures to administer services to Soweto.

Its provisional plan suggests that:

- A R45 tariff a household a month be approved for the miscellaneous service charge.
- A services crisis committee and necessary subcommittees be formed.
- The crisis committee monitor the communications campaign which will inform households in Soweto of the tariff and improvements to services.

Van Zyl Slabbert noted that the agreement was provisional as the committee still had to negotiate with Johannesburg and other city councils and the Government for additional finance.

The crisis committee's final package will be ratified on August 23. — Sapa
Eight townships face water cuts

EIGHT townships would be without water from next month unless they could give assurances that they would begin paying their accounts, Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said yesterday.

The eight townships facing cuts at the end of this month are Vveiloors, Kagiso, Evaton, Sebokeng, Daveyton, Katlehong and Tembisa.

Bath said it was impossible for the board to continue supplying the townships, which had a collective debt of nearly R40m, a drastic increase from their R10m debt at the beginning of this year.

The board had given 11 local authorities until last Wednesday to provide some form of guarantee of payment. While three had paid a small amount, the rest had not managed to do so, and their water would probably be cut next month.

Bath said the decision had been taken after talks with local civics, government and the Transvaal Provincial Administration failed to produce results.

The board would continue to supply hospitals, clinics and other emergency services.

Bath said there were substantial health risks and the cuts could aggravate violence. Because of this the board was prepared to come to almost any settlement.

National peace secretariat chairman Antonie Gildenhuys said the planned cut could affect violence levels substantially.

Police chief ‘stalling’

DURBAN — Police Commissioner Gen Johan van der Merwe was yesterday accused of stalling plans to investigate police misconduct in Natal Midlands townships.

Van der Merwe rejected a joint ANC-SAP proposal to set up an independent unit of politically non-aligned members to investigate police misconduct.

Police representative Rod Callum told a Goldstone commision subcommittee Van der Merwe agreed to the proposal “in principle”, but the Security Forces Inquiry Board Act prevented him from implementing it.

Legal representatives accused Van der Merwe of stalling tactics and asked that he be brought before the commission.

Subcommittee chairman Malcolm Walls adjourned the hearing so that the subcommittee could consider its position and report to Judge Richard Goldstone.

‘Fly-by-night’

PUPILS desperate to escape the chaos in ship schools are being ripped off by unlicensed “street colleges” in Johannesburg.

Earlier this week pupils and teachers had fallen prey to a few of the “fly-by-night” schools told of their experiences at a meeting organised by the National Education Creating Committee (NECC).

NECC regional president Amon Matshaba said there were as many as 45 private black schools in central Johannesburg. While some were offering valuable work, many were unaccredited.

Several had closed soon after opening, leaving pupils with no qualifications.

Government said yesterday there was nothing it could do about the situation as there were no laws requiring such organisations to be legal.
Power cuts as inquiry begins

BY MCKEED KOTLOLO
PRETORIA BUREAU

Two days after the Pretoria City Council began daily electricity cuts to Mamelodi, The Star found that bodies stored at a local funeral parlour were already showing signs of decay.

Meanwhile the council has set up an internal commission of inquiry into allegations of corruption and irregularities by some officials of the bankrupt Mamelodi City Council. (12-1)

Township doctors say the power cuts are making it difficult to treat patients. Pupils have complained that the cuts have made studying for forthcoming exams problematic.

The Pretoria council, which administers Mamelodi, says the cuts are necessary because most residents are not paying for electricity.

Some residents admitted that the current R50 flat rate paid monthly was too little and suggested that it be increased to R100 monthly, so that the authorities should restore power.

The Mamelodi Civic Association plans to hold a public meeting on Sunday.

The Pretoria council's commission of inquiry was constituted shortly after a deadlocked meeting with the civic association on Wednesday.

A media release by acting chairman of the Pretoria council's management committee for the administration of Mamelodi, Dr Chris Swart, said the commission sat for the first time yesterday afternoon and resolved to suspend Mamelodi secretary, C A Engelbrecht.

The civic association yesterday rejected the council commission and demanded the appointment of a public commission of inquiry.

It said the council had broken its promise not to cut power in the area as long as negotiations were continuing.

It claimed Mamelodi could save money by surrendering six insurance policies taken out for officials including former mayor, Z B Ndlovu, Town Clerk J P Nel and Engelbrecht.

According to documents given to the press by the civic association, the council was paying at least R174 000 in monthly premiums for the six policies taken out with Sanham.

The association also accused the authorities of paying companies about R600 000 a month for work that was not being done. Asked to comment, Pretoria council spokesman Paul Kriek said the allegations were being investigated.
Boycott ends

JOHANNESBURG — The decade-long rent and service boycott in Soweto ended yesterday, with agreement on a R48 tariff for each household.
800% hike in rates
‘not unfair’

GAVIN DU VENAGE

PROPERTY owners affected by rates increases of, up to 800%, were not being unfairly prejudiced, a Randburg Town Council spokesman said yesterday.

He was reacting to complaints by some residents living in Inadan, a semi-rural area north of Randburg that was rezoned for industrial use. Residents claimed their rates had leapt to unacceptably high levels.

The spokesman said that a statute required a new rate assessment every four years. The area in question, had recently been zoned for industrial use, and the value of properties had escalated.

Properties, priced at R$600,000 at the last evaluation were now worth almost R7m, the spokesman said, adding that the increases had been advertised.

Residents who were dissatisfied could make representation to a valuation board which would consider all complaints.

“Those” properties are located near the industrial area of Kayu Sands, and are part of an area rezoned for industry. The fact is some people are sitting on property that has gone up substantially in value,”

Randburg ‘evaluator’ Noel Stilwell said rates had been calculated on a “sliding scale,” according to market value.

He denied residents were being unfairly treated in most instances; rates were pegged at slightly less than market value, benefiting owners.
Soweto rent and service boycott ends

The decade-long rent and service boycott in Soweto ended yesterday, with agreement on a tariff and a short-term administrative structure to run the township for the next few months.

The agreement must still be ratified by the organisations concerned. Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber chairman Van Zyl Slabbert said a tariff of R6 a household had been set. A services crisis committee will oversee the administration of the deal.

A R55 tariff had been proposed to balance the 63% subsidy of Soweto's running costs, paid by the regional services council and intergovernmental transfers. The lower tariff leaves a shortfall of about 3%.

Gavin Du Venage

However sources said the agreement was backed by various civic associations, the PAC, Azapo and Inkatha.
BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

A way out of the Greater Soweto service crisis has been found.
A plan to tackle the upgrading of services in the township and end the marathon “rent” boycott was finally hammered out yesterday by a range of interested parties, including the Soweto Civic Association and local PAC and IFP structures.

Months of talks in the extended ad hoc crisis committee yielded results at noon, when parties gathered in Johannesburg’s Council Chamber agreed:

- To set up a multiparty services crisis committee of the Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber to oversee the functions of the township’s administrator, who will continue to carry legal responsibility for services in Greater Soweto.
- To institute a monthly service tariff of R45 per household (this includes payment for electricity, which is paid separately to Eskom).
- In accordance with earlier agreements, to have Johannesburg take over the supply of services in Soweto and Deepmeadow and have Roodepoort do likewise for Dobsonville.

To launch a campaign to inform Soweto householders of service improvements and the tariff agreement.

According to Met Chamber chairman Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, the agreement is due to be formally signed on August 23.

He said the agreement was provisional in the sense that a delegation of the ad hoc committee has to negotiate with the city councils of Johannesburg and Roodepoort, as well as the central Government, for additional funding to further subsidise the cost of services in Greater Soweto, particularly in respect of the shortfall which the tariff of R45 will entail.

Since, Johannesburg, Roodepoort and the Transvaal Provincial Administration are part of the ad hoc committee, there is a degree of confidence that these funds will be forthcoming.

The ANC was absent from yesterday’s talks. But, said Joan Pubbs of the ANC’s PWV executive and local government commission: “We’re certainly not going to stand in the way of this agreement.”

“The Soweto situation has been recognised as an emergency and a crisis, and we think it should be dealt with on that kind of level. But we would not like the Soweto solution to be seen as a precedent for regional or national planning.”

Slabbert stressed that the Soweto arrangement would hold good only in the short term, before national plans for local government reform took shape. “It has nothing to do with the necessary constitutional reform at local level.”

All parties now part of the ad hoc committee will be on the services crisis committee, and the door has been left open for others to join. Pubbs said it was possible that the ANC would hold observer status, but the matter would have to be discussed.
Misery, not militancy, reigns at Kwesim
Power back in Mamelodi

The Pretoria City Council temporarily restored power supplies to Mamelodi yesterday afternoon after an agreement with township civic officials. It was agreed the Mamelodi Civic Association should consult residents at a mass meeting tomorrow morning at Moretele Park, Mamelodi, on the payment of an interim monthly flat rate of R115 instead of the present R50. The situation would be reviewed on Monday. The parties also agreed that a probe of irregularities in the Mamelodi Town Council should continue. — Sapa.
Hostel 600 to stay - Iscor

By STAN MHLONGO

Illegal inmates of the notorious KwaMahlala hostel in Vanderbijlpark can stay on until the end of this month as a new home is being sought for them.

The management of Iscor, which owns the hostel, has twice this month postponed evicting the 600 illegal refugees, most of them Inkatha members.

Iscor says it is searching for a peaceful solution to the problem.

"Illegal refugees can stay on until the end of August," said Iscor spokeswoman Carol Ferguson. She pointed out that the move followed an appeal from the Vaal Peace Committee.

Inkatha's Vaal regional secretary William Nhlapo said his organisation was still negotiating with the ANC and other organisations in a bid to find a home for its members.

"We are sure to come up with a solution to the problem soon," said Nhlapo.

Orange Farm Civic Association chairman Tom Mzimba said his organisation had little sympathy for the refugees. Reports that the refugees would be accommodated at the squatter settlement south of Johannesburg stirred vigorous opposition from residents.

"Any attempt to grant them accommodation in Orange Farm will be a recipe for violence and unrest," Mzimba said.

Iscor initially issued eviction notices to the refugees on July 9. It claimed that the influx of illegal residents at the hostel had escalated to such an extent that Iscor had no alternative but to evict them.

However, residents were enraged by plans to find the refugees homes in Orange Farm KwaMahlala inmates have been linked with "Vaal Monster" Victor Kheswa and others allegedly involved in the Borapong and other massacres.
DP hits at ANC's 'tyranny'

THE ANC was responsible for a new tyranny which did not allow free thinking, Democratic Party member on the Johannesburg city council Jack Bloom said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the DP's Krugersdorp/Kagiso/Menneville branch on the West Rand, he said the new tyranny was exemplified by the failure of the ANC to unequivocally condemn the disruption of DP meetings.

The SA National Civic Organisation, by coming to the defence of the "thugs" which broke up a DP meeting at Orange Farm last weekend, showed Sano was "racist and flagrantly undemocratic."

"I urge all of you to set a living example of reasoned debate and tolerance for the views of others," he said.

DP Eastern Transvaal chairman William Masej said it was racist of opponents to say the DP was a white party when it had always been non-racial. — Sopa
Councillors in line for R315-m

By ELIAS MALULEKE

THE Mamelodi City Council is paying out a monthly insurance premium of R174 591 taken out in the names of two senior council officials and the former mayor Benet Ndlazi, who resigned in 1989.

The MCC financial scandal and alleged misappropriation of council funds comes at a time when the MCC is claiming bankruptcy and cannot pay the City Council of Pretoria for services rendered.

Ndlazi this week denied any involvement in the alleged scam.

As a result of a debt of R42-million owed to the City Council, power supplies to Mamelodi were discontinued for two days last week. The MCA has called residents to a mass meeting today to discuss the issue as a result of the temporary lifting of the electricity blackout due to the debt.

According to documents in the possession of City Press, a senior council official took out six insurance policies with council funds, listing himself and two other officials as beneficiaries.

By August 10 this year, a total of R4 650 749 had been paid with council funds into the policies taken out with Sanlam. The payout from these policies on maturity will be a staggering R315 845 190.

Engelbrecht confirmed the insurance was taken out, saying the money was an investment for the council taken out in their names. He said the whole amount would be paid to the council on maturity.

Pupils hostile to teachers' strike

By THEMBA KHUMALO

A THREE-WAY clash between principals, teachers and pupils is looming as the country braces itself for tomorrow's nationwide teachers' strike called by the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu).

The Congress of South African Students (Cosas) and the Pan Africanist Student Organisation (Paso) this week came out in opposition to the strike while Soweto principals have vowed to ignore Sadtu's warning to principals not to set foot on school premises until the teachers' demands were met.

Paso and Cosas said the strike was jeopardising pupils' preparations for the end-of-year exams.

The two groups have not threatened to attack the striking teachers, but angry matric pupils in Pretoria and Soweto said they would not allow teachers to come to school "just to idle and not do their work".

A Paso pupil leader in Sebokeng, who declined to be named, said: "If they are coming to bask in the sun the whole day they will definitely run into trouble with us."
Services crisis spreads

"Many students could purchase many lunch

Boycott facts"
Rent boycott pact an error
— Mayekiso

GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE agreement clinched last week to end the Soweto rent and services payment boycott was a mistake, SA National Civic Association (Sanco) president Moses Mayekiso said last week.

Although Sanco affiliates in Soweto were party to the deal, Mayekiso said the association would not support it. The agreement set a tariff of R65 per household a month and involved the creation of a committee to oversee payments and deal with day-to-day problems that might arise in its implementation.

Mayekiso said Sanco would not interfere with the efforts to get residents to pay the tariff, but he doubted if they would work. The basic causes of the payments boycott had not been removed, he said. These included the non-delivery of services, illegitimate local government structures and poor administration of black areas.

Until firm steps towards a single tax base for each municipal area and a non-racial system had been taken, it would be difficult to convince people to pay.

Sanco wanted the introduction of joint local government administrations as soon as possible, Mayekiso said. Until this happened, boycotts would continue.

It would be difficult, for instance, to get people on the West Rand to begin paying, while those in East Rand townships kept up a boycott.

"What we should be concentrating on, instead of wasting resources on the destruction of black and white local authorities, and replacing them with democratic structures," Mayekiso said.
Sanco to meet ANC alliance to look at options

Protest threat if Govt reneges on councils

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Government can look forward to nationwide mass action and an epidemic of service tariff boycotts if it bow to pressure from the Right and ditches plans for appointed nonracial town councils.

So said negotiators from the "non-statutory" side of the Local Government Negotiating Forum (LGNF) yesterday, in response to reports in a Sunday newspaper.

One of these reports quoted Minister of Local Government Tertius Delport as saying: "Many white municipalities do not want black members on their councils and I am prepared to bend over backwards to come to some compromise."

Delport could not be reached yesterday to confirm the Government's apparent about-face on deracialising local government.

Trade unionist Sallie Mamo, speaking for the non-statutory or civic grouping in the LGNF, predicted that failure to implement nonracial transitional councils would lead to nationwide mass action "from across the democratic spectrum." (12.7)

He foresaw that rent boycotts could be extended to townships which had thus far escaped such action and that locally negotiated service agreements — like last week's deal to end the Soweto rent boycott — could be scuppered.

The developing crisis "really calls for clear and decisive action from the Government," argued Mamo.

A wide range of parties had achieved a "co-ordinated and thought through plan" and they could not be held hostage by a minority.

The LGNF, which comprises delegates from the South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) on the one hand, and various tiers of government on the other, was due to present legislation on the reform of local government to Parliament in September.

Sanco will be meeting the ANC-led trapezoid alliance tomorrow to consider courses of action.
Peace force viable - Merling

SADF must help level playing fields

The Star / Tuesday August 17 1993

PAGE 5
Mamelodi electricity talks are continuing

ADRIAN HADLAN

PRETORIA — With Mamelodi’s electricity supply temporarily reconnected, Pretoria City Council and Mamelodi Civic Association officials continued to negotiate an increase in the township’s services levy yesterday.

Pretoria Council management committee chairman Pieter Smith said electricity would be rationed again if agreement could not be reached.

Civic association spokesman Pasty Molefe said rationing would spark mass action and a consumer boycott of Pretoria.

Civic leaders had had great difficulty persuading residents to continue negotiations.

However, he said the civic had been given the mandate to negotiate a new monthly levy of between R60 — the old levy — and R75.

The council said the township had been rendered “peniless” by the low levy, substantial arrears and non-payment. It had dropped its proposed levy from R200 monthly to R117.

An official joint statement said yesterday’s meeting was characterised by long and hard bargaining, but no decision was reached.

Meetings continue today.
PAC calls for end to service tariff boycotts

TOWNSHIP service payment boycotts should end, and the parties that called for them should support negotiated temporary tariffs, PAC representatives on the Soweto council committee Bongi Mapola said yesterday.

The PAC was one of the parties which negotiated a temporary tariff for Soweto, which was announced last week. A tariff of R45 was set, and a council committee would be established to oversee Soweto's administration.

The ANC and SA National Civic Association (Sanco) have rejected the measure as "ad hoc." Both want rent boycotts to be handled on a national basis, once multi-racial councils are in place.

However, Mapola said the restoration of services could not wait for a national solution. If the elections in April next year were postponed, local government restructuring could also be delayed.

Mapola said it was possible that no local agreements could be reached, particularly if there was disagreement over payment to administrative structures.

If this happened, the status quo should be maintained, he said. This would mean that present Transvaal Provincial Association appointed administrators would stay in place until a long-term solution was found. The administrators would receive service payments and ensure the townships were run smoothly.

This did not mean the PAC recognised the legitimacy of government officials running townships. But it was preferable to continuing boycotts while conditions deteriorated.

Mapola said while the organisation wanted the destruction of the current local authorities, the time had come to restore services, and for residents to begin paying.
Rent crisis plan only provisional

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The negotiated plan to resolve the Soweto rent crisis is doomed unless the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) council reconsiders its conditions for the suspension of the rent boycott.

"The specific reason that the agreement has to go before the SCA general council is its policy that it will only suspend the rent boycott when a (nonracial) transitional metropolitan council is installed," explained SCA general secretary Pat Lephunya.

He said the matter would be dealt with next Sunday at a general meeting of the 40-odd SCA branch representatives.

Until then, Lephunya stressed, the agreement reached in the Ad Hoc Soweto Crisis Committee of the Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber remained provisional.

The agreement provides for Johannesburg and Roodepoort to assist in supplying services to Soweto, for residents to pay a service tariff of R45 a month, and for a multiparty Services Crisis Committee to oversee the administration of the township.

The SCA's negotiating team had concluded the agreement and "deviated a bit from its mandate" only because members were convinced the chaotic state of services in Soweto demanded it, said Lephunya.

He added that any indication that national negotiations on local government reform were being stalled by conservative interests would also tip the odds against the civic general council being the conditions for suspending the boycott.
NEWS IN BRIEF

Cosatu teams with civics:

COSATU and the SA National Civic Organisation have agreed on a common strategy to fight for a nonracial democracy in SA.

Cosatu has invited Sanc to send 25 delegates to its special national congress from September 10 to 12.
Agreement is crucial to lifting of Soweto boycott

BY JACQUELINE MYBURGH

September 1 has been set as the date for the lifting of the Soweto services boycott, if the "package agreement" reached by parties at the ad hoc crisis committee yesterday is ratified by Monday (12-1).

Parties agreed to go back to their principals to obtain ratification for the agreement — details of which could not be revealed.

However, the Soweto Civic Association said last week that its policy was to suspend only the rent boycott once a (nonracial) transitional metropolitan council had been installed.

According to SCA general-secretary Pat Lephunya this issue would be discussed at an SCA meeting on Sunday. He could not be contacted yesterday.

Earlier, interested parties agreed on a monthly service tariff of R4.5 per household, excluding payment for electricity.

Johannesburg would take over the supply of services in Soweto and Delft, and Roodepoort would do the same for Dobsonville.

Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Vic Milne said yesterday the agreement was also subject to successful negotiations regarding the funding of the shortfall resulting from the approved tariff.
**Alliance plans to fight elections**

By Ike Motsapi

The Congress of South African Trade Unions, African National Congress and the South African National Civic Organisations have mapped out a common strategy to fight next year's elections.

The meeting is a series of many to be held during the build-up to April 27 1994 nonracial general elections.

Both organisations pledged to fight to transform South Africa both politically and economically.

Key issues addressed were the need to remove poverty and the deprivation that have been the legacy of apartheid.

Concrete steps are to be taken to ensure greater co-ordination on issues of housing, public works programme, provision of housing and water and sanitation.

And on Monday the management committee of the Congress of South African Trade Unions met in Johannesburg to prepare for the federation's special national congress to be held next month.

The congress, which will be held for three days from September 10, has been called by Cosatu to discuss its voter education and reconstruction programme.

The congress will also ratify a list of candidates who will stand for the elections for the tripartite alliance of the ANC, Cosatu and the South African Communist Party.

Details of the congress activities will be made known after a meeting of the alliance's secretariat next week.

From the first of next month Cosatu's election programme will also be entering its second phase of action.

The aims of this phase are:

- To reach out to all members and other workers and the community to support the federation,
- To agree on the reconstruction programme and mobilise support for it, and
- To finalise the list and election manifesto.

Events and activities planned for this phase are:

- Special congress to decide on the reconstruction programme and accord, and
- Ratification of the names of Cosatu leaders on the election list.

**KEY ISSUES** Pledge to change
ANC "yes" sought in rent impasse

THE African National Congress is to be asked to commit itself to a draft agreement allowing Soweto residents to resume service payments.

At a meeting of the Johannesburg City Council management committee and members of the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber management committee chairman Mr Ian Davidson said the meeting had agreed to hold urgent talks with the ANC to gain support for the draft agreement. The draft agreement for the resolution of the Greater Soweto crisis was approved on Monday by the parties involved in the CWMC's ad hoc committee.

Davidson yesterday referred to a R4500 monthly service tariff for each household. He said Johannesburg was willing to play its part in providing essential services to Soweto on an agency basis. No further details were given. — Sapa
Yosloorus strikes power deal with Eskom

ESKOM and the Yosloorus Civic Association have reached an agreement on electricity supply to the township and a base tariff.

At a joint news conference yesterday, the parties said they had agreed on a tariff of 16.3c a unit. Eskom took over the electricity supply rights in Yosloorus in April.

Civic association president Ali Maziyi said the agreement was the result of intensive discussions with Eskom. The deal was made possible after electricity supply rights were removed from the Yosloorus Town Council, he said.

Although there was a danger that disruptive elements would try to "break the relationship between residents and Eskom," Maziyi said residents would do their best to pay. He said that earlier agreements with the TPA on service tariffs had been successful, and that "residents came to pay in their thousands." Residents saw Eskom property as a community asset.

Meanwhile Sapa reports that electricity supply will be maintained to Mamelodi township residents who continue to pay at least R75 a month for services rendered, the Pretoria City Council management committee said yesterday.

However, chairman Peter Smith said they rejected a proposal by the Mamelodi Civic Association that the monthly flat rate of R50 a household be increased to R75 as being insufficient to cover operating costs.
Bid to draw in ANC

The ANC is to be asked to commit itself to a draft agreement allowing for the resumption of service payments by Soweto residents.

This was decided at a meeting of the Johannesburg City Council management committee and the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber yesterday.

Management committee chairman Ian Davidson said the meeting agreed to hold urgent high-level talks with the ANC to gain its support for the draft agreement, which was approved on Monday by the parties involved in the Metropolitan Chamber's ad hoc committee — Sepkö.
Land for homeless found

BY JACQUELINE MYBURGH

Two large tracts of land in Tembisa and Kempton Park have been earmarked to provide low-cost housing for up to 9,000 homeless families north-east of Johannesburg, sources involved in the land identification process revealed yesterday.

The areas — one privately owned and the other belonging to Transnet — were identified for development by six municipalities that have acknowledged the urgent need for land in the region. Discussions last month with non-statutory organisations to finalise the project were delayed when violence flared in Tembisa, but resumed recently.

The municipalities involved are Midrand, Verwoerdburg, Edenvale, Modderfontein, Kempton Park and Tembisa.

Observers have estimated that there are at least 41,000 families squatting in backyard shacks in Ivory Park and Tembisa.

According to a source in Ivory Park, the identification of land has not come a moment too soon. He said some Ivory Park residents were planning to occupy unused land in order to pressure the councils into allocating land for settlement.

Last month, 800 squatters from Tembisa occupied land in Ivory Park that had been earmarked for industrial development. They were eventually allocated land of their own.

Tembisa administrator Hein Dybers said negotiations were going “full steam ahead” to develop the land earmarked for low-cost housing.

He said studies by the North-East Rand Co-ordinating Committee had revealed that more than a million people would move into the region in the next 17 years.

Sources said Midrand residents had objected to the development of the Tembisa property right next to their town, but the town council could not be contacted for comment.
cott stands, says VCA

**Vosloorus to pay for electricity**

Eskom and Vosloorus community leaders have, after consultation with residents, reached an agreement on a domestic electricity tariff.

Eskom said in a statement on Tuesday that the interim domestic tariff of 16.3 cents a unit for this area was based on the financial position of electricity supply in the town.

It said during the past months it had been doing network refurbishment, meter testing and establishing a customer service centre.

Eskom had opened a service centre at the Lesedi shopping centre where residents could apply for electricity pay accounts, make inquiries, report faults and find out more about prepaid meters and the safe and economical use of electricity.

It said residents would receive Eskom's accounts in the first two weeks of September 1993 and they must be paid before October 7. The Vosloorus Civic Organisation said residents had never been against paying for services rendered and were geared to meet their obligations in this regard.

The VCA said the rent and service boycott had been forced on it by the Government which imposed corrupt and undemocratic black local authorities against the expressed will of the people.

The Vosloorus Town Council had used the supply of electricity as a tool to browbeat the residents into submission, the VCA claimed.

It had taken a year of mass action before the Town Council eventually allowed Eskom to take over the supply of electricity to Vosloorus.
Reef towns told to pay up or taps will be turned off

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Money to foot the water bill has dried up in eight Reef towns and the water will do the same if they do not pay the Rand Water Board before the end of the month.

Water is said to be the first pillar of civilisation, and to most urban folk it is second nature to expect the clear, clean, life-giving stream to flow out of the taps.

Yet taps in eight black townships, gripped by a nine-year service boycott, may soon run dry as the Rand Water Board carries out its threat to cut supplies due to non-payment of charges.

Visions of hospital theatres without running water, blocked and dried-up sewers breeding disease, and dry firefighting hoses have sent the parties involved scurrying to investigate solutions and interim funding for the R37.5 million debt.

Board chief executive Vincent Bath has confirmed that taps will be turned off on August 31 — that’s Tuesday next week.

The bottom line appears to be that there is no money — anywhere — to pay the bills.

So far, there has been an unwritten agreement that whatever money was available to black local authorities — usually in the form of intergovernmental transfers from the Transvaal Provincial Administration — would be used first and foremost to foot the townships’ water bills.

“If the lights go out, you can always light a candle,” a Rand Water Board official pointed out. “You have to find a clean river when the taps run dry.”

SA National Civics Organisation president Moses Mayekiso has warned that cutting off the water supply to townships was “playing with fire” and would invite an uprising.

According to board management, the organisation is an autonomous non-profit making utility which receives no financial help from the government.

It buys river water, and purifies and distributes it in bulk to 75 municipalities which, in turn, reticulate the water to people in the municipal area (up to 65 percent of the river water is recycled water from municipal sewerage purification works).

But if there is no money to pay for the river water, the purification chemicals, the electricity and the staff, there can be no water supply, the board says.
JOHANNESBURG property owners could face massive rates increases if Soweto's services payment boycott was not ended soon, council sources said yesterday.
An expected shortfall of R46m this year would have to be met by government, and the Roodepoort and Johannesburg City Councils, the sources said. Government has not budgeted any money to cover shortfalls in black municipalities.
If Johannesburg's responsibility was as high as R46m, there would have to be an extraordinary rates rise of almost 10%.
Businesses would be driven from the CBD, putting even more strain on the city's rates base, with disastrous long-term consequences for economic development.
Yesterday a Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber delegation met ANC regional officials in a bid to persuade the ANC to back a deal to end the boycott.
The council and chamber are also trying to arrange meetings with the ANC "at the highest level", possibly with ANC president Nelson Mandela and secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa.
The fear is that the widening gap between Soweto's income and expenditure could force Johannesburg and Roodepoort to assuage financially.
Roodepoort is to discuss its position at a council meeting tonight, and is expected to try to distance itself from a previous commitment to join Johannesburg in administering Soweto on an agency basis.
The metropolitan chamber's Soweto crisis committee agreed this month that the boycott should end, and set a tariff of R46 a household. It also decided to set up a new committee to oversee administration.
Wedela hit by levy furore

By Martin Ntsoelegoe

WEDELA Town Councillors accused of squandering the council's funds have vacated their posts, leaving the council owing close on R500 000.

Last month, facing inquiries from the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the council raised tariffs. Residents are furious and some are refusing to pay what they feel are exorbitant amounts — between R2.50 and R3.50 a month — for basic charges.

Meanwhile, it seems none of the councillors responsible for the debt will be made accountable for the problem — the council was forced to dissolve in October last year when they could not form a quorum.

Town Clerk Jan Murray said increased tariffs were necessary to "meet expenses." When City Press tried to contact the administrator, a Mr. Moller, we were told he was "in a meeting in Carletonville."

In another twist, Anglo American Corporation officials have been accused by residents of threatening to prosecute and even dismiss residents for boycotting their tariffs.

Personnel manager for Anglo's Elsrand mine near Carletonville, L. Weber, strongly denied the claim, but one mine worker spoken to claimed she was made to sign a document which City Press has in its possession.

The document contains a paragraph which says employees who do not pay their tariffs would face dismissal action.
No water cuts this week

THE water supply to eight Reef townships will not be cut off on Wednesday, following the State's last-minute commitment to pay the R40 million debt owed to the Rand Water Board.

RWB chief executive Mr Vincent Bath said on Friday that the Transvaal Provincial Administration had agreed to pay in full the June and July water accounts of these local authorities, and to pay all further arrears within the next two months.

A health crisis had loomed over large parts of the Reef after the RWB warned earlier this month that it would discontinue the water supply to Vosloorus, Kagiso, Khutsong, Evaton, Sefokeng, Daveyton, Katlehong and Tembisa if their outstanding bills were not settled.

The Minister of Local Government, Mr Tertius Delport, said the suspension of the water supply to these communities "would hold drastic implications." 20/8/93

His department, as well as those of National Housing and of Water Affairs, and the TPA, had therefore decided that - despite extremely limited funding being available - water supply would be favoured. --- Sapu
Water still flowing in the Vaal

A DECISION on Friday to continue the supply of water to the Vaal Triangle townships despite the non-payment of rates received widely differing interpretations from two of the important role players. The regional branches of the African National Congress and the South African National Civic Organisation said in a joint statement that "the water crisis is over". (12.7)

The Rand Water Board had threatened to cut supplies on Wednesday.

It had been agreed that further meetings between the board, Sanco and the ANC would be held to discuss the problem — Sapa
Townships get water cut reprieve

The water supply to eight Reef townships will not be cut off on Wednesday, following the State’s last-minute commitment to pay the R40 million debt owed to the Rand Water Board.

RWB chief executive Vincent Bath said on Friday that the Transvaal Provincial Administration had agreed to pay the June and July water accounts of these authorities, and all further arrears within two months.

A health crisis loomed after the board had warned earlier this month that it would cut the water supply to Vosloorus, Kgosi, Khutsong, Ekurhuleni, Sebokeng, Daveyton, Kriel and Tembisa.

Local Government Minister Dr. Tertius Delport said the suspension of water supply to communities “would hold drastic implications.” — Metro Staff
Meeting on Soweto deal

BY JACQUELINE MYBURGH

The Soweto service boycott edged closer to resolution yesterday when the Soweto Civic Association gave the conditional go-ahead for a payment agreement to be discussed at a meeting of the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber ad hoc crisis committee today.

The ANC, which has never endorsed the agreement, will be attending today's meeting as an observer, The Star has learnt.

The agreement provides for Johannesburg and Roodepoort to assist in supplying services to Soweto and for residents to pay a service tariff of R45 a month.
Grant prevents Reef water cuts

SEVERAL Reef townships presently on a rent and service charge boycott have been saved from water cuts by the Rand Water Board following a grant by the Government.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Department of Local Government and National Housing and the Department of Water Affairs have agreed to pay more than R40 million owed by several townships following the board’s threat to cut water to these areas tomorrow.

Financial assistance

The board had notified certain black local authorities that the supply of water was to be suspended tomorrow.

Affected townships were Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Vosloorus, Kagiso, Khutsong, Evaton, Sebokeng, Daveyton, Katlehong and Tembisa.

In a statement from the Department of Local Government yesterday, it was warned that in future financial assistance in the form of intergovernmental grants, which are paid monthly to the relevant local authorities, would cover the water account first. If the respective communities did not start making a contribution, other services that to date had been rendered by local government would be affected.

“It must be emphasised that the payment boycott is to the detriment of these communities and it would be in their own interest to end it,” the department said.
New street frontage rate today

BY JACQUELINE MYBURGH

The Johannesburg City Council last night announced a revised street cleaning tariff in response to the uproar from small businesses who opposed the previous tariff because they felt they were subsidising larger businesses.

All property owners will be credited with the amounts charged since the controversial levy was introduced on June 1. The new tariff comes into effect today.

The June 1 tariff was R6 a metre to a maximum of 100 m. This resulted in many small businesses paying the same tariff as, for example, the Carlton Centre.

Management committee chairman Ian David-son said a new tariff had been introduced on June 1 because the old system had forced businesses that paid for cleaning, through their refuse removal tariffs, to subsidise those that did not.
Home work rates rebate

Johannesburg residents conducting "low-key" businesses from home will now qualify for residential rates rebates following a city council decision.

Residents working from home — but who did not employ any staff or disrupt the neighbourhood — previously forfeited their rebate when the City Valuer learnt that their premises were not being used solely for residential purposes.

Residents qualifying for this rebate would only receive it once they submitted an official request to the city treasurer.

Metro Staff.
Council agrees to sell land cheaply

By Cyril Madlala

The Johannesburg City Council yesterday agreed — subject to provincial authorisation — to sell land below market prices to pave the way for the building of 120 low-cost houses in Jeppes-town and Troyeville.

It has agreed to sell 30 sites, with a market value of R470 000, for R288 800.

The move is in response to a request by the Family Housing Association that the land prices — previously fixed at market-related values — be reconsidered to keep the selling price below R65 000 per unit.

This is the maximum allowed to qualify for a State first-homeowner’s subsidy.

"The anticipated cost of the unit has risen in light of various additional considerations such as the difficult soil conditions, sectional title registration, and fire prevention measures," the management committee reported to the council.

It added that this project would serve as a link with the intended large-scale upgrading and provision of housing envisaged for the inner city.

Vacant plots were deteriorating daily as a result of occupation by vagrants.

The Administrator of the Transvaal is to be asked to authorise the sale as the council does not have the power to sell its land below market prices for a project like this."
Bills to be held in abeyance

AFTER heated debate, the negotiating council at the World Trade Centre decided last night that the Bills it passed in the past two days would not be implemented until the final package, including the constitution, had been agreed to by all parties.

In a resolution put before it, the council noted that the Independent Media Commission Bill and its Electoral Commission Bill had been adopted by general consensus.

It said the steps to be followed in regard to these Bills as well as the independent Broadcasting Act, the transitional executive council (TEC) and the constitution would be:

- Agreement in the negotiating council;
- Passage of Bills by Parliament;
- Prolongation of the Act in the gazette, and
- Putting the Act into operation.

The purpose was that all the Bills passed by Parliament "will not be put into operation until an explicit decision to that effect has been taken by the multiparty negotiating process upon the approval of the total package of agreements".

The package comprises the media and electoral Bills, the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the TEC and the constitution for the transition.

The resolution said the Bills had to be tabled in Parliament as soon as possible to lift confidence in the negotiating process.

Bophuthatswana and Ciskei objected to the piecemeal promulgation of the Bills, arguing that the total package had first to be approved in a plenary session of all leaders of political parties.

Government, the ANC and the Afrikaner Volksraad had no objection to the steps.

Because of Bophuthatswana's objection, chief negotiator Rowan Cronje ruled that in terms of sufficient consensus guidelines, the parties should meet overnight so that the resolution could be adopted today.

Electricity bills have doubled — residents

JOHANNESBURG residents are puzzling over electricity bills they claim have almost doubled in the past two months (12.7%).

Although Johannesburg tariffs were increased by 12% in June, ratepayers complain that the bills have risen much higher.

Fairlands Residents Association chairman Danie Meyer said he was suspect ed the council was making up for "some deficit."

He said members of the Fairlands organisation had expressed concern over high electricity bills. Where residents were normally paying R600 a month, some electricity bills had gone up to R1 200 over the past two months — and were averaging between R800 and R900.

Eskom

Northern Areas Residents Association chairman Margaret Wolff said her personal monthly bill, formerly about R235, was now about R400.

Johannesburg City Council rates and services director Andy van Zyl said it would be difficult to give an explanation without getting a specific account. The City Hall would look into such complaints, he said.
TPA wants Soweto deal response first

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The Transvaal Provincial Administration will not reconsider its refusal to move against the National controlled Dobsonville council unless other parties to the Soweto crisis talks put their cards on the table, says Piet Coetzee, MEC for Urbanisation (127).

Last week, the TPA threw the Soweto talks into disarray when it stated bluntly that it would not remove the Dobsonville councillors - the last councillors remaining in office in Greater Soweto - without persuading them to resign.

According to informed sources, councillors comprising Dobsonville's executive committee are all members of the National Party. One source postulated that it would be "political suicide" for the NP in this pre-election phase to have its members in the TPA putting its members in the townships out of office.

But the Dobsonville council has now become a major hitch to ending the Soweto rent boycott and upgrading services in the township. The majority of parties will reject a deal which keeps councillors in office.

"We are willing to revisit the Dobsonville question," said Coetzee. "But I will not ask the councillors to resign in isolation, without every party's response to the total Soweto deal taken into account at the same time."

The TPA would not negotiate further on its stated position, until all negotiating teams had gone back to their principals and were in a position to indicate items of the deal where parties were in agreement and where they were in dispute.

The Soweto Civic Association held a council meeting late last month and apparently has a clear mandate from its members. Among the conditions set by the SCA for signing the package is that Dobsonville's councillors must go.

The ANC is due to put the deal to its PWV regional executive committee on September 14. Although the ANC has not been part of the negotiations, its approval is widely regarded as critical.

Other parties include local PAC and IFP structures, Sofisanke, the councils of Johannesburg and Roodepoort and the Greater Soweto local authorities.
Sofasonke Party ‘won’t be dictated to by civics’

Sowetan 9/9

THE Sofasonke Party yesterday suspended all its activities in the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber because it did not want to be dictated to by the civic associations.

The party has been involved in discussions on the restructuring of local government for Soweto.

In a memorandum to the chamber explaining the decision, the party’s executive committee said it refused to be told “how to think, what to say and how to arrange our affairs”.

It said that during the past two weeks it had been under continuous pressure from the civic associations of Soweto to put the party’s principles aside and conform to their ideas.

“We understood their position and we respected their principles, and we even tolerated their obviously close relationship with the chamber, but we refuse to be dictated to and we take this opportunity to state publicly that we will not accept the attempts of the civics to dominate,” the memorandum said.

Within the boundaries of consensus decision-making in this chamber we will say no to any grant-in-aid to any civic association as long as they try to dictate terms to us.

“We were first branded as a political party, then pressurised not to participate in elections and lastly dictated to as to what we should do in our private affairs.”

The party claimed its membership reflected a wide range of support from the African National Congress, Pan Africanist Congress, Inkatha Freedom Party and Azanian People’s Organisation.

It said it also had support from the National Party “but only in civic matters relating to Soweto” - Sapa
Officials ‘posed as Ithuba reps’ in electricity swoop

Eldorado Park residents are furious with the Johannesburg council for the way it has hounded rent and electricity defaulters, writes Desmond Pitoi

JOHANNESBURG city council officials posed as representatives of Ithuba while arresting an Eldorado Park electricity payment default, it has been alleged.

John Mathys (49) was among the 400 Eldorado Park residents who packed the JB Opperman Centre recently to vent their grievances about rent and service charges in the coloured township.

Residents complained that electricity defaulters were being evicted and arrested.

They demanded the immediate resignation of the Eldorado Park management committee.

At the meeting were council treasury officials who agreed to temporarily suspend arrests.

They said they could not accede to demands that all outstanding water and lights debts — some as high as R16 000 — be written off.

Mathys, who is unemployed and owes the council more than R14 000 for electricity, told the meeting he had paid R750, with an agreement that he would pay the balance as soon as he found a job.

“I received a letter saying that I had won a prize in the Ithuba scratch game,” Mathys told the angry crowd. “Two men came to my house one night and told me they had brought me my Ithuba cheque. They demanded to see my ID book to check if I was the rightful owner of the prize.

“I was excited by the money and didn’t think that this was a trick they used to make sure that I was the person they were looking for in order to arrest me.

“Having looked at my ID,” he continued, “they said I must come with them outside so that they can give me the cheque ‘Why outside?’ I asked, but the men insisted that we go outside. ‘Because we don’t want the others to see the cheque,’ they said.

Outside the house, the two men handcuffed him, bundled him into a car and drove to the sheriff’s office in Turffontein. ‘I spent a few days in what looked like a cell. Instead of the 90 days I managed to escape,’ he said.

Another Eldorado Park resident, pensioner Johanna Minnie (64), said she had fled her house last month after receiving a warrant for her arrest and that her family had not known her whereabouts for four weeks. ‘Can you imagine an old granny like me behind bars?’ she asked.

In June this year Minnie owed the council R1 420.25 for her water and lights. Her electricity supply was cut off and she uses a Primus stove to cook her meals. She and her family of 12 live in the three-roomed house on her monthly pension of R318.

In the same month she received another account for R4 044.57 which had a different account number on it. ‘This was one reason that led us to hold a residents’ meeting to address such issues,’ said Dionne Recco of the Eldorado Park Residents’ Association.

Ironically, the Soweto council, across the road, has agreed to write off arrears of residents under its jurisdiction. But the issue will be raised again at a top-level meeting between the residents’ association and the white management committee on Monday.

Association officials say Lawyers for Human Rights has agreed to intervene on behalf of those residents who still face arrests over non-payment.

The Johannesburg City Council’s treasury officials, led by Andy van Zyl, who met a delegation of the residents’ association, agreed to “temporarily suspend the arrest of debt defaulters. They said they could not accede to the association’s demands that all outstanding water and lights debts — some as high as R16 000 — be totally written off.”
Readathon observes its highlight today

Soweto accord stalled by TPA

By Mzimasi Ngudle

Hope for the resolution of the Greater Soweto rent and services crisis were dashed this week after the Transvaal Provincial Administration refused to remove Dobsonville councillors.

A spokesman for the Central Winterveldt Metropolitan Chamber, Mr Vic Milne, said yesterday a meeting of an extended ad hoc committee failed to take place on Wednesday because there was no satisfactory response from the TPA regarding the councillors.

Milne said the meeting was to discuss a package agreement for resolving the rent and services crisis in Soweto, Doornpoort and Dobsonville.

However, the TPA had not responded to the chamber's submission that it should reconsider its refusal to remove the councillors.

The TPA's response was that it had no legal justification to remove the Dobsonville councillors from office and that it was not willing to bring any pressure to bear on them to resign.

The chamber had resolved that "no purpose would be served in ratifying the package agreement in the light of the attitude adopted by the TPA in respect of the Dobsonville councillors."

The chamber said the TPA's refusal to remove the councillors was an obstacle to the approval and implementation of a package agreement approved by all the parties.

One provision of this agreement is the appointment of a city manager for Greater Soweto, including Dobsonville.
Hostel invaders move in at whim

BY KHANGALE MAKHADO

HUNDREDS of families on the East Rand have fled their homes which have been occupied by hostel men. Residents of Thokoza township this week told how they received "letters of demand" from hostel inmates claiming to be Inkatha members. The letters informed the residents to vacate their homes - or else.

As soon as they had declared the Phenduka Section a "liberated zone", the hostel inmates renamed the area "Ulundi" after KwaZulu's capital.

A source at the Thokoza City Council told City Press this week that over 250 families had fled their houses.

One victim, who was terrified of having his name published, said: "We were told point blank that we either joined Inkatha or had to find shelter elsewhere."

- Thokoza town clerk Floors Grobler expressed shock at the behaviour of the hostel men.

Grobler said families were leaving the area at a rate of between 20 and 40 a day. Before leaving families were requesting his office to suspend their electricity and water accounts until further notice.

Now the illegal occupants have been queuing at the council's offices requesting that the water and electricity be reinstated. "The council finds it difficult to do so," a council source said yesterday.
Ennerdale pact ends pay boycott

GAVIN DU VERAGD

THE Ennerdale service payment boycott ended last night with the signing of an agreement reached after months of negotiations. The boycott began in late 1986, aimed at dislodging the Ennerdale management committee and in protest against alleged poor workmanship in a number of houses.

The negotiations were facilitated by Eskom and the Transvaal Provincial Administration, which acted as advisers to the negotiating parties.

The Ennerdale negotiating forum, which consisted of statutory and non-statutory parties, issued a statement yesterday that the agreement was based on the acceptance of three principles by all parties. These were that local problems should be solved peacefully through negotiations, consumers must pay for services, and that every effort should be made to ensure an orderly and stable community.

Residents would end the boycott, and all legal action against them to recover arrears, or to prosecute for illegal connections and damage to property, would cease. All parties agreed to stop illegal action and to report any such actions to the local authority.

The question of arrears would be addressed at national level. Parties to the agreement included the NP, ANC, cvce and community bodies.
ANC to discuss services boycott package

Gavin Du Venage

The ANC's PWV regional executive council would meet today to discuss the 12th draft of a package to end the Soweto service payment boycott. ANC local government spokesman Matole Motshega said yesterday.

The package includes an interim all-in tariff of R45 a household and makes provision for an administration crisis committee.

Parties in the Central

Motshega said it was unlikely a "yes or no" decision would be made at the meeting. He said discussions would centre on how the package would be implemented.

The ANC has come under heavy criticism from the PAC, which helped to forge the deal. Without the ANC's backing, it is unlikely the package will be implemented.

Payment levels in Soweto have dropped below 5% and maintenance has virtually ceased because of the cash crisis.
Hitch in resolving Soweto rent crisis

By Mzimasi Ngudle

Dobsonville council — one of the obstacles to resolving the rent and services crisis in Greater Soweto — is the first National Party-controlled council in a black township.

The councillors are also the last remaining in office in Greater Soweto after the dissolution of the Soweto and Diepkloof councils.

Dobsonville mayor Mr Malefane Thelethi confirmed that all seven councillors, including himself, were NP members. He said one councillor was an active NP organiser.

Thelethi said, however, that he could not understand why people “combined, civic and national politics”.

“In principle we shall not resign. Unlike other councils there has been no maladministration in Dobsonville. Nonetheless our doors are still open,” he said.

Thelethi was reacting to a demand by parties at the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber for the dissolution of the council before a package agreement to resolve the crisis could be approved and implemented. The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) has steadfastly refused to remove the councillors, saying it has not legal justification to do so.

TPA’s stand has caused a major hitch in talks aimed at resolving the crisis, with some parties saying the Government was pursuing a political mission.

Parties to the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber said they refused to dissolve the council because it was controlled by the National Party.

Last week talks failed to kick off because the TPA failed to remove the councillors. Chamber spokesman Mr Vic Milk said there was no purpose in holding the talks because the TPA had not “responded satisfactorily to the Dobsonville matter.”

Sanco general secretary for Southern Transvaal Mr Dan Mofokeng said the TPA’s stand was partisan and aimed at protecting National Party interests. “We fail to understand why the TPA has problems in dissolving the Dobsonville council while it did not have the same problem with the Soweto council,” he said.
Ennerdale boycott off

THE long-standing service charges boycott in Ennerdale has been called off.

In a statement, the Ennerdale Negotiating Forum said it had been agreed that the local authority would stop all legal action against consumers to recover arrears, while the Ennerdale and Surrounding Civic Association would end its boycott. Residents of the township have been embroiled in an argument with authorities over the price of houses which they say are structurally defective.
Soweto crisis meeting called off

A SPECIAL meeting of the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, to have been held on Wednesday to discuss the Soweto service charges crisis, has been cancelled because most of the parties have said they would not attend.

Chamber CEO Vic Milne said on Friday that most of the major parties had not decided on a package of agreements to end the Soweto service payment boycott.

"It would have been pointless to hold the meeting until the parties had taken a decision," he said.

The special meeting of the full chamber was called for at the chamber's usual meeting this month by the Soweto Civic Association (SCA), which felt negotiations in the Soweto crisis committee, a chamber subcommittee, were pointless.

The ratification of an agreement on an interim tariff and administrative structure had been held up because the Tshwane Provincial Association had backed away from a pledge to remove Dobsonville councillors, one of the key civic demands.

SCA publicity secretary Pat Lephasa demanded the agreement package be discussed at a full meeting of the chamber.

The TPA was asked to send senior officials with decision-making authority to the meeting, instead of lower-level officials who could not make decisions on behalf of the administration.

Milne asked all parties to "give this critical matter their urgent attention to enable the chamber to take the process forward" at its next meeting, to be held next month.
Municipalities to absorb water hikes

CONSUMERS in some Reef municipalities will not immediately pay more for water despite the increase in tariffs announced by the Rand Water Board yesterday.

The municipalities of Johannesburg, Sandton and Randburg said they did not envisage water rates going up with effect from October 1, and that provision had been made for such an increase already.

A board said the increase of 45c a kilolitre for the supply of purified water in bulk, effective from October 1, was due to an additional levy to be charged by the Water Affairs Department on water bought from the Vaal River system.

The levy was partly to finance the cost of the portion of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project for which SA was responsible. SA’s involvement in the project was necessary to provide for the PWV area’s water requirements from 1996. The department indicated that the levy would be increased annually in October until 1998, after which it would be incorporated into the tariff for raw water in order to continue financing the project.

Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said local authorities and mines had been notified in March that the tariff was likely to be increased.

The increase would result in bulk users – local authorities and mines – paying 96,65c a kilolitre, up from 91,65c. Should the increase be passed on to ratepayers, the average household would pay about R1.40 a month more for water.

A Johannesburg water department spokesman said although provision had been made for the increase, the matter would be discussed with the management committee.

Randburg treasurer Willie Horne said it was unlikely the increase would be passed on to its ratepayers.

The increase would be discussed by the Sandton council later this month.
Mamelodi probe ordered
THEO RAWANA

A COMMISSION of inquiry was to investigate alleged irregularities in the Mamelodi Town Council, the Tshwane Provincial Administration said this week.

The council, which owes Pretoria City Council R4bn for electricity, water and sewerage services, was accused of corruption before Pretoria took over its administration. The Mamelodi Civic Association and Pretoria City Council furnished TPA local government MEC Burger Lategana with details of irregularities which led him to announce in July that a probe would have to be conducted.

This week Lategana said that a commission had been appointed to investigate the alleged irregularities and report to the Administrator "with recommendations of possible corrective measures that may be taken".

Lategana said Willem Krugel had been assigned to act as chairman and Pretoria lawyer Nano Matlala and L Nowosenetz had been nominated as members.

Matlala would also lead evidence.

Lategana said: "I should like to emphasise that the TPA ... will not hesitate to act against any form of improper management or maladministration."
Services for shanties hailed

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The Bekkersdal Civic Association has welcomed news that the battle for services in the shantytowns attached to this West Rand township has been won.

Civic chairman Rungu Mathambo said "Basic services in the area are long overdue. This should have happened yesterday."

The lack of services represents a double hazard around Bekkersdal. In addition to the health risks posed by a lack of sanitation and adequate water, there is the threat of sinkhole development as the failure to drain surface water increases the instability of the dolomite beneath the shantytowns.

Mathambo stressed that although the civic association had agreed to have the settlements designated as a transit camp, this did not mean it had given the go-ahead for resettlement.

Transit camp status was purely a device to secure services for the 9,000 odd families in the area and make their lives safer, he said.

"When it comes to the question of whether the people can stay where they are and to the search for alternative land - that we must still negotiate."

He said the civic had objected vigorously during negotiations to the authorities' legal right to remove transit camps on a mere 24 hours' notice. Mathambo said he trusted that the Bekkersdal camps would be exempt from this.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration announced earlier this week that Westonaria had been persuaded to apply for transit camp status for the shantytownships to the west of Bekkersdal. Once this had been done, R1.3 million would be made available for services.
Residents get right to buy own homes

RESIDENTS of Noordgesig near Soweto can own their homes from today — for a mere R500.

After more than 40 years of uncertainty, yesterday's proclamation of the township means that people can take transfer of their properties.

The Johannesburg City Council is selling all 1,072 houses to residents for an average of R500 a unit, including fully serviced stands of about 300m².

Management committee spokesman Mandla Marx said the prices were greatly reduced, given that it cost well over R12,000 to provide services for a stand.

"The whole community of Noordgesig can now become homeowners, and this should lead to the further upliftment of the area," he said.

Community leaders and the council agreed last year that the process of township proclamation should not delay the sales, and residents could buy their houses on deed of sale, pending proclamation.

Marx said well over half of the householders had already bought their homes on deed of sale, and they could now take immediate transfer.

Water and lights arrears were not an obstacle to sales or transfer of properties to their new owners. Arrangements had been made for people to pay off service charges arrears over an extended period.

Noordgesig was established in the '40s and is a low-income housing area. It was not proclaimed as a township because of the risk of flooding.

It was only after the council undertook projects costing nearly R8m to upgrade stormwater drains and roads as well as to lower the 50-year floodline that the township could finally be proclaimed.
The East Bank
Squatters Eye
Prices plunge when shacks are in sight

THE middle-class residents of Soweto's Protea South are convinced that the horseshoe-shaped encirclement of their homes by hundreds of derelict shacks is happening with the full knowledge and blessing of both the Soweto Council and the TPA.

"We have investigated this thing and we know that a corrupt councillor in the Soweto Council is involved in the 'sale' of these plots to the shack dwellers," said I.R. Mosebi, chairman of the Protea South Homeowners' Association.

"Most of these people come from outside South Africa — they are even calling the camp 'Maputo' because of the number of people who come from Mozambique." 

Other shack dwellers, said Mosebi, came from Zimbabwe, Lebowa and Transkei. It is alleged that plots are being "sold" for between R200 and R300 by a well-known Soweto councillor.

"So far, we have had no action on our plight," said Mosebi. "I have spoken to various mayors and TPA administrators over the years but nothing has happened — the squatters have just increased and now we're almost surrounded."

Predictably, crime has escalated in the area. David Mokgabuki, a member of the homeowners' association, reported that his house and spaza shop next to it had been broken into so many times he had lost count.

Offered peanuts

"On Monday night there was another break-in," he said. "Thieves broke into our shop and stole all the tinned goods, candies, and so on. How they got through the burglar alarm and the dogs, I can't explain to you."

Mokgabuki owns a beautiful home on the corner of Windsor and Trafford streets. He puts the value of his house at R230 000. Since crime has risen in the area, he has been trying to sell it.

"Every time a potential buyer comes here they get very excited by my home," he said, "but they take one look across at those shacks that have now come to within a few metres and they bolt."

"I've had to reduce my asking price to R170 000, then last year to R150 000, but people offer me peanuts to offset the danger presented by the shacks."

Protea South residents are at the end of their tether — many want to get out but cannot.

Their plight is reflected in many other PWV areas where squatters are living.

In Midrand, the creation of Ivory Park threatens the former coloured township of Rabie Ridge, the "white" residential area of President Park and the better parts of Tembisa.

"This is no longer a matter of race or exclusive area," Bob Davidson of the Midrand Ratepayers' Association told the Saturday Star.

"If nothing comes from our protests to the authorities, we're all going down the drain."
Pact with hostel reduces violence

HOSTEL residents in Vosloorus and the local community had reached an understanding which had helped to curb violence on the East Rand, sources said yesterday.

Residents canvassed for comment said yesterday the situation had improved to such an extent that it was now "perfectly normal" to see township residents entering the hostel to visit or to buy goods.

Transvaal Hostel Residents' Association chairman Joseph Kubeka said hostel and township residents were working "closely together" to prevent turbulence in Tshokwane and Katlehong from spilling over into Vosloorus.

Kubeka said his organisation was concerned that communities and hostel residents of Tshokwane and Katlehong seemed reluctant to resolve their feuds through dialogue. He urged communities in those townships to emulate Vosloorus and "open lines of communication".

ANC PWV spokesman Vusi Gumede said attacks on residents by people from hostels in Katlehong's Bayalfala and Kwanele hostels had been foiled recently because Vosloorus hostel residents had alerted the community structures.

Inkatha Transvaal deputy chairman Humphrey Ndlouv said he was not convinced the stability in Vosloorus was genuine. He said he was convinced that once the "comrades" had wrought havoc in Tshokwane and Katlehong, they would turn their attention to the township.

Witwatersrand peace committee spokesman Peter Harris said the calm in 85% of the region, including Vosloorus and Sebokeng, was the result of communication between hostel and township residents.

Kubeka said although his organisation was encouraging Xhosas to return to hostels they had vacated in 1990, the response had not been remarkable. "We put this down to fear. People are not certain whether the hostels will erupt again," he said.

Sapa reports 27 people have been killed in violence on the East Rand since Friday.

In a police report yesterday, most of the deaths were listed as unidentified bodies found. No arrests had been made.

The toll included two KwaThema policemen who died after being attacked.

Police patrols were stoned, petrol-bombed or shot at in 12 incidents.

In Natal, weekend violence exacted its usual bloody toll, leaving at least 15 dead and many injured, police said.

But unconfirmed reports added eight people were killed on Natal's South Coast, apparently bringing the toll to 23.

Earlier, in Greytown's Nance area, in the Natal Midlands, police arrested gunmen who had murdered a man.

Police were still searching yesterday for the killers of three people murdered in northern Natal's KwaMbonambi district.

The KwaZulu Police reported five killings in Umhlazi, south of Durban, and an attempted murder which left a man seriously wounded.

Police also discovered the bodies of two men in the township.

In the troubled Natal North Coast township of Sundumbili, police were investigating the murder of two men.
Boycott to stay - SCA

By Lulama Lutfi

SOWETO'S rent and services boycott is still on and there is no way it can be called off until all councillors in Dobsonville are dismissed.

This is what the Soweto Civic Association believes is the issue that stands in the way towards ending the boycott. (12-1)

The SCA has vowed that none of the agreements reached in ongoing negotiations will be implemented until the councillors are removed from office.

General secretary of the SCA Mr Pat Lephamba said the organisation had lost faith in the Transitional Management Executive Council. He said the SCA now believes them to be escape vehicles for the Transvaal Provincial Administration to avoid addressing the crisis.

The delay in sacking the councillors was a TPA ploy to strengthen the National Party stronghold in Soweto, Lephamba claimed.

- There would be water cuts in Dobsonville tomorrow between 8am and 4pm
Water and electricity:

To demand reduction in tariffs for

DUES OWED

Residents in March

By Mavis Wilhite, J10143

Somewas 711043

A

The discount store that saves you more

Save at

The other side of the story:

A woman (40) hurt in

Police used to disperse crowd • Policeman implicated in abduction

Principals are scared

NEWS

Somewas 711043

Police and others stopped the march.

The committee of the city council, the city manager, and the city attorney met to discuss the situation.

A committee was formed to address the issue.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.

A newspaper article about the situation was published.
Little income from residents

Services in Soweto still improving

By Mokone Molete
SOWETO BUREAU

Millions of rands are being spent to upgrade services in Soweto even though the council is receiving virtually no income from its residents.

But acting Soweto city engineer Dick Hallett estimates that R600 million will still be needed over the next decade to upgrade services in the area.

Money provided by the regional services council has already been used to upgrade water storage, roads and sewerage and to provide new community amenities.

Hallett outlined to The Star what has been achieved in Soweto over the past five years:

- A new water reservoir has been built in Zondi. It is five times the size of the current one, also in Zondi. This has cost about R10 million.
- Primary and secondary water reticulation have been upgraded in some parts of Soweto. There is ongoing work in other areas. The cost is estimated at R4 million a year.
- The council is upgrading about 300 km of roads. Work will include extending the dual part of the Old Potchefstroom Road further west.

Hallett added: "The problem with not having any income from the residents is that some projects have had to be halted in order to pay service providers such as the Rand Water Board."

The building of a swimming pool in Primville, a library in Eden and the renovation of Orlando's library are among the projects put on hold.
Soweto electricity threat

ESKOM announced yesterday that it would cut off electricity to 22,500 Soweto homes from Monday and warned it could suspend all operations in the township if attacks on its employees and theft of its property did not stop.

Eskom sales and customer service manager for Johannesburg Ken Green said letters had been sent to non-paying residents warning them of the cut-offs.

"Eskom also undertook steps to encourage customers to pay their electricity bills. These included letters, public meetings and visits to individual customers. A list of non-payers was also sent to all branches of the Soweto Civic Association, which undertook to encourage residents to pay."

Of the 125,000 Eskom customers in Soweto, 22,500 had not paid the R33,80 monthly rate introduced in February 1992 in Greater Soweto, and in May 1992 and this year.

Wilson Zwane

February in Dobsonville and Diepmeadow

Greens said businesses also had failed to pay their bills. "Out of 1,300 commercial customers, only 3% pay regularly."

More than 20 of Eskom's employees had been attacked and 24 Eskom vehicles hijacked in Soweto this year. If the situation deteriorated further he would have to withdraw staff from Soweto.

Soweto Civic Association general secretary Pat Lephunya said Eskom's threat to suspend services was "out of order." The organisation had asked Eskom to tell it where its people would be working, so that they could be protected. Eskom had not done this.

Green said it was "virtually impossible" to contact the civic every time as 6% of the utility's work was at short notice.
Soweto blackout looming
CITYNEWS 7/10/93
By MOSES MAMAILA.

ABOUT 22 500 Soweto homes could be plunged into darkness from to-
morrow following a decision by Eskom to cut off the electricity of cus-
tomers who have not paid the R33.80 monthly flat rate.

Eskom Sales and Customer Service Manager for Johannesburg Ken Green said only five of
the 1 300 commercial customers were paying.
He said, to avoid the pending cut-offs, resi-
dents should visit the Eskom office at Olmu Park,
corner of Aerodrome and Sailor Malan streets, Aer-
dron, to arrange payment terms.
Eskom to switch off Soweto non-payers

SOWETO residents who have not paid their bills are to have their electricity supply cut off today.

Eskom will go ahead with its planned electricity cuts to 22,500 defaulters in Soweto today.

Eskom sales and customer service manager, Ken Green said the company had been forced to take strong action against freeloaders after residents ignored several warnings that their electricity would be switched off if they did not pay.

Green said only residents who come to the Eskom office today to discuss terms of payment would be saved from the darkness that will blanket many homes in Soweto.

He said 22,500 of Eskom's 120,000 customers in Soweto had not paid the R33.80 monthly flat-rate tariff since it was introduced last year.

Electricity is the only service which is no longer subsidized by the civic association's rent and service boycott.

According to a Government spokesman, Soweto residents are paying a mere 4 percent of the cost of other municipal services such as refuse removal, water provision and sewage disposal.

Last week Transvaal MEC Piet Coetzee stressed that the province had no money left to subsidize boycotts.

And Steve Burger, administrator for Soweto and Diepenmeadow, said local authorities might face service breakdowns and labour unrest at the end of this month.

An urgent meeting of the Ad Hoc Soweto Crisis Committee is scheduled for Thursday. It will address, among other things, the refusal of political organisations and the civic to suspend the boycott while Dobsonville's councillors remain in office.

Soweto Civic Association president, Isaac Mogase has appealed to residents to be responsible and pay their electricity accounts. He said it was their duty to pay for essential services that were efficiently delivered.

Eskom has also threatened to cut off electricity to businesses which did not pay accounts regularly.

Green said only 5 percent of the 1,300 businesses in Soweto paid their electricity bills regularly. Letters had been sent to those concerned warning them that they would be disconnected if they did not pay regularly.
Power cuts: a recipe for disaster

POLITICAL and civic organisations have urged Eskom not to cut off defaulters in Soweto, saying such a move will be a "recipe for disaster".

Eskom threatened to cut power to 22,500 Soweto residents from today and warned that it could suspend all operations there if attacks on its employees and theft of property did not stop.

SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco) southern Transvaal general secretary Dan Mofokeng said the cutoffs could not be allowed to happen, especially as lighting would be needed in the run-up to elections.

"They must first discuss the issue with the civics," Mofokeng said.

He blamed government for causing the problem by not acceding to Sanco's call for appointed interim structures in the southern Transvaal before the end of year.

"We called on Johannesburg to urgently become one with Soweto, and that non-residential revenue should be shared."

ANC PWV media spokesman Vusi Kunene said it would be "a disaster" if Eskom cut the power supply and that the move could trigger boycotts and other actions.

Inkatha Freedom Party West Rand chairman Humphrey Ndebele said his organisation was against a switch-off in Soweto, "especially at this time."

THEO RAWANA
More than 22,000 electricity defaulters in Soweto, threatened with power cuts by Eskom, were yesterday given a two-week reprieve to settle their accounts or face electricity blackouts.

The deadline was extended following an urgent meeting between Eskom and the Soweto Civic Association yesterday. This was after the giant electricity supplier had cut the electricity supply to more than 2,500 homes in Panville in a move to put pressure on residents to pay their tariffs.

The decision to cut power was taken after several attempts by the company to force residents to pay a flat rate of R33.80 a month for services, had failed.

Soweto residents owe Eskom more than R25 million since the company took over from the Soweto Council 18 months ago.

Eskom’s sales and customer service manager Mr Ken Green said the company had been forced to take this action after warning residents that the supply would be cut if they did not pay.

He said 22,500 of Eskom’s 125,000 clients in Soweto had not paid the flat rate tariff since it was introduced.

Soweto Civic Association president Mr Isaac Mogase said the cuts “did not go well with most residents”.

He said this led the association to demand a meeting with Eskom in a last-ditch attempt to save the situation.

“We appealed to the authorities not to cut electricity to all the townships and to resume the supply to Panville, because it is unfair to single them out,” Mogase said.

At a meeting in Diepkloof at the weekend, Mogase said about 3,600 residents promised to pay their electricity accounts. He said they also decided to suspend the electricity boycott.

In terms of an agreement between Eskom and the association, Soweto residents have to pay a flat rate of R33.80 a month until the giant electricity supplier has “normalised” the situation in the township.

This includes ensuring that meters are functioning properly and that defaulters are dealt with individually, through credit control measures, to avoid victimising innocent residents.

According to a spokesman for the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Soweto residents are paying a mere four percent of the cost of municipal services such as refuse removal, water provision and sewage disposal.

Transvaal MEC Mr Piet Coetzee emphasised that the province had no money left to subsidise boycotts.

Soweto and Diepkloof administrator Mr Steve Burger said local authorities faced a bleak future. He asked residents to pay their services breakdowns.
Eskom extends Soweto cut-off date by two weeks

Metro Staff

Eskom yesterday extended by two weeks the deadline for 22,000 defaulting Soweto residents to settle their electricity bills or face cuts in supplies.

The temporary reprieve followed a meeting with the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) after Eskom cut supplies for 250 residents yesterday.

Eskom sales and customer service manager, Ken Green, said the company had been forced to act against "free-riders" after residents ignored several warnings that their electricity would be switched off.

Power would be restored to the 250 residents if they approached Eskom individually to make arrangements to pay.

Green said in terms of an agreement between Eskom and the SCA, Soweto residents have to pay a flat rate of R33.80 a month until the giant electricity supplier has "normalised" the situation in the township.

Green said he expected Eskom to be in a position to charge normal tariffs by November 1.

SCA president Issac Mogose appealed to Soweto residents to pay their bills.

He said his organisation agreed with Eskom that Soweto residents should be charged according to their consumption.

"At the moment poor people are subsidising the rich," he said.
Eskom postpones Soweto power cuts

THE threatened cut in electricity to 22 500 Soweto households was postponed yesterday after the Soweto Civic Association undertook to get residents to pay their bills, Eskom sales and customer service manager Ken Green said yesterday.

Eskom last week threatened to start cutting power because residents had not paid the monthly R33.80 flat rate tariff introduced in April last year.

Green said the utility had cut power to 216 Pavemville households before agreement was reached with the association to postpone the switch-off until November 1.

The switch-off had not been planned as a wholesale, single-day operation but would be carried out "over time", Green stressed.

Responding to calls by organisations such as the ANC, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the SA National Civic Organisation that Eskom should hold talks with them before acting, Green said Eskom would talk to anyone about the problem.

"We spoke to the civic association because they have been the most active organisation on the issue," he said.

Sapa reports that association president Isaac Mogase said he was optimistic that Soweto residents would pay their bills by November. At a meeting in Deykloof about 3 500 residents had said they were willing to settle their arrears.

Green said residents whose electricity supply was cut off yesterday would have to sign an agreement of intent to pay before their electricity was reconnected.
Soweto: ANC to intervene

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The ANC will participate fully in talks on the Soweto service crisis tomorrow, but it stands firm in rejecting the tentative "package" settlement reached earlier by other parties.

ANC PWV vice-chairman Mathole Motshekga said yesterday that regional structures of the ANC-led alliance and the South African National Civic Organisation had explicitly rejected the "12th draft" agreement.

This agreement had been negotiated under the auspices of the Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber.

Motshekga added: "By attending we will enhance our understanding of the issues. But we stand by the view that we need appropriate structures (of government) that don't just deal with the crisis.

Grants

"We want solutions and we believe that we can find them." Transvaal MEC Piet Coetzee warned once more that Greater Soweto's financial position was parlous, despite the receipt of monthly Government grants.

Having received an explanation of the ANC's position, he said it seemed as if the package deal on Soweto no longer existed.

"I am convinced it will be very difficult to come to solutions at a local level unless there's a deal at national level," Coetzee said.

Motshekga said the ANC's unity with the Soweto Civic Association and the Civic Association of Johannesburg was closer.

The ANC would attend the Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber as a full member from next month, he added.
Sanco reassures property developers

SA NATIONAL Civic Organisation (Sanco) president Moses Mayekiso yesterday stressed the importance of interaction between the building industry and civic structures.

Addressing property developers and building contractors in Parktown, Mayekiso said his organisation was aware of problems besetting the housing industry as a result of bond and rent boycotts, damage to property and violence.

He said Sanco was aware that developers and builders wanted a "positive working environment, which includes security and a fair return on investment".

"Some of you have run into very proactive civic, which insist that if you build speculative housing for profit in the townships, you have a responsibility to do something to support non-profit, low-income housing."

This is an approach we, at national level, generally support and we are looking at specific ways to ensure that this also meets your interests," he said.

He would not, however, elaborate on areas in which his organisation intended co-operating with the building industry.

"Not all our basic principles will meet your own interests, but where we can work together let us not hesitate to do so," he said.

He also called on builders and property developers to back Sanco's housing policy, which emphasised the need for allocating more social resources to housing "for the purpose of kick-starting the economy."

"I want to develop a working relationship with some of your leaders to flesh out this issue. My own researchers are constructing arguments to show that housing investment is a useful economic investment."

"We should be able to have a unified position in this area, which can be presented to the National Economic Forum," he said.
Council backs new housing initiative

Metro Staff

The Johannesburg City Council yesterday threw its full weight behind moves to establish a Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation to tackle the estimated backlog of 200,000 units in the Central Witwatersrand area.

The initiative follows extensive consultation over the past year with the private sector, community organisations, financial experts and officials at the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

“The main task of the corporation will be to assist community housing initiatives with finance for capacity building, for project development and for end-user finance,” Marietta Marx, chairman of Johannesburg’s Health, Housing and Urbanisation Committee, said.

“Initially seed capital would have to come from regional and national funding sources, she said.

“On the one hand, it is accepted that the lack of finance for home building is the biggest single reason for the housing shortage. But this has to be balanced by the fact that substantial funds for housing remain unspent,” Marx said.

Earlier this year the Government made R500 million available to the National Housing Forum, and on this year’s budget of the Central Wits Regional Services Council there is a R10 million allocation to housing for urbanisation.

Inertia

Marx said this “unfortunate state of affairs” resulted from the lack of a national housing policy, the inertia created by the political transition and opposition by community organisations to unilateral action by Government authorities.

“Our view is that all these factors should be resolved within the next 18 months, and then it will be vital to have in place mechanisms for channelling these funds,” Marx said.
Residents to pay R25 flat rate

VOSLOORUS residents will start paying a R25 interim monthly flat rate for essential services from Thursday while the local civic association and the town council continue negotiations.

The Vosloorus branch of the South African National Civic Organisation and Vosloorus Town Council said at a joint news conference in Boksburg last week that although the amount was not realistic, it would help cultivate a culture of payment among residents.

Vosloorus mayor Mr Morrison Smukela said the amount applied only to residential units. Businesses and other consumers had to pay their accounts in full. — Sapa
Eskom starts electricity cuts

30 000 homes in Soweto and Lenasia are without power after Eskom starts power cuts

The ANC said the cutting of electricity was not a "viable option." It went against the spirit of agreements made at the Local Government Negotiating Forum and would exacerbate violence and crime in Soweto.

The ANC yesterday also called for the electricity crisis in Lenasia South to be negotiated alongside the Soweto payment crisis, and for residents to qualify for a flat rate.

ANC local government spokesman Mathole Motshekga said he would address a public meeting in Lenasia this evening to find out how residents wanted to deal with the crisis. Mass action was "high on the agenda.""We are very disturbed because any cut-off of essential services is an inhuman act that we cannot tolerate."

Residents claim that the management committee — currently the subject of an inquiry into irregularities — is demanding exorbitantly high electricity payments and will not accept payments in instalments.
NEWS Court told of how Soweto ma
March over high charges

By Abbey Makoe

ANGRY residents of Palm Ridge on the East Rand yesterday marched on the offices of the Germiston City Council to protest against high rent and service charges.

Watched by city councillor Mr Viv Morris, other councillors and policemen, residents handed in a memorandum detailing their grievances.

Palm Ridge Civic Association executive committee member Miss Beth Andrews told the councillors, "If you people were God-fearing you would understand what we're talking about when we say our people are suffering. They are eating dog food.

The march was sparked off by letters sent to residents informing them that rentals would soon be increased by R300 a month in rent from next month, while they had been paying R80 previously.
Boycott is opposed by civic association

By Joshua Raboroko

THE Soweto Civic Association has never supported or called bond boycotts in the townships and will not do so in future.

This is what SCA president Mr Isaac Mogase told the staff of Remex Estate Agents at a meeting in Johannesburg.

Dishonest

He said the bond boycott was called by "dishonest people who lived in ivory towers" and who took advantage of the political mood in the country.

The civic association had backed the rent boycott because of certain pressures imposed on blacks at the time.

"The bond boycott should be regretted because it will add misery to the lives of blacks," he said.

The banks were reluctant to give loans to blacks fearing they might lose their money.

Serious shortage

The civic association had held numerous meetings with banks and urged them to grant housing loans because of the serious shortage of homes countrywide.

"We believe in negotiating in order to solve problems. We did so when Eskom threatened to cut off the electricity supply to many homes," he said.

The civic association would welcome any efforts by banks and estate agents that could help people obtain homes as well as give advice.
ANC backs deal on crisis

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

There is every indication that the agreement on the Soweto service crisis will pull through the Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber tomorrow with the unreserved blessing of the ANC and its allies.

In talks last week, negotiators from local authorities, civic and political organisations and the Province finalised the package agreement to upgrade services and end rent boycotts.

ANC PWV vice-chairman Mathole Motshelga said yesterday the local government committee of the ANC alliance and the SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco) had met on Sunday and given its full support.

It had decided to "urge the chamber to ratify the agreement without further delay" and to "call on all interested parties to ensure that the structures for its implementation are made fully operational without delay."

This amounts to an ANC about-turn and owes a lot to the labour crisis in Soweto councils.

The ANC alliance and Sanco called on local authorities and the Transvaal Provincial Administration to deal urgently with the problems of members of the Cosatu-affiliated South African Municipal Workers' Union.

"In particular the meeting demanded that the authorities immediately settle the salary arrears, increases and bonuses (due) to the Samwu members."

Motshelga pointed out that the ANC would be taking part in the chamber only from this week.

The Soweto package fell short of the ANC's demand for the nonracial restructuring of local government, said Motshelga. But it had nothing to lose since legislation for the first phase of interim local government would be in place within weeks.
ANC throws weight behind Soweto deal

THE ANC has called for immediate implementation of a package agreement to end the Soweto service payment crisis, following months of debate on whether to support a deal worked out in the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

Until now the ANC has refused to become a full member of the chamber, and has withheld its backing for previous attempts to end payment boycotts. The organisation announced last week it would take part in chamber deliberations.

ANC PWV region deputy chairman Mathole Motshekga said yesterday it had been decided at the weekend to support the package worked out in the chamber’s sub-committee on the issue.

Mathole said the ANC alliance and the SA National Civic Organisation’s local government committee welcomed and supports the agreement. The organisation called for ratification of the package at tomorrow’s meeting of the chamber.

The package includes an interim tariff of R45 per household, and provides for a committee to oversee the administration of Soweto until a permanent structure can be worked out.

Mathole called on the “relevant local authorities and the TPA to immediately resolve the crisis situation involving the SA Municipal Workers Union”.

A number of black local authorities in the PWV region have fallen behind in paying their staff because of a lack of funds. Some are in arrears to the Receiver of Revenue and are up to six months behind with pension fund contributions.

The ANC wanted the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council, Johannesburg and other city councils to provide the funds and resources for the payment of SA Municipal Worker Union members. It also called for the effective provision of essential services, setting a target date as February 1.

Chamber CEO Vic Milne yesterday welcomed the ANC announcement. He added that the February 1 deadline was probably made for practical reasons. It would be hard to begin service upgrading over December, as most municipal staff would be on leave. It would also be difficult to end the boycott in January, when people were usually out of pocket from the holiday season.

If the package was to be accepted this month, it would give the parties two months to set it in place, Milne said.

However, chamber sources were sceptical about whether the latest development was a breakthrough. “We have heard this kind of thing from them before,” said one chamber negotiator. “I would rather wait until Wednesday’s meeting before getting too excited.”
The Soweto services payment boycott effectively ended last night when the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber accepted a package that provided for residents to resume payments at the end of January next year.

The agreement set a monthly tariff of R45 a household and set up a services crisis committee to administer the township until more legitimate structures were in place. The approval was the result of two years of long and difficult negotiations.

The committee overseeing the agreement's implementation will take political responsibility for all policies and will launch a major campaign to inform all residents about the agreement.

The agreement also provides for additional subsidies and technical assistance. Residents will provide 17% of the township's monthly income and the balance will be made up by subsidies from the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Regional Services Council, and intergovernmental transfers.

The tariff does not include electricity payments which are metered separately and provided by Eskom.

Roodepoort and Johannesburg city councils will provide technical assistance and resources to assist the Greater Soweto administrations and improve services. Johannesburg and Roodepoort will also make financial contributions which have still to be negotiated.
Deal ends Soweto boycott

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The Greater Soweto Services Crisis Agreement, which took years of negotiation to achieve, was finally approved by the Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber in less than five minutes last night.

Afterwards, Met Chamber chairman Dr Van Zyl Slabbert explained, "This agreement will bring additional subsidies and technical assistance to Greater Soweto and signifies an end to the boycott of payment of services charges."

Local authorities, civic associations and political parties which are members of the chamber have until the end of the month to raise objections to the agreement. But delegates to last night’s chamber meeting in Johannesburg seemed confident there would be no objections.

The ANC, which took part in the chamber for the first time last night, has been seen as reluctant to endorse the Soweto agreement. But ANC PWV vice-chairman Mathole Motshekga was emphatic that no objections would be coming from the ANC’s quarter.

He said the ANC had "decided" the Soweto service crisis from restructuring local government. It was happy to endorse the service agreement while pursuing the restructuring of the Met Chamber.

Slabbert described the service agreement as an ad hoc temporary arrangement.

The agreement, due to come into effect on December 1, will immediately boost government subsidies for Greater Soweto from 67 percent of the cost of providing services to 82 percent. Soweto residents will be expected to start paying for services at a flat rate of R45 a month from February.
Zulu ‘warriors’ to graduate

WILSON ZWANE

AT LEAST 500 "warriors", who will form the core of KwaZulu's self-protection units, will leave Mlaba Camp near Umlazi today after five weeks of intensive training, which included firearm familiarisation.

Philip Powell, who co-ordinated the project, said yesterday the graduations had been instigated by, among others, KwaZulu police officers, former Umkhonto we Sizwe commanders and former SAP officers.

Powell, who is also KwaZulu representative in the Natal Midlands, said no white right-wingers had been involved and he was the only white person in the project.

The graduates would not be issued with firearms but, since they had received training in the proper use of guns, they would be "competent to apply for licences to carry firearms".

Powell said the training of self-protection unit members would continue as long as the KwaZulu government provided funds and people to be trained.

KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi paved the way for the training recently when he announced that a R5 levy, imposed on Zulus by his government, would be used for the project.

Powell said journalists invited to today's passing out parade would not be allowed to take photographs of the camp and the graduates for "security reasons".

Sowetans ‘will pay for services soon’

GAVIN DU VENAGE

PARTIES involved in the deal to end the Soweto services payment boycott were confident residents would begin paying on the agreed date — February 1 — once they saw improvements in the township.

Improvements would begin next month with the injection of millions of rands into Soweto by government and the Johannesburg and Roodepoort city councils. In terms of the agreement, each household would pay R45 a month for services.

Because of the historical pattern of non-payment, it was expected that it could take a while for everyone to begin paying. But parties were confident this would happen.

Civic Associations of Johannesburg spokesman Can Coovadia said the councils would lend substantial technical, administrative and financial assistance to Soweto.
Deal to end the Soweto boycott

A deal has been clinched to end Soweto’s 10-year rent boycott — but convincing residents may be a problem, reports Desmond Pitoyi

CIVIC organisations have pledged to sell to township rent defaulters this week’s deal with the Johannesburg Metropolitan Chamber and the Roodepoort City Council aimed at ending Soweto’s 10-year rent and services crisis.

The Greater Soweto Services Crisis Agreement, clinched on Wednesday night after 18 months of negotiation and numerous false starts, seeks to end the boycott by next February, and foresees a resumption of rent payments of R45 a month in return for the provision of adequate services.

The political problem will lie in persuading Sowetans who have lived rent-free for a decade to resume rent payments.

However, Soweto Civic Association assistant general secretary Thulani Nkosi said: “We will be using the period until February to convince residents that the time has come to abandon the rent boycott. The Transvaal Provincial Administration will back the project with R32-million, so Sowetans should see a marked improvement in services in their areas.”

Metropolitan Chamber chief executive Victor Milne said his organisation would also be launching a massive propaganda drive to convince residents that the time had come to resume rent payments.

Government subsidies will rise from a current 67 percent of operating costs in Soweto to 82 percent.

The African National Congress, which has been sceptical of attempts to resolve the Soweto crisis, participated in the Metropolitan Chamber meeting which adopted the agreement. ANC representatives said they would not be raising objections to the deal.

Not affected by the agreement are electricity supplies — Eskom and the civics are negotiating the provision of power separately.

The Johannesburg and Roodepoort councils have promised to work closely with the civics to prepare the ground for the February resumption of rent payments by assisting in the provision of rubbish removal, road and pipe maintenance, and other services. But the civics have sounded a cautionary note, saying they will only call for the resumption of rent payments if the neighbouring councils honour their undertakings.

Said Nkosi: “We have to see practical improvements on the ground in order to give our full support to the agreement.”

The civics envisage less resistance to rent payments than in the past, because they believe that the Transitional Executive Council will add legitimacy to local government. “But they will have to be more transparent than local authorities have been until now,” said Nkosi.
George Benson to entertain

R45 a month rent package is agreed on

**SUCCESS AT LAST**

Lengtby Soweto

rent negotiations end in cordial spirit:

**By Joshua Raboroko**

The 10-year Greater Soweto boycott, which cost the local authorities more than R516 million, has ended.

This follows an agreement reached by the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, which adopted a package for an interim monthly tariff of R45 a month for a household starting on February 1st.

However, the agreement does not include electricity, which is metered separately by Eskom, according to sources yesterday.

Eskom's chief executive designate, Mr Allen Morgam, yesterday said service payment boycott, particularly in the Witwatersrand, since July 1989, had led to a debt of R650 million.

The package, arrived at after 18 months of negotiations, also provides for a body, the Services Crisis Committee, which will take all political responsibilities for the townships.

The package will cover Soweto, Diepsladow and Dobsonville which have been boycotting rent payments since June 1986.

The president of the Soweto Civic Association, Mr. Isaac Mogase, yesterday said the agreement was a milestone for the residents.

The negotiations took place in a cordial spirit and there was applause after the parties reached the agreement. Mogase told *Sowetan* “We are looking forward to seeing residents paying their bills,” he said.

**Welcomed agreement**

The National Party has welcomed the agreement and said that it would urge all role players to “work together in ensuring successful implementation of the accord.”

NP’s Regional spokesman for Greater Johannesburg and Soweto, Mr. Daryl Swanepoel, said “We will fully co-operate with other parties to the agreement in communicating the content and effect of this agreement to the community.”
Soweto set to confound its creators

THE significance of the agreement to end Soweto's service payment boycott is not in the financial contribution residents will now make, but that it heralds the end of the township's isolation from the urban economy and brings it into the metropolitan fold.

The R45 a month each household is expected to pay will not in itself have any major impact. Even if 80% of the community heeds the call to end the boycott, its contribution will amount to only 17% of Soweto's monthly needs.

The 82% shortfall will be made up by regional services council levies, the TPA and the Health Department.

However, local government officials are delighted at the deal, even though they had hoped for a R50 tariff. Part of its significance lies in the boycott's origins. The clinics began agitating against rent and service payments 10 years ago for many reasons but mainly to protest against the corrupt, inefficient administrations of Soweto, Deerpark and Dobsonville councils that made up Greater Soweto.

The sprawling township of 3.5-million people served as a huge host for PWV workers who had to commute into the cities daily. Very little of the economic activity they generated filtered back into Soweto.

The boycott underscored Soweto's isolation from the urban economy. Authorities dared not abandon it for fear of the consequences. As business was barred from operating in the townships, state funds were the only legal means for propping up its daily management.

This is about to change. Johannesburg City Council management committee chairman Ian Davidson says the agreement passed by the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber is the first step to ending Soweto's isolation, and setting up a metropolitan government that will draw in Soweto, Johannesberg, Randburg, Alexandra, Sandton and Roodepoort.

The TPA has pledged R52m as "kickstart" finance to fund projects that will bring immediate improvements to the quality of life. Johannesberg and Roodepoort will make their administrative and technical expertise available.

But the township will not be handed over to white local authorities like an orphan. Instead, black and white local authorities will maintain their individual status. They will all fit into a larger, metropolitan authority that will oversee their collective development.

It will not simply be a case of diverting money from the rich to the poor. Each area will have access to development funds.

A priority is likely to be clearing up Soweto and improving health and sanitation facilities. Once residents gain trust in the new administration and see improvements, payments are likely to pick up, boosting development. It is not unlikely that within the next few years major retailers will begin investing in Soweto as the affects of administrative stability and improved services become noticeable.

Once this process gains momentum, Soweto will cease to be the southwestern township apartheid planners intended it to be. It will become a city in its own right, and take its place in the PWV economy.
Eskom rise won’t affect Jo’burg rates

BY JUSTICE MALALA

The Johannesburg City Council announced yesterday that electricity consumers in the city would not be affected by Eskom’s 7 percent tariff increase, which will come into effect in January.

Management committee chairman Ian Davidson said the council would absorb the increase and not pass it on to the consumer. “We are able to do this because the city generates roughly 50 percent of its own electricity requirements and because of cost savings achieved. We also have increased efficiency in the working of the council as a whole.”

Eskom announced the 7 percent increase, the lowest since 1989, on Thursday. It is 2 percentage points less than an estimated inflation rate of between 9 and 9.5 percent for next year.

Eskom chairman Dr John Maree said the lower increase is in line with the undertaking given to consumers in Eskom’s Price Compliance in 1991.

It was also welcomed by economists, who said it would contribute to the lowering of the inflation rate and leave consumers with more disposable income.
Soweto set to confound its creators

The significance of the agreement to end Soweto's service payment boycott is not in
the financial contribution residents will now make, but that it heralds the end of
the township's isolation from the urban economy and brings it into the metropoli-
tan fold.

The R45 a month each household is expected
to pay will not in itself have any major impact.
Even if 80% of the community needs the call to
end the boycott, its contribution will amount to
only 17% of Soweto's monthly needs.

The 82% shortfall will be made up by region-
الservices council levies, the TPA and the
Health Department.

However, local government officials are de-
lighted at the deal, even though they had hoped
for a R55 tariff. Part of its significance lies in
the boycott's origins. The civic began agitat-
ing against rent and service payments 10 years
ago for many reasons but mainly to protest
against the corrupt, inefficient administrations
of Soweto, Diepsloot and Dobsonville coun-
cils that made up Greater Soweto.

The sprawling township of 3.5 million people
served as a huge hostel for PWV workers who
had to commute into the cities daily. Very little
of the economic activity they generated filtered
back into Soweto.

The boycott underscored Soweto's isolation
from the urban economy. Authorities dared not
abandon it for fear of the consequences. As
business was barred from operating in the
township, state funds were the only legal
means for propping up its daily management.

This is about to change. Johannesburg City
Council management committee chairman Ian
Davidson says the agreement passed by the
Central Witswatersrand Metropolitan Chamber
is the first step in ending Soweto's isolation
and setting up a metropolitan government that
will draw in Soweto, Johannesburg, Randburg,
Alexandra, Soweto, and Roodepoort.

The TPA has pledged R25m as "kickstart"
finance to fund projects that will bring immedi-
ate improvements to the quality of life. Johan-
nesburg and Roodepoort will make their ad-
ministrative and technical expertise available.

But the township will not be handed over to
white local authorities like an orphan. Instead
black and white local authorities will maintain
their individual status. They will all fit into a
larger, metropolitan authority that will oversee
their collective development.

It will not simply be a case of diverting mon-
ey from the rich to the poor. Each area will
have access to development funds.

A priority is likely to be cleaning up Soweto
and improving health and sanitation facilities.
Once residents gain trust in the new adminis-
tration and see improvements, payments are
likely to pick up, boosting development. It is
good news that within the next few years
major retailers will begin investing in Soweto
and the effects of administrative stability and
improved services become noticeable.

Once this process gains momentum, Soweto
will cease to be the southwestern township
apartheid planners intended it to be. It will be-
come a city in its own right, and take its place
in the PWV economy.
THE Krugel Commission of Inquiry into allegations of corruption and irregularities in the Mamelodi Council will inspect houses that were allegedly not built according to specification tomorrow.

Commission head Mr Willem Krugel indicated last week that the on-site inspection would be carried out on a number of houses which were built without plans being approved or without any inspection being carried out before occupants moved in.

A Mamelodi resident, Mr Edgar Vukela, told the commission on Friday that he was paying off a R75 523 bond to the Perm Building Society at a rate of R1 200 a month without occupying a house that had been built by a company in which former Mamelodi mayor Mr Sidney Mokone is a shareholder.

The commission has also heard that building inspectors were handed money in envelopes ranging between R300 and R500 at a time not to inspect new houses.

The inquiry continues today.
Hearing adjourned

By Josias Charle

THE Commission of Inquiry into allegations of corruption and irregularities in the Mamelodi City Council yesterday heard that the council had no housing policy.

Testifying before the Krugel Commission, the council's Director of Community Services, Mr Johannes Jakobus Pienaar, said when he joined the council in 1987 there was no written policy on housing and that projects came into being as a result of council decisions.

Pienaar said he decided to recommend to the council that it should use the services of Metro Plan, a company which had carried out a housing survey in Attendgeville.

He said his recommendation was accepted but soon thereafter he was instructed to stop involving himself in planning any land developments.

The commission also heard that resident Mr Billy Mokgothu had paid more than R14 000 for a residential site in 1987 but has never been able to develop it because another house had been built on it.

The commission was yesterday adjourned to November 30.
Soweto-type project rejected

‘House squatters in cluster of villages’

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

A string of small, low-cost housing villages north-west of Randburg has been proposed by the Crocodile Valley Rural Civic Association (Civarc) as a housing solution for the area’s growing squatter population.

This follows Civarc’s call on the Transvaal Provincial Administration to place a moratorium on ongoing evictions in the greater Muldersdrift area until suitable land had been allocated for affordable housing.

Condemning the Randburg Town Council for its failure to provide land for its labour force, Civarc chairman Greg Pickett said the TPA’s attempt to move people to Orange Farm in the Vaal Triangle was unacceptable because of the distance (about 50 km) from Randburg.

Pickett identified five high-priority areas where workers would have to be suitably accommodated close to their workplaces: near the town’s CBD, Strijdom Park, Kya Sands, Muldersdrift and Lusina, where industrial growth is planned.

Rejecting a single, massive Soweto-type development for squatters, now estimated to exceed 30,000 in the greater Muldersdrift area alone, Pickett said: “Planners have worked out the minimum viable size of these settlements to consist of between 500 and 1,000 houses each on stands averaging 360-500 sq m.

“Service costs would be pushed to uneconomic levels if fewer stands were proclaimed,” he said.

He rejected claims by Muldersdrift residents that they could solve their own squatting problems.

Rural areas which fell under Civarc’s umbrella would have to be incorporated under an objective local authority, Pickett said.

In December 1991 The Star revealed secret plans by the TPA to relocate squatters in an area of 13 squatter villages in the north-western FWV.

The sites included Cosmo City and a township west of Lusina Airport.

The plan was roundly condemned by the ANC, the Greenbelt Action Group, the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, the Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal, developers and smallholders.
Threat to take over Alex houses

BY ANNA COX

East Bank residents in Alexandra, near Sandton, have threatened a take-over of 617 houses from four major financial institutions.

The row has erupted between the East Bank Residents' Association (Ebra) and the banks over defective houses which were constructed by Murray and Roberts three years ago.

A negotiating forum was set up and, after a series of meetings, Murray and Roberts agreed to pay for the reconstruction of the 617 homes. A formal agreement was drafted but was never signed because several meetings were postponed by the banks.

The banks are Absa, Perm, NBS and Standard Bank. (127)

Ebra chairman Pule Phalatse has accused the financial institutions of trying to buy time.

"We have received full co-operation from Murray and Roberts, who have already appointed an engineer to establish the problems and to start work. The banks, however, are delaying the process and we have had enough. If this continues it will result in direct confrontation and a take-over of the homes," he said.

Ebra has also lashed out at the banks for auctioning people's houses without discussing the matter with it.

"No resident of East Bank will be forcefully evicted from his house without our involvement," he said.

A spokesman for the financial institutions, Dennis Harrison, said the banks had agreed to pay certain of Ebra's costs and attorneys' fees. He said the delays had occurred because each bank was working with a different attorney.

"We have now agreed to appoint one attorney to act for all of us and we hope the matter will be resolved soon," he said.
Deadline for signing of crisis agreement set

Deal on Soweto within reach

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Barring last minute hitches, the Greater Soweto Crisis Agreement will be signed on Wednesday and a city manager will be appointed to direct the restoration of services in the country's largest township.

Johannesburg, which will temporarily take over the delivery of services in Soweto and Diepmeadow, is likely to nominate the manager.

The signing of the agreement is due to take place in the council chamber of the Johannesburg Civic Centre at the first meeting of the Services Crisis Committee (SCC), a multiparty structure which will oversee the process of normalising services in Soweto and ending the seven-year service charge boycott.

All parties which participated in negotiations leading to the agreement have until November 30 to register any objections.

The ANC and the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) are understood to have launched a series of public meetings to explain the terms of the agreement to their constituencies. There is no suggestion that the ANC and SCA will turn their backs on the deal at the last moment.

In terms of the crisis agreement, Johannesburg will take over the provision of services for Soweto and Diepmeadow on terms set out in an agency agreement. Roodepoort will fulfill the same role in relation to Dobsonville.

Earlier this week, the Central Wits Regional Services Council voted an amount of R500 000 for "a concerted communication campaign" to underpin the successful implementation of the package agreement.
R7,2-m project at squatter camp

By Joshua Raboroko

The KwaZulu City Council in Witbank has received R7,2 million from the National Housing Commission to be used for upgrading sewerage, water services and building 2600 toilets at Halanakahlé squatter camp where 15 000 people live.

The sewer and water networks are insufficient to service the people who flocked to the area after the abolition of influx control laws.

"The chairman of the KwaZulu Civic Association, Mr Johannes Mochabang, said "Urbanisation is gradually becoming a reality. The inflow to the cities cannot be stopped."

"Before the removal of influx control people came to the cities illegally, and almost as fast as they were expelled by authorities they returned."

Most of the people living at Halanakahlé worked on the coal mines. After large-scale layoffs they and their families settled at Halanakahlé.

KwaZulu council engineer Mr Dolf van Rooyen said 30 percent of the blacks in the area were unemployed.

"It is hoped that jobs will be created with the implementation of the water and sewer projects," Van Rooyen said.

Halanakahlé has no land on water, no sewerage, no proper roads, no electricity, no facilities of any kind at all.

Civics and political groups look after the interests of the residents.

A local orphan, Mr James Kuzwayo (65) who lives with his wife and eight children said he came to the camp after he lost his job at the mines.

"The need for shelter is a fundamental human need. It is also increasingly recognised as a fundamental human right," he said.

"But in South Africa, apartheid has seen to it that these needs were not met," he added.

An article in the newsletter of the

National Housing Forum says: "The current housing shortage is enormous and even conservative estimates indicate the need to provide 200 000 units each year by the year 2010.

"Millions of ordinary South Africans live in so-called informal settlements, usually without basic services like water or water-borne sewerage."

Kuzwayo says that major problems in the camp are lack of water and provision of sewerage.

"We travel long distances to fetch water from ablution blocks that are situated near broken toilets," he said.

The council will use labour intensive construction methods not only to create temporary local job opportunities, but to train and educate smaller local contractors to establish themselves as future businesses and job creators.

Mochabang, who is also chairman of the local civic organisation, welcomed the council's decision to upgrade facilities.

"The next move will be to install electricity, build more schools and provide recreational facilities," he said.
R7,2-m project at squatter camp

By Joshua Raboroko

The KwaDukuza City Council in Witbank has received R7.2 million from the National Housing Commission to be used for upgrading sewerage, water services and building 2 600 toilets at Hlalanakahle squatter camp where 15 000 people live.

The sewer and water networks are insufficient to service the people who flocked to the area after the abolition of influx control laws.

The chairman of the KwaDukuza Civic Association, Mr Johannes Mochabang, said "Urbanisation is gradually becoming a reality. The influx to cities cannot be stopped."

"Before the removal of influx control people came to the cities illegally, and almost as fast as they were expelled by authorities they returned."

Most of the people living at Hlalanakahle worked on the coal mines. After large-scale layoffs they and their families settled at Hlalanakahle.

KwaDukuza council engineer Mr Dolf van Rooyen said 30 percent of the blacks in the area were unemployed.

"It is hoped that jobs will be created with the implementation of the water and sewer projects," Van Rooyen said.

Hlalanakahle has no land on water, no sewerage, no proper roads, no electricity, no facilities of any kind at all.

Civic and political groups look after the interests of the residents.

A local artist, Mr James Kuzwayo (65) who lives with his wife and eight children said he came to the camp after he lost his job at the mines.

"The need for shelter is a fundamental human need. It is also increasingly recognised as a fundamental human right," he said.

"But in South Africa, apartheid has seen to it that these needs were not met," he added.

An article in the newsletter of the National Housing Forum says: "The current housing shortage is enormous and even conservative estimates indicate the need to provide 200 000 units each year by the year 2010."

"Millions of ordinary South Africans live in so-called informal settlements, usually without basic services like water or water borne sewerage.

Kuzwayo says that major problems in the camp are supply of water and provision of sewerage.

"We travel long distances to fetch water from ablation blocks that are situated near broken toilets," he said.

Unemployed Mr Ludwig Bothelo said that some women have been raped while walking to these far away toilets at night.

"It is unsafe to walk at night. Sometimes these toilets are blocked and are unfit for use," he said.

The inflow of people to the cities cannot be stopped

Principal and owner of two preschools Mrs Elizabeth Zulu said the 95 children under care were in danger as they had to cross streets to get to the toilets.

Fascinating job

She started the creches in 1990 because of her love of young children.

"I find caring for children to be a fascinating job," she added.

She intends opening another preschool because the population was growing.

Van Rooyen said: "The mission of the project is to provide an official individual water connection and fully furnished toilet for each stand.

The council will use labour intensive construction methods not only to create temporary local job opportunities, but to train and educate smaller local contractors to establish themselves as future businesses and job creators.

Mochabang, who is also chairman of the local civic organisation, welcomed the council's decision to upgrade facilities.

"The next move will be to install electricity, build more schools and provide recreational facilities," he said.
Roodepoort won't bail out Soweto

BY GIEK ELSAS
WEST RAND BUREAU

The Roodepoort City Council decided unanimously at its monthly council meeting last night that it would not take part in resolving the services crisis of Greater Soweto.

The item, tabled without comment from any councillors, recommended the Metropolitan Chamber be informed that the council was not prepared to enter into the Greater Soweto Services Crisis Agreement.

However, it reaffirmed its viewpoint to assist Dobsonville with its administration and provision of services, as had been previously agreed to.

The agreement is to be implemented on December 1.

It stipulates that "costs of administration and provision of services in Greater Soweto be funded by income from tariffs and service charges paid by consumers, by intergovernmental grants from the TPA, contributions by the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council and contributions by the city councils of Johannesburg and Roodepoort as determined by negotiation".

The Metropolitan Chamber will be informed of the council's decision today.
Mamelodi switch-off in the offing

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

Mamelodi — the giant township outside Pretoria — could be in the dark this Christmas because civic organisations do not have a mandate from residents.

The Pretoria City Council warned yesterday that if residents did not pay an agreed R117 for electricity and other municipal services, power would be cut off on December 7. The agreement had been reached in negotiations between the council and "Mamelodi civics".

It had been agreed that a "protest fee" would be paid from tomorrow. The fee had been increased from R75 to R117.

"Residents are urged to pay the R117 before December 7, failing which the electricity supply will be cut off," the council said in a statement.

"In recent discussions with the civics it emerged that they do not have a mandate to implement the R117 "protest fee". As the Mamelodi Town Council owes Pretoria R53.2 million in unpaid service fees, Pretoria has no other alternative but to ask residents to start paying their accounts."
Threat to cut electricity

PRETORIA — Mamelodi may be heading for a black Christmas as residents continue to refuse to pay their electricity bills.

Mamelodi Town Council owes it R63.2 million. Pretoria City Council said in a statement yesterday and it urged township residents to pay R117 on or before December 7 or face electricity cuts.

The city council and Mamelodi citizens had agreed to increase the “protest fee” from R75 to R117 from December. — Sapa  CT 30/11/98
Step closer for Jo'burg and Soweto

Council to ratify crisis agreement

Johannesburg City Council will meet today to ratify the Soweto services crisis agreement, the first step in reintegrating the satellite city into Greater Johannesburg's urban economy.

"We are intent on fulfilling our responsibility towards the people of Soweto to help restore and upgrade Soweto's infrastructure," Johannesburg management committee chairman Ian Davidson said yesterday.

"This agreement is a short-duration bridging measure to address the immediate crisis and it will almost certainly be superseded early next year by the establishment of metropolitan government for Greater Johannesburg, including Alexandra, Diepmeadow, Dobsonville, Randburg, Roodepoort and Sandton."

Davidson expressed concern at last week's Roodepoort City Council decision not to enter into the Soweto agreement "Success of the agreement depends on how well we co-ordinate our efforts through the interim services crisis committee. It is not justifiable for Roodepoort to step back from the agreement."

Parties have until today to ratify the main agreement before becoming signatories tomorrow.

According to Davidson the Johannesburg and Roodepoort city councils would then enter into agency agreements with the Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville city councils.

Under the main agreement, Johannesburg would second a senior official as Soweto's city manager, the nominee being acting town clerk Howard Vosloo. The city manager would be appointed by the Administrator of the Transvaal, on the basis of consensus in the interim services crisis committee, to manage Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville. — Supa.
Reintegration of Soweto decided

The Johannesburg City Council, yesterday ratified the Soweto services agreement aimed at reintegrating the sprawling township into Greater Johannesburg's urban economy.

Parties had until yesterday to ratify the main agreement before becoming signatories today.

Supporting the council's decision, councillor Patricia Lion-Cachet said the agreement represented a "watershed" but she warned that success would depend on effective communication with the people of Soweto.

Metro Staff
Agreement ends
Soweto boycott

By Musa Zondi and Sapa

The Soweto Civic Association has hailed the agreement by the Johannesburg City Council on Tuesday to provide financial and technical support to the embattled township.

The agreement effectively ends Soweto's rent boycott, which saw services in the township degenerating to crisis levels.

In terms of the deal, residents will have to pay an interim flat rate of R45. This was agreed to by the civic associations, the African National Congress and other parties in the Metropolitan Chamber.

Soweto Civic Association chair Mr Isaac Mogase said even though he had not fully acquainted himself with the terms of the agreement, he was happy that the Johannesburg municipality was coming into Soweto "not as an occupying force" but to work with the people in the township.

"If they have agreed (Johannesburg City Council), we are happy and feel that the council's decision will be beneficial to the Soweto community. That is what we have been fighting for all the time, anyway," he said.

Basic services (127)

The agreement provides for the supply of essential basic services such as refuse removal, excluding water and electricity, on an agency basis.

The Government and the Regional Services Council have pledged about R40 million towards the deal — but the agreement will only be implemented if all 19 parties involved sign. These parties were to sign the agreement last night.

However, Johannesburg councillors were optimistic that the Roodepoort City Council, which last week indicated it would not be party to the deal, would support the agreement.

Each household will pay R45 for waste removal, ash removal, sewerage and basic cleaning of the township. Electricity and water are excluded and the flat-rate for electricity is R33.80.

The deal affects Diepmeadow, Dobsonville and Soweto.
Delegates, council to meet on Soweto

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Delegates from the Soweto Crisis Committee will meet the Roodepoort Town Council today in an attempt to break the barrier to implementing the multiparty agreement which aims to restore services and end the "rent" boycott in Greater Soweto.

Roodepoort did not attend a meeting held in Johannesburg on Wednesday, at which all parties were to have signed the agreement and to have formally constituted the Soweto Services Crisis Committee.

The town clerk of Roodepoort indicated in writing that his council would ratify the agreement only once uncertainty regarding the basis of its involvement in delivering services to Dobsonville — one of the three local authorities in Greater Soweto — was clarified.

Vic Milne, chief executive of the Central Wits Met Chamber, confirmed that he and a delegation comprising a dozen parties to the crisis committee would meet the Roodepoort management committee today to discuss clauses of the agreement about which the council was anxious.

One of these issues is the financial support Roodepoort can expect from the Government for its work in Dobsonville.

While the Johannesburg City Council has been guaranteed an additional R32 million by the TPA to "kick-start" its work in Soweto and Diepsloot, the agreement fails to make an equally specific provision for Roodepoort in relation to Dobsonville.

If progress is made in today's talks it is likely that Roodepoort will convene a special council meeting early next week to reconsider ratifying the deal.

If the matter is resolved, the formal ratification agreement will take place on Thursday, since no other parties have raised substantial objections.
End to rent boycott step closer

Roodepoort ‘yes’ to plan for Soweto

BY GLEN ELSAS
WEST RAND BUREAU

The Roodepoort City Council decided last night to accept an amended version of the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber’s Greater Soweto Services Crisis Agreement, paving the way for an end to the rent and services boycott on the Rand township.

The agreement binds the signatories to provide financial, municipal and administrative services to the Greater Soweto area, including Dobsonville.

Involvement

After a three-hour debate the council decided by 13 votes to 9, to accept the agreement with certain amendments.

One was that Roodepoort’s involvement would be in council services and administrative services for Dobsonville only and not for the Greater Soweto.

The council also stipulated that if Soweto residents did not stick to paying the agreed fixed rate of R5 a month for services, Roodepoort reserved the right to withdraw from the agreement.

CRISIS deal for services in West Rand townships is accepted with amendments over the extent of the council’s involvement

after six months.

Roodepoort also expressed the hope that the signing of the agreement by all the relevant parties would herald the end of the services payment deadlock.

The council had decided at its monthly meeting last month not to sign the 18-party agreement and informed the Metropolitan Chamber of its reservations.

In another item tabled at the meeting, the council decided to support a recommendation that consultants be appointed to compile a report concerning the feasibility of Roodepoort being included in the western sub-region of the PWV area, with Krugersdorp, Randfontein, Westpynia and Carletonville.

The item will be discussed further at the January council meeting.
TPA in plea for services

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has appealed to Orange Farm protesters to allow the reopening of administration offices and the resumption of vital day-to-day community services.

Mr Jeff Wilkins of the TPA Witwatersrand regional office said yesterday the complex’s reopening had been made unfeasible by ongoing protests following a sit-in by the Palestine Cruoe Association from November 22 to 26.

Identity documents

Essential services — including the maintenance of water and sanitation, pensions payouts, registration of the unemployed and assistance with obtaining identity documents — could not be rendered to the 165 000 residents of Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg.

The TPA said it had made numerous attempts to solve the impasse but the civic leadership had avoided negotiations and resolved to continue with sit-in action. — Sapa

PEOPLE'S LIVES Grappling with the phenomenon of

Private company to build 7000 houses

By Joshua Raboroko

THE provision of shelter is a fundamental need that has become increasingly recognised as a human right.

But in South Africa, apartheid and its legacy have seen these needs go unmet.

The current housing shortage is enormous and even conservative estimates indicate the need to provide 200 000 houses each year until the year 2000.

The Government and the private sector have tried hard to help solve the problem in the Vaal Triangle townships of Sebokeng, Boapatong, Bophelong and Sharpeville.

It has L-gn estimated that the housing shortage in these areas is about 80 000 land growing as a result of largescale urbanisation.

However, a ray of light seems to be shining at the end of the tunnel with the launch of RG and MG Properties (Pty) that aims to provide homes for 7 000 families on a farm, two kilometres west of Sebokeng Zone 13, near the Johannesburg-Golden Highway.

The company is owned 50-50 percent by two property developers, Mr. Lucas Manyama and Mr. John Marshall.

They obtained the land from a white farmer who has retired. The area is to be called Botumelo — meaning happiness.

Ready for occupation

Stands on Botumelo cost between R2 500 and R3 000 depending on the size required.

The focus will be to provide low-cost housing.

The first of these stands will be ready for occupation from February.

Manyama says Botumelo is to be created as a result of the shortage of affordable serviced land.

“We were at one stage thinking of cutting the bare minimum services on this development thus making it even more affordable.”

The company has been trying to get through all the red tape of township development.

Marshall says it costs the company more than R12 million to acquire the land from the farmer.

The company has acquired more tracts of land near Sasolburg in the Orange Free where “we also intend to put up more homes at this crucial time in our history.”

They intend making more land available so that people can build homes in the future.

The administrator of LeLoa Council, Mr. CN Combrink, has welcomed the move by the company and said it would probably reduce the housing backlog in the area.
Soweto services agreement ratified

A GREATER Soweto services crisis agreement was finally ratified yesterday, nearly two weeks after parties to the agreement were stood up by Roodepoort City Council at the official signing ceremony. (DVR)

An elaborate official ceremony to endorse the agreement was called off last month after dignitaries arrived because Roodepoort decided at the last moment to raise objections about matters it wanted clarified. However, a deal was struck last week. The agreement called for Roodepoort to provide assistance to Dobsonville.

The agreement’s acceptance was marked by the launch of a greater Soweto services crisis committee, which would run Soweto and hold political responsibility until local government elections next year.

The council would provide technical support and make up financial shortfalls after all other income from state, business and residents contributions had been taken into account. (12=1)

Residents will have to start paying R5 a household a month from February 1.

Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber chairman Van Zyl Slabbert said ratification of the agreement was “a major breakthrough”.

It was especially significant because of the difficulty “at national level” of getting all parties involved, he said. The ANC had refused to sign the agreement.

Eskom and Katlehong Civic Association have signed an agreement giving Eskom the right to supply electricity directly to residents. A tariff of 17,5c a unit will be phased in over six months. Eskom has undertaken to repair infrastructure and check faulty meters, while the civic association will monitor meter boxes and mini-substations to prevent vandalism.

SAPA reports that Pretoria’s city council intends cutting the electricity supplies of residents of Atteridgeville, Eersterust, Landium and Mamelodi who are 90 days or more in arrears with their payments.
Multiparty committee set up

Soweto services deal finally struck

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The Greater Soweto Services Agreement is in the bag.

And the 18 parties and organisations which have endorsed it insist, this time, that they have a deal which will really serve to upgrade services and get residents back to paying municipal bills.

The parties formally ratified the agreement at a meeting in Johannesburg yesterday, and set up a multiparty Services Crisis Committee to take political responsibility for servicing Greater Soweto.

"The agreement doesn't mean that manna is going to fall from heaven by Christmas," said Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber chairman Dr Van Zyl Slabbert.

But it did provide the vehicle for a process which would see a sustainable improvement in services and in the level of payment for services.

Soweto Civic Association leader Isaac Mogase said the response of residents in nine public meetings held so far "gives me a strong feeling that this exercise will be fruitful."

He added that the agreement differed from previous deals in that it had the full support of political parties that carried the respect of people in Soweto.

Objection

Johannesburg city secretary Howard Veale was confirmed by the parties as city manager for Greater Soweto and Dave Jooste of Roodepoort as deputy manager for the area.

Although Mavela Dlamini, deputy director of housing for Johannesburg, was nominated as the second deputy, an objection from the Inkatha Freedom Party delayed — and might ultimately block — his confirmation.

The agreement provides for Johannesburg and Roodepoort to step in and temporarily administer services in Greater Soweto.

In addition, Slabbert pointed out, it brought increased subsidies to the township.

"The agreement will increase the subsidies provided by the authorities from 67 percent of the cost of provision to 82.5 percent, and will bring additional financial and technical support from the city councils of Johannesburg and Roodepoort."

The remaining 17.5 percent of costs had to be recovered from the people of Soweto. The agreement stipulates that they will begin paying a monthly flat fee of R45 from February 1. This does not cover electricity.

While the services agreement was independent of constitutional restructuring, its successful negotiation "gives hope for the successful implementation of the new local government dispensation announced at the World Trade Centre last week," Slabbert said.
Upgrading for Soweto

SOWETO 10/12/93

**BASIC SERVICES** Increase in subsidies will improve quality of life:

A **n agreement to increase subsidies and technical assistance in the provision of basic municipal services to the Greater Soweto region was ratified by the Central Waterfront Metropolitan Chamber yesterday.**

A Metropolitan Chamber statement released at a Johannesburg news conference said subsidies would increase from 67 percent to 82.5 percent.

The agreement would also bring additional financial and technical support from the Johannesburg and Roodepoort city councils to the Greater Soweto region.

The remaining 17.7 percent must come from the Greater Soweto residents, through monthly payments of a flat rate of R4.5 effective from February 1 1994. The deal is aimed at bringing to an end the protracted services boycott in the region.

Chamber chairman Dr Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert, described the agreement as inclusive and comprehensive. Eighteen parties participated in the negotiations that led to the agreement. He said the agreement was devoid of any constitutional buckering and would provide a better quality of life to residents who were expected to pay for the services. — Sapa
Snags standing in
way of free houses

SOWETO people who have
rented houses from the state
can expect to be able to take
ownership of them for little or
no money as soon as policy
issues about the transfer have been
solved.

The National Housing Forum
(NHF) would like all agreements be-
tween government and other parties,
like the civic, concerning transfer of
state owned houses to their tenants, to
be transparent, fair and negotiated
rather than unilateral.

The NHF's role is to set housing pol-
cy with government. It represents 19
non-government parties including the
main political parties, labour unions,
development agencies, financiers, pen-
sion funds, construction interests and
commerce and industry.

In November 1992 there were
378,069 houses countrywide owned by
the state and rented to tenants. The
government and mass organisations
have previously agreed that there
would be no unilateral disposal of state
assets by the government. But urgent
disposal of state housing was agreed
upon because under apartheid people
were denied ownership of property.

The Soweto Accord of September
1990 began the process of joint disposal
based on consultation and consensus
with mass-based organisations in
Soweto. A major study by a firm of attorneys
identified a number of issues to be re-
solved if the transfer of housing was to
be transparent, effective and fair.

The most important of these issues
is entitlement. In many cases, the resi-
dents regard the houses as family
homes, to which all members of the
family are entitled.

It is therefore necessary to create the
possibility of a form of transfer which
recognises the rights of a number of
people to the house.

While these complicated issues are
being resolved, there is a moratorium
on transfers of houses in Soweto and
other black areas.

To address all these problems and
speed up the transfer of properties once
they have been resolved, the Central
Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber
has resolved to establish a housing
bureau with 12 offices.

It is expected that adjudicating offic-
ers will be appointed.

(This article was made available
courtesy of the National Housing Fo-
rum.)
R49-m debt for Kagiso Council

By Joshua Raboroko

The Kagiso Town Council is in debt to the tune of R49 million because of an eight-year boycott of tariffs in the West Rand township, according to sources close to the municipality.

The council owes Eskom R31 million, the Rand Water Board R6 million and the West Rand Regional Services Council R12 million for sewerage.

As a result, Eskom has seized some of the municipality's assets in an attempt to recover its money.

This was disclosed by employees and former workers following the appointment of the new administrator.

Mr Rayne Snyman succeeds Mr JP Visser, who left the council after a misunderstanding with the Transvaal Provincial Administration over the “finances” of the local authority.

There are fears that several senior personnel at the council will be axed because of lack of funds.

Snyman could not give the exact figures, but said the R6 million owed to the WRRSC was for sewerage. He was aware Eskom took over the supply of electricity in Kagiso early this year.

Snyman said they would ensure that they kept the present personnel and workers in their positions, despite the financial hardships faced by the council.
Commission calls for charges against mayor

By McKeed Ketiolo

THE Krooag Commission of Inquiry investigating allegations of maladministration in the Mameloleti Council will recommend that fraud charges be investigated against the mayor, former management committee chairman Mr James Malaleka and Mr Andrew Thadi.

Ntsele, of Mamelodi East, said Mokone and Malaleka approached and introduced him to Thadi in 1988.

They offered him R40 000 to sell his business rights to Thadi. He turned down the offer and finally agreed to R100 000.

He said the money was payable on the day of the signing of the transfer agreement on July 19, 1989.

Present at the signing were Mokone, Malaleka, councillor Mr Peter Bambu, the council's legal adviser Mr Cecil Phathudi and other councillors.

He was told that he would receive his money once the council had approved the transaction.

The transfer of the rights was completed and the garage erected.

Ntsele said he had "not received a farthing" from that transaction.

Ntsele, who described himself as an "illiterate", told the commission that on July 20, 1989 he was made to sign a letter stating that he was handing over his rights to Thadi.

But Thadi later told "me he did not owe me any money and referred me to Mokone and Malaleka."

But the two told him not to worry because Thadi would pay.

The commission has adjourned until January 17, 1994.
Eskom halts
power cut-off

JOHANNESBURG — Eskom had suspended its programme of electricity cut-offs for non-payment in Soweto because of high levels of crime in the area and the threat of its employees being attacked, sales and customer service manager here Mr Ken Green said at the weekend.

Eskom employees had been attacked by criminals in Soweto recently and a number of vehicles had been hijacked.

Last week, four Eskom employees escaped death when the vehicle in which they were travelling was shot at in Diepkloof.

Mr Green said the cut-off programme would be resumed next month.

Eskom began cutting off electricity to 20,000 Soweto homes early last month. Affected residents were those who had not paid the R33.80 monthly rate, introduced in February 1992 in greater Soweto, in May 1992 in Dobsonville and in February 1993 in Diepmeadow.

Mr Green said payment for December was likely to be lower than in the recent past when up to 70% of residents had been paying.
Housing & Hostels - T. V. L.

1994
Bid to solve squatter issue at Nooitgedacht

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC PWV region said yesterday that a fresh bid would be made tomorrow to find a negotiated settlement to the stand-off between squatters and landowners at Nooitgedacht, north-west of here. ANC regional deputy chairman Mr Mathiole Motshelfa said a committee formed yesterday, comprising ANC, civic and squatter leaders, would meet officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) to decide the fate of the 300 squatters.

The meeting would focus on the TPA's proposal that the squatters be resettled at Riottule, Krugersdorp, some 45km from their present location, and alternative proposals from the squatters and the local civic. — Sapa
Sewage spilling into streets of Soweto

BURST pipes are spilling sewage into the streets of Greater Soweto, creating a health hazard as the complex waits for the Johannesburg and Roodepoort city councils to take over provision of services.

Parties in the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber ratified the Greater Soweto crisis agreement early last month, under which a city manager would be appointed for the area and the two councils would temporarily take over the running of services.

Johannesburg City Council secretary Howard Veale, who was yesterday officially appointed city manager, said Johannesburg and Roodepoort could only begin work in Soweto after Thursday.

The Greater Soweto Crisis Committee, made up of parties in the Metropolitan Chamber and the Greater Soweto councils of Deepsdene, Dobsonville and Soweto, would meet on Thursday to decide what services needed priority.

Soweto Civic Association (SCA) president Isaac Mogase said the situation was caused by a further deterioration of already neglected services.

He appealed to residents to start paying the monthly flat rate of R46 from February 1. The payment represents 17,7% of the cost of providing basic services in Soweto, with the rest subsidised by government.
East Rand too risky, say lenders

Township anarchy halts home loans

FINANCIAL institutions have stopped granting home loans to residents of East Rand townships because of virtual anarchy in the area.

Absa announced on Tuesday that it would not grant any new home loans to residents of East Rand townships, including Vosloorus, Thokoza, Katlehong and Tembisa.

Yesterday Standard Bank, First National Bank and SA Perm spokesmen said no financial institutions were lending to people in the area. They said the violence made it impossible to service loans.

An Absa spokesman said it was too risky to continue lending in the area. Not only were investments at risk, but property inspectors could no longer go there safely.

"Financial institutions cannot play the role of peacemakers or law enforcement officers. We have to protect investors' money and the lives of our staff," he said.

The East Rand has become a virtual war zone in the past year. The Human Rights Commission reports that 318 people died in the area in the first 10 months of 1994, while 331 died in other PWV townships.

In the past two months, about 250 people have met their deaths on the East Rand in violent circumstances.

The banks have millions of rand-on-home loans invested in East Rand townships. Most loans are in arrears, and the banks see little hope of improvement in the short term.

Financial institutions have lost vast amounts because of bond boycotts and violence. Banking spokesman estimated they have extended R6.5bn in mortgage-based loans to the black community, a third of which are in arrears.

As a result, they are reluctant to lend any more.

Standard Bank home loans divisional manager Duncan Reekie said financial institutions were unable to go through the processes that were necessary for granting new home loans.

"Property inspectors are unable to enter the area to examine a house. The unrest and violence also mean we cannot enforce our rights if customers do not pay their home loans," said Reekie.

Perm duvanofil manager Hugh Maclellan said the situation was unmanageable. Financial institutions would not lend money where it was obvious they could not retrieve it.

However, he said the Perm's management was optimistic about the East Rand, which he expected to improve after the election.

"SA's massive housing shortage means there will be a huge demand for middle-to-lower-cost housing in future. Values of these homes could increase across the board, and we expect the price of affordable housing to rise in the short term."
Services drive 'unsuccessful'

**BY MOKONE MOLETE**

The Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber's R500,000 information campaign on the restoration of services to greater Soweto was not succeeding, several parties charged at a meeting of the Soweto Services Crisis Committee (SCC) in Johannesburg yesterday.

The ANC, PAC, Sofasonke Party and the PAC demanded that payments to Direct Response Marketing, which landed the contract to distribute pamphlets on the ending of the services boycott, be suspended as not all houses in Soweto had received the pamphlets.

Sofasonke Party's Dan Kapeni produced a bag full of pamphlets which he claimed to have picked up in an open void.

"We should use existing structures to distribute these pamphlets and put the money to better use," he said.

This matter, together with the advertising campaign to encourage residents to resume services payments next month, will be discussed by the communications subcommittee today.

**Concerned**

Direct Response Marketing's national sales manager Pam Houghton said yesterday that her company had not received any queries from the chamber about the distribution.

She said as far as the company was concerned all the pamphlets had reached the designated areas, but the matter would be looked into as soon as more information had been received from the chamber.

The SCC announced that a workshop on the transfer of Government housing stock to residents would be held on January 17.

The Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber chief executive officer, Vic Milne, announced that the transfer of R68 million to the Greater Soweto Council for improving infrastructure would take place on January 20.

Many key issues were not discussed and will be thrashed out at later meetings.

The SCC's budget was also not ready for presentation as city manager Howard Veale only took up his post on Monday.
Threats as banks refuse home loans

RETAILATORY measures to be taken by East Rand township residents against the decision by major banks not to grant them home loans would include the withdrawal of savings from the banks, the SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco) has said.

Sanco southern Transvaal general secretary Dan Mofokeng said yesterday: "If these institutions do not want to plough the residents' investments back into their areas, then Sanco will have no choice but to urge residents to take retaliatory measures.'"

Abbaa, Standard Bank, FNB and SA Perm this week said no financial institution was granting home loans to people living in Vosloorus, Katlehong, Thokoza and Tembisa.

The banks said violence in the townships made it impossible to service loans.

Mofokeng said the unilateral decision by banks to stop lending to residents of the four townships was a breach of an agreement between his organisation and the Association of Mortgage Lenders (AML). He said Sanco and the AML reached an agreement last year which, among other 'things', stipulated that there should be no prejudice against certain areas.

"In the light of the statements by these banks, Sanco will have to review its commitment to the agreement," he said.

Mofokeng said his organisation would negotiate with banks that had not decided to stop lending in the townships, with a view of dealing with them in the future.

"We are also in the process of setting up community banks. We will invest in these because they have our interests at heart," Mofokeng also questioned the inclusion of Vosloorus and Tembisa in the list of of East Rand unrest flashpoints.

"As far as we know, the trouble areas are only Thokoza and Katlehong," he said.

SAMBATHA SHARPE reports that The Get Ahead Foundation continues to process Stokvel loan applications in the East Rand townships despite the violence.

The foundation is funded by foreign aid organisations to provide loans to borrowers unable to approach the major financial institutions.

Foundation spokesman, Sihle Thabi, acknowledged that it could function only when the situation in the townships allowed.

"I've seen the bullet holes in the Katlehong branches," Thabi said. He added that the foundation had to be "very cautious" when operating in the townships because of the risks imposed by the violence. At times members had been unable to make payments because of the physical danger involved in walking to a branch, Thabi added.
COUNCILS SET TO AID SOWETO

JOHANNESBURG and Roodepoort city councils would get the all clear in two weeks' time to help with the rescue operation on services and administration provision in Greater Soweto, the area's city manager said yesterday.

The Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber has embarked on a publicity campaign to inform residents about the Greater Soweto services crisis agreement, which provides for the two city councils to help in the provision of water, sewerage, refuse removal, street lighting, public administration and community services.

A meeting of the services crisis committee yesterday approved the transfer of about R706m to Soweto and decided that a debt of about R1.8bn would be written off.

THEO RAWANA

on January 20

A pamphlet from the chamber assures residents of improved services.

The agreement, ratified by all parties in the chamber last month, also provided for the transfer of council houses to residents and the appointment of a city manager and two deputies to replace councillors in Soweto, DСПmeadow and Dohonville.

Johannesburg City Council secretary Howard Veale was officially appointed city manager on Monday.

Speaking after yesterday's meeting, Veale said the two cities would begin their task after a meeting on January 19.

SOWETO

programme budget would by then have been worked out with government and the Central Witwatersrand regional services council.

Resident's would be expected to start paying the flat rate of R45 a month on February 7, Veale said.

The chamber pamphlet informed residents that the total cost of services would work out at R396 a month a household. But through subsidies the cost had been brought down 83% to R45 a month.

A chamber housing task team was working on the transfer of council-owned houses to residents.

The chamber stressed that the agreement was a temporary measure to deal with the crisis before the election. "It will remain in force until more legitimate government structures review it," it said.
E Rand residents to 'get even' with banks

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Retaliatory measures to be taken by East Rand township residents against the decision by major banks not to grant them home loans would include the withdrawal of savings from the banks, the SA/National Civic Organisation (Sanco) said yesterday.

Sanco southern Transvaal general secretary Mr Dan Mofokeng said "If these institutions do not want to plough the residents' investments back into their areas, then Sanco will have no choice but to urge the residents to take retaliatory measures." Urgent meetings would be held to discuss these measures, he said.

Absa, Standard Bank, First National Bank and SA Perm this week said no financial institution was granting home loans to people living in Vosloorus, Katlehong, Thokoza and Tembisa.

The banks said violence in these townships made it impossible to service loans.
Owners move squatters

Johannesburg — Nootgedacht landowners on Saturday removed the controversial squatter community north-west of here — to the disgust of the ANC and the disappointment of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The ANC says people have been dumped on the streets 30km away at Soweto on the West Rand and have lost their property. The landowners say the removal was carried out with "respect for the community's property and the safety of all involved".

The three parties, along with the squatter community and civic, had been involved in discussions for four months, until Friday night when the TPA tried to persuade the ANC and the landowners to reach a compromise, said MEC Mr Piet Coetzee.

Instead of continuing negotiations, however, landowners went ahead with removing the 102 shacks — while the ANC was under the impression that it would still have yesterday to report back to the community. Landowners said they were frustrated by the protracted and unresolved talks.

Sapa
Killing follows eviction meeting

JOHANNESBURG — A 40-year-old man was stabbed and hacked to death by 10 unidentified attackers following a meeting to discuss the resettlement of the Nooitgedacht squatters at Swaneville near Randfontein, police said yesterday.

Mr Patrick Mango died at the weekend after his assailants pulled up next to him in the road and attacked him with sharp objects.

Police linked the attack to a meeting earlier on Sunday which failed to reach agreement concerning the relocation to Swaneville of squatters evicted on Saturday from Nooitgedacht by white landowners.

Earlier yesterday, 50-year-old Mr Isak Thabete was found seriously wounded with chop and burn wounds at Swaneville.

Earlier police found the home of Inkatha Freedom Party member Ms Agnes Dube razed to the ground. An eight-year-old boy was allegedly abducted from the house by the attackers, police said — Sapa
Power cables to go

By McKeed Kotolo

ABOUT 60 percent of Soshanguve residents who owe rent and service charges have been warned to pay their arrears or face electricity cuts.

The township's administrator, Mr SJ Petersen, said in letters enclosed in the monthly rental accounts, that the township could not be properly run and administered if the majority of households failed to pay for services.

Petersen said a mutually acceptable tariff was agreed on in July 1993 with Soshanguve Residents Organisation, which undertook to notify the amount with its principals.

Petersen said in the letter that only 39 percent of the residents were paying the promulgated rate and service charges.

He said he was left with no choice but to take drastic steps against nonpayers. Electricity supplies to individual properties of defaulters would be cut and power cables connected to those properties would also be reconnected.

"This will mean that the defaulters will be responsible for the re-installation of the cable and the reconnection of electricity when settling the account."

The local acting town clerk, Mr Amos van Heerden, told Sowetan yesterday that the majority of defaulters had made arrangements to pay their arrears.
Letters

Township residents are bank customers too

Wilson Zane
For Sowetans the time has finally come for life to return to normal, says Soweto Civic Association spokesman Mr Thulani Nkosi. **Glenn McKenzie** looks at some of the problems:

Rubbish gathers in Diepkloof, Soweto ... the problem is a by-product of the rent boycott.

**Some people say we’ve got a culture of nonpayment, but in fact there is a culture of non-provision of services**

...
AVF prepared to seek mediation

Hope returns after trilateral meeting

BY CHRIS WHITFIELD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) leader General Constant Viljoen said yesterday morning that a “bit of violence” may be needed to carve out a homeland.

But later in the day, hopes that dissenting rightwingers could be brought aboard the country’s political settlement were lifted by a successful trilateral meeting.

The meeting was attended by the Freedom Alliance (FA) — of which the AVF is a part — the Government and the ANC.

After 3½ hours of talks at the Development Bank building in Midrand, delegates emerged with new hope.

They will meet again tomorrow, when they will receive a report-back from a technical committee looking at issues dividing the organisations.

Chief ANC negotiator Cyril Ramaphosa said the meeting had been very constructive.

FA chairman Rowan Groenje said participants had found a constructive way to address problem issues.

One senior politician said that for the first time he had “walked out of such a meeting feeling positive”, and that the ANC had been in a particularly conciliatory mood.

The meeting came within hours of Viljoen’s warning that “limited violence” was a “serious option”.

Viljoen said that to prevent violence if a deadlock occurred, the AVF was prepared to seek international mediation.

He told a media briefing in Pretoria that the mediator should be on the scale of the Palestine-Israel peace talks.

After the trilateral meeting later yesterday, Ramaphosa said the ANC had taken note of Viljoen’s earlier comments.

However, the ANC believed that differences should be resolved in negotiations.

The technical committee — comprising three members of each of the organisations — will begin its crucial discussions this morning.

The “provisions for provincial structures”, the issue of self-determination and whether voters should get a second ballot paper to indicate a regional preference are on the agenda.

Negotiators have until Monday — as agreed to in the last round of talks — to find a solution.

Civic executive resigns over boycott

The Bekkersdal Civic Association executive committee resigned from office yesterday amid controversy over its recommendation to lift a boycott organised and which has crippled most of Westonaria’s businesses.

The committee advised the community to lift the boycott last week to facilitate talks between the Inkatha Freedom Party, police and businessmen in the area. But at a mass meeting on Thursday night, the community chose to continue the boycott.

Although the members who resigned could not be reached for comment, former chairman Lungu Mathambo said in a statement: “After serious introspection and analysis of the volatile environment and ensuing conflict, the executive has chosen to resign with immediate effect.” — Staff Reporter.
TPA gives Greater Soweto R67-m lifeline

By Glenn McKenzie

SOWETO YESTERDAY RECEIVED a R67 million boost from the Transvaal Provincial Administration to improve its services.

But the contribution is not even enough to prevent essential services in Greater Soweto from collapsing, said the area's new acting city manager, Mr. Howard Veale.

"Soweto is operating on a shoestring. Its stores are depleted and staff shortages exist in critical areas such as water and sewage reticulation," Veale said. "Unless financial aid is forthcoming, services will collapse, let alone improve."

He added, referring to the TPA contribution, Soweto would still operate at a deficit of more than R23 million.

The contribution follows an agreement by 18 organisations to end the six-year-old rent boycott in Soweto. The agreement included a plan to improve services before residents resumed payments. The first payment of R45 a house is due on February 1.

Despite the crisis, TPA representative Mr. Peter Coetzee said he was optimistic the new rent agreement would succeed.

"No one thinks improvements are going to happen overnight. Everyone who claims to represent the people agrees that the situation should be normalised. That commitment is what will make things work," said Coetzee.

However, Veale said there were still some problems to overcome. R16 million was owed to workers of Soweto municipalities and there were serious threats of strikes.

"Threats of strike action occur daily. Productivity is poor, whereas at one stage 300 tons of refuse were removed daily, the current figure is 80 tons," Veale said.

In addition, Soweto's water and sewage account had a shortfall of about R3.3 million.

Veale said funding by the Johannesburg and Roodepoort Municipalities could help prevent disaster.

"It is hoped that Johannesburg and Roodepoort will be persuaded to make a contribution to reduce the shortfall to manageable proportions," he said.

Johannesburg City Council official Mr. Patrick Weech said applications for funding from the Greater Soweto Services Crisis Committee would be taken in the next few weeks.
Pay backlog 'could wreck services plan'

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The failure to pay salary arrears totalling R16 million to municipal workers in Diepmeadow could wreck the plan to restore and improve services in the township, Greater Soweto city manager Howard Veale has warned.

"Services in Diepmeadow have in fact been brought to a halt as a result of wildcat strikes in support of claims relating to salary deductions and an Industrial Council pay award arising from a salary regrading in 1992," Veale said last night. (12-7)

Strike action could spread to the local authorities of Dobsonville and Soweto, where workers are owed R4.4 million and R6.7 million respectively.

At the urging of the ANC, the Central Witswatersrand Metropolitan Chamber last night decided to make renewed representations to the Transvaal Provincial Administration to provide the necessary funds, in fulfilment of the national service provision pact signed by President de Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela last week.

In terms of the national agreement, transitional structures of local government will not inherit the debts of the black local authorities which they replace.

Veale noted that the government finance which formed part of the deal to end the seven-year services boycott in Soweto and upgrade services did not cover the outstanding salary contributions.

"To juggle funds specifically earmarked for essential running costs in order to meet arrear pay demands would drain the financial resources of Diepmeadow, making it impossible to provide basic services," the city manager argued.

ANC information and publicity department head Dr Palo Jordan has pointed out that he is not a member of the South African Communist Party and never has been one.

The Star reported incorrectly on Tuesday that Jordan was known to have once been a member of the SAP.
The eagerly awaited end to the 10-year rent boycott did not materialise in greater Soweto yesterday because residents who went to pay found the municipal offices deserted — the entire work force was striking over pay.

SA Municipal Workers’ Union (Samwu) members employed by Diepmeadow city council were in the third week of a strike while Soweto and Dobsonville workers began theirs yesterday.

The three councils owed staff about R25,4m because of the councils’ failure to implement increases promised during the past two years, according to Samwu.

Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber CE Vic Milne said yesterday the breakdown of arrears was Diepmeadow R21,6m, Dobsonville R25 000 and Soweto R3m.

He said the money was available but an agreement reached in the chamber during December, to advance the money to workers, had not been signed by all 18 chamber parties.

Efforts were being made to get the parties to sign the agreement. A letter had been written to the TPA asking that the money be released.

Milne said he hoped the employees would be paid by today.

Samwu Soweto branch vice-chairman Lauti Sethapelo said the assembly of 2 000 strikers at Soweto city council’s chambers ended with the union and council management agreeing that money owed would be paid by February 28.

The strike caused the indefinite postponement of the symbolic payment of a R4 000 internal flat rate by the Greater Soweto Services Committee.

Milne said a new date for the symbolic payments would be announced soon.

The few residents who answered the call to end the boycott yesterday found township administration offices closed, with some doors bearing messages saying that staff would be back later.

Some residents did not even know the boycott was over, indicating that the call had been poorly communicated in some areas.

President F W de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela last month signed an agreement heralding the end of the boycott, which had accumulated a R1,5bn debt nationally.

The agreement was also meant to usher in a programme to upgrade black municipal facilities and install multiracial local government.
Govt urged to settle Soweto debt swiftly

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

ANC and SA Communist Party delegates stormed out of a Soweto Services Crisis Committee (SCC) meeting yesterday, saying the Government must be pressed for close to instant settlement of the multimillion-rand debt to council workers.

The debt has provoked strike action in Diepmeadow, Dobsonville and Soweto and poses a serious threat to the plan to restore services and end the "rent" boycott in the township.

All parties to the services committee — including local authorities, the Soweto Civic Association and a range of political bodies — yesterday agreed to meet the Government's condition for paying over a grant to cover the amount owing to workers in Diepmeadow, Soweto and Dobsonville.

The Government insisted on parties formally signing the Greater Soweto Services Crisis Agreement, which they had all endorsed in December.

Nobody objected to the actual signing, but ANC and SACP delegates took a sharp exception to the Government linking this to the payment of money which, they argued, it was legally obliged to pay workers anyway.

After a tense caucus session, the ANC's Colm Matjila returned to the Johannesburg council chamber to attach conditions to the signing of the document by the ANC and SACP.

First, the Government should release a cheque for the global amount owing to the workers by tomorrow. Secondly, payment to individual workers should be made by February 28.

This sense of urgency found general favour in the committee and it was proposed that a delegation of all parties go and see the director-general of local government before the week was out, taking with them the signed agreement and necessary details of the pay claims, and "come back with the cheque".

However, as the wording of the time scales for this action became increasingly vague, ANC and SACP delegates protested that they could not agree to this watered-down resolution and walked out of the chamber.

SACP delegate Sibisiiso Butheleni said they were not prepared to give "a reasonable period" for payment to a Government which had owed the workers since 1988.

Initially the ANC and SACP indicated that they were through with SCC meetings until the workers had been paid. But they later agreed to attend a meeting today on the procedure for speedy access to the Government grant.
Randburg faces rates boycott by residents

Showdown on squatter camp

Landowners in Randburg have taken the fight to the city council over the settlement of squatters in the area, writes LOUISE MARSLAND.

RANDBURG ratepayers have begun a rates boycott to force the town council to negotiate over the squatter problem.

At a fiery meeting on Tuesday, Ward 13 residents — including those in the areas of Bloubosrand, Jukelsi Park, Sharonlea, Olivedale and Northriding — decided to institute a rates boycott if the Randburg Town Council moved the Nootgedacht squatters on to land owned by Premier Milling, a kilometre south of Bloubosrand.

Most of the 400 residents who registered at the meeting voted in a community council in place of their ratepayer's association and decided to call for the removal of their town councillor.

Immediately

Some residents announced that they would begin withholding their rates payments to the town council immediately, although Ward 13 Community Council spokesman Arnold Meyer said an official date to begin a rates boycott would be announced the day the Randburg council began moving squatters on to their doorsteps.

A ballot was held at the resident's meeting and 238 people voted to support the Randburg Action Committee and form a community council to look after their interests.

Meyer said the community council would look after everything from broken streetlights to potholes, but its priority was to resolve the squatter issue.

Yesterday, after being locked in discussions with the town council, Premier said in a statement that it would act as a facilitator between all the parties.

Two years ago, after the debacle over the settlement of the Zevenfontein squatters on Randburg's then boundary with the suburb of Bloubosrand, the Bloubosrand Action Committee signed an agreement with the Randburg council to bar the settlement of squatters near the suburb.

'Not racist'

Residents are holding the council to that agreement. "We will not be ignored. We would rather negotiate to resolve the issue, but we will resist any attempts to settle the squatters on that land," Meyer said.

He rejected any suggestion that their motives were racist or exclusivist. "Bloubosrand is a multiracial community. We really want to help, but we want to be consulted. This is not racist, just socio-economic common sense. We need a final solution, not a temporary solution.

"That site is not suitable for the 200 fami-
BY VICTOR KHUPISO

TOWNSHIP residents this week began heeding ANC president Nelson Mandela's call to end their rent boycott — but some were hampered by striking office workers.

At Soweto's Orlando East rent office, residents were happy to pay their rent for the first time in nearly a decade.

Among them was Mrs Sophie Ngeyinya, who has lived with a "terrible stench" from her broken toilet for four years.

"Now I am optimistic it will be repaired," she said.

But at Diepkloof, a dejected group gathered outside the office left deserted by striking workers.

Reef township residents have lived under appalling conditions since the boycott began in 1986.

Cash-strapped councils failed to fix blocked drainpipes and sewage spilled into the streets.

Some Transvaal Provincial Administration workers were retrenched because councils could no longer pay their salaries.

A clerk at the Orlando East rent office said people had flocked to pay rent and service charges this week.

Mr Solomon Ngeyinya, of Naledi Extension, was happy to be the first to pay in his area and said on the first day in February: "I'm tired of living with a leaking roof."

The chief executive for the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, Vic Milne, said negotiations were continuing to end the strike by members of the Municipal Workers Union.

Mr Milne hoped a settlement would be reached this week.

He could not say how many residents had paid rent this week.

"But from what I've heard, I'm very pleased," he added.
NEWS FEATURE Civic out to beat Kagiso problems

Kagiso needs more houses

By Joshua Raboreko

A body 44 years after the black residential area of Kagiso on the West Rand was established by the Krugersdorp Town Council, the housing shortage remains the biggest headache.

The situation is likely to become worse because the present population, estimated at 200,000, is expected to grow at an alarming rate. The new council is in heavy debt.

The PWV area, which constitutes only 2.1 percent of the surface of the country, accommodated 24 percent of the population in 1992, according to the latest census of the SA Institute of Race Relations. Kagiso is part of the area.

The institute quotes a Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman saying the population of the area is expected to double by 2010.

The Department of the Environment says South Africa is becoming poorer and its ability to meet the need for housing, education and jobs is being eroded.

6 500 people

About 6,500 people live in backyard shacks in Kagiso, while a squatter camp -- an indication that there is an acute shortage of houses -- is coming up on the fringes of the western part of the township.

Secretary of the Kagiso Civic Association Mrs Peter Mokote and "We do not want shackles, we want people to live in proper houses. We will do our best to help them",

Like most black residential areas, Kagiso has no recreational facilities, turned streets or storm water drainage and the streets are rubbish-streets, unlike the neighbouring white Krugersdorp town.

The charity of these facilities being, protected, the new informal town council owes R54 million as a result of an eight-year rent boycott.

The council owes Eskom R31 million, the main water board R7 million and the West Rand Regional Services Council R12 million for services.

Resident Mr Alfred Motshe says the "the rubbish in our streets is not for disease. We are in constant danger because the rubbish is not removed."

Kagiso was established in the late 1950s when residents from Moevele were forcefully moved and relocated in accordance with the Government's apartheid policies.

Moved residents

The authorities moved the residents from Moevele because it was too near Krugersdorp town and in fact there is a wall separating the township from the white area.

The township adopted the name Kagiso (meaning staying together) because residents were expected to live together on a "site and service" basis from the early days, Sowetan established.

Later Kagiso residents lived in "mudhole" houses. Since the 1980s, "mudholes", where the elite stay, have been eroded on the periphery of the township.

There are five high schools, nine junior schools and three formal nursery schools, there is no community centre for the growing population. The neighbouring Langa Hostel helps to provide additional health services to the growing population.

The social life of Kagiso residents is not very exciting because of lack of recreational facilities. Shebeens and taverns play a major role when it comes to entertainment.

Crime and violence are normally kept low by Peace-loving residents.

About 30 people were killed in violent incidents when hostel inmates clashed with residents last year.

Warning factions

Mokote, who is also secretary of the Krugersdorp Community Forum, said: "The community worked together with the warning factions to stop the carnage."

Kagiso residents started a rent boycott in 1985, thus prolonging the council into heavy debt. City councillors were forced to resign their posts as a result of mounting pressure from radical groups and an administrator was appointed to manage the affairs of the township.

Secretary of the Kagiso Civic Association Mr Peter Mokote.

City councillors were forced to resign their posts as a result of mounting pressure from radical groups and an administrator was appointed to manage the affairs of the township.

The council has asked the TPA and the West Rand Regional Services Council for an unlimited amount of money to improve facilities.

Mokote said that the council's activities, ANC, Azapo and PAC were trying hard to solve the township's problems.

However, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Congress Party, who have been invited to meetings of the council, are not too happy.

"We are hoping they will attend our next meetings," he said: "We need their support."

The Krugersdorp Council has appealed for its resistance to work with neighbouring local authorities, especially if black prejudice.

Instead, the council has threatened to take legal action if its money is used for the development of Kagiso.

Rightwing body

The council is a member of the Transvaal Municipal Association, which is the rightwing body that negotiated an agreement that councils could keep their autonomy without merging with their neighbours, but had to work together under an umbrella council with limited powers.

Residents say the refusal will have a serious impact on the development of thousands of people living in Kagiso.

Local Government Minister Mr Terrance Deltrop has warned that the provincial administrator has the power to dissolve town councils and introduce alternative structures if they refuse to accept changes.

Mokote said that his council would mobilise people. His council finds support in some "social development" projects.
 RATEPAYERS and residents' associations in Randburg, Sandton and Johannesburg were this week given a seat and a vote on the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Council — giving them a direct say in local government through representatives.

When the Randburg Federation of Ratepayers and Residents Associations, the Sandton Federation of Ratepayers and Residents Associations (SANFED) and the four Johannesburg umbrella bodies from the north, south, east and west took their seats in the chamber on Wednesday, municipal politics changed forever.

The formerly apathetic white ratepayer is out of the suburban closet. He now has a direct vote and is being urged to sign up with residents' associations to influence that stake in local government. Residents' and ratepayers' associations are promoting to look after the interests of their residents and be accountable — therefore plugging the gap between city and town councillors and their constituencies.

**Plugging the gap**

There do seem to be two camps emerging in the suburbs, though. One consists of the structured residents' associations which have been successfully lobbying for a say in the current negotiating process, and the other — consists of newly formed action groups, such as the Randburg Action Committee (RAC), which have adopted a more confrontational stance to try to preserve their rights.

SANFED chairman Gail Daus said it was time for ratepayers to lift their eyes off the pavement and address macro issues. "We have to address bigger issues than traffic problems...there is the restructur- ing of the Constitution going on, and if we want to influence that we have to get involved."

Daus said whites deserved the government they had had in the past. 'They sat on their hands and didn't vote. We took the position that though we don't agree with the present system, negotiation is the only solu- tion. The new Constitution isn't perfect, but the more obstructive people are, the longer to democracy.'

Northern Areas Group chairman Margrit Wolff, whose association represents all northern Johannesburg ratepayers' associations, said one of the greatest problems in local government had been the lack of information being fed back to the people.

At a recent Buitengracht meeting, she said, she had businesseman in their suits, accompanied by their wives in twin sets and pearls, threatening to turn-toy to several hundred people.

**TWO camps are emerging in the suburbs; one consists of the structured residents' associations and the other of newly formed action groups which have adopted a more confrontational stance, reports LOUISE MARSLAND.**

"...white ratepayers' associations were the poor relations of the civic associations, but both were watchdogs. "We can learn from our experiences, and they can learn from us not to repeat the mistakes of the past. We need to form alliances."

Arnold Meyer, a Randburg ratepayer and spokesman for the Ward 13 Community Council, said a sense of insecurity regarding the future had got residents out of their gardens and into the meeting halls.

"People know a little about what is going on at national level, but zilch at local and provincial level. But at the end of the day their pocket is being affect- ed, and they are worried and want a say."

The Ward 13 defiance campaign, strongly supported by the RAC, started last week with some ratepayers withholding rates until a solution is found to the Neutgedacht squatter issue. This week they informed their town councillor that he was no longer needed and said ratepayers would take his seat.

"The only thing to bring them to their senses is to show active defiance. We have entered a new political ground here. There is no more space for the polite, Western style of accepting everything as it comes down," Meyer said.

The community council sees itself as taking the role of a civic association rather than a ratepayers' body. "The civic took up against dictatorial rule and we in our community also want to decide for ourselves and be involved. A rates boycott is the only way to hurt a town council or a governing body," Meyer explained.

Daus does not agree. "We were against misinformation being used to whip up emotions. "In terms of the law, we have now been given teeth. One shouldn't have to resort to rates boycotts."

---

**Municipal muscle coming out of the suburban closet**

---
Council workers clean up the streets.

Showing Soweto residents that they really do care.

Star 16/12/94
DP withdraws candidate ‘threatened’ by ANC

PRETORIA — The NP and the DP have expressed anger at the intimidation of their election candidates and the DP has withdrawn a candidate because of fears for his life.

DP Johannesburg city councillor Paul Asherson said yesterday the party had withdrawn Walter Mopapel from its national assembly election list on Monday because it feared for his life.

Mopapel, who has gone underground after allegedly being threatened by ANC members in Alexandra, had been in on the party’s list.

The controversy surrounding Mopapel’s inclusion in the DP list started when the ANC claimed the Alexandra resident was their member, while the DP said he was a DP member and had confirmed he would stand as a party candidate in April.

Asherson said the DP removed Mopapel’s name on Monday after he wrote to say he had opted to go underground and work to mobilise support for the party.

The DP had removed Mopapel’s name because it respected human life, Asherson said.

“Mopapel has gone underground not fearing that the DP might attack him, but fearing ANC members would attack him.”

ANC PWV regional elections spokesman Murphy Morobe denied allegations that ANC members were “after Mopapel’s blood” because he was a DP member.

Morobe said Mopapel had denied at a media conference that he was being intimidated or that his life had been threatened.

Meanwhile, NP information and media director Mathurin van Schalkwyk said yesterday NP members were becoming angry at the increasing number of incidents of intimidation and harassment suffered by its election candidates.

The recent intimidation of two NP candidates, allegedly by ANC supporters, would be reported this week to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), he said.

NP organiser Petrus Tsane, who is fifth on the party’s regional list for the Free State, said his house was burnt down — damage had been estimated at R60,000 — after the visit of President F W de Klerk to the region last weekend.

PWV region candidate for the NP Simon Gada said an ANC official had threatened to destroy his business if he failed to withdraw from the NP’s list of candidates.

NP executive director Olus van Zyl said that while the NP was looking at providing security for some of its candidates, there was legislation in place that was supposed to protect parties and their candidates from intimidation. He said the electoral code of conduct, as set out in the Electoral Act, covered party administrators, officers, candidates and staff but failed to incorporate the actions of party supporters. This weakness needed to be addressed.

Van Zyl called on the ANC to discipline those of its members or supporters who engaged in acts of political intimidation.

Two ANC office bearers, including a Free State candidate and a PWV election co-ordinator, were named as either having been threatened or taken part in the threats made to the two NP candidates.

In an affidavit to be submitted to the IEC today, Tsane and ANC supporters had threatened his life after an election address by De Klerk in Heidelberg, near Bloemfontein.

“They also made it appear that they would do everything within their means to prohibit the NP from having any access to black suburbs in Bloemfontein,” he said.

Report by A Hadland TML, 215 Vermaak St, Paarl and J Ngcobo TML, 11 Diards St, Jeb

Soweto rent payments start

THEO RAWANA

Presenting a report to a meeting of the Services Crews Committee (SCC), Veale said by the end of March the Soweto City Council expected payments to have reached 50% of the six-month budget it had set.

Dorobension residents had paid about 15% of the target amount and Veale did not say how much the council expected to receive in total.

He appealed for a “visible improvement” at council pay points for the comfort of the residents.

Residents in Dorkobension and Soweto began trickling to municipal pay points on February 1.

Dorobension had been plagued by a worker strike which prevented Dorkloof and Meadowlands residents from paying.

Payments in these two townships began only this week.

Hunt for killers of Natal leader

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — Police are searching for the killers of an ANC southern Natal leader after he was shot in his school office at Umzumbe yesterday.

George Mbele, 63, chairman of the ANC in Fort Shepstone and principal of Inala Intermediate School at Fairview in Umzumbe, was in his office at noon yesterday when three men walked in and opened fire. He died instantly.

A large contingent of policemen, aided by a police helicopter, were sent to the area to search for the killers.

Meanwhile, the IFP said one of its members, Linduwe Nkos, 20, was doused with petrol and set alight at Stendelveld near Ladysmith.

Nkos, from Ekuvumeni near Wasbank in northern Natal, was visiting friends in the township.
5 000 people will get R11 a day.

Parties rally for major East Rand clean-up

BY ANNA COX

Political factions on the East Rand came together yesterday in a historic move to receive a cheque for R1 million from the Department of National Health’s National Nutrition and Social Development Programme (NNSDP).

The money will be used for a major clean-up of Katlehong, Tokoza and Vosloorus over the next five weeks. About 5 000 people will be paid R11 a day to do the work.

The manager of the NNSDP, George de Klerk, said his department had made the money available because it wanted to create employment opportunities.

"The money will be administered by non-governmental organisations who identify closely with the communities.

"It is a wonderful occasion to see people putting aside their political differences and joining hands for the benefit of the community," he said.

Faith Mashloane, who accepted the cheque on behalf of the ANC, said she was overwhelmed at the donation.

She said credit had to be given to the youth in the townships who had approached her and asked her to assist them with a clean-up.

"We will put the youth to work in the clean-up. They are impatient and cannot sit around and wait for reconstruction, they want to see things happening now," she said.

Connie Zikalala from the IFP said it was a momentous occasion and she was happy the townships and hostel areas would be cleaned.

ANC youth leader Eric Mabulane said: "We will use this money to beautify our townships. At present it is not a place where people can live. Our dream has come true."

The project will be facilitated by Richard Molentze of the O’Connor Foundation, a private welfare organisation which feeds 20 000 a month in the three townships.

"A project such as this is historic — it will bring the youth of the townships together in a move towards peace and reconciliation," said Molentze.
Forum to end boycott

By Joshua Raboroko

The Randfontein Negotiating Forum has appointed a sub-committee to explore ways to resolve the year-old rent boycott in Mohlakeng.

Mohlakeng town clerk Mr Deon Corder said yesterday that arrears which had accumulated as a result of the boycott totalled R11 million.

He said the RNF-elected sub-committee at its meeting this week to work out plans to end the boycott. He was optimistic the boycott would end soon.

He said the council had been unable to pay its employees monthly salaries because of the non-payment of tariffs. This action had caused workers to go on strike demanding pay last November.

A member of the local branch of the ANC, Mr Zephania Mohlongo, who also serves on the RNF, said the boycott was triggered by "astronomical electricity bills" charged to residents.

Residents said electricity bills had ranged from R100 to R120 a month, although their meters were not functioning properly. Added to that was the fact that residents were forced by the council to pay an advance fee of R500 a household for an electricity "card system".

Mohlongo said the forum, which consists of community-based organisations, civic associations and trade unions, dealt with these issues as well as improvements to township facilities.

Also included in the talks were problems hindering developments in the neighbouring Teckomsrus township.
Do-it-yourself housing scheme

By ALI MPHAKI

RESIDENTS will build their own homes in a new housing scheme to help alleviate the chronic shortage of houses in Benoni on the east Rand.

The scheme – the brainchild of Dr Nthato Motlana’s daughter Kgomotso – is said to offer even the poorest of families a chance to have a roof over their heads.

Scheme co-ordinator Helmut Lachmeyer said it had received a thumbs up from the Benoni City Council, the ANC, and others.

About 20 000 housing units will be built in the next three years on land still to be allocated by the Benoni council.

The scheme is called “HELP for Africa”, an acronym for “Housing, Education, Labour and Peace”. If the concept works in Benoni, Lachmeyer said, it would be taken to other areas in need of housing.

“HELP for Africa” is perhaps unique in that it does not want any involvement of financial institutions, since bond payments are usually high and only those with a reasonable salary can afford to pay.

“Financial institutions have proved too profit-oriented to be in a position to help homeless blacks,” said Lachmeyer.

“Our scheme will offer an R80 000 house for about R50 000 because we are not a profit-making organisation.”

No building contractors will be employed as tenants will do their own building. Training will be provided in skills.
500 000 erven need developing.

ROBYN CHALMERS

The Transvaal Regional Housing Board would have to develop 500 000 erven in the PWV to cope with urbanisation, Transvaal Provincial Administration MEC for housing, John Nkuna, said yesterday.

Speaking at the Transvaal Regional Housing Board’s inauguration, he said national government had a limited role in housing strategy. Regional and local tiers of government were responsible for housing.

The board’s creation was the result of an effort by government to place housing under the control of regional structures. While it was an executive arm of the National Housing Board, it would be autonomous.

“One of the biggest challenges facing any government in the new SA will be to provide appropriate shelter for all of its people,” he said.

The inauguration of the Transvaal board followed Housing Minister Louis Shin’s announcement at the weekend that regional boards for the four provinces had been appointed.

Shin said yesterday, the next step would be the creation of similarly autonomous boards for each of the Transvaal’s subregions to ensure housing was “as close as possible to the man in the street”.

A Housing Department spokesman said the names of the people appointed to the regional boards would be published in the Government Gazette this week.
to hire their own grave diggers

Kagiso faces electricity blackouts

Residents given until next Wednesday to settle, or else ...

By Joshua Raboroko

MANDOR sections of Kagiso township on the West Rand may soon be plunged into darkness following a decision by Eskom to switch off electricity supply to the area.

Eskom's West Rand Sales and Customer Service manager Mr Johan Swanepoel said the company had warned residents to settle their arrears by next Wednesday or face cuts.

The deadline for business owners to pay was Tuesday this week but by yesterday the company had effected the decision.

Thousands of Kagiso residents and business people have not paid their electricity bills since Eskom took control of the supply in August last year.

The arrears amount to about R2.9 million. Swanepoel said they had agreed with the local branch of the South African National Civic Organisation and other associations that residents should stop the boycott.

He said the company had written letters to individual residents advising them to pay. As a result, five percent of the residents had done so, Swanepoel said.

He said a similar action might be taken against some Bekkersdal residents where the majority were, however, paying.

He did not know the reason for the boycott, but assumed it was as a result of "the culture among most township folks to boycott tariffs."

A West Rand Sanco executive Mr Peter Kute said residents should heed the call by ANC president Nelson Mandela and President F W de Klerk to stop the boycott.

He invited all organisations and the business community to resolve the matter.
Kagiso will defy threat

RESIDENTS of Kagiso, near Krugersdorp, have vowed to defy a threat by Eskom that it will cut off the electricity supply if arrears are not paid by today.

The residents say they are receiving high monthly electricity bills, ranging between R500 and R12 000 even though their meters are not being read.

Some residents also claim they have received bills even though their electricity has long been cut.

A spokesman for Eskom, Mr Johan Swanepeol, said yesterday that residents' arrears amounted to R2.9 million. This is from August last year to February this year.

He said they would have no alternative but to cut the supply if residents did not pay. However, Eskom is prepared to discuss problems with residents "We have an open door policy."

Swanepeol said:

A businessman in the township said he had received a bill for R12 000 and wanted to discuss the matter with Eskom.

Another resident, Mr Isaac Thale, said his power had been cut but he had received a bill for R500. The secretary of the Kagiso Civic Association, Mr Peter Mukoko, said yesterday residents would not meet the pay-up deadline because "there are anomalies in the reading of the meters"
Asherson threatens to lead boycott

JOHANNESBURG city councillor Paul Asherson yesterday threatened to lead a boycott “on a scale never seen before” if the ANC went ahead with plans to cut rates rebates for residents. 

Asherson, who is a DP provincial candidate for the PWV region, was reacting to Civic Association of Johannesburg general secretary Cas Coovadia’s statement that civics could advise the next government to scrap the rates rebate system.

A rates rebate is granted to residential property owners so that they do not pay as much property tax as businesses, which theoretically place a greater strain on roads and services.

Asherson said the call showed that Coovadia and the ANC were ignorant of municipal financing and were “meddling with Johannesburg’s paying taxpayers at their peril”.

“The rebate is purely a mechanism that ensures residents pay a reasonable and correct rate, but allows the city to collect twice that rate from business. There is no pressure from business for any alteration of the system."

To start a “typically ANC campaign” to punish those who pay their rates and for water, sewage, garbage collection and electricity would be to “ask for bigger trouble than they know”, Asherson said.

“I will personally lead a campaign by every Johannesburg resident (black, white, coloured or Indian) against any attempt to punish the payers. They will see boycotts on a scale never seen before in SA.

“If Coovadia wants the ANC brought to its knees he is embarking on the right course,” Asherson said.

Report by Theo Rawana, TML, 11 December 91

Call to revamp tertiary education

KATHRYN STRACHAN

NOTHING less than a radical reconstruction of higher education was needed to meet the developmental demands of the country, ANC education lead John Samuel said yesterday.

He told an Escom education conference in Midrand there was an urgent need for a commission on higher education to be appointed after the election.

The commission would have to analyse the structure of the sector, the balance between universities and technikons, and between science and technology on the one hand and social sciences on the other.

Samuel said the proposal that the structure and function of higher education should be related to the overall development and reconstruction of the country had implications for institutions’ autonomy.

It would be necessary to increase immediately the intake of women, blacks and other disadvantaged students and to redress institutional inequalities through financial and other measures.

There was no system of higher education in SA, he said, but rather an incoherent and fragmented conglomerate of sectors and institutions.

National Education Minister Piet Marais told the conference that the maintenance of universities’ autonomy was necessary and should be supported by adequate state financing.

One option for improving access to tertiary institutions, while keeping within financial constraints and maintaining academic standards, was to restrict the state’s subsidy for students to a specified maximum.

Support mechanisms also should be provided for talented students from disadvantaged communities.

In this regard, an investigation had been launched into introducing community colleges which could offer students the chance to gain credits for tertiary study during bridging programmes.

Report by Kathryn Strachan, TML, 11 December 91

Inkatha

“Implemented within the next if we are going to have any I stressed the plan had to have operation of government”, President F W de Klerk said yesterday he found Inkatha’s decision to participate in the election “too to too far away warned of a volatile situation in Natal, even while he defended his “democratic” right to be impartial.

He assured Buthela that he would suffer the same fate as deputy wana president Lucas Mangopa if the government was trying to de KwaZulu region.

He called on Buthela to take steps to ensure other parts of the country were restructured from campaigning.

Meanwhile, the rift within the Apartheid Volksfront was wider than ever before.

Sexwale

batho to honour an agreement between the president Lucas Maphope came to protect the homeland during the day, Bophuthatswana’s administrator Tjaart van der Merwe addressed about 3 000 civil servants and told them that their salaries and conditions of service were being maintained as those in South Africa.

He also committed SA’s govt bringing about salary parity for SA civil servants soon.
Eskom warns defaulters to pay up

By Sowetan Reporters

Residents of Kagiso near Krugersdorp were warned yesterday to pay their electricity bills or face cuts and others have been ordered to vacate houses they are occupying illegally or face prosecution.

However, those who have not been paying electricity bills have had a reprieve with the announcement by Eskom that it would temporarily suspend cut-offs for defaulters.

But it has warned that cut-offs might resume next week. Eskom met representatives of the residents in Randfontein today to discuss the issue.

Eskom's West Rand spokesman Mr Paul Maree said they had the backing of the South African National Civic Organisation to cut off supply to defaulters.

Maree said Eskom was busy with plans to install electricity to about 4000 homes. More than 9000 homes had already been electrified.

Sanco's West Rand spokesman Mr Peter Kutsi said yesterday that residents were confused by people who wanted to turn the threat of electricity cut-offs into a "political football".

About 350 residents from Extension 12, Kagiso, whose homes were occupied by "foreigners" stayed away from work yesterday and marched to the council offices to present a memorandum to Kagiso administrator Mr Ray Sayman demanding the removal of the shack dwellers by not later than today.

Failure to address their demands would result in a call for the immediate removal of Sayman.
Council in bid to evict 'illegals'

By Joshua Raboroko

THE Kagiso Council will on Monday apply for a court order to evict about 45 families who have “illegally” occupied sites bought by registered residents in the West Rand township.

However, the families said they would resist removal because they had paid amounts ranging between R6 and R20 to a Mr Mazibuko who had promised them land to build homes.

The families, who are from Soweto, claimed they had paid the money because “we wanted to get roofs above our heads.”

Mr John Phuthuma, from Mshenguville in Soweto, said “I paid R10 when I was promised land outside Kagiso where I would build my own house and moved to the Kagiso site and service camp two weeks ago. I did not know that the sites had been bought by local residents.”

The families said they feared they would be attacked by the local residents, who on Wednesday presented a memorandum to the administrator, Mr Rayne Snyman, demanding that they be evicted.
Take away rebate and face revolt, ratepayers warn

HINTS by ANC and civic leaders that Johannesburg residents could be taxed more heavily under a new dispensation spark furious reaction among ratepayers and city councillors alike, reports LOUISE MARSLAND.

RATERS in the Greater Johannesburg region have promised open rebellion should any attempt be made to increase assessment rates by taking away the rebate on residential rates.

The latest rates controversy comes as the Johannesburg City Council disclosed this week that it was hampered by a staggering, R3.5 million in unpaid rates by residents and businesses unable to pay.

Residents associations and municipalities have expressed fears of a rates boycott and backlash by mainly white ratepayers should any attempt be made to increase the rates and services burden.

City councillors and residents approached this week said ratepayers were overtaxed and simply could not afford to pay more.

They were putting pressure on local and central government to change the present assessment rates system to a less complicated system to ensure that residents were not overtaxed under future governments.

The rates issue has always been emotive, and has been thrust into the spotlight once more by increasing public statements by ANC and civic leaders that ratepayers have been given a holiday and will have to pay up under a new government to fund development in disadvantaged townships.

Acting Johannesburg city treasurer Lucas Opperman said this would mean a 120 percent increase in the rates bill in some areas.

Johannesburg management committee member and northern sub-

there would be a massive exodus from areas where rates were high. What would that achieve?"

Palmer warned that ratepayers were "very militant" at present: "People can't take much more.”

Sandton management committee chairperson Peter Gardiner and others have advocated that local government law be changed to accommodate a farrier system, such as a dual rating system for businesses and residences. No rebate system would then be needed.

ANC Randburg town councillor Andre Jacobs said all the ANC had done was to put the rates issue on the table.

"One can cancel the rebate, that is not a problem, but then one would have to determine a different system for residential and business rates. It is not fair to charge residents the same as businesses. We need to address redistribution, but that does not mean the ANC wants to take everything away," Jacobs said. rates went into a larger pot for the benefit of the community and ratepayers would have to accept that priorities were changing and that their money would have to go to disadvantaged areas. "In the future ratepayers who want a new sports facility or a concert hall will have to fund it themselves if it is not a regional priority."

Talk of rates boycotts was "nice rhetoric, but not likely to work," he added. "Whites have grown used to a particular standard of service — we cut their electricity when they don't pay in Randburg and they soon pay up"
A Headache over the Homeless

Randburg Summies over purchase of land...
Eskom owed millions

By Joshua Raboroko

Residents of three West Rand townships owe Eskom more than R5 million in unpaid electricity bills.

Eskom said Kagiso owed R2.9 million from last August to February this year while Mohlakeng Council's debt amounted to about R2.5 million for six months.

The figure for Bekkersdal is estimated at hundreds of thousands of rand.

Residents may be plunged into darkness if they do not pay their electricity bills, but an official of the SA National Civic Organisation said local civic associations and concerned parties would meet Eskom to resolve the matter.

The secretary of the Kagiso Civic Association, Mr Peter Mokoto, said yesterday the residents wanted to end the boycott and pay a flat rate. He would not disclose the rate the civic association had proposed to Eskom.

However, sources told Sowetan the civic association had proposed R45 a month, while Eskom suggested a figure of more than R100 that would also cover arrears payments.

Eskom's sales and customer services manager, Mr Johan Swanepoel, said the parties had agreed on a flat rate, but "we still have to fix a figure". The company would "normalise" the electricity supply in the township.

He said some of the residents were paying their bills, despite the boycott. It would be advisable if all paid so that electricity could be available to everybody.

The electricity supply at Mohlakeng was supplied by the Randfontein Town Council which bought the utility directly from Eskom.

Swanepoel said...
Eskom warns of blackouts

By Joshua Raboroko

ESKOM has threatened to stop its electricity supply to Kagiso unless divisions within the local civic association, which are allegedly hampering negotiations, are addressed.

Eskom's West Rand sales and customer manager Mr Paul Maree said residents' representatives had on a number of occasions failed to attend meeings aimed at ending the services' boycott.

Maree said the association was divided on ways of ending the boycott.

"We have reached a stage where we are unable to continue supplying electricity to the residents. Unless a concession is reached soon we will be forced to cancel our contract with them," he warned.

He said the company had spent more than R12 million to electrify homes and businesses, erect street lighting and uprade "the whole electricity network." 

The civic association's general secretary, Mr Peter Mokoto, denied there were divisions. He said the association had supported the end of the boycott.

"We want people to pay for the services they get from Eskom," he said.
We will now use our own army, say hostel residents.

THE National Hostel Residents' Association says that from today it will be deploying its "own military" at hostels throughout South Africa.

It says the SA Defence Force will "no longer be welcome at the hostels".

Hostel association spokesman Thulani Simon Mlotshwa said yesterday the decision had been taken because of events on March 28 in Johannesburg when Zulus were "butchered by Umkhonto we Sizwe members assisted by security forces".

"Also, hostels had been raided after the March 28 massacre, but not the ANC Johannesburg offices."

"This proves the partiality and bias of the so-called security forces," he said.

On Friday, the East Rand Bayathuthu Hostel was targeted by SADF troops, who allegedly shot and killed IFP leader Jeff Sibiya, who, said Mr Mlotshwa, was involved in promoting peace.

With this in mind, he had been decided to deploy its own military structures.

"From today, our enemies had better be on their guard. We cannot sit with our arms folded while our heels are being bitten by mice." — Sapa

(News by E Coetsee, 141 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg)
THE National Hostel Residents Association says that from today it will be deploying its “own military” at hostels throughout South Africa and that the South African Defence Force will “no longer be welcome at the hostels”.

Nahora spokesman Mr Thubane Simon Mlotshwa said the decision had been taken because of events on March 28 in Johannesburg where Zulus were “butchered by Umkhonto we Sizwe members who were assisted by security forces”.

Moreover, hostels had been raided after the March 28 massacre but not the African National Congress Johannesburg HQ which building had been at the centre of the violence, Mlotshwa noted.

“This, proves the partiality and bias of the so-called security forces,” he said.

— Sapa

(Report by E Oliphant 144 Commercial Street, Johannesburg)
Rent arrears written off

By Joe Mdhlela

THE Ratanda Town Council near Heidelberg has approved the writing off of all rent and other services arrears which accrued as a result of nonpayment.

The arrears are in excess of R8 million, according to a town council official.

Administration manager of the council Mr Sipho Zwane confirmed that all arrears up to December 31 last year would be written off.

But he warned that residents were now expected to update their arrears which could have accumulated from January this year.

Zwane said the council's decision was in line with a call made early this year by State President FW de Klerk and the African National Congress president Mr Nelson Mandela that all arrears be scrapped.

"In terms of the regulations the committee approved that arrears as at December 31 1993 be written off," Zwane said.

Zwane urged residents who were in arrears to start paying "so that the council is in a position to render effective services".

He said the council had been in contact with the Local Negotiating Forum about the latest decision.

"We are working hand in hand with the Forum which is composed of all structures," Zwane said.
Vow to build community

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Prominent members of the Diepsloot area north of Sandton have pledged to build an integrated community when 650-odd homeless Zevenfontein families move to the low-cost housing scheme there later this year.

At a press conference at the Transvaal Provincial Administration's Germiston offices yesterday, community representatives said they believed many residents would respect the Appeal Court judgment which gave the TPA the right to develop a resettlement village for the Zevenfontein squatters at Diepsloot.

"The court action has left a lot of sore people," said Anthony Duigan, acting chairman of the Greenbelt Action Group. But, he added, many other Diepsloot residents "recognise the right of the Zevenfontein people to affordable land within the region."

Diepsloot spokesman Jill Wileman expressed concern about the standards of services and housing in the planned settlement, which will ultimately accommodate about 1,300 families.

The TPA is to hand over the site to the contractor today. Bulk services are scheduled to be in place in 20 weeks and internal services in 30 weeks. The total cost of the project is R15.4 million — or R6,000 per serviced stand (R2,471).

Officials said the first 600 stands would be ready for occupation in July.

TPA regional director Jeff Wilkins was confident of the success of the Diepsloot settlement, despite its bitter beginnings.

Wilkins had no misgivings about embarking on this contentious project as the sun sets on the TPA. "The court case having been concluded, the TPA has no option. We have to carry through these contracts."

He also promised that the delays in granting title which had been experienced in other TPA developments — for instance, Orange Farm — would not occur at Diepsloot.

The processes of proclaiming the township and opening a township register "would be built into the scheme" at Diepsloot, Wilkins said.
Evictions protest
Residents of Eldorado Park have decided to stay away from work today in a bid to force the Johannesburg City Council to address their grievances. (12.4.94)

Residents, numbering about 250,000, complain that their rents are too high and that some were evicted because they could not pay.

Neville Stanbul, a member of the community forum launched two weeks ago, said the situation in the township had reached crisis proportions. "Our people are evicted all the time and they have to go and live in shacks," he said.

"We have always taken memorandums to the council and we never burn things down and set fires, that is why they ignore us," Stanbul said.

The council has denied ignoring Eldorado Park residents — Staff Reporters.
Johannesburg faces 15% rates hike

JOHANNESBURG ratepayers could expect a hike of about 15% this year to cover wage increases, repairing deteriorating infrastructure and addressing inequalities in services and facilities, City Council spokesman Patrick Weech said yesterday.

Last year the council kept the rate increase to 11.5% despite a nationwide strike by the SA Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) that resulted in R18m being added to the wage bill. This decision was taken in the light of an expected "rates revolt" if the full impact of increased costs had been passed on to the consumer.

Another complication was the reorganisation of the current greater Johannesburg council into five or six local authorities under the auspices of the Metropolitan Chamber, which would have an effect on revenue and expenditure.

Weech said wage negotiations with Samwu and the Johannesburg Municipal Employees' Association would resume on May 11 when the unions would respond to the council's final wage offer.

The offer was inflation-based with the lowest categories being offered an additional "merit increase" of 2.5%.

He said the council's offer would increase the annual wage bill to R1.68bn, more than a third of the total operating budget of R3bn. Directorates had been told to reduce expenditure by R120m this year, but after "austerity budgeting" over the past couple of years, this would be almost impossible, Weech said.
Alex residents emerge victorious

Firm set to pay for repairs to houses

BY ANNA COX

Alexandra East Bank residents have emerged victorious in their battle against a major construction company for repairs to 617 houses which began collapsing a few months after they moved in. Murray & Roberts signed an agreement last week undertaking to foot the entire bill for repairs which could run into millions of rands. Reconstruction work will start within the next two weeks.

The houses were built in the upmarket section of the township in 1988 and 1989 and were purchased for prices between R90 000 and R100 000.

Many residents who sank their life savings into their homes and who took out large bonds to finance the houses faced heartbreak when the houses started collapsing around them several months later.

"We still have not established the cause of the faults — we are waiting for an engineer's report — but we are committed to the repairs as a gesture of goodwill to Alexandra residents," he said.

Miners call off strike but stick to demands

Miners at Gold Field's Kloof Gold Mine near Carletonville were going down the shafts by 9 pm last night, marking the end of a 10-day strike.

But the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) means it has not given up on its demands. About 200 marchers gathered outside the Gold Fields offices in Johannesburg earlier in the day to hand management a memorandum.

The decision to call off the strike, involving 10 000 workers, was made at a mass meeting at the mine yesterday.

NUM general secretary Kgeleta Motlanthe said demands included the reinstatement of NUM branch chairman Jackson Makka, the dismissal of senior mine managers, and improved conditions for workers.

Gold Fields spokesman Marion Brower said the company would be dealing with the memorandum today. — Staff Reporter and Sapa.
Plan for PWV hostels

PWV MEC for Housing and Local Government Dan Mofokeng said yesterday his government would unveil a reconstruction plan to deal with long-standing enmity between hostel and township residents.

Mofokeng said his government was intent on resolving the violence because it was delaying the implementation of socioeconomic programmes.

He said while there were calls for the demolition of hostels, which were regarded by many township residents as monuments to violence, his government did not intend to go that route.

Instead, it wanted to humanise the hostels by reversing the "old thinking" which had turned them into military-style barracks and no-go areas.

Mofokeng said his government would announce a solution which would be "amicable and acceptable to all" within weeks.

Asked about whether police patrols would be stepped up at hostels on the East Rand, MEC for Safety and Security Jesse Duarte said a mechanism for a police takeover from the SA National Defence Force, which was "still in control" in the region, had yet to be worked out. Discussions would take place as soon as possible, she said.
'Transfer made to bogus firm'

Council lost R4-m after hostel ‘deal’

BY MONSHWA MOROKE

Diepmeadow Council had lost about R4 million in revenue from the Diepkloof Hostel since the buildings were fraudulently transferred to a bogus company, a commission of inquiry into alleged land irregularities heard yesterday.

Former mayor Johannes Mathala said the Black Local Authority Act was not followed in the allocation of land to developers — something he had fought “to the very end”.

Mathala said the Act stipulated that a tender had to be tabled, the tenderer had to be checked and the city treasurer had to be involved.

In the case of Diepkloof Hostel no tender had been made and Jackson Morley of “Ivory Tusk” was given the buildings without paying the council. Morley had been collecting rent for the past four years but had not paid rate and service fees.

“We resolved in a council meeting to retrieve the land, and instructed officials to take action. But we were flogging a dead horse. We suspected the province (TPA) was involved because they knew all about this yet they did nothing,” said Mathala.

He suspected that a garage site in Zone 6, which was allocated to a company “Khulukwane” owned by former councilor J Mabasa, had not been paid for.

In evidence led on Monday it was alleged that a leading oil company had paid R90 000 to a Verner van Rijn and that Mabasa had received R200 000 of that amount in a deal.

Mathala said another garage site, also in Zone 6, had inexplicably been allocated to RMO, a company owned by Irvin Khoza, which had tendered for the lowest amount of R504 000.

He said proposals had been heard and 15 tenders submitted, the highest being R1.5 million from one Nkana.

“I believe some councillors were involved. We fought about this in the council and Khoza’s tender was not approved. The matter was then referred to the TPA,” Mathala said.

The hearing continues.
Bid to restore learning culture

BY JUSTICE MALALA

Moves to restore a culture of learning and teaching in black schools are under way and President Mandela will unveil a programme to achieve this within the next few weeks, the new Minister of Education, Professor Sibusiso Bhengu, said yesterday.

Speaking at his first press conference since taking the oath of office last week, Bhengu said the new ministry hoped for real contact between schools and their communities soon.

Bhengu said the first priority for his ministry was to establish a single department of education. The second was to ensure equitable allocation of the resources in a nonracial system and the third was to improve the quality of education.

He said the ministry's biggest challenge was improving education for the African community. If the ministry did not intervene decisively, Africans would remain on the periphery of the country's economy.

Bhengu announced that a new Department of Education and Training would be established by proclamation next week.

He said a strategic management team had been appointed to oversee the transition from the old ministry to the new. It is headed by ANC education chief Dr John Samuel, who is special adviser to the minister. Other members of the team are Sipho Pityana, Sheila Sienstu and Centre for Education Policy Development director Trevor Coombe.

The team, in consultation with directors-general of the old departments, would be responsible for continuity, rationalisation and policy development.

Bhengu stressed that all directors-general of the old departments were still in charge of their departments until the new system was in place. He also announced that there would be a single director-general in the new education department.

Previously each of the 19 education departments had a director-general.

---

R11,3-m for Zevenfontein housing

BY METRO STAFF

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (RSC) this week voted a total of R11.3 million for the Diepsloot West development, to house the Zevenfontein community.

An amount of R7.4 million will go to the provincial administration, to reimburse it for spending on sewerage and bulk water supply systems for Diepsloot.

The Randburg Town Council is to receive R3.9 million to improve water supply to its northwestern sector.

The RSC also decided to fund the research to prepare a development strategy for the area known as Vlakfontein, northwest of Soweto and south of Kagiso. It is envisaged that this area of some 440 ha will be used to relieve the housing shortage in the townships of Kagiso, Bekkersdal and Moh晈eng.

The estimated shortage of homes in this area stands at 16,800, according to RSC figures. Vlakfontein could accommodate 12,000 units. The study will be done in consultation with the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.
on the agenda
politics are all high
Gun controls and
disarmament, as well
with special emphasis on
the consequences of
the spread of the nuclear
military, and in
powerful
and
demanding
in

Homes boost for
Sexuale promesses end to government-created slach settlements.
150 000 houses for PWV region

JOHANNESBURG - PWV premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale promised 150 000 low-cost houses in the next year when he delivered his opening address to the PWV provincial legislature at Nasrec, near Soweto, yesterday.

The houses are part of a broad 10-point plan to improve social and economic conditions and combat crime in the PWV.

Mr Sexwale said a housing proposal would be presented to the cabinet in the next two weeks.

Mr Sexwale said his government had the responsibility of reintegrating hostel dwellers into the community, but added those wanting to remain in hostels should be assisted in upgrading their facilities.

The premier also focused on the region's economic upliftment, saying the provincial government had to "create sustainable employment for the almost 50% of our citizens who are without formal or adequate employment".

Reiterating his strong stance against crime in the region, he said there would be gun control and a disarmament campaign.

Mr Sexwale emphasised the need for partnership between government, labour, business, community groups, and academic and technical institutions for economic process — Saps (727) C720/5/94
West Rand farm to house thousands

By Russel Molefe

A farm situated south of Kagiso and northwest of Soweto on the West Rand, has been earmarked for the development of a 12 000 low-cost house scheme by the Roodepoort City Council.

Mr Nigel Mandy, a spokesman for the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council, yesterday said the land was presently privately owned and was suitable for housing.

Mandy said the total demand for housing in the Kagiso, Mohlakeng and Bekkersdal area was approximately 16 000 units, of which 12 000 would be provided on the Vlakfontein farm.

The CWRSC would fund the preparation of a development strategy for the area that would be undertaken in cooperation with the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber and Project Facilitation Group, Mandy said.

Mandy said the proposed development at Diepsloot West to house the Zevenfontein community would proceed as planned.

This follows last month's judgment in the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein, which ruled in favour of the Transvaal Provincial Administration to proceed with the establishment of a township.

The CWRSC has resolved to assist in the development of the area by repaying TPA an amount of R7.4 million for water supply and sewerage.

A further R3.9 million would be granted to the Randburg Town Council for it to improve the supply of water to its north-western sector, Mandy said.
South Africa's new government has lost no time in dealing with the vital issue of housing, with commitments this week from National Housing Minister Joe Slovo that a million housing units will be provided within five years and PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale promising that 150,000 of his constituents will have roofs over their heads within the next 12 months. Yet, while millions of people call cardboard and plastic shacks "home", hundreds of flats and houses just a short distance from Pretoria's Church Square are begging for tenants.

LESS THAN 10km west of the heart of Pretoria, clusters of squatter communities dot the Magaliesberg, more than 300 flats and houses stand vacant.

Their naked windows and overgrown gardens bear silent testimony to the economic recession that has seen industrial giant Iscor - once one of South Africa's biggest employers - shrink its Pretoria workforce from 14,000 in 1982 to a mere 2,000 at present.

The more fortunate were transferred to other plants and foundries - at Newcastle and Vanderbijlpark in December. 4,000 employees with 13,000 of their families were offered early retirement, one-off grants and a monthly pension.

Rationing and national prices have been reintroduced for another 2,500 jobs in the past three years, while some 20,000 employees have been retrenched.

A common denominator in all cases was the low-cost company housing, one of Iscor's most attractive perks.

The exodus has changed the face of suburbs such as Kwaggasrand, Westpark and Proclamation Hill - sites on June 30, 1989, of a 9,000-man protest where Iscor workers staged a march to surrender to British forces.

The hoemorphosis has taken the livelihood of one housing community....

BY MARLENE BURGER

5km away 10 people share two rooms...

communities, where street names like Sichon, Tunstall, Bessemer and Lugdunum dominate the industry on which existence west of Church Square depends.

Hardcore hit at Kwaggasrand, where streets named for indigenous birds and flowers have fallen silent as one house after another has been repossessed to its occupants to parts unknown.

People were living here. Now they have gone. And those who remain in the sparsely populated streets include: three dozen of their families playing at dusk, backyard mechanics coping with car engines and shadows on Saturday afternoon.

Mrs Marlene Roth on the 84th floor of a three-bedroom flat, also owned by her, for which they will pay R260 a month - nearly half of Oom Piet's R750 pension. His wife will have to give up the day-mothering which helped to supplement their income.

Prospects of a tenant being found have been slim, but company policy is unapologetic no job, no roof.

Icor owns real estate worth several million rand in the area - 1,100 houses and 140 flats. A month after more than 600 units were vacated since the Department of Correctional Services has let 260 flats for its own staff.

The remaining 320 empty units are on offer to private tenants, according to public relations manager Mr Nelsa Howatt, at office-related rentals - R559 a month for a three-bedroom house and R600 for a flat of the same size.

There is scant demand. The units are not advertised at the “For Let” columns thou 8, according to Mr Howatt, they are offered via staff bulletins to employees who already enjoy subsidised housing.

Among the 260 non-company tenants considering a move to the area is policeman Barel Harmse. He heard about the houses from a friend and came in search of a better quality of life than a Sunnyside flat offers his three pre-schoolers.

Ironically, less than five kilometres from Kwaggasrand, the sprawling township of Atteridgeville, where up to 10 people sharing two rooms is the norm...
Scepticism over building target

Key players agree to focus on housing drive

MAJOR players in the housing sector will try today to give fresh impetus to alleviating the housing crisis when they sign a joint statement of intent pledging to work together.

But the building and construction industry has reacted with scepticism to FWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale's undertaking at the opening of the FWV legislature on Thursday to deliver 180,000 low-cost homes next year in the area.

Sources said government, the National Housing Forum and the Association of Mortgage Lenders had agreed on a statement of intent which would guide their involvement in the delivery of houses.

The sources said the statement, hammered out on Friday, would be made known to the public today. The statement would, among other things, spell out steps to expedite housing delivery.

In another development, National Housing Forum spokesman Khethiwe Shubane said the organisation favoured the subsidy scheme negotiated with former Housing Minister Louis Shill, there were still loose ends which had to be tied up expeditiously. "This included administrative mechanisms to deliver the subsidies and bring old subsidies into line with new ones. The new subsidy scheme, provides for subsidies of up to R2.5 million for people who earn less than R1,500 a month. People who earn between R1,500 and R2,500 qualify for a subsidy of R9,500 and those who earn between R2,500 and R3,500 qualify for R9,000."

Shubane said a way had to be found to "top up" the R7,500 subsidies which many people had received from the Independent Development Trust in the past. "We are saying there should be equitable distribution of state money," he said.

Meanwhile, the banking industry has raised concerns about having to finance shabbily built low-cost houses. Sources in the industry said the concerns were raised at a meeting between bankers and Housing Minister Joe Slovo last week.

Slovo could not be reached for comment, but the ANC's reconstruction and development programme — a cornerstone of government's policy — calls for laws setting standards for housing construction.

Commenting on Sexwale's undertaking, business and construction sector spokesmen said it was not possible to deliver 150,000 units next year given the low level of industry skills and lack of affordable housing finance.

BMI Building Research Unit MD Lewellyn Lewis estimated that, at most, between 60,000 and 70,000 low-cost homes could be built in the FWV region during 1995.

"The Department of Housing is aiming to build 50,000 units nationally this year and this could conceivably increase to 125,000 in 1996 with a target of 350,000 reached in 1999. "Nationally, the former Housing Department managed to build 15,000 units in 1992 and about 17,000 last year. It is virtually impossible to gear up to 150,000 homes next year in the FWV area alone."

Lewis said the only method of circumventing the lack of affordable housing finance was through the establishment of a national housing bank, together with a mortgage indemnity scheme. To lend funds at lower interest rates, economists Tokyo Twinefhi said 51 homes would have to be built an hour — almost one house a minute — in order to achieve Sexwale's target figure of 180,000 homes. Four times even if Sexwale had been referring to basic shelter and high-density flats, it would take a "superhuman" effort to deliver 150,000 homes.

Building Industries Federation of South Africa (BIFA) executive director Ian Robinson said the erosion of the workforce over the past few years meant the industry could not provide the skilled manpower needed to cope with higher activity levels.

"There will have to be a massive increase in the number of money spent annually on training, and an increase in skilled manpower levels simply cannot happen overnight," said Robinson.

SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors executive director Willie Vance said recently construction companies would be hard pressed to deal with significantly higher activity levels.
Residents demand warranty for future

By McKeed Kotolo

Tension is mounting between plot owners and thousands of tenants in Winterveldt near Pretoria, who are refusing to pay rent until their future in the area has been guaranteed.

The tension which has been growing for about a year, came to the fore on May 8 this year at a meeting of tenants who early in January threatened to embark on a rent boycott if plot owners refused them permission to improve their properties.

Monthly rental

The tenants whose monthly rental range between R10 and R50 told Sowetan, "We want to know what our future is in Winterveldt.

"We are not prepared to leave this place because we have invested a lot of money in local facilities, such as houses, clinics and school buildings," said one tenant who was born and raised in the slum area which is no longer tolerable to residents.

Tenants said they were refused permission to install essential facilities for basic human living such as electricity, telephone and water in their houses.

"Almost every owner has a water tap at his house and we are forced to buy water from them at 15 cents a 20-litre container," the tenant said.

Winterveldt is a slum area situated near Mbapane.

Many of the residents interviewed appealed to the Government to resolve their problems, especially housing and schools — an issue which both the former Bophuthatswana and South African governments had failed to resolve in the past.

Several plot owners told Sowetan that they would not stop any tenant from improving his house. They (owners) said they were waiting for the Government's development programme in Winterveldt to start.

"It is only after a proper infrastructure has been laid that properties can be properly improved," according to a female plot owner.

Spokesman

A spokesman for Winterveldt Ministers Council for Church Fellowship, the Rev Jan Mathbela, said attempts to find a solution to the problem were unsuccessful.

"We invited plot owners to a meeting but they failed to turn up," he said of the issue.

He said tenants have now requested WIMCOC to arrange a meeting with the new Premier for North West Province Mr Popo Molefe in an attempt to find a solution.
Government to pick up tab

By Mekedd Kolo

NORTH ST. LEO: Executive committee members of the Menomonee Falls Board of Education approved a policy change that will allow students to pay monthly fees instead of paying a lump sum at the beginning of the school year.

The policy, which was approved at a meeting on Thursday, will go into effect immediately and applies to all students.

The policy change was proposed by the board's Finance Committee and supported by all members.

The policy change is expected to save the district a total of $1,500,000 over the next five years.

News In Brief

Mamakota and Aisleyville residents rent arrears canceled

Sunday, 23 May 2021
BY JOANNE COLLINS

150 000 PWV HOUSES
SECRET SCHEME VOWS
It will make headaches worldwide - sexuality

BY JOANNE COLLINS
at hot spots
on the charm
Ozelo Juns

BY NICK O'NEILL
PW Premier Tokyo

St Luke 21:19-21

After taking charge

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-

Committee, in charge of

Prime Minister, Liberal-
People's co-operation needed

Sowetan 2016/194

The PWV housing and local government ministry has appealed for a moratorium on new land occupation pending the outcome of consultation with civic bodies.

The ministry will also hold urgent discussions with the Transvaal Provincial Administration to ensure "an end to the harassment of our people."

The ministry said it had noted with great concern the alarming upsurge in land occupation in the province. It said continued occupations might lead to unnecessary tensions, fuel xenophobia and create a climate that is conducive to third force element programmes exploiting and undermining the democratic government. The areas affected include Vanderbijlpark, Johannesburg, Nancefield and Randburg, the ministry said. — Sapa
Sexwale talks peace in hostels

ANC and EFF representatives join forces to end strife in East Rand communities

MOOD OF HOPE AND RECONSTRUCTION PREDOMINATES

PREMIER TOKYO SEKWAILE PLEDGED TO "RECONSTRUCT" THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WHEN HE MET HOSTEL RESIDENTS IN PRETORIA YESTERDAY." ASSURING THEM THAT AS IF MEMBERS THEY CAN COME OUTSTANDING AS A STRONG GOVERNMENT.

Time to lay down the spears. — Premier Tokyo Sekwatile pledged to "reconstruct" the lives of the people when he met hostel residents in Pretoria yesterday. Assuring them that as if members they can come outstanding as a strong government.

Photo: Johnny Ovambo
Pay or be cut off warning

By Joshua Raboroko

ESKOM has threatened to cut off the electricity supply to the homes of more than 20,000 Soweto defaulters or to prosecute them unless they settled their accounts within a week.

The corporation disclosed yesterday that it had lost R300 million since it took over the supply of power to the huge township complex two years ago.

ESKOM spokesman Mr Ted Young said they were losing R9 million a month as a result of nonpayment for electricity.

Cut off supplies

The company was only receiving R2 million a month instead of the expected R11 million from thousands of consumers in Soweto, Diepsloot and Dobsonville.

It had already cut off supplies in some townships and the action would be continued in the next few weeks, Young warned yesterday.

"We have sent final notices to thousands of people, indicating they must pay their bills. Electricity supply may be terminated forever if individuals do not pay," he said.

People who have difficulties should contact the company "We are prepared to help wherever possible," Young said.

Young said ESKOM had the backing of all civic associations in Soweto to cut the electricity supply to domestic users who did not pay for services.

The president of the Soweto Civic Association, Mr Isaac Mogase, said yesterday that people whose power had been cut off had only themselves to blame.

He said the specially negotiated monthly flat rate of R33 was "entirely affordable for every household".

He said the civic association had done a lot to persuade the people to pay the rate.

Meanwhile, the Soweto Party of Soweto had threatened to launch a campaign to force ESKOM to hand over control of the electricity supply to the new Soweto authorities.

In a statement, Soweto chief whip Mr M Khanyile warned ESKOM not to cut off the electricity supply.
We don’t favour ghettos’

Stitch townships to cities – Sexwale

By Jo-Anne Collinge

When the ANC talked of developing the townships, it did not intend to reinforce ghettos but to integrate vast dormitories into the mainstream of urban life, PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale said at the weekend.

The occasion was the one-day “townships summit”, called by the Regional Steering Committee for the Reconstruction and Development Programme and held at Vista University in Soweto.

“We are not focussing on the townships because we favour ghettos,” said Sexwale. “We are not in favour of exclusive areas at all.

“Indeed we are examining ways of stitching the townships to the cities. We want economic links and residential links between the townships and the cities; to break the gaps made by apartheid, leading to non-racial cities and a common tax base.”

The premier pledged a new style of communicative government. And the crowd, crammed into the too-small lecture theatre, responded with an unabating chorus of “Oh yes!” when Sexwale declared: “You are now in charge. You are now the government”.

If people-centred development was the main theme of his address, the think-big message was not far behind.

“This is the time for bold leadership, for making statements — but standing up to defend them... No visionaries set themselves low targets.” Sexwale insisted.

He himself was defending his promise to facilitate the building of 150 000 houses in the region during the course of a year “It must be done — it can be done,” he said, adding that if they failed it would be due largely to a lack of courage and imagination on the part of the leadership. But, even if the target of 150 000 homes was not reached, the actual result was likely to be better than if sights had been set low.

Sexwale insisted that development was about economic growth and the creation of wealth, not about the mere provision of services.

He announced that the Small Business Development Corporation had made an initial amount of R6 million available for establishing 50 vocational training centres in the townships and setting up small businesses to absorb trainees.

“These will train people in trades and in business. They will also engage in the production of real goods such as furniture, pots and other articles needed by our people.”
FROM R455 P.M.!!!

If you earn R1 500 p.m.
combined income
or more

Carpets included
Housing packages available in:

- VOSLOORUS
- SPRUITVIEW
- DAWN PARK
- PROTEA
- GLEN
- DOORNKOP EXT 1
- LAWLEY EXT 1

Phone 331-2782 / 331-7750 / 331-9817
Or call at Suite 4609, 46th Floor, Carlton Centre

Gloom for home seekers

By Joe Mathela and Sapa

More than 342,000 people have applied for housing subsidies amounting to R2,5 billion in the Transvaal alone, highlighting the critical housing shortage in the country.

The applications have been received by the Transvaal Regional Housing Board, which yesterday said its coffers would not be able to meet this demand.

The chairman of the board, Mr. Boet van Straten, told Swazis yesterday that in January terms the applications for housing subsidies translated to R2,5 billion and that these far exceeded the available funds allocated to the project-linked scheme.

Van Straten did not, however, say by how much the applications exceeded the board's budget.

The bulk of the requests for housing assistance came from the PWV with more than 156,000 units, amounting to a total of R3 billion. The PWV figure far outstripped a total of R510 million for all the other regions put together. Subsidy applications received from other regions were: Northern Transvaal (R49 million - 5,000 houses), North West (R124 million - 12,000 houses) and Eastern Transvaal (R307 million - 29,000 houses).

Van Straten said the project was in keeping with President Nelson Mandela's call for the building of a million houses in five years' time.

He said he was happy to have the support of Housing Minister Joe Slovo who would use his influence in the budget speech in two weeks' time to allow the gloom for housing pictures.

Last month, Slovo unveiled a bold housing plan to provide 300,000 houses a year. Those, at present, a backlog of 1,5 million houses in the low-income section of the population.

Under the housing subsidy scheme, lower-income owners — up to R1,500 a month — are eligible for subsidies of up to R12,500, while people who earn between R1,500 and R2,500 a month qualify for a subsidy of R9,900.

These earning between R2,500 and R3,500 qualify for a R5,000 subsidy.

See page 6.
Land occupation row

PWV squatters and owners at loggerheads over invasion
A spokesman for the council accused the families of "land invasion" and said its security personnel had acted on "strict instructions" to demolish the shacks.

PIC LEN KUMALO

FROM R455 P.M.!!!

If you earn R1 500 p.m. combined income or more

Carpets included

Housing packages available in:
- VOSLOORUS
- SPRUITVIEW
- DAUGH PARK
- PROTEA
- GLEN
- DOORNKOP EXT 1
- LAWLEY EXT 1

Phone 331-2782 / 331-7750 / 331-9817
Or call at Suite 4609, 46th Floor, Carlton Centre

Gloom for home seekers

By Joe Mchalela and Sapa

More than 240 000 people have applied for housing subsidies amounting to R2.5 billion in the Transvaal alone, highlighting the critical housing shortage in the country.

The applications have been received by the Transvaal Regional Housing Board, which yesterday said it was unable to meet this demand.

The chairman of the board, Mr. Boes van Straten, told Sowetan yesterday that an emergency term the applications for housing subsidies translated to R2.5 billion and that these far exceeded the available funds allocated to the project-bound scheme.

Van Straten did not, however, say by how much the applications exceeded the board's budget.

The bulk of the requests for housing assistance came from the PWV with more than 190 000 units, accounting for a total of R2.5 billion. The PWV figure for assistance was a total of R510 million for all the other regions put together.

Subsidy applicants received from other regions were Western Transvaal (R149m. - 2 000 houses), North West (R154m. - 12 000 houses) and Eastern Transvaal (R387 million - 29 000 houses).

Van Straten said the province was in keeping with President Nelson Mandela's call for the building of a million houses in five years' time.

He said he was hoping Minister of Housing Mr. Joe Slovo would use his influence in his budget speech to alter the gloomy housing picture.

Last month, Slovo unveiled a bold housing plan to provide 300 000 houses a year. There is, at present, a backlog of 1.5 million houses in the low-income sector of the population.

Under the housing subsidy scheme, lower-income earners — up to R1 500 a month — are eligible for subsidies of up to R12 500, while people who earn between R1 500 and R2 500 a month qualify for a subsidy of R7 500.

These earning between R2 500 and R3 500 qualify for a R5 000 subsidy.

See page 8
A spokesman for the council accused the families of "land invasion" and said its security personnel had acted on "strict instructions" to demolish the shacks.

From R455 P.M.!!!

If you earn R1 500 p.m. combined income or more

Carpets included

Housing packages available in:

- VOSLOORUS
- SPRUITVIEW
- DAWN PARK
- PROTEA
- GLEN
- DOORNKOP EXT 1
- LAWLEY EXT 1

Phone 331-2782 / 331-7750 / 331-9817
Or call at Suite 4609, 46th Floor, Carlton Centre

OME GROW

Gloom for home seekers

By Joe Mhlela and Sapa

More than 242 000 people have applied for housing subsidies amounting to R2.5 billion in the Transvaal alone, highlighting the critical housing plight in the country.

The applications have been received by the Transvaal Regional Housing Board, which yesterday found that its coffers would not be able to meet this demand.

The chairman of the board, Mr. Boet van Straten, told Sowetan yesterday that it was necessary to terminate the applications for housing subsidies, which exceeded R2.5 billion and that these far exceeded the available funds allocated to the project-linked scheme.

Van Straten did not, however, deny that the board would be able to meet the demands of those who applied.

The bulk of the requests for housing assistance came from the PWV with more than 150 000 units, amounting to a total of R2.5 billion. The PWV figure for outstanding applications is R2.5 billion.

Van Straten said the project was in keeping with President Nelson Mandela's call for the building of a million homes in five years.

He said the various Ministers of Housing Mr. Joe Slovo would use his influence to increase the budget for the housing sector.

Last month, Slovo unveiled a bold housing plan to provide 500 000 homes a year. There is, at present, a backlog of 1.5 million homes in the low-income sector of the population.

Under the housing subsidy scheme, lower-income earners — up to R1 500 a month — are eligible for subsidies of up to R12 500, while people who earn R2 500 and R3 500 a month qualify for R5 000 and R3 000, respectively.
FROM R455 P.M.!!!

If you earn R1 500 p.m. combined income or more

Carpets included
Housing packages available in:
- VOSLOORUS
- SPRUITVIEW
- DAWN PARK
- PROTEA GLEN
- DOORNKOP EXT 1
- LAWLEY EXT 1

Phone 331-2782 / 331-7750 / 331-9817
Or call at Suite 4609, 46th Floor, Carlton Centre

---

Gloom for home seekers

By Joe Mthlela and Sapa

More than 240,000 people have applied for housing subsidies amounting to R2.5 billion in the Transvaal alone, highlighting the crucial housing shortage in the country.

The applications have been received by the Transvaal Regional Housing Board, which yesterday said it would not be able to meet this demand.

The chairman of the board, Mr. Boet van Straten, told Sowetan yesterday that in monetary terms the applications for housing subsidies translated to R2.5 billion and that these far exceeded the available funds allocated to the project-linked scheme.

Van Straten did not, however, say by how much the applications exceeded the board's budget.

The bulk of the requests for housing assistance came from the FWV with more than 195,000 units amounting to a total of R2 billion. The FWV figure far outnumbered a total of R590 million for all the other regions put together. So far, applications received from other regions were Northern Transvaal (R49 million — 5,000 houses), North West (R15 million — 2,000 houses) and Eastern Transvaal (R307 million — 29,000 houses).

Van Straten said the project was in keeping with President Nelson Mandela's call for the building of a million houses in five years' time.

He said he was urging Minister of Housing Mr. Joe Slovo would use his influence to have the building of houses in two years' time to get the gloomy housing picture moving.

Last month, Slovo unveiled a bold housing plan to provide 200,000 houses a year. There is, at present, a backlog of 1.5 million houses in the low-income sections of the population.

Under the housing subsidy scheme, low-income earners — up to R1 500 a month — are eligible for subsidies of up to R12 500, while people who earn between R1 500 and R2 500 a month qualify for a subsidy of R9 500.

These earning between R2 500 and R3 500 qualify for a R5 000 subsidy.

---

PIC: LEN KIMBALO
Gloom for home seekers

By Joe Mdhiela and Sapa

More than 242,000 people have applied for housing subsidies amounting to R2.5 billion in the Transvaal alone, highlighting the critical housing shortage in the country.

The applications have been received by the Transvaal Regional Housing Board, which yesterday said its coffers would not be able to meet this demand.

The chairman of the board, Mr Roet van Stappen, told Sowetan yesterday that in monetary terms the applications for housing subsidies translated to R2.5 billion and that these far exceeded the available funds allocated to the project-linked scheme.

Van Straten did not, however, say by how much the applications exceeded the board’s budget.

The bulk of the requests for housing assistance came from the PWV with more than 196,000 units, amounting to a total of R2.5 billion. The PWV figure far outweighed a total of R510 million for all the other regions put together. Subsidy applications received from other regions were Northern Transvaal (R49 million — 5,000 houses), North West (R154 million — 12,000 houses) and Eastern Transvaal (R307 million — 29,000 houses).

Van Straten said the project was in keeping with President Nelson Mandela’s call for the building of a million houses in five years’ time.

He said he was hoping Minister of Housing Mr Joe Slovo would use his influence in his budget speech in two weeks’ time to alter the gloomy housing picture.

Last month, Slovo unveiled a bold housing plan to provide 300,000 houses a year. There is, at present, a backlog of 1.5 million houses in the low-income section of the population.

Under the housing subsidy scheme, lower-income earners — up to R1,500 a month — are eligible for subsidies up to R12,500, while people who earn between R1,500 and R2,500 a month qualify for a subsidy of R9,500.

Those earning between R2,500 and R3,500 qualify for a R5,000 subsidy.

See page 6.
Limited funds for many housing plans

STAFF REPORTER

A total of 138 housing developments are in contention for the limited funds to be allocated by the Transvaal Regional Housing Board under the project-linked subsidy scheme.

By the end of last month, developers in the province had proposals ready to build 242,000 low-cost houses, said board chairman Boet van Straten. They would need R2.5 billion in subsidies to achieve this.

"It is already clear that the applications far exceed the available funds allocated for this scheme," commented Van Straten.

He said that applications would be screened and assigned priority according to the way they measured up in terms of certain criteria.

Factors to be considered were the role of community-based organisations in the housing project; the extent to which all relevant stakeholders were part of a social compact; and the project's capacity to create jobs and address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

The applications currently being considered were all received by May 30.

Van Straten drew attention to the fact that a new funding cycle had begun.

The cut-off date for this second cycle was August 1.

During the first round of applications, approximately 80 percent of the proposed new housing was to be sited in the PWV province.
Only a few are paying up for power

Soweto, Eskom losing millions

ELECTRICITY is cut from an average of 3 000 Soweto homes a month as only about 8 percent pay bills

amount collected was only R331 840.
Eskom's West Rand manager Paul Mare said the company was switching off power to an average of 3 000 households a month because of non-payment
Mare estimated that of the 125 000 electricity connections in Soweto, about 40 000 were illegally connected to backyard shacks.

Initially Eskom billed residents at a flat rate of R3,80 a month. But as it upgraded the service, it began to charge its clients according to their actual consumption
Council treasurer Fred Viljoen said that if all the 86 000 formal structures in Soweto paid their monthly R45 for services rendered, the Soweto Council would be collecting R3,870 000 a month

Soweto Civic Association president Isaac Mogase yesterday said both the council and Eskom had, to a large extent, only themselves to blame for the non-payment of services

 Residents have been complaining about late statements that Eskom sent to the consumers, and so far there hasn't been any improvement in that regard," Mogase said

"People have also said they have never seen Eskom's electricity meter-readers"

Mogase said that when the civic called on residents to pay in February, council workers were on strike

"No one was at the cash counter to receive payment from our people," he said.
THE Transvaal regional housing board has received applications for the new government subsidy totalling R2.5bn — virtually the entire national housing budget.

Analysts said the response to the subsidy scheme meant there were more housing projects that were ready to be started than could be financed at the moment.

The board said yesterday that the PWV, Northern Transvaal, Northwest and Eastern Transvaal had asked for subsidies which represented about 242 000 housing units.

The most would be in the PWV (about R2bn) and the least in Northern Transvaal (only R40m). The applications represent about 196 000 houses in the PWV alone, 5 000 in the Northern Transvaal, 12 000 in the Northwest and 29 000 in the Eastern Transvaal.

The applications were all project-linked. A spokesman for the board said they had been made by developers who had obtained community support.

She said the subsidies would be paid out to individuals once the project had been completed and they took ownership.

The board was working flat out to approve projects within the next four to six weeks.

The spokesman could not say how many projects would have to be discarded because of lack of funds, but he hoped the total expected national budget for the 1994/95 fiscal year of about R2.6bn would be increased.

Decisions on projects would be based on agreements reached in the National Housing Forum Factors to be taken into account included job creation and the availability of services.

Board chairman Boet van Straten said the applications that complied fully with the scheme’s social, technical and financial criteria would be prioritised before funds were allocated.

The priority system would take into account the role of community-based organisations in the project and the extent of the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the social compacts.

Sapa reports he said: “Attention will be given to the extent to which the project addresses the needs of disadvantaged communities, job creation and opportunities, transport and services.”

The acceptability of the housing structure would also be considered.

“It is already clear that the applications far exceed the available funds allocated to this scheme,” he said.

In terms of the subsidy scheme, which was negotiated at the forum when Louis Shill was still Housing Minister, individuals will get a maximum subsidy of R12 500 (depending on income). ANC MP Moses Mayekiso is pushing for the subsidy to be raised to R25 000.

The forum is still refining the subsidy system, with one of the most important issues that of collective ownership. It is envisaged that a housing project will be jointly owned, and that the subsidy finance can be topped up with bank finance lent to the communal owners.
PWV, city clinch deal on squatters

AN IMMEDIATE moratorium on land occupation was agreed to last night by PWV local government and housing minister Dan Mofokeng and Johannesburg City Council management committee chairman Ian Davidson.

Earlier yesterday, Mofokeng criticised the council for demolishing squatter shacks at the Liebenberg Vrede serviced site in Mulbarton, "leaving old women and babies without shelter on one of the coldest nights of the year."

The council, vowing to prevent "further land invasions", demolished about 500 shacks on Monday.

Mofokeng and Davidson said yesterday the people would be accommodated immediately at a suitable venue.

"This is a temporary solution pending the outcome of the negotiations between Johannesburg City Council, the PWV government and all communities involved with a view to finding a more permanent solution to housing homeless people in the Johannesburg area."

Mofokeng said the squatters yesterday that PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale had sent his delegation to listen to their grievances.

Committee member Boy Phiri said he was upset by the attitude of traffic officers and council security officials who were present when the shacks were torn down.

"They were rude, aggressive and insulting. Some inside racist comments. When we tried to talk to them, they said their orders were to demolish, not to talk," he said.

Angry white residents demanded that the government delegation control the influx of squatters.

Federation of Ratepayers' Associations of Southern Johannesburg vice-chairman Ken Glase said "Residents are worried about losing value on their property."

"The site is adjacent to land people have paid a lot of money for and have built expensive houses on. It is not a good idea to have a low-cost housing settlement here."

When squatters voiced concern about possible white vigilante action, the government delegation said PWV Security and Safety MEC Jesse Duarte would instruct police to ensure their safety.

Housing Minister Joe Slovo said the increase in squatting would have a detrimental effect on the housing strategy and should be discouraged.

Provincial MECs should identify suitable land surrounding urban areas for temporary or permanent housing purposes, he said.

Government would respect constitutional land rights and guard against any unlawful infringement and occupation.

"In some cases land invasion had been orchestrated by outsiders who did not have the best interests of the squatters at heart," he said.

WILSON ZWANE reports that the ANC said the council's action was arrogant and racist.

While it fully appreciated the crisis in housing and problems arising from land occupation, the demolition of shacks was a "poor reflection of the council's understanding of its role and responsibilities", it said.

It called for a thorough investigation of the decision-making process within the council.

The PAC accused the council of using "high-handed and inhumane" methods against squatters in "typically police state-mentality fashion."

-- Sapa-Reuters

PWV local government and housing minister Dan Mofokeng holds a baby during a meeting with squatters yesterday in Mulbarton, south of Johannesburg, where the city council demolished squatter shacks on Monday. Photo: GARTH LAMBLED

Station. Strangler may still be at large

CAPE TOWN -- The Station Strangler may still be at large, police conceded last night after new evidence in the balloon hearing of suspect Norman Afzal Simon, who was arrested 57 days ago.

A detective investigating the murders of 21 young boys on the Cape Flats told the Kilsom River Magistrate's Court last night that Simon's hand-writing, and blood and DNA tests did not link him to any of the killings.

He added police had only one who said Simon "looks like that."

Other identity parades had failed.

Simons was arrested in connection with the death of Eloy van Rooyen, 16, body was found on March 18 in Sape in Kissilville. No charges have been laid against him and he has not pleaded.

Police were investigating the possibility that another person may be responsible for some of the killings.
Bitter land row deepened

80 homeless get temporary shelter as Slowo condoms squatting
Bitter land row defused

From Page 1

Iflovo also made clear that despite his rejection of illegal squatting, he would not go along with the council's measures "Where squatting does occur, it should be handled as positively as possible to resolve the country’s housing crisis," he said.

Iflovo added that provincial ministers had been asked to co-operate with his department. It was crucial to develop "an acceptable policy and strategy with regard to the invasion of land and to handle squatting in general in as humane a manner as possible."

In addition, provincial ministers had been asked to urgently start identifying urban land for temporary and permanent housing.

Mofokeng and Johannesburg’s management chief, Ian Davidson, indicated that in the wake of talks they were committed to a moratorium on future land invasions and on demolitions of shacks on land already under illegal occupation.

Mofokeng said that structures would be set up as soon as possible.

These would involve political parties, civic associations, ratepayers' groups, religious bodies, local authorities and trade unions to make sure the agreed moratorium was observed.

Urban land invaders gather — Page 12
WEST RAND Squatters to benefit from Eskom's move: New evidence in Main murder case

R54-m Fawcett

By Joshua Kambako and

My name is Nyasha.

*ADDITIONAL CONTENT THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY EXTRACTED*
Squatter leader and his committee investigated

The squatter leader and his committee
had been charging squatters levies of
R200

Despite the leader's
denial of the claims,
Davidson believed
official probes could
lead to criminal
prosecution

Provincial Housing
Minister Dan Mokoeng
would not name any
suspects. However, he
said, allegations that
money had been
collected from
squatters in Freedom
Park had reached his
office and were being
investigated

but also tried to
establish an ANC
branch in the camp

Evicted residents —
still clinging to a piece
of land opposite
Freedom Park but now
mostly without shelter
— were reluctant to
speak. They said they
feared attack and did
not sleep at night.

But a few of them
corroborated the
allegations reported to
housing organisations.
They also said they had
filed Freedom Park
because of threats from

NEWTON KANHEMA
and JO-ANNE
COLLINGE

JOHANNESBURG City
Council and the PWV
government are
investigating claims that
leaders in the
shantytown of Freedom
Park, south of the city,
are cashing in on the
plight of the homeless
by charging them for
the right to stay there.

Ian Davidson,
chairman of the
Johannesburg
management
committee, said the
council had information
that a community
leader, whose name is
known to WeekendStar,
had been charging
squatters levies of
R200.

Despite the leader's
denial of the claims,
Davidson believed
official probes could
lead to criminal
prosecution.

Provincial Housing
Minister Dan Mokoeng
would not name any
suspects. However, he
said, allegations that
money had been
collected from
squatters in Freedom
Park had reached his
office and were being
investigated.

Source said information about
the Freedom Park committee had
come from residents who had
paid R200 for a site. He estimated
there were about 700 shacks
in Freedom Park and "there is
no reason to believe that an
occupant paid between R100
and R200 for land."

How the committee came to
represent the people who moved
to Liefde en Vrede last week was
not clear. Another community
leader said the Liefde en Vrede
occupiers had approached him
for help after moving on to the
site. They said they wanted to
expose the fact that the council had
empty land, and that, in the case of
Liefde en Vrede, had wanted to
give it to Taiwanese people. He said

armed men and that they had re-
ported this to the ANC.

The squatter leader said his
committee had not taken more
than R10 per household from res-
dents — which he said was to
pay for servicing portable toilets.

Davidson said the council had
provided the toilets and that
there should be no charge.

The leader admitted that his
committee had instructed a
group of residents to leave the
camp. "When we started the
camp we agreed that residents
shouldn't partake in party poli-
tics," Some residents had decid-
ed to launch an ANC branch. The
committee had decided that
these people would have to leave.

A Johannesburg council

A Johannesburg council

TO PAGE 2.
Squatters holding up building of thousands of low-cost homes

SQUATTING on land southwest of Johannesburg, such as the settlement on St Martin's trust land, is holding up plans by the Golden Highway Development Corporation (Goldenvy) to build at least 16 000 low-cost houses.

Goldenvy CEO Azis Shaik said yesterday the company had about 460ha on which it planned to build houses for families with incomes of less than R1 500 a month.

However, squatting on Goldenvy land was holding up the project, particularly plans to resettle the Thembalela community. This community, living on ground prone to sinkhole formations, was in danger.

Goldenvy wanted the squatters to become involved in the project, he said. In the meantime, the authorities had to find alternative land to accommodate them.

Goldenvy, set up two years ago, had, with squatter communities living in the area, come up with an "exciting" scheme to build houses, Shaik said.

They had agreed that communities would form housing clubs through which they could take part in building houses. The process would be underpinned by Goldenvy-sponsored workshops, which would deal with issues such as types of housing and financial options.

They had agreed that building would begin only after the clubs, made up of 20 members each, had decided on what they wanted and could afford, he said.

Two hundred housing clubs had already been established.

The Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber had decided that about 4 000 families living in Thembalela would be able to pay for their houses by working on the project as bricklayers, plumbers and so on once it got off the ground.

Shaik said Goldenvy did not collect any fees from people involved. The clubs would get government subsidies of R12 500 each and personal loans from the Community Bank, the only bank which had so far agreed to become involved.

Goldenvy was advising people to take personal loans because they were less complicated than mortgage bonds.

Major banks were not interested in the scheme because they considered it too risky to lend money to informal sector workers, he said.

The Community Bank wanted to use the scheme as a pilot project. Unemployed club members would be able to pay for their houses by working on the project as bricklayers, plumbers and so on once it got off the ground.

SAPA reports that Atteridgeville's council is to expropriate land for a housing project, according to Friday's Government Gazette.

A council spokesman said some of the land would be quarried for material to build access roads to the new township.

Council housing would be provided for squatters occupying the land.
GREATER Soweto residents have been warned to pay their electricity bills or face power cuts.

The decision to urge residents to pay was taken at a meeting held last Friday between representatives of the African National Congress, the Soweto Civic Association and Eskom.

The meeting agreed that the non-payment of electricity bills and of electricity arrears was a serious problem that needed immediate attention.

ANC representative Mr Norman Prince said yesterday the power cuts issue needed attention at a higher level. He said the meeting had agreed to seek solutions to the problem.

Eskom is losing about R9 million a month because of the non-payment of electricity bills by Soweto residents.

Prince appealed to people to abandon “the culture of boycotting electricity payment” and start paying their services. “Pay and thereby support the Government of national unity,” he said.

Eskom’s sales and customer manager, Mr Ken Green, said more than 20,000 residents were not paying for electricity in Greater Soweto.

Green said negotiations were presently under way to give relief to residents who were facing power cuts because of them being in arrears. They might be given time to bring their payments up to date, he said.

Complaints by customers regarding non-receipt of electricity accounts was also discussed. Eskom said it had a plan that would resolve the matter.
Sowetans to start repaying arrears

Eskom, residents sign agreement

By Justice Malala

The Soweto Civic Association (SCA), the ANC and Eskom yesterday signed an agreement aimed at normalising the supply of electricity to the township and resolving non-payment for the service.

The Soweto rent and electricity crisis has continued despite pleas by various organisations and President Mandela that payments be made.

The latest agreement comes after Eskom’s West Rand manager Paul Mabuza said last week that the company was switching off power to an average of 3,000 households every month. He said that of the 125,000 connections in Soweto, about 40,000 were illegally connected to backyard shacks.

The agreement, signed by SCA president Isaac Mogwane, the ANC’s Norman Fransck and Eskom Johannesburg district manager Ken Gross, is made up of an undertaking from both Eskom and residents.

In the agreement, Eskom undertook to immediately restore the supply to those residents who have been cut off for never having paid and waive the deposit of R100 in the interim.

Eskom also undertook not to take any action against customers who are in arrears, provided that monthly repayments against the arrears are received.

To remedy the allegation that bills always arrive late, Eskom undertook to use an alternative distributor for a three-month trial period.

The SCA undertook to ensure that those whose power was cut off would pay a R55 reconnection fee by July 7, failing which power would again be disconnected.

Residents also agreed that no debt would be written off. Residents will immediately start to repay their arrears at a minimum of R40 a month.
Why the Jewish must meet LAND VISION

Toughest lessons for the young man among the Jews

[Diagram of land with annotations]
Rent arrears scrapped

By Dan Fuphe

THE Daveyton Council on the East Rand has announced that it would scrap rent and service charges arrears totalling more than R80 million.

Acting Daveyton town clerk Mr Robert Ramohope said this week the township's residents owed the council a staggering R80 636 996.47 for the period January to December last year.

A further R27 870 928 recorded on the council's books for the current financial year ending in April showed that no meaningful payments were made by the residents since January.

The scrapping of the arrears comes less than three weeks after the Daveyton Civic Association had urged residents to intensify the rent boycott.

Expected

Ramohope said residents were only expected to start paying for services incurred since the beginning of January.

All the money owed by individual householders would be reflected in this month's statements.

The rent impasse follows many failed negotiations between the DCA, the Daveyton Interim Committee and the council.

The cash-strapped council, dogged by rent boycotts since 1990, has also been riddled by financial scandals over payments to some of its senior white officials.

Although those involved were dismissed, residents have remained adamant over the boycott issue.

In a plea to residents this week for the "resurrection of the culture of payment", Ramohope said the Daveyton Council was "a clean and transparent administration".

Attempts to get a comment from members of the Daveyton Civic Association were unsuccessful yesterday.

Civic Association chairman Mr Mahlomola Skhosana was said to be overseas.
Silicone implants: Harmful or harmless?

FROM ANIMAL TO CELL: Biological implants have the potential to revolutionize medicine, from regenerative therapy to organ replacement.

ASPECTS HANDICAPPED

Actors, screen cruelty

CLEANING LANDMARKS A GOLD MINE

NEWS

June 1994

VANDALISM

1965 JAMES C. BURTON
More than 700 families living under constant threat of eviction in the Randburg area will be relocated to Zandspruit and Lanseria.

The PWV government yesterday said it was agreed that about 500 families would be relocated to two Zandspruit holdings and the rest to Lanseria. It hoped this would be an adequate interim measure until areas for affordable housing had been identified.

A moratorium on evictions of the 700 families from their present dwellings had been extended to June 30 this year.

Mr Nico Kriel, chairman of the sub-committee that recommended the move, said both sites had the potential to be developed into permanent settlements.

Representatives of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, town councils, the police, residents' associations, town planners and estate agents

The PWV government said discussions were still under way with the owner of the site identified at Lanseria for the provision of a temporary supply of water and the treatment of sewerage.

At Zandspruit holdings 71 and 74 the water supply would have to be supplemented but there were "in principle" no problems with sewerage.

The statement said the Randburg Town Council would help with the cost of transit areas, but additional money would be needed. — Sapa
Red tape slowing house delivery to be cut away

PWV housing minister Daniel Mofokeng told top construction company chiefs yesterday that red tape hindering the speedy delivery of homes would be scrapped.

"Mofokeng said excessive legislation had to be done away with if PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale's plans to build 150,000 homes in a year were to succeed.

"This relates to the red tape and bottlenecks in existing legislation such as town planning acts, the registration of bonds and the establishment of townships," he said.

"His announcement tied in with the development facilitation Bill being negotiated at national level between the Housing and Local Government and the Reconstruction and Development Office. The Bill would provide simplified procedures to speed up the development process.

"Mofokeng said his meeting with top-level management from JTA, Grinaker, Murray & Roberts and Basil Read was part of a process to consult with business before housing plans were announced.

"Discussions are planned with financial institutions, small and medium-sized businesses and a number of community-based organisations," he added.

"We emphasised the acute shortage of housing in the PWV and the mushrooming of informal settlements which are potential long-term headaches for the region."

"The PWV cabinet wished to link housing to job creation.

"He said there were more than 150,000 sites around the PWV which could be freed immediately for the construction of affordable housing.

""We have ordered a review of existing land in the region, but it is not an issue as there appears to be a surplus. Much of the land is linked to existing infrastructure and the bulk of that is in the hands of the Johannesburg City Council," he said."
Govt presses ahead with housing plan

PWV local government and housing MEC Dan Mofokeng yesterday unveiled part of his government's plan to build 150,000 houses within a year, including the repeal of legislation governing tender procedures and bond registration.

Speaking after a meeting with at least 110 representatives from the building industry in Johannesburg yesterday, Mofokeng said his government would not entertain excuses which would delay housing delivery in the province.

Since existing laws governing governing bond registration, land acquisition, tender procedures and town planning were inhibiting the speedy delivery of houses, his government would review them with a view to replacing them with enabling legislation.

Mofokeng also revealed that his government would unveil technology to speed up the manufacture of building materials such as bricks within three weeks.

He said he had held discussions with SA Prisoners' Organisation for Human Rights leader Golden Mole of Bantu yesterday about the involvement in the plan of ex-prisoners skilled in carpentry, bricklaying, plumbing and other relevant skills.

He said his government would not employ the ex-prisoners but would facilitate their absorption by the building industry.

A source close to the prisoners' organisation said a meeting would be sought with Minister Without Portfolio Jay Naidoo to discuss the involvement of skilled ex-prisoners in the reconstruction and development programme.

Full details of his government's housing plan were expected to be announced within three weeks.
Land identified for PWV low-cost housing project

A huge tract of vacant land around greater Johannesburg roughly nine times the size of Soweto could be used immediately to develop affordable housing, PWV housing minister Daniel Mofokeng announced last week.

Mofokeng said recent studies had shown that there was up to 80 000ha of serviced and undeveloped land available for housing.

Consultants said such areas included the Kliprivier basin, regions between Midrand and Modderfontein, Sandton and Roodepoort, eastern suburbs between the CBD and Observatory, and about 2 000ha within the mining belt.

The bulk of the land was owned by the Johannesburg City Council, with a portion in private hands.

Mofokeng said the PWV cabinet planned to build showhouses on nine plots within the identified area before constructing a proposed 150 000 affordable houses in a year.

This would take place once Cabinet had concluded discussions with a wide range of business and community leaders.

John Rosmarin of Plan Africa, the consultancy firm which helped conduct the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber’s 1992 land availability study, agreed there was sufficient land to meet short-term housing needs.

Much of the land in the mining belt was, however, privately owned and Rosmarin said “urgent attention must be given to an acceptable method of land acquisition” so that planning for housing delivery could begin.

He said Soweto and Alexandra desperately needed a comprehensive renewal and upgrading programme, both with enormous potential for redevelopment.

The Project Facilitation Group’s Telephono Mashinini estimated that between 40 000ha and 60 000ha of vacant land was strategically well-located for the development of low-cost housing.

“This is land which is close to employment areas and transport links, and also has the bulk infrastructure, such as waste water, to service housing developments.”

Meanwhile, Sapa reports Perm properties division MD Dennis Creighton said on Saturday banks needed guarantees such as a mortgage indemnity scheme before they “advance mortgage loans across the spectrum”.

Speaking at a Sando workshop in Midrand, Creighton said the scheme would remove the lenders’ non-commercial risk.

“Many loans in default are the result of economic factors such as the borrower losing his job... He then refuses to vacate the property after it has been repossessed and stays on, paying little or no rent,” he said.

Lending criteria included repayments not exceeding 25% of gross income, home owners needing to pay between five and 10% deposit and a maximum loan to security ratio of 80%.

Banks had identified people with stable employment and a regular income which was above subsistence levels as their market. Outside this group, lenders’ risks were too great, he added.

Creighton said banks did not extensively practise red-lining — not granting bonds in areas they consider too high a risk. Lenders may not advance loans in a particular area because of economic factors. Rural areas must be urgently developed.
The lawyers would not say whether the case would continue to be heard in court’s lower courts or in the Supreme Court. The lawyers confirmed that they would continue to represent the client in the case.

By Joshua Raboko

Court Order pensioners say Eskom

Soweto man wins case against Eskom

Electricity supply restored after Rand Supreme C

and council had no right to switch power off.
Life assurers to finance new bank

R4bn housing plan for PWV in the pipeline

PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale's promise to build 150 000 low-cost homes a year was based on a Stocks & Stocks-developed plan under which the life assurance and pension fund industries would pump R4,5bn into a new bank, sources disclosed at the weekend.

Discussions with financial institutions, construction firms and other interest groups were far advanced and a formal announcement was expected soon.

The scheme would see the creation of numerous small businesses around newly developed communities at a cost of about R1bn. The first homes should be delivered in four months while industries should come on stream within six months.

Sources said the project aimed to create 160 000 permanent new jobs in the PWV and a further 600 000 directly and indirectly in the construction industry.

Although changes to the plan may be made before it is formally announced later this month, it appears Sexwale and PWV housing minister Daniel Motokeng have approved it in principle.

There are indications that the Free State and Eastern Transvaal governments could also adopt the scheme.

Sources said the communal bank would lend individual loans to end users for houses costing between R25 000 and R50 000 a unit. The loans would be extended on a stockvel-based system, where groups of borrowers provided limited cross-guarantees to each other.

Homes built would range from low-cost units to complete four- and five-bedroomed family homes. They would be constructed by a number of large construction groups. The project was designed to create opportunities for small building contractors, sources said.

In return, participating companies would be expected to contribute a percentage of their turnover to the creation of industries around the housing projects.

These industries would be involved in import replacement, exporting and meeting the increased demand created by the housing boom. The total investment in these industries would be about R4bn.

Local authorities would be called on to provide the bulk services to each node.

One source said although the details had not been finalised, it was assumed that government's housing subsidy scheme would form part of the overall funding.

Local developers said there were a number of issues which had to be clarified.

One of the most pressing queries was whether the regional government would be able to provide loan guarantees. Alternatively, central government could be called in to finance any shortfall.

A further problem could be that Housing Minister Joe Slovo had indicated that housing funds should be allocated equitably among SA's regions, and analysts said he was unlikely to approve a scheme which saw massive funding going to one region.

Sources also queried whether the new communal bank would be prepared to grant loans to the unemployed, on the basis that they would obtain employment at a future date. The capacity of the construction industry to gear up for such a massive project was called into question.
PWV developers ‘left out’

PWV, premier Tokyo Sexwale’s plan to build 50,000 homes a year through the creation of a new bank has raised the ire of small developers who believe they have been left out in the cold.

But industry analysts and major construction companies believed the proposed scheme, initially developed by Stocks & Stocks, was highly innovative and would rejuvenate the economy of the PWV region should it come to fruition.

Gey van Pittius, Van der Merwe & Associates MD Gey van Pittius said a consortium of small developers had approached the PWV regional government with several schemes, but had “never gotten through the front door”.

He said “Organisations such as Rabie, Township Realtors and RMP Developers have been developing low-cost homes over the past few years and yet have not been allowed any input into Sexwale’s scheme.

“The project appears to be upped, at drawing in small builders operating in the informal sector, but the small private developer can basically move to Cape Town,” he said.

Council for Construction of SA (Cocusa) chairman Linda Nynsche said the organisation, which represented formal and informal construction groups, knew nothing of the scheme. He said Cocusa would be seeking a meeting with Sexwale.

PWV housing minister Daniel Mofokeng recently met major construction companies to outline the proposed project.

Murray & Roberts subsidiary Amalgamated Construction MD Chris Cudmore said Mofokeng had called on the construction groups to devise schemes to assist in housing delivery.

“Mofokeng stressed that consultation with communities and the incorporation of the informal building sector was important. We will meet him on Thursday to further discuss housing plans,” he said.

The Life Offices’ Association’s investment development unit MD Peter Barbe said he had held talks with Sexwale on his scheme. The unit had outlined criteria with which a project had to comply before the organisation recommended it to life insurers for investment.

“A project should be community orientated, the capital should be secure and investors should achieve a market-related return. The scheme under discussion with Sexwale aims to achieve these objectives,” he said.

He said the unit was aiming to support a range of community-based projects and had identified housing as a priority. It was considering schemes aimed at kickstarting PWV housing initiatives.

See Page 3
Small developers in PWV ‘out in cold’

Own Correspondent

Johannesburg — PWV Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale’s plan to build 150,000 homes a year through creating a new bank has angered small developers who believe they have been left out in the cold.

But industry analysts and major construction companies believe the proposed scheme was highly innovative and would rejuvenate the economy of the PWV region if it came to fruition.

Mr Gey van Pittius said a consortium of small developers who had been developing low-cost homes for the past few years had approached the PWV government with several schemes, but had “never got through the front door.”
Housing and job scheme on track

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The PWV government has lined up the initial deals which underpin its unprecedented scheme to provide 150,000 homes a year and generate hundreds of thousands of jobs, according to Premier Tokyo Sexwale.

All that remained was "to tie up everything on paper", he said yesterday as he released details of a plan quite mind-boggling in complexity and in the frenzy of production it envisages.

The Life Offices Association of South Africa has been asked to support the jobs-and-housing scheme by investing R4.5 billion in the planned PWV Regional Community Bank, which was pivotal to the financing of the scheme.

"They have agreed to join," said Sexwale at a press conference in his Pretoria office suite.

Expatriate banker Chris Ball was asked to become chief executive of the bank when he flew into Johannesburg a couple of days ago. "And, before leaving, he had accepted the job," Sexwale announced.

The Government would be contributing R750 million for every 150,000 houses built. This amount would comprise subsidies of R5,000 a house and loan guarantees designed to protect the private sector lenders in this untested venture.

The banks of the construction industry had been invited to join the scheme and had held several rounds of talks. To be part of the venture, "they will have to invest 5 per cent of their turnover as equity", Sexwale explained. He said there was no time for tenderers in this "war on poverty".

PLAN to build 150,000 houses and create thousands of jobs comes together with major players on board

The major construction companies would be offered a role as project managers rather than as direct builders, Sexwale said.

"They are behind this plan." Sexwale mentioned that the construction company Stocks & Stocks had organised the housing scheme and the province had merely adopted and modified it.

The building work itself would be left to small, black building contractors who would draw their labour from communities. Already the PWV government had met more than 100 such contractors.

The bank would provide loan finance to prospective homeowners earning R1,500 or less at rates which would be below market rate, said Sexwale.

Houses would range in size, up to four or five bedrooms, and in cost from R25,000 to R35,000. Emphasis would be on the outer shell. The estimated rate of bond repayment was R200 a month.

Ball to head PWV bank - Page 5
Tokyo unveils housing plans

PRETORIA. — PWV Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale yesterday unveiled details of his plan to build 150 000 houses in his first year in office, saying it entailed the creation of 900 000 job opportunities.

Addressing a press conference he said the plan would go into effect within three weeks. It had the support of several large firms and required the involvement of communities across the province. Initially, 10 show houses would be erected in various areas to allow the public to choose the type they wanted.

"The programme is to build the 150 000 houses at an average cost of R30 000 each," he said. "This includes the cost of land, infrastructural services and funding costs."

The houses would be shell structures, complete outside but open-plan inside.

"We envisage the mortgage payment for such a house to be around R200 a month," Mr Sexwale said.

He said the houses would be funded by a combination of subsidies and guarantees.

"We are expecting the larger financial institutions to provide finance to those who already have jobs."

Large and small building companies would be involved in the programme, and the training of small builders was a vital part of the programme.

"We will use existing training institutions as well as new ones incorporating on-site and off-site modular training programmes. We anticipate about R175 million will be needed to support this."

"The PWV, as the engine that drives the national economy, has to take a leading role in solving the national crisis. Our plan places the government as the facilitator in drawing private enterprise into playing an active and meaningful role in setting the economy of this country on an unprecedented growth pace," — Sapa.
Small builders for big housing scheme

By THEMBA KHUMALO
Political Reporter

SMALL black building contractors will be given preference over their white counterparts by the PWV Legislature to start building 150,000 houses in the province from next month, premier Tokyo Sexwale said this week.

Unveiling an ambitious housing plan at a press conference in Pretoria, Sexwale said as part of the empowerment of small black businessmen his government would make sure that all the backyard building contractors were assigned to build the required houses.

He said there were about 1,500 building contractors in the PWV alone, who had the capacity to build 30,000 houses a year. If they could do this, about 600,000 direct and indirect jobs would be created in the construction industry and 300,000 jobs in other sectors, Sexwale said.

The big construction companies, almost exclusively white-owned, would be allowed to take part in the housing scheme after meeting certain criteria.

One of these would be to invest five percent of their turnover in the housing programme as equity in the creation of permanent employment opportunities in partnership with individuals of new committees to be created soon.

Each house would cost R30,000 and the government would pump R750 million into the scheme as either a guarantee or subsidy for home owners.

People would have a choice of houses ranging from basic to four- and five-room dwellings, he said. The first houses would be built within the next three or four weeks.

Sexwale said his government had already held discussions with senior representatives of the Independent Development Unit of the Life Offices Association of SA to ask them to support the housing programme in phases with R4.5 billion a year.

"These funds will be placed into the PWV Regional Community Bank, a new funding structure which is being set up to help finance our housing plan. I've asked Chris Ball to head this bank and he has agreed," he said.
battle over housing"
Sexwale, Slovo ‘at odds over PWV housing’

JOHannesburg. — Two top ANC officials are reported to be at odds over the control of housing plans in the PWV province.

A Sunday newspaper said PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale and National Housing Minister Joe Slovo had produced conflicting plans for delivering houses.

The paper said Mr Sexwale had rejected Mr Slovo’s plan, saying it would only provide “corrugated iron shacks” for the homeless in the PWV.

The paper said that Mr Slovo had dismissed Mr Sexwale’s plan as “chancing the housing future of the country in the hands of one construction company”. He had commissioned a group of experts to evaluate Mr Sexwale’s plan.

The paper quoted Mr Sexwale as saying nothing would stop him from going ahead with the plan. — Reuters.
In this article, Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber chairman Dr Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert reacts to the multinational rand housing plan announced by PWV premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale:

- The finalisation of the area of the TMC as well as the number of MSSs and their areas;
- The powers and duties of the TMC and MSSs in relation to one another, and
- The number of people who will be appointed and serve on the TMC and MSS

(b) The TMC and MSS will then, as appointed bodies, govern the area previously governed by all the old local authorities such as Johannesburg, Sandton, Roodepoort and Randburg. These TMC and MSSs will therefore now own and control all assets and liabilities of these old authorities.

(c) The TMC and MSS must help to prepare the area for local elections by defining wards and registering voters on a voters’ roll.

(d) All the above is known as the pre-interim phase of local government transition leading up to the interim phase, which will be heralded in by elections which will then establish an elected TMC and MSS.

Where are we now in the Metropolitan Area in the Witwatersrand? (which from all accounts, is the most advanced of the metropolitan areas in negotiating the Act?)

1. Nowhere near ready to have elections as scheduled for April 1995.
2. We have not yet negotiated the TMC and MSSs to have to be implemented for the pre-interim phase.
3. It seems those responsible for negotiating the Act have abandoned negotiations at local level. The Act itself is the consequence of political compromise. Nobody told us down there what that compromise entails. Consequently, negotiators try to negotiate new compromises on old compromises, or simply undo old compromises.
4. Those who govern at the national or regional level seem to assume that somehow things will ‘just come right’ at the local level.

They won’t. We face perhaps the greatest challenge urbanisation on the African continent right here on Witwatersrand.

5. We are threatening to get bogged down in petty ‘not-putting-negotiations which somehow reflect a sense of urgency as if there is some magical ‘machina at a higher level to come to our aid.

Instead of dusty committees, negotiations at the level need desperate assistance. South Africa’s government came to a standstill to let national negotiations succeed.

The world almost came to a standstill to let our negotiations succeed.”
focus on housing
Sowetan 11/7/94

The PWV provincial government's housing master plan has run into a storm of controversy since it was announced on Thursday. Here is the abridged text of PWV premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale's speech in which he announced the project:

Tokyo Sexwale

Deposit on the houses
- We have already held discussions with senior representatives of the Independent Development Unit of the Life Offices Association of South Africa, asking them to support our programme in phases to the tune of some R4.5 billion.
- These funds will be placed into the PWV Regional Community Bank — a new funding structure which is being set up to help finance our housing plan. I have asked Chris Ball to head this bank and he has accepted.
- The bank's objective will be to provide loans to people who earn less than R1 500 a month, or to people who are currently unemployed but will be achieving employment through this programme.
- We are expecting the larger financial institutions to provide finance to those who already have jobs.
- We intend to involve both large and small companies in our housing programme.

The programme is to build the 150 000 houses at an average cost of R30 000. This includes the cost of land, infrastructural services and funding costs.
Sexwale sticks to his guns

By Sapa and Bongani Mavuso

PWV PREMIER TOKYO Sexwale yesterday defended his provincial government’s multimillion rand plan to build 150 000 houses in the region.

He said nothing would prevent the provincial legislature from delivering low-cost housing to the homeless as outlined in his housing blueprint.

Sexwale’s plan to build 150 000 houses at a total cost of about R750 million of taxpayers’ money and R4.5 billion from insurance houses in his first year in office, has been embroiled in controversy.

The Life Offices Association, which represents assurance companies in the country, has reportedly denied that it will provide the R4.5 billion needed to fund the scheme.

Yesterday, Sexwale said LOA director Mr June Wessels was “misinformed” when he said the organisation would not provide financial assistance to the PWV’s housing project.

The PWV premier said the project would be financed by Government guarantees, subsidies and by unlocking private sector funds, including those of the LOA.

He said discussions with several major construction companies and about 100 medium-sized and small companies had attracted great interest.

The provincial government would rather fail in meeting its target of 150 000 units than not start the project at all, Sexwale said.

A Sunday newspaper yesterday reported National Housing Minister Mr Joe Slovo had criticised the plan for “chancing the housing future of the country in the hands of one construction company.”

According to Slovo’s housing scheme, drafted in consultation with the National Housing Forum, the SA Civic Organisation, Cosatu and the private sector, 50 000 houses would be built in South Africa this year.

“We wish to make it unambiguously apparent that nothing will deviate us from the plans that we have set about to deliver low-cost homes,” Sexwale said.

Reacting to criticism of the plan, Sexwale said “We want to put to rest smears, distorters and other people who only expressed negatives around this plan.

“In line with our policy of openness and transparency, we have made public our plans and are inviting, not merely negative criticism but a constructive one.”

The PWV government, he said, would start building the first of the houses within three or four weeks.

“This plan cannot and must not fail due to bureaucratic obstacles, unimaginative leadership and other obstacles we shall not fail the people who elected us.”

High-level discussions with the LOA were continuing and were very “positive.”

See reports on Page 8 and 9
Sexwale, Slovo to meet on housing

JOHANNESBURG — PWV Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale, National Housing Minister Mr Joe Slovo and PWV Housing Minister Mr Dan Mofokeng will meet this week to discuss the controversy around the proposed PWV housing project.

Sunday newspaper reports said the PWV premier and Mr Slovo were engaged in a bitter power struggle over who controlled housing in the PWV.

ANC spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said the three would meet "soon" to clarify the situation.

"We view it as not necessarily contradictory, but a healthy debate on how best to address the housing deadlock of our people", he said.

He said "at this stage we are not addressing the issue (the newspaper report) but we welcome the debate around it!"

Meanwhile Mr Sexwale has reacted to reports quoting Life Office Association director Mr Jurie Wessels who apparently said the association would not provide R4.5bn a year towards the housing project.

"He is misinformed and does not understand the simple figures his seniors understand," Mr Sexwale said.

The PWV premier on Thursday unveiled details of a plan to build 150,000 houses in his first year in office, saying it entailed the creation of 900,000 job opportunities. He said the project would be financed through the provision of government guarantees and subsidies and through unlocking funds from the private sector.

The premier said his government was fully aware of all the homeless and jobless people "sleeping in the open... and therefore no amount of negativism and bickering over this plan from people who have put forward no plan, will deter us from our targets."
Housing plan queried

JOHANNESBURG — The Urban Foundation (UF) yesterday called for more clarity on the financing of the PWV’s housing plan announced by Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale.

UF spokeswoman Ms Jill Strelitz said it was of great importance that the scheme be a success from the point of view of cost recovery.

She said from available information it was not clear how a R30 000 house could be provided at a mortgage payment of about R200 a month, when the usual repayment would be about R350 (12.7%)

She said it was important to know how the additional costs would be absorbed and by whom.

Ms Strelitz said the UF admired the PWV provincial legislature’s vision to provide 150 000 houses in a year.

She added that this was a good opportunity for the government to demonstrate its commitment to transparency — Sapa
‘No struggle’, says PWV government
Slovo launches first RDP housing scheme

JOHANNESBURG — The PWV government yesterday rejected reports of a power struggle between provincial Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale and National Housing Minister Mr Joe Slovo, saying the two would meet tomorrow to continue their constructive and healthy debate on housing.

“The meeting is part of a consultative process to mobilise support among the broadest sections of our communities to ensure the successful delivery of 150 000 housing units (in the province) within a year,” Mr Sexwale’s office said in a statement.

Mr Slovo has said 50 000 houses will be built nationally in the same period.

“The (PWV) government unequivocally rejects suggestions that there are tensions between Mr Sexwale and Mr Slovo on the provincial housing plan.

“The national and regional housing plans are not mutually exclusive and incompatible but must be seen as complimentary to one another.”

“The debate between Mr Slovo and Mr Sexwale should be seen as constructive and healthy in the quest for identification of the best vehicle to address our housing backlog in the country.”

Sunday newspaper reports said the premier and Mr Slovo were engaged in a power struggle over who controlled housing in the PWV.

PWV Housing Minister Mr Dan Mofokeng will also attend tomorrow’s meeting in Pretoria. — Sapa
R1,6bn scheme for home of PWV govt

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Intersite is to proceed with a multimillion-rand housing, retail and commercial development, which could end up as the home of the PWV legislature.

The so-called Park City scheme, which would link the CBDs of Johannes burg and Brakfontein, was originally submitted to the regional government committee considering proposals for the new capital.

Intersite managing director Mr Dirk Ackerman said the proposal mooted the development of a “city-within-a-city” capital district.

The plan was to link the CBDs into Park City through the consolidation of 550ha of land and buildings on state-controlled land in the vicinity of Park Station roughly between Ruthven Street and the Queen Elizabeth Bridge.

Sources estimated the entire project, once completed, could cost up to R1.6bn.

The development was multifunctional and work had already begun on several components. These included a R30m transit centre for long-distance trains and luxury coaches, a commuter centre for rail commuters and a depot for long-distance buses and taxis.
Slovo and Sexwale compromise

Best of both housing plans to be merged

HOUSING Minister Joe Slovo and PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale yesterday agreed to merge the controversial PWV housing scheme into a new national housing policy.

A joint technical committee is to be set up to investigate this urgently.

Analysis said it meant the present national policy, negotiated with the National Housing Forum, could be altered significantly.

There were fears that the mass delivery of homes could be delayed while government sought to consult the myriad of interest groups on the new policy.

But forum chairman Eric Molobi said the move was a positive step towards clarifying policy issues and the direction being taken on housing issues.

"The forum is pleased that processes to incorporate regional perspectives into national policy have been initiated."

The meeting between Slovo and Sexwale took place after the two had a "difference of opinion" over the PWV plan to build 150,000 homes a year.

The plan envisaged that the life assurance and pension fund industries were going to pump R4.5bn into a new community bank that would be used to extend mortgage finance to the poor.

Slovo was confident that the joint technical committee would be able to assess the possibility of forging a new housing policy by August, when a White Paper would be published. This would culminate in the national housing summit meeting to be held towards the end of September.

"No policy is cast in stone. We need to open our minds to the development of a new strategy, to find a way forward which will draw on the best of both plans and move us into the process of putting homes on the ground as soon as possible.

"We also have to take cognizance of the unique role of the PWV in the national economy and the extraordinary contribution it has to make towards resolving the national housing backlog," he said.

Although both Slovo and Sexwale maintained that the meeting was conducted in a "businesslike and extremely positive spirit," sources said the PWV premier had threatened to resign if a compromise was not reached on his housing plan.

Neither would be drawn on how the policy would affect the national plan to build 50,000 homes a year, or on initiatives such as the mortgage indemnity scheme and the national housing bank.

On financing, PWV housing minister Daniel Motokeng said a new policy could seek to tap into the resources of the life assurance and pension fund industries.

Sexwale said the private sector would be called on to make a significant input into any new national strategy, and the assurance and pension fund sectors could put more than R4.5bn into housing initiatives.

Motokeng said Sexwale would lay the first brick of a show house on Monday, an event timed to mark President Nelson Mandela's birthday.

Molobi said it was encouraging that existing initiatives being processed by regional housing boards would move ahead, as they would help alleviate "critical housing conditions on the ground."
PwY, national housing plans to merge

The national housing bank would maintain the mortgage insurance service and a year's of interest on loans. The national plan to build 9,000 homes would target the current housing market. Planners failed to recognize the growing demand for homes.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

Although the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.

If the program was a year's of interest on loans, the national mortgage insurance service would maintain the mortgage insurance service.
**Low-cost homes** Can either the PWV's Toko Sexwale or Minister Joe Slovo put the house in order?

Cracks appear in the rival housing plans

The PWV will be hard-pressed to construct 150,000 houses a year, reports Drew Forrest

**The PWV's low-cost housing field** has been a house down ever since Toko Sexwale's PWV master plan was announced through the public arena.

"Victorian Utopianism" not a real plan at all have been among the reactions of sceptics to the scheme which envisages the construction of 150,000 low-cost units in the PWV during the given calendar year. There have been suggestions that the "ambitious" regional premier, Sexwale, sees it as a stepping-stone to high political office.

In political circles and statements committed one doubter, were large-scale fighting in the housing project, bond boycott of the big maturing of private business. This would make two years in 2,500 residents have taken part in the National Housing Forum and torpedoed the co-operative approach essential to central to the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme.

But the scheme has its backers who see Sexwale as a visionary leader to show the path to the future constituency. Against the background of surging township expectations, swift movement on the PWV's 1980 plan, they argue, "A time bomb is ticking away out there," said a PWV executive. "Seeing the PWV is managing director Peter Whitehouse, whose organisation is marooned in that state of confusion for the PWV plan "South Africa is in a complete new environment, we don't know what we can do to stem the tide.

Many objections are not specific to the PWV, many are not to any mass housing programme for urbanised black South Africans defined as "very poor." But Whitehouse sees these in a better plan. Let's see it," said Whitehouse. "But the PWV's coloureds depend on the PWV housing situation could well be in conflict with the national housing strategy.

"We should be spending the next three months getting our ducks in a row. And that's all that we need to do. We're not unrealistically raise black hopes.

As a housing is a provincial function it would appear Sexwale should go it alone. But Slovo's trump card in section 157 of the interim constitution, which bars provinces from giving guarantees without the say-so of the central state's financial and economic arrangements in the absence of guarantees and a market rate of return, the life insurance industry and other targeted investors will not play ball. Life Insurance's Association executive director for Durban, said, was reported this week as rejecting the scheme.

Other doubts about the PWV initiative on the capacity of the unincorporated construction trade, the land tenure situation in the region of a regional radioactive bank, proposed commercial mechanisms for ensuring bond repayments, estimated by Old Mutual at 50 000 a month, and the effects on the overall economy on which the scheme stands or falls.

The Urban Foundation's David Greenfeld said PWV plans showed 20,000 to 50,000 new houses were a reachable target in the first year across the entire country. A flak of Sexwale's target for the PWV alone rising to 300 000 over six years was constrained by "little managerial resource." Other constraints were materials, land release and a local government system in the throes of change.

A University of Natal study released this week insisted the building trade could only gear up by 20 to 30 percent. "It will take at least three years before the PWV is in a position to deliver housing on the scale promised by the PWV's ministerial representation and by the PWV Housing Forum and Department of National Housing.

The PWV scheme also envisages a system of collective security, in terms of which small communal groups will apply their own bond support. But the approach has been tried in Cape Town's African townships and found wanting. "Our experience is that it's an unacceptable

Putting his stock on the line

Drew Forrest

BART DORREYSTEIN is a true South African. His dream is "double-dating" and a car.

"It's a dream which extends beyond housing to "making South Africa a better place to live". He says the PWV is "an affirmative" and a "very good" operation. He has accused the PWV of "putting the country in the hands of one construction company." But he adds that "we must address the 65 to 70 percent of people who address their aspirations we won't have a country.

Dorreystein agrees Stocks and Steck "is not going to go down" if the PWV is "not up to its mark." He stresses that "we have to find a way to make the PWV work. We have to work harder by those beneficiaries."

"Business must participate in creating permanent employment in partnerships with the new communities emerging. Unless there is a direct restructuring of the economy, big business will get bigger and the poor will remain poor.

PWV's security of permanent employment, we will go into the market and sales.

The PWV scheme entailed R1.8 billion of cash expenses for the national government, plus another R3.8 billion for the central state's subsidised scheme. But expensive and "inadequate" to enable the PWV to "rise to the challenge", "The PWV is a government," said Banks. "The PWV scheme will be saying: 'Thank you very much, you have an opportunity to find your own solutions.'

Drew Dorreystein is for bond boycott. He also insists: "This is better than conventional financing," he says. "The PWV is a government in which communities exercise responsibility rather than the banks. Communities must be self-sufficient and able for themselves and to each other.

Stocks played a central role in devising the PWV plan but he has a monopoly on good ideas," says Dorreystein. "I have put a plan on the table - but there's a better
PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale's plan to provide 150 000 new homes in the region over the next year is likely to be stillborn. Government's Housing Ministry maintains there could be conflict with its proposal to get houses built under the State subsidy scheme. The contractual savings industry, whose constituents are supposedly responsible for putting up about R3,7bn to finance the project, claim that no agreement has yet been struck with it. And housing bodies such as the Urban Foundation worry about the cost of hidden subsidies.

Since it was announced last week, the scheme, mooted about four years ago by Stocks & Stocks deputy chairman Bart Dorrrestein, is quickly becoming a PR nightmare. Clearly, the announcement could not have been delayed any longer. News of it was already beginning to leak and, amid concern over implications in quarters not privy to it, clarification was needed. It came at the 11th hour as the provinces were due to sit down and approve the allocations from central government to the subsidy scheme.

There are still some who insist the scheme has merit. One objection is that it encompasses a combination of subsidy and guarantee (a R3,000 subsidy and R7,500 guarantee to be provided by government) — equivalent to the maximum R12,500 provided under government's housing subsidy scheme. The guarantee element, however, means that government actually lays down less money and relies more on the cash leveraging ability of the private sector. Theoretically, more houses could be built this way.

It appears the contractual savings industry has not made a binding commitment to the plan — only that its Investment Development Unit has been asked to support it. The unit is said to have been working on the plan since Sexwale came to office in April.

There is some scepticism of the scheme in the building and property industries, although it is tempered with relief that at least the authorities appear to be serious about tackling the housing problem. "At least a start has been made," says Brian Kirchmann of the SA Property Owners' Association executive director. Dorrrestein's scheme is premised on creating communities of 1 000, divided into sub-communities of 20 households accountable to one another in the form of some kind of housing co-operative. Presumably, if any of them default, government will act as lender of last resort through the mortgage guarantee scheme. But that, in effect, means that taxpayers will ultimately be expected to pick up the tab.

Additional benefits, says Dorrrestein, are that responsible communities are likely to be developed that could play a better role in local government leadership. There could well be spin-offs, too, in terms of the creation of new industries and jobs beginning with construction and allied sectors and moving on to others.

The proposed PWV Housing Community Bank, to be headed by former FNB CE Chris Ball, envisages the contractual savings industry and government investing in a ratio of 41. Thus, to build 150 000 houses at R30 000 each, amounting to R4.5bn, government would be asked to invest R750m (as opposed to say R12,500 times 150 000 houses) and the contractual savings industry R3.7bn.

It is unclear exactly how retail lending banks will interact with the community bank but one has gone on record as calling for such a tripartite arrangement whereby banks would provide their lending infrastructure, government the commercial guarantees and the contractual savings industries the funds. The scheme's promoters want to put up the first show houses on the East Rand in a few weeks but the proposed community bank is still to apply for a banking licence. According to some sources, this could take four to six weeks if it complies with all the provisions of the Banks Act or Mutual Banks Act.

It is possible that other regional housing Ministers could choose to follow the PWV's example and form their own regional community banks to help with housing. Each region has its own special circumstances and lending policies would have to be tailored.

How the National Housing Department and relevant Ministers will mesh the Sexwale/Dorrrestein scheme with government's subsidy scheme, as well as provide the necessary guarantees, is unclear. The issue of guarantees also raises constitutional questions about the powers of central and provincial government to guarantee loans, if indeed the guarantees envisaged by the PWV plan fall within the ambit of loans as set out in Sections 188 (relating to central government) or 157 (provincial government) of the constitution. In terms of these sections, neither governmental tier can guarantee loans unless the guarantee complies with various requirements as set out in an Act of parliament. In addition, the newly formed Fiscal & Finance Commission would have to recommend that these requirements be met.

Dorrrestein says the proposed community bank will be funded by the contractual savings industry at rates of return in line with the prevailing 12.5% on Eskom Stock. Large building contractors would be expected to contribute about 5% of turnover of any particular project (not of total turnover) to related industrial activities which should lead to additional jobs. The danger of course is that many might seek to recover this amount from the beneficiary through higher building costs. Dorrrestein says the necessary checks and balances will be built in to prevent this.

What effect the contractual savings industry's contribution to the scheme's funding will have on the rates of return of ordinary policyholders is a question that is still to be answered. The Investment Development Unit — 50% held by the Life Offices Association, 25% by the Fund Managers' Association and 25% by the Institute of Retirement Funds — is still to work out the details.

Besides providing cheaper finance for loans, it is envisaged that the community bank will also provide credit for small building contractors to enable them to buy supplies at prices competitive with large contractors.

The tripartite financing scheme — government's R5 000 initial subsidy, the occupant's bond repayments and government's loan guarantee scheme — has been structured so that bond repayments on a R30 000 house amount to about R200 a month. Interest on the bond at 12.5% escalates at 7.5% of the rate of inflation over the 29-year life of the bond. Repayments start approaching those of a normal bond only after 12-14 years.

The fiscal implications for government as the backer of last resort to the tune of 25% of the total bond granted is of grave concern.
housing war

LOUISE HIBBERT

RISK OF PWY

Davies, a member of the PWY housing sub-committee, will propose a plan for action on the allocation of resources, such as homes and land, to avoid the risk of severe shortages and overcrowding. We won't be able to deliver to all the people all the time. We don't need a red carpet for every home. We need to be careful not to do things that can come back to haunt us.
Residents free house repairs
Sexewale promises displaced
We’ll fix houses – Sexwale

POLITICAL STAFF

PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale has promised East Rand township residents displaced by violence that their houses will be repaired free of charge.

Sexwale, who was addressing people during a walkabout in Tokoza yesterday, said engineers would move into Katlehong, Tokoza and Vosloorus from today to begin inspections.

PWV MEC for Public Safety and Security Jesse Duarte, who accompanied Sexwale, said it would have to be established who owned the damaged houses before any repair work could be started.

Sexwale entered the townships in defiance of threats by renegade SDU members.
MEC threatens imports to fight local price hikes

WILSON ZWANE

PWV local government and housing MEC Dan Mofokeng says his administration will import building materials if local manufacturers raise prices when low-cost housing initiatives create a greater demand.

Mofokeng said yesterday his government would not allow manufacturers and suppliers of building materials to cause inflation by pushing prices up once the low-cost housing initiatives had been launched.

He said studies had been conducted which showed that certain building materials could be imported “at very fair price levels”. While this would endanger thousands of jobs on the local market, he believed it was the way to go if manufacturers and suppliers did not keep prices at acceptable levels.

Mofokeng said his government would be documenting “what we have in this province” in the next 30 days to ensure it was considered in a White Paper on housing.

The scheme had job-creation as its key element. This would entail building factories which would make building materials and employ skilled people in the building projects.

Other spin-offs from the scheme would be the establishment of a furniture industry and jobs in areas such as education, health and social welfare. “We are not only going to build houses...there are going to be day care centres, schools, clinics and other things,” he said.

All projects sanctioned by the province should take into account the need for affirmative action and high construction standards. A code of conduct for construction companies would be drawn up as a safeguard against shoddy construction.

He said his government would intervene soon to ensure that “minor differences”, which were delaying the metropolitan government for the central Witwatersrand, were focused on.

A provincial demarcation board, chaired by Peter Smith of the Pretoria regional services council, had been established and it was expected to begin its work within three weeks.
The article talks about the need for investment in the economy, with a focus on the role of community development and economic diversification. The author stresses the importance of creating jobs and improving the quality of life for people in the region. The text mentions the potential for growth in the area and the need for strategic planning to ensure sustainable development. The article also highlights the importance of community engagement and collaboration in achieving these goals.
Tokyo lays first brick of his dream

PWV’s housing project launched

BY MONTSHWA MOROKE

PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale yesterday put brick and mortar together to launch the province’s ambitious "houses for all scheme" on the East Rand.

Sexwale laid the first brick of the prototype houses at Rookkop site, near Leondale, as part of the Government’s Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). The houses — dedicated to President Mandela on his 78th birthday — will range from basic to comfortable dwellings. They will be built in the Pretoria, Vaal, Johannesburg, Soweto and East and West Rand areas.

Sexwale said he was seeing the realisation of a dream.

Addressing leading businessmen, bank employees, local government officials and building contractors, PWV Local Government and Housing Minister Dan

FIRST of ambitious
'houses for all' scheme
gets off the ground
amid high hopes at
Rookkop, near
Leondale

Mofokeng said the scheme was a "humble attempt" to address the massive housing backlog created by injustices of the past, the mushrooming of squatter camps and homelessness.

Mofokeng said the Government would continue to ensure participation of firms of all sizes in the construction industry in the development of the plan.

It was critical that the private sector assisted in the creation of direct and indirect jobs for every home built.

"However, mention must be made of powerful forces, both within our region and the country, who seem bent on sabotage and derailment of the RDP," said Mofokeng.

"These forces include individuals — some in positions of trust — in a wide range of fields who have, for gain, been organising sectors of our people to undermine our plan.

"We challenge them to produce a plan that is motivated not by profit but by the desire to address our people’s concerns and aspirations.

"The Government has no luxury of theorising about the suffering of our people," Mofokeng told the gathering.

Last week, Housing Minister Joe Slovo and Sexwale said they would appoint a joint technical committee to examine how the PWV’s housing plan could be incorporated into the national housing policy which would be published soon.
First brick paves way for homes

_**PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT**_

New houses mean more jobs:

By Bongani Mavuso

The project to build about 3,800 homes on 230 hectares of land got under way in Rookop, East Rand, yesterday when PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale symbolically laid the first brick to pave the way for the scheme.

This project is in line with the Government's Reconstruction and Development Programme which envisions the building of 150,000 houses in the province.

The Rookop project will provide, among other things, sites ranging from 240sq m to 500sq m for one-to-four bedroom houses, and adequate sites for community halls, creches, schools and small businesses.

The size of the sites would allow for the future extension of the homes.

The price of the houses will range from R29,000 to R85,000 or more depending on the market forces.

PWV MEC for local government and housing, Mr Dan Mofokenj, said several contractors had been contracted to carry out work on the project.

The projects would assist in creating permanent employment for many unemployed township residents and would also boost the economy.

Stocks and Stocks representative Mr Bert Dorenstein said the project was part of Sexwale's initiative to fight poverty in black communities.

Stocks was one of the contractors involved in building the houses.

Dorenstein said by procuring well-located large-scale projects, his company could successfully address the critical housing shortage.

"By using varied forms of urban design, economies are achieved which help to minimise costs and provide variations which improve the quality of urban fabric."

"We contend that the basic premise to a stable society is the family and its traditional values. A prerequisite to the attainment of this is a job, a home and a quality community environment. All three of these pivotal issues have to be integrated into the creation of housing," Dorenstein said.
CP town sinks plan for black housing

He ain’t nothin’ but a Benoni boykie

By NICOLA KOZ

A LOW-COST scheme to house 30,000 people in the Transvaal has been scuppered by right-wing town councillors who have bought the earmarked land for a “municipal airfield.”

Plans by a property developer to turn the land, currently a private airfield, into a housing estate for squatters from the nearby Turbomville camp were thwarted when the CP-controlled Brakpan council secretly decided last week to buy the property for R1.4 million.

There are several other articles within this issue of the paper.

The deal has enraged local residents and the family of the late ANC leader Oliver Tambo, who were personally involved in the housing scheme.

Officials involved in the deal and the board members who did not want to talk to the Sunday Times yesterday, said it was a matter of the club that owns the airfield moving out.

Mr. Deon von Heerden, the owner of the club, said he had always wanted to sell a part of the land to the council, but they did so at a higher price.

The Tambo family had hoped on the project but property consultant International Trade Link (ITL) had established links with a West African property consultancy which was prepared to pay up to R1.4 million for the land.

ITL managing director Christine Wallker asked that the West Africans interested to develop more than 600 low-cost houses, with schools and clinics, to accommodate 30,000 people. They have to look elsewhere.

Mrs. Tambo’s daughter, Tilly, said: “It was a shock when we heard the news.”

The council had previously said that the land was going to be used for the housing project.

The council also said that the land was to be used for a housing project.

Sixteen killed in minibus accident

Sunday Times Reporter

A HEAD-ON collision between an almost-empty passenger bus and a crowded minibus taxi in the Eastern Cape left at least 16 people dead yesterday afternoon.

Last night police spokesmen said the minibus was apparently overloaded and the bus was severely damaged but they were still trying to get some of the bodies from the wreckage.

“The driver of the bus was shocked and confused but we have been unable to get a statement from him at this stage,” he said.

There were two survivors from the taxi, the driver and a 15-year-old child.

ELVIS is alive and well and living in Benoni, writes NICOLA KOZ

Afrikaner heartthrob Carl Eammon, 25, in Friday rocked into Jan Smuts Airport after a whirlwind tour of Las Vegas.

The heart-throb hipster not only leaves an uncanny resemblance to the late superstar, but also sings like "The King" and moves like "The Pelvis."

The Benoni hanger received a royal welcome last weekend at the Imperial Palace Hotel where he performed for the first time in the annual Elvis Performance Showcase Festival.

His promoter, Pete Low, said: "Carl's fresh looks and velvet-voiced influences of Elvis Impersonators, and promoters are already offering him contracts. Carl is an absolute hit!"

The local boy has been named an honorary member of Graceland and the Elvis Presley Impersonators International Association presented him with a certificate for "keeping the memory of Elvis alive." "I'm thrilled," said Carl. "I never thought I'd do so well but the audiences loved me."

"The Americans now see me as the real thing that elderly woman jumped on to the stage and grabbed me. They went wild!"

Only two years ago, Carl was on the rugby field at the Hans Moore Technical High School. He never thought he'd make a career out of Elvis as he wanted to be a farmer. But for years his peers called him Elvis because of his body.

Picture CHRISTINE NERBITT

in over
Ratepayers owe council R210-m

BY PAULA FRAY
CITY EDITOR

Johannesburg homeowners and businesses owe more than R210 million in outstanding rates and service charges, according to figures released by the Northern Areas Group.

According to NAG, outstanding domestic payments for Johannesburg — excluding Lenasia and the south-western townships — were already more than R56 million in February. At the same time, outstanding amounts for non-domestic accounts was R120 million.

NAG requested the figures through the capital and operating finance and services transitional working committee and has attributed the number of unpaid bills to an inability to pay rather than a resistance to payment.

“We have threatened to call for a boycott but we haven’t,” said NAG chairman Margrit Wolff, adding that rates had jumped dramatically with the issue of new property valuations three years ago.

“They increased the rates across the board except in certain suburbs in some areas, the rates went up by 600 percent. People just can’t afford to pay that kind of money,” said Wolff, adding that in some instances the valuation was far more than the homeowner would receive for the property.

“Our rates will end up being more than the bond repayments,” she added.

Of the outstanding R86 million, R3 699 642 was for water, electricity and gas accounts, R17 729 078 was for assessment rates, R2 746 497 was for refuse collection and a further R6 549 235 for unpaid service charges. Legal charges, VAT and footway maintenance costs made up the rest of the charges. “We were told the money was desperately needed for the incorporation of Soweto into Johannesburg,” said Wolff.

“I don’t think one would object if the money was being spent to incorporate Soweto into Johannesburg and to maintain existing service levels in residential suburbs while upgrading services in disadvantaged communities.”

“But the money was never spent on that. It was spent on grandiose schemes... Olympic bids, a civic centre which went way over budget and the appointment of all these executive directors,” said Wolff.

Meanwhile, the city council has postponed the compilation of the new property valuations until July next year, despite the loss of additional income for the council. The roll should be open for public inspection in January.

City valuer George Nel said existing ordinances allowed for the roll to be made every four years although it had previously been done every three years.

ANC councillor Clive Gilbert said the postponement of the valuation roll meant that the new local government structures would be saddled with the unpopular responsibility of levying the much higher rates.
Housing board promises 64 500 units

PRETORIA — The Transvaal regional housing board said yesterday 64 500 housing units would be built in the PWV, Eastern Transvaal, Northwest and Northern Transvaal in the 1994/95 financial year.

The board recently approved applications for housing subsidies in the first tranche of a three-year programme which would cost R671m.

It would construct 52 000 houses in the PWV, 8 000 in the Eastern Transvaal, 4 000 in the Northwest and 500 in the Northern Transvaal.

The housing needs of the provinces had not been reflected accurately by the limited number of applications received. Board chairman Boet van Straden said although the number of units approved fell short of the target, it was at least a start. — Sapa
JOHANNESBURG — Claims of shoddy workmanship in low-cost housing are adding to PwV Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale's housing policy problems. The latest problems are in Meadowlands, Soweto, where houses have been hit by serious cracking, water seepage and faulty demarcations.

Residents living in 97 homes in Zone 9 have written to Housing Minister Mr Joe Slovo saying the homes of tens of thousands of people had been poorly built.

"It is for this reason that many bond boycotts have been launched." They said SA Bureau of Standards valuations had shown that damage caused to the homes was more than R10,000 to each property examined.

It is understood the builder of the homes went to ground after changing his company's name several times.
Sexwale faces row over homes of poor quality

CLAIMS of shoddy workmanship in low-cost housing are adding to PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale’s housing policy problems.

Frustrated residents who have been battling for years are hoping his government can help solve the problem of defective homes, which in some cases triggered bond boycotts.

Sexwale already faces criticism that his plans to build 150,000 houses are too ambitious.

The latest problems are in Meadowlands, Soweto, where houses have been hit by serious cracking, water seepage and faulty demolitions.

Residents living in 97 homes in Zone 9 have written to Housing Minister Joe Slovo saying: “We believe what we are experiencing is shared by tens of thousands of people who received bonds on houses which were very poorly built.”

“It is for this reason that many bond boycotts have been launched.”

Slovo said the PWV government had to deal with the problem PWV reconstruction co-ordinator Ben Turok said Sexwale’s chief of staff was looking at ways to deal with it.

The residents are asking that the banks force the developer to pay for their problems or reduce their bonds by the amount of damage.

They said SA Bureau of Standards valuations had shown that damage caused to homes was more than R10,000 on each property examined.

But bankers said that their product was financing and not housing, and they could not be expected to do quality control.

It is understood the builder of the homes went to ground after changing his company’s name several times.

Greta Steyn

The Meadowlands complaints coincide with problems over East Rand homes developed by Rabie and built by Stocks & Stocks.

Rabie chairman John Rabie said he and Stocks MD Bart Dorrestein were holding talks on the issue.

Dorrestein said Stocks had built the houses to the developer’s specifications, but if it was proved the builder was at fault, Stocks would rectify the situation.

He said that in some cases the problem appeared to be with maintenance by local government.

A leaking sewer had caused collapse of the soil structure at Obandweni.

Rabie said an independent arbiter should be called in to determine responsibility. He said the company had used a reputable firm of engineers to arrive at a soil report.

Lawyers for Human Rights housing rights unit director Brian Levenson has called for quality control to be built into home building.

He said state subsidies could be linked to formal quality control, and warned that neglect of consumer protection could cause the housing delivery machine to come to a standstill.

“Everyone is arguing over the need to build thousands of homes, but little is said about making sure we do not repeat the problems of the past. The building industry should commit itself to guaranteeing minimum standards of quality.”

Several recommendations were being made to government, including that building contracts should be set out in writing and that deposits should be held in trust.
Rand housing needs understated

BY JOANNE COLLINGE

 rand housing needs understated
Upgrading initiatives in Soweto show progress

Star 5/3/94

SCC moves to have visible servicing in Greater Soweto are beginning to bear fruit.

This week, SCC delegates approved the use of R59,000 from Diepdale "kick-start" funds in order to complete emergency repairs to the Diepdale Hall.

They also approved the granting of a R109,000 tender for the emergency repairs.

Pensioner payment facilities are also expected to be improved after the approval of R18,000 for this matter.

Presenting a progress report, Greater Soweto manager Howard Veale said the project to remove refuse in Diepdale under the management of the Johannesburg City Council had been completed in June.

The Johannesburg City Council was also assisting with the serious backlog of sewer blockages and the replacement of damaged pipes, he said.

Veale said the private contractors were particularly effective.

"In a 10-day period in July they cleared 103 manhole blockages and swept the sewer lines in the vicinity of the blockages."

Other short-term visible projects undertaken include:

- Repairing of potholes
- The completion of the re-gravelling of Soweto roads
- The initiation of grass-cutting along main arterial routes, cemeteries and public areas.
- The levelling and paving — almost 4,000 sq m — of certain key areas by local contractors
- Emergency repairs to Diepdale Hall.

Work has also begun on various roads.
FUTURE UNCERTAIN: Pastor Nkosi, with his wife Cynthia and baby Amanda, in their Argyle Court flat from which they face eviction unless a bid to save the building succeeds.

but notices, in a few weeks they will be forced on the streets.

"It's ironic that as one form of apartheid dies, so another arises at its heels," says Odette Goldenhug, a lawyer with the Legal Resources Centre who is acting for the tenants. "It seems that poor people don't have rights about where they can live, particularly in the city. Here, they have homes, jobs, transport, an existing infrastructure and ways of generating capital into the city. But in terms of the Government's housing schemes, the poor will be forced to live outside the city centres where they work, with only rudimentary services at their disposal, simply because of their income levels."

But the fight is far from over. Says Nkosi. "We are determined to go to the highest levels to expose our plight. If that doesn't work we'll embark on mass action, even if it means erecting shacks around the city."

But where exactly does the city council stand in relation to the crisis? A spokesman from the planning department says the council is powerless to do anything. "Eighteen months ago, we were approached by the SSB to set up a working group on the project. But we realised that the whole scheme does not make good business sense, and that is the last we've had to do with it. We feel that we are playing our part by sitting on the CIP."

Tenants, landlords and lawyers disagree. They say that the council is afraid to set a precedent and is embarrassed to attend meetings of the SSB.

"The city council is the villain in this piece," says Gerts. "For years they have methodically and consistently sucked up every bit of money for inner city development. Now the only choice left is to break up the buildings."

If this happens, the seven buildings will be left to decay. White property values plummet in the area. They might eventually be bought by property developers who will refurbish them and sell them for sums way beyond the reach of the present occupants. Or they might simply be razed, creating another open wound in an already blighted urban landscape, while the 450 families who once lived there are forced on to the streets.
450 Families Face Life on the Street
big plans for his department

Hazel Friedmann.

The revelation of the urban living and conducive to cross-town access makes one of the advantages of the project. Producing a sense of a more livable and comfortable environment for the people who live there is the main goal. The community aspect is central to the project, with participation from residents and the local government. The project aims to provide affordable housing and support the local economy.

In the last-ditch bid to save their homes, A group of flat dwellers in the area have already decided to appeal again. They hope the public and the council will support their cause. The group has been working hard to ensure the project goes ahead, with ongoing conversations with local authorities and community leaders. They are determined to make the best of the situation and work towards a solution that benefits everyone involved.
Housing crisis eased

By Joshua Raboroko

The Government of National Unity has announced plans to solve the housing crisis.

Residents of Noordgesag, near Soweto, were told yesterday that the homes they have occupied for decades will soon be transferred to them for as little as R1 000.

Chairman of the Civic association Mr. Bantu Douglas said they were going to own their homes. The transfers were confirmed by a spokesman for the Johannesburg City Council.

The announcement came barely a day after defiant pensioners occupied the local municipal offices, demanding they pay a monthly rental of R30.

Noordgesag residents joined other communities in a march to the offices of PWV premier Mr. Tokyo Sexwale where they presented a memorandum demanding, among other things, better homes.

In another development, over the next year 100,000 houses in the Eastern Cape will be handed to people who are residing there, regional housing minister Mr. Max Mabuse announced yesterday.

Mabuse said that within a year they would transfer 100,000 houses by converting "the rental system to ownership."

The state would charge R350 for the transfer. A total of R150 would go towards administration charges and R200 for conveyance fees.

There were 200,000 houses in the region which needed to be transferred, Mabuse said.

Meanwhile, Minister of Housing Mr. Joe Slovo said work on housing projects of R750 million would start within two months.
Inside of Inner-City Slums

Landlords Play a Crucial Role in the Degeneration of the Inner City

By Tyrone August

complex problem

Influx of blacks is not sole cause of problem.

Source: A18/149

NEWS FEATURE

I was black. I was a child.
Slovo doubts housing plan

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Housing Minister Mr Joe Slovo had grave doubts about housing plans proposed by PWV premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale, and was likely to bury the proposals while limiting the damage to Mr Sexwale's public image, government sources said yesterday.

Sources said the ministry believed the plan — in which Mr Sexwale has vowed to build 150 000 PWV homes within a year — was unworkable.

The building industry could not gear up for the increased demand, there were insufficient skilled workers available and doubts remained about funding.

Roughly 51 houses would have to be built every hour if Mr Sexwale was to keep his promise to date, one unit — a showhouse at the East Rand's Rooikop site — has been built since Mr Sexwale's scheme, dreamed up by Stocks & Stocks vice-chairman Mr Bart Dorrasten, was unveiled in July.

Though Mr Slovo plans to establish a joint technical committee to investigate merging PWV plans with the national housing programme to build 50 000 homes a year, sources said this was more a face-saving exercise for Mr Sexwale.

Mr Slovo and Mr Sexwale met in July to discuss the PWV scheme, when they announced that a "committee to carry out the assessment (would be appointed) as a matter of urgency."

The committee's report was to be presented for discussion in a White Paper by August. The committee's personnel has still to be announced, but a housing ministry spokesman was adamant the committee would be established.

Sources said certain concessions were likely to be made to the PWV premier. This was due to the importance of the PWV to the national economy, the contribution it could make towards solving SA's growing housing backlog and the need to ensure the credibility of the ANC in the region remained intact.

But Mr Sexwale's plan appears to be far from finalised. Life assurance and pension fund companies which are being asked to invest R4,5bn in the creation of a new bank have yet to see the completed scheme.
PWV housing plan deemed unworkable

HOUSING Minister Joe Slovo had grave doubts about the housing plans proposed by PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale and was likely to bury the proposals, while limiting the damage to Sexwale's public image, government sources said yesterday.

They said the ministry believed the plan — in which Sexwale vowed to build 150 000 PWV homes within a year — was unworkable. The building industry could not gear up for the increased demand, there were insufficient skilled workers and doubts remained about funding.

About 51 houses would have to be built every hour if Sexwale was to keep his promise. To date, one unit — a show house at the East Rand's Roodkop site — has been built since the scheme, initiated by Stocks & Stocks vice-chairman Bart Dorrestein, was unveiled last month.

Although Slovo planned to establish a joint technical committee to investigate merging PWV plans with the national housing programme to build 50 000 homes a year, sources said this was essentially a face-saving exercise for Sexwale.

Slovo and Sexwale met last month to discuss the PWV scheme, and announced that a committee would be appointed to carry out an urgent assessment.

The committee's report was due to be presented for discussion in a White Paper this month. However, the committee has not yet been appointed. A ministry spokesman said it would be appointed soon.

Sources said some concessions would probably be made to Sexwale in recognition of the PWV's importance to the national economy, the contribution it could make towards solving SA's growing housing backlog and the need to keep intact the ANC's credibility in the region.

But Sexwale's plan appears to be far from finalised. Life assurance and pension fund companies, which are being asked to invest R4.5bn in the creation of a new bank, have yet to see the completed scheme.

There is growing frustration among bodies integral to the programme's success. The Council for Construction in SA and the Council of Southern African Banks have not been able to discuss the plan with Sexwale.

The Urban Foundation and the National Housing Forum also recently reported that the building industry was unlikely to be able to gear up for the massive number of houses planned.

The forum said the five-year recession had severely impaired the construction industry's ability to gear up for the delivery of houses, schools and hospitals needed in the reconstruction and development programme: "It is unlikely that the capacity of the industry can be rebuilt in a short time, and we will see sustained growth only in the next two to five years.

"The training and development of people is a process, not an event. This is one of the reasons I feel that the PWV premier's vision of 150 000 houses this year is not possible," he said.

Meanwhile, PWV housing minister Daniel Mofokeng said a committee had been set up to marry housing projects initiated under the previous government with those being developed by the PWV legislature.

The 12-member committee would be made up of members of regional government, the regional housing board, development agency Newbco, Stocks & Stocks, the SA Housing Trust and contractors.

See Pages 3 and 7
PWV govt warns of blitz on squatters

The PWV government yesterday threatened to clamp down on squatters, saying it had been given a mandate "to take firm action against land invasions".

This would enable the provincial government to implement Premier Tokyo Sexwale's plan to build 150 000 low-cost houses in 12 months.

MEC for Housing Dan Mofokeng, who held a meeting with the Transvaal Housing Board, developers and government officials, said: "The government was mandated to take firm action against land invasions, and developers undertook not to promote invasion of vacant land."

Stipulations of the provincial housing plan would be adopted by the housing board, which was handling projects worth some R217 million.

"Our major concern is to ensure that houses which are built in the PWV will satisfy consumers... there is no point in building houses which people refuse to live in," Mofokeng said.

The developers will go ahead with the first phase while we look at ways to increase the size of homes and explore ways of accessing funding."

It was reported earlier that only one of the promised 150 000 units, a showhouse, had been built — Sapa.
Slovo 'not about to bury Sexwale plans'

THE Housing Ministry yesterday strongly denied reports that Housing Minister Mr Joe Slovo would "bury the PWV's housing plans" (127).

Recent reports quoted government "sources" as saying Mr Slovo had grave doubts about housing plans proposed by PWV Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale and would "bury" the proposals while limiting damage to Mr Sexwale's public image.

The Housing Ministry said in a statement Mr Slovo was committed to the process agreed with Mr Sexwale, which would investigate merging national and PWV provincial housing plans.

The statement said Mr Slovo and the nine regional MECs for housing, who met last Friday, remained committed to rapid progress in creating a sustainable framework for mass housing delivery.

"The ministry rejects attempts to sow division between provincial and national governments." — Sapa
Slovo committed to PWV scheme

ROBYN CHALMERS

HOUSING Minister Joe Slovo yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to investigate merging the national housing plan with PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale’s scheme to build 150,000 homes in a year.

This followed reports that the joint technical committee being set up to look at merger possibilities was effectively a face-saving exercise for Sexwale, as the Housing Ministry had grave doubts about the PWV scheme.

Slovo said the committee was expected to have completed its work by next Thursday. “The National Housing Department is therefore not in a position to assess and comment on the PWV plan in detail.”

He and the nine regional housing ministers met last week and agreed on a common goal to rapidly create a sustainable framework for mass housing delivery, especially for the poorest South Africans.

PWV housing minister Daniel Mofokeng welcomed Slovo’s commitment to discussing the region’s plans. He said technical committees from the PWV ministry would meet Slovo’s committee next week.

Meanwhile, the KwaZulu-Natal government has unveiled a modest housing scheme to build 250,000 low-cost homes in five years at a cost of R2bn, increasing to 1-million units within a decade.

KwaZulu-Natal local government and housing minister Peter Muller said the province would allocate R2bn of the funding over the initial five-year period, and would look to the private sector to match this input rand for rand.

In his first allocation of housing funds to the nine provinces, Slovo gave the highest amount — R201.3m — to KwaZulu-Natal, followed by the PWV with R217.8m.
Soweto payments up but still low

Service charge payments in Greater Soweto have improved but remain low, with residents in various suburbs paying only between 13 and 40 percent of the total bill.

Greater Soweto city manager Howard Veale told delegates at this week’s Soweto Services Crisis Committee meeting that the payment of interim charges was imperative in view of the need to use all possible funds towards the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

Last month, a mere 13.24 percent — only R99 412 of an expected R751 140 — was paid by Meadowlands residents. However, in neighbouring Diepkloof, R231 270 of an expected R57 105 was paid — 40.47 percent of the total bill.

At the same time, only a total of 20.16 percent (R1 021 302) of Soweto’s R5 904 000 and only 35.12 percent (R1 177 657) of Dobsonville’s R358 850 account was paid.

Payments dipped dramatically during the uncertainty of the election month of April when only 7 percent of Meadowlands residents, 8.54 percent of Soweto residents, 30.45 percent of Diepkloof residents and 25.62 percent of Dobsonville residents paid their bills.

Veale proposed that an extended communication programme be delayed until new, legitimate structures were in place.
Keeping a finger on PWV heartbeat

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

The Pembury Mr Tokyo Sexwale is a man who bristles with energy and enthusiasm. At the head of the country’s most important province, Sexwale is faced with the task of ensuring that the climate in the country is conducive to economic growth.

With the Stock Exchange situated in his capital city of Johannesburg, whatever happens in his province affects the economic barometers immediately, sometimes with disastrous effects. He is fully aware of the responsibilities that rest on his shoulders, he told Swartram in a wide-ranging interview at his “other office” in Pretoria last Friday.

“When the violence and crime spiral, the notches at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange go down. And that is disastrous. This is why, when we were inaugurated, we set ourselves the task of lowering the heartbeat of the region.”

That is why we went out to celebrate the victory in Phila Park, visited hostels, and mingled with our own people in our areas. And you can see for yourself now how relaxed things are.

Heartbeat has relaxed

“The heartbeat has relaxed, and except for the crime element, we have curbed political violence. This gives us space to implement programmes to uplift our people,” Sexwale said.

He identified housing as the major issue facing his government, saying 150 000 houses were needed each year. It was for this reason that he had said he expected to build houses this year.

But with only one house standing alone on the East Rand since he came to power over 103 days ago, did he think it was still feasible to meet the target? He asked.

“I have not said that when that starts we presently have no money, no power to decide and allocate resources. Once Central Government hands over power to us, which should happen soon, we will then start. But even if we build only 100 000 houses this year, we will declare that and say the target is 150 000,” he argued.

Sexwale said the tendency for government over-performance in the first 100 days was “hokas-hokas. I think it was wrong even for us to give such impressions that we could undo the damage of 300 years in 100 days.”

Responding to allegations that black builders were being sidelined with contracts granted to major companies, Sexwale said this was not so.

“All the houses we are talking about will be built by the people themselves and black builders. Any white companies that want in will have to donate five percent of their annual gross income to the Community Bank before they are allowed in.”

“Black builders will not have to do that. We are discriminating in their favour and that is why white newspapers are attacking me for inverting the big white companies. They accuse me of bringing socialism into the programme,” he added.

He said six show villages had been identified in various parts of the province, excluding the East Rand, Soweto, Pretoria, the Vaal and West Rand. Stocks and Stocks had only been given a contract to build the show village, he said.

These villages would comprise samples of houses that people can then choose from. Once this is done, the houses will then be built on the site of the individual concerned.

Land was being identified, Sexwale said, and this excluded private and State land. Finance was the major obstacle, he said, as half of the homeless people who needed houses did not even have jobs.

“To alleviate that, we have two approaches. The first one deals with those who are employed and who earn at least R1 500. For those people, the government will provide guarantees to the financial institutions and also provide the so-called 11.5 percent subsidy.”

“For the unemployed, we will provide the guarantees to the banks, and provide jobs in the building of the houses themselves. Everything related to the houses will be done on site. Stocks will be made there from 75 plants costing R38 million. Windows and door frames will also be made on site, thus creating more than 1 million jobs in five years in this gigantic and historic programme,” he said.

The materials used in the building will be purchased through a Buyers Cooperative run by the Community Bank, and the chairmanship of former FNB boss Mr Chris Ball.

The houses will thus be bought by the owners, and the government will not hand out any free houses, he said.

Devolution of power

But all these plans will wait the devolution of power and the finance needed to kick start the programme.

The PWV government has thus put a moratorium on land occupations as this interfered with planning. “When people erect shacks, they use their best efforts to do that. When you want to provide services and develop the areas you find that you have to demolish these structures and this is not right.”

“That is why we say people should hang on where they are and give us an opportunity to plan and lay the infrastructure,” Sexwale said.
Big contracts for black businesses

By Joshua Raboroko

Eskom has granted big contracts to black businesses to install electricity meters in thousands of Soweto homes.

The decision follows an agreement between the company and residents that meters be moved from the streets and onto individual properties.

Eskom sales and customer service manager Mr Ken Green said yesterday that part of the project would be awarded to experienced larger contractors, and the rest to local contractors.

The move was an effort to build the capacity of local business.

The company intended providing significant support to these contractors through training to develop skills in materials management, supervision and supplying tools.

Part of the project would be awarded to experienced firms and the rest to local contractors.

The first part of the project began towards the end of June and has given temporary work to more than 400 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Soweto residents.

The work is expected to be completed by December.

The second phase of the project is expected to be completed by June 1996.

"We realise that we are asking our customers to wait a little longer for the meters to be moved, but we believe they will be patient," said Green.
Subsidies for more than 53,000 units approved — and residents will start moving in within months

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The PWV has raced ahead of other provinces in getting low-cost housing projects underway, and tens of thousands of local residents can look forward to moving into new homes between April next year and March 1996.

In spite of a crossing of wires between PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale and national Housing Minister Joe Slovo earlier this year, statistics show that the PWV is certain to deliver earliest on its housing promises.

The province is forging ahead with just one piston of the Slovo/National Housing Forum (NHF) scheme pumping as yet — that is, the project subsidy scheme which offers up to R12,500 per unit.

Subsidies for no fewer than 53,415 units in the PWV have been approved by the Transvaal Regional Housing Board.

A third of these homes are scheduled to be ready and occupied within eight months and another 60 percent by March 1996.

The PWV quota constitutes no less than 53 percent of the 64,395 subsidised units approved by the board for the whole of the former Transvaal province. And the Transvaal board is certainly outpacing the other three boards in processing applications.

According to the NHF, by...
Pwy delivers on promises
Full steam ahead for housing in PWV

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

PWV Minister of Housing Dan Mofokeng says the Government's confidence in its controversial housing plan has been vindicated and its department can now work without constraint towards its goal of 150,000 homes a year.

Mofokeng was reacting to weekend press reports that a joint technical committee, appointed by the central Government and the province, had effectively given the plan the green light.

The committee concluded that the PWV housing plan was essentially compatible with the emerging national housing policy. It fell squarely within the vision spelt out in a record of understanding negotiated at national level between the Government and the National Housing Forum.

The report forms a closing comment on the supposed row in which Housing Minister Joe Slovo was said to have rejected the innovative and ambitious housing plan proposed by PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale.

Slovo and Sexwale admitted they had differences but said they were not sure how serious these were. They appointed a joint technical committee to judge the matter.

Reports

Yesterday, Mofokeng said he was going only on newspaper reports on the "confidential" report of the technical team. But if these reports were correct, then "we in the PWV can go ahead without any hassles."

He acknowledged that there had been a "slow-down" in negotiations for implementing the plan in the six weeks since the agreement to set up the technical team.

While he and other top housing officials continued to discuss the plan with developers and builders, he said, there was uncertainty about what the committee would conclude.

The eight-person committee applauded the PWV plan for innovations in relation to linking job creation to housing, instituting ways of making monthly payments on housing loans more affordable, and creating new mechanisms for providing finance to would-be home-owners.

But it also took issue with a number of financial provisions in the Sexwale plan.

It expressed a preference for setting up a national rather than a regional non-commercial housing bank. Sexwale had proposed a regional housing bank to be headed by ex-postal banker Chris Ball.

The report suggested that Ball should participate in national negotiations on the creation of housing institutions.

The joint committee also warned against using government guarantees to mobilise private financial institutions into lending to lower-income groups.
Old Kagiso lights up legally and safely at last

The electrification of old Kagiso — where unserviced residents embarked on a widespread campaign to "light up" the township with illegal connections — moves into a new phase today when the last official wiring is laid.

Already 3,600 of the 5,000 households have requested, and paid R60 for, the official connection. Eskom's Randfontein sales and customer service manager Johan Swanepoel said:

"The company will also embark on a major drive to encourage residents to buy electricity and Swanepeol hopes 95 percent of the township's previously electrified to be lit up by year-end."  

The company has already started a campaign to highlight the safe and economical use of electricity.

This will be a far cry from the situation last year, when residents in old Kagiso embarked on Operation Khanyisa, meaning to provide light in Zulu.  

Then, the township was covered in a web of wires as residents simply bought cable and connected these to overhead powerlines. In the streets, children drank with death as cables criss-crossed roads before being rigged up to a house or shack.

Eskom took over providing power to the residents last year and, in October, began an electrification programme. However, there are still a number of houses illegally connected to several wires attached to township substations.

Residents surveyed by The Star yesterday all agreed. "It's dangerous."

But most added: "We all pulled from the street."

For Tshololo Masaba, the danger also brings comfort in her home, her fridge, television, stove and light are all used because of Operation Khanyisa.

Her neighbour Lebogang Jonas is especially concerned about her children who play in the streets, unaware of the dangers. "We are all worried about it."

They add that just last month there were reports of a child being killed.

There have been unconfirmed reports of several deaths during the past few years, especially when power was still in the hands of the local authorities, according to Swanepeol. He said illegal connection brought with it the danger of electrocution, overloading and subsequent fires.

However, he added, all the illegal connections would be removed by mid-September.
THE PWV’s massive housing plan could now proceed unhindered as all uncertainties had been removed, PWV Local Government and Housing MEC Dan Mofokeng said yesterday.

Mofokeng said in Johannesburg that the plan was not ambitious, but was “scientific and workable”.

The housing plan – which the PWV government intends should deliver 150 000 houses annually – has been approved by a Joint Technical Committee appointed by PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Housing Minister Joe Slovo.

Mofokeng said his ministry would establish a provincial housing board within one month.

As a first step, show houses would be built in all six sub-regions of the PWV. These houses would be completed before the end of October.

New approaches to housing finance would be examined. Plans to establish a national community bank would be explored further.

Mofokeng expressed the hope that construction of the first houses would begin sometime after October.

The government believed the plan could only succeed if the government, the private sector, communities, labour and the media worked together.

Mofokeng said the houses would sell for between R25 000 and R30 000, and buyers would repay about R200 a month to service their loans. About 80 percent of applicants were earning less than R1 400 a month.

Quality control would be ensured throughout the building of the houses to prevent the sort of criticism levelled at past building projects. The plan was a government one and no construction company had been given the tender to build the houses. – Sapa
Uncertainty hangs over financing of houses

A QUESTION mark hangs over the financing of the PWV's housing plan to build 159,000 homes within a year following the recommendation by a joint technical committee that government should avoid putting up guarantees.

PWV housing minister Danie Mokoen said at the weekend that the housing scheme could proceed as the committee, set up by PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale and Housing Minister Joe Slovo, had approved the plan.

But no official comment has been forthcoming from the National Housing Department on the report, and it is believed that senior department officials are still examining the committee's recommendations.

The report welcomed the PWV scheme, but said government should avoid putting up R1.75bn in guarantees to mobilise private sector finance.

It also talked of the need to set up a national financing organisation rather than the regional bank envisaged in the PWV scheme.

The national financing entity is being considered by a joint technical committee set up by the National Housing Forum and government.

Committee joint co-ordinator Johan de Rudder said a workshop would be held this week to discuss the formation of a "utility corporation" rather than another national retail bank.

The original PWV plan called on the assured and pension fund companies to invest R5bn in the formation of a new regional bank with government guarantees underpinning the investment.

Life Offices' Association investment development unit MM Peter Barbe said the organisation was still holding discussions with the PWV on the question of the life industry providing finance for the plan. No decision had yet been taken, he said.

Analysts described the committee's report on merging the national and PWV housing schemes as a workable compromise which, they said, would allow government to get on with the task of housing the country's masses.

BMI building research strategy consulting unit MM Llewellyn Lewis said a recent survey of the formal and emerging construction industries had shown support for the PWV scheme, although many believed it was unrealistic.

Respondents said they believed 35,500 low-cost homes could be built this year, increasing to 133,000 by 1998.

"The building industry is taking Sexwale's housing plans seriously, even though respondents don't believe he will achieve his target of 150,000 homes in a year." What is indicated in this response is that a phased programme of housing delivery is regarded as feasible.

"It is the first concrete realisation by the industry that government and the provincial premiers are serious about delivering on the housing promises made in the reconstruction and development programme."
Housing may be delayed

PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale yesterday backed down from his assertion that 150,000 houses would be built in the province within a year and said construction would be undertaken when the necessary funding became available.

The houses would have to be built eventually, but it would not matter whether they were all completed within a year, he said in reply to a question during yesterday's sitting of the PWV parliament.

Sexwale launched another attack on the press during question time, saying he was opposed to "gutter" journalism of the type that visited Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel for taking a transatlantic Concorde flight when Finance Minister Derek Keys had also been on the plane.

He also criticised Sowetan editor Aggrey Klaasie for saying he (Sexwale) had awarded the PWV housing contract to Stocks & Stocks when all he had done was ask the company to draw up a formula to tackle the housing problem. This formula was approved by the provincial cabinet.

He said contracts to build houses in the province would be awarded to small building contractors who were in the past unable to tender for such large undertakings.

Sexwale

On the question of the feasibility of the scheme, he said if the past government had built 40,000 houses in 18 months for white veterans returning from the Second World War, his government would employ 80,000 people to lay bricks daily.

He also said companies which dealt with building material such as steel and cement would have to sell to the contractors at "international prices."

"No one will make profit on people earning below R5 500," he said.

Other issues discussed by the parliament included a new name for the PWV region. A committee led by the PAC's Bennie Alexander was told to produce a name that would unite and identify the province's people.

This committee would have to consult the community and report back to the assembly by October 31.

Another committee led by Juliana Coetzee (NP) was mandated to look into the provincial language policy.

Education minister Mary Metcalfe said the language policy was about the rights of speakers of languages. Every government department had a responsibility to ensure that all information regarding its activities was accessible to the public.
Blockade by 500 follows cutting off of electricity

BY ANNA LOUW
EAST RAND BUREAU

About 500 residents blocked entrances to the township of Reiger Park this morning to protest against Boksburg municipality's decision to cut off electricity to anyone who has not paid their account.

Today is the deadline laid down by the municipality.

Police were called to the scene to restore order after electrical meter boxes were smashed and protestors went on the rampage.

A Boksburg fire department spokesman said two armoured rescue vehicles were dispatched to the scene.

However, at the time of going to press no reports of injuries had been received.

Boksburg's acting town clerk, Robert van der Merwe, said his council had done everything in its power to accommodate people and allow them time pay off their water and lights accounts.

He added that the council had sympathy for the unemployed in all its communities. Nevertheless, "ratepayers are now saying that the issue is no longer political and if people in other communities do not pay their bills, why should they honour theirs?"

He emphasised that yesterday electricity supplies were also being cut off in some of the white suburbs where accounts had not been paid. Reiger Park has a population of around 30 000...
Police, protesters hurt in skirmish 18/7994

Johannesburg — Protesters were injured yesterday when police fired tear gas and rubber bullets outside the Reiger Park administration building. About 1 000 residents of the township were protesting against the Boksburg city council's decision to cut off the power supply of residents who were in arrears.

Police said the demonstrators threw petrol bombs and stones at the building. Six members of the internal stability division were injured.

The protesters marched on the building about 8am, causing damage of R3 000 when they broke down the fence. A minibus was also damaged.

They barricaded a nearby road preventing people from going to work, police said.

Although the protest halted the cut-off planned for yesterday, the council would cut their electricity supply today.

"A few hundred other electricity consumers who had not paid up, had their electricity cut off yesterday in accordance with the council's decision," acting town clerk Mr Robert van der Merwe said.

Last night, PWV spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said a temporary halt to electricity cut-offs in Reiger Park had been agreed to in talks between the city council and PWV Housing Minister Mr Dan Moebekeng.

However, Mr Van der Merwe said earlier yesterday he had not given an undertaking to stop the cut-offs — Sapa
Ten injured in protest march

Sowetan Correspondent

Yesterday morning as the angry residents gathered, two petrol bombs landed inside the offices and police on two occasions fired rubber bullets. At least one of the bombs exploded, but a small fire was extinguished.

Residents said the council had been overcharging them for electricity.

"I have had a R1 000 bill for lights," said Gail Speelman.

Boksburg's acting town clerk Mr Robert van der Merwe said he had received a call from NP MP Mr Jac Rubc, who indicated that he was prepared to fly from Cape Town to diffuse the situation.

"My council, however, is firm on the decision to carry out the cutting of electricity supplies to people who fail to pay their accounts," said Van der Merwe.
The builder who came up against a BRICK WALL

HIGH-RISK HOME ... Themba Sibande's shack at Thembalihle, an area threatened by sinkholes  Picture: JAMES SOULLIER
Government wants to build houses.
KEVIN DAVIE profiles a builder who could build his own house, if only...

THEMBA Sibande builds houses, but lives in a shack.
Recommended as a builder by friends, he has done an expert job for me in renovating my outbuildings.
So, it was surprising to learn that Mr Sibande, who takes on up to three building jobs employing perhaps 15 people at a time, lives in a squatter settlement.

The government has given housing provision major importance in the reconstruction and development programme (RDP), here is a man who does not need the government to build him a home, yet he stays in a shack.
His story captures much of the challenge and frustration the government faces as it attempts to redress policies which were deliberately designed to keep blacks out of SA's urban areas.

Mr Sibande moved to the PWV in the early 70s and has steadily worked his way up to a self-employed building contractor.

Until four years ago he was living in a Zozo hut in the backyard of an aunt in Meadowlands, Soweto.

Then he moved (with Zozo hut) to the Themba Hlile squatter camp which had sprung up in Lenasia, south of Johannesburg. He figured he was getting too old not to have a place of his own.

The camp now houses 24,000 people and is well served by nearby schools, creches, a clinic, a hospital, postboxes and payphones.
But there is no refuse removal, toilets are a hole in the ground and while there is piped water, there are insufficient taps.
the status of tenants and raising expectations. His private sector advisers — in a position to know better, yet who sold the pie-in-the-sky — have a lot to answer for.

The underdevelopment problem is acute and glib “we will build 150,000 houses” promises do not help.

Fair better is to introduce maximum flexibility, identifying with communities their most pressing needs and fixing what can be fixed before moving to the next problem.

One leading businessman tells me this approach has been successfully implemented in Mexico’s.

Thembalihle residents support this approach. They have worked out their own RDP which calls for first for sites, then water and sewage. They will in the meantime start building using the numerous bricklayers, plumbers, carpenters and plasterers among the residents.

Next comes the electricity, then the tarred roads, and so on.

The community will agree beforehand on a choice of five or six house plans. “We don’t want the area to look like a rural slum,” says Mr. Bowu.

There are also plans to create jobs through a brick-making plant, vegetable gardening, tarring roads and chicken farming.

The residents want to upgrade the community centre. A slogan on a wall of the centre, partly obscured by election posters, says “Liberation Now. Education Later.”

The children are back at school and unemployed residents (about 49 percent have no work at all) tend their vegetable gardens.

Mr. Shandwe says he could build two rooms almost immediately and the rest of a four-roomed house over the period of a year. While some residents have already built brick homes, he is reluctant to start building before the status of the area is settled.

Development at Thembalihle (meaning ‘not to lose hope’) appears ready to go, but for the urgent problem of the dolomite.

Intraconsult’s Mr. Hall says the Thembalihle people should be encouraged to move in, he says the rains are coming, once again bringing increased chance of sinkholes, which, in parts of the area, could be large enough to swallow several families at once.

Father-of-five Thembalihle Sandande says the high-risk dolomite areas have been identified and he is on safe ground.

But it is clear that he lives in no man’s land, trapped between an unacceptable past and a better future which is yet to begin.
Eskom to pull plug on defaulters

BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Eskom is to resume electricity cut-offs to Soweto residents who have not paid their electricity bills since the boycott ended, the company announced yesterday.

The cut-off is aimed at customers who never paid their monthly flat rate of R35.90 which applied to customers until December last year, said Eskom sales and customer service manager Ken Green (12.7).

An agreement reached by Eskom, the ANC and the Soweto Civic Association had been only partially successful, said Green.

3CA president Isaac Mogase said the association was still having discussions with Eskom and the ANC.
Incidents face cuts by Eskom:

September deadline

Electricity accounts

Last chance to settle

BY Morned Mathe

Soweto

Sowetan 134194
A new housing

vision

begins to emerge

ROBYN CHALMERS
Rioting in Townships

Looting, stone throwing, and burning barracks

STAR REPORTS

Police reported that the situation was under control, but the protesters continued to demand better housing conditions and an end to police brutality.

The area, which is known for its high crime rate, has been the site of many protests in recent months.

Residents and their supporters have been calling for justice and an end to police violence.

The police have been deployed in force to maintain order and prevent further violence.

The situation remains tense as negotiations continue between the protesters and the authorities.

---

Staff Reports
Housing move puts PWV well ahead

The PWV is set to become the first province to establish a restructured housing board, which will put it even further ahead of its provincial counterparts in delivering homes.

PWV housing and local government minister Dan Mofokeng will meet a wide range of interested parties today in a bid to establish a provincial housing board for the PWV.

The Housing Amendment Bill, tabled earlier this year, paved the way for the establishment of nine provincial housing boards to replace the existing four regional boards.

Mofokeng advertised this week for nominations for the new board. In terms of the Housing Amendment Bill, the new board will consist of 18 members selected from three groups.

These groups were suppliers of housing, regulators or provincial political parties, and consumer interest organisations. Mofokeng said the session today would determine the process and timetable for the establishment of the board.

Transvaal regional housing board chairman Boet van Straten welcomed the proposed establishment of the new board. He said the regional board had to date made significant progress in approving subsidies.

It had given the go-ahead for subsidies for 63,000 homes at a cost to the fiscus of R6.3bn. A third of these homes should be built and occupied by April next year and the remainder were scheduled for completion in March 1996.
Protest at 'coloured discrimination'
GROWING PAINS People are angry because there is no liberation dividend:

By Anton Ferreira

President Nelson Mandela’s African National Congress, long accustomed to leading protests against former white rulers, is now struggling to deal with protests against itself.

A sense of deja vu gripped South Africans last week as smoke billowed from burning barricades and public buildings in tense townships and police opened fire with birdshot to disperse violent demonstrators.

In mixed-race coloured areas around Johannesburg, residents were demanding the same concessions on rates and taxes that have been extended to blacks.

The demonstrations were the latest in a series of protests on a variety of issues that have included a truck blockade of major arteries, forced expulsion of headmasters from black schools and the taking of government officials as hostages.

“There’s a myriad issues that are making people frustrated and upset,” said Wim Booyse.

Booyse is a policy analyst at the Northern Transvaal Chamber of Industries.

“The problem is that the ANC has a majority in Parliament but they don’t have real power yet—they don’t have control at local level.”

“People on the ground are angry because they’re still being treated as second-class citizens. It is a breeding ground for extremism.”

Culture of governability

The Star said in an editorial that a culture of ungovernability was becoming the order of the day.

“It is becoming a pattern which left unchecked might spread throughout the country and turn ours into a society of anarchists,” it said.

“The Government should take the lead in telling the masses that the new times we live in demand new responses.”

Mandela himself issued a warning over the weekend that his Government would not tolerate protests that went too far.

“The setting alight of public property as we witnessed recently is an act which if not ceased forthwith, will prompt the Government to consider actions to ensure that this does not happen again,” he said.

Mandela was speaking at a rally in the northern Cape town of Springbok.

“We have to stop looking at ourselves as the opposition. We have to stop looking at ourselves as the opposition. Our militancy must be redefined to improving production and the creation of more job opportunities,” he said.

The ANC, which won South Africa’s first all-race elections in April with 62 percent of the vote, called frequent general strikes and mass marches in the run-up to the poll.

Last week ANC officials condemned the same tactics when used by disgruntled coloureds, saying enemies of the Government were trying to undermine post-apartheid reconstruction.

Business Day said recent protests were symptoms of a deeper malaise.

Managing the expectations

“Mandela’s Government has so far done a reasonable job of managing the expectations aroused by its election but the belief of people in many sectors that they are due a liberation dividend is far from over,” an editorial said.

“The miracle election which filled Parliament and provincial legislatures with new faces, new policies and new hopes has to some extent failed ordinary people because democracy must mean more than a vote every five years.”

Booyse described the protests as the growing pains of democracy.

“We need to create middle ground between people’s expectations and the ability of the Government to meet those expectations,” he said.

Booyse said the perceptions of investors about South Africa’s stability had improved dramatically since the elections.

“In terms of investment risk, South Africa has dropped from near the danger zone to somewhere close to the ideal zone,” he said - Sapa-Reuter
Testing new democracy

Frustrated citizens use ANC's disabiliing tactics to fight government

NEWS FEATURE

Monday September 19 1994 SOWETAN
NEWS FEATURE Protests against living conditions could spread to other so-called ‘coloured’ areas

Legitimate gripes ‘ethnified’

UGLY SCENES
Frustrations lead to explosion of anger:

Tyron August

THERE were ugly scenes of violence in many south-western townships in Johannesburg last week. Frustration about living conditions in these areas resulted in a frightening explosion of anger.

This outburst prompted several questions, especially because Newclare, Westbury, Coronationville, Klipspruit, Eldorado Park and Norwood were formerly “coloured” group areas.

“Coloured people have justifiable grievances,” said Mr Chris van Wyk, a writer who lives in Riverlea. “But the Government has shown little empathy.”

As a result, people in those areas feel resentful. He believes that the “huge salaries” being paid to those in Government further fuelled the anger and frustration.

He added that attending to the housing problems of the protesting communities was also more important than refurbishing the president’s official residence in Cape Town.

However, Van Wyk also pointed out that coloured communities never fought the National Party government.

“They were divorced from it,” he said. “When they did fight, they never fought with such determination.”

Van Wyk found this disconcerting. “It might be a racial outburst against a black government.”

“Coloured people are fighting for real issues, but they should have been fighting for these all along.”

Protesting residents last week defended that their rent and service arrears were scrapped, and that in future they should pay a flat rate — as is the case in Soweto and other black townships.

Van Wyk added: “We can’t keep blaming apartheid for the problems we have today.”

“By the same token, we must stop finding excuses for racism among coloured people. It’s time they stop being racist.”

Professor Henk Willemsen, a lecturer at the University of Western Cape, partly blames the ANC for encouraging people to see themselves as ethnically different part of a majority. He described this as extremely problematic.

“This intermediate status is being used to mobilise people along ethnic lines,” he said. “I don’t think the Government really recognises that there is a latent problem.”

And this may emerge into a massive problem. A very nasty ethnic problem could develop. The Government needs to address this consciously and with the necessary urgency.”

“Coloured” people, for example, have also complained about being neglected in affirmative action programmes. Willemsen blamed the private sector for this more than the Government.

“But this will increasingly alienate people from the State,” he said. “We cannot afford this ethnification of legitimate concerns and problems.”

Dr Roy du Pre, a history lecturer at the University of Transkei, put a lot of the blame for this on the National Party. He said the notion of a “coloured” identity was artificial and manufactured, and was forcibly created out of different groups.

“They have always been a minority, and feel threatened that they will be swamped by the African majority,” said Du Pre. “With the election, the NP continued to stir up these fears.”

Panic and fear

However, he said, they were now realising that the NP misled them and cannot protect them. “It has hit them with full force that they are alone. Their reaction is panic and fear.”

In the past, Du Pre said, the ANC was portrayed “coloured” people as a bogeyman. “But they feel they should now stand with the oppressed.”

However, he added that 57 percent of the people who were classified “coloured” speak Afrikaans.

“Most of them want to gravitate to the white Afrikaner,” he said. “In cultural terms, they are Afrikaners. But white Afrikaners do not want to accept them.”

As a result, many Afrikaans-speaking “coloured” people regard themselves as being in the middle, and want to continue clinging to a “coloured” identity.

Du Pre expects protests to spread to “coloured” areas in other parts of the country as well because of the fear and panic that exists.

Azapo leader Mr Sinua Moodley also warned about the threat posed by this problem. “We need to look more closely at the extent to which racism has impacted psychologically on all of us,” he said. “We need to look seriously at how black people — so-called coloured, Indian and African — people relate to each other.”

“All black communities now eliminate the stereotypes which have been drummed into their subconscious.” Moodley said another reason for the protests was that the government has changed since the elections. “The heart of these protests is a concern that nothing has really changed.”

But, he stressed, an attempt should be made to understand the problem rather than apportion blame.

“The programme of divide rule of the apartheid regime has had a debilitating effect on all of us,” said Moodley. “We must search for constructive answers.”
BOKSBURG — PWV Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale yesterday tore into the organisers of last week’s coloured community protests, saying their motives were racist and made him “vomit”.

Speaking in Dawn Park on the East Rand, where he spoke in honour of assassinated Communist Party chief Mr Chris Hani, Mr Sexwale said racism had always needed an excuse. “Before in this country it was the Bible. This week it was the R45 flat rate.”

Protesters from Johannesburg’s south-western coloured communities styling themselves the “real revolutionaries” on Thursday accused the new government of perpetuating apartheid. Angry crowds demanded a flat R45 a month rent raise and for electricity tariff arrears to be completely written off — the same treatment, they said, given to their black neighbours in Soweto.

Mr Sexwale said he knew racism when he saw it. The protesters had “long tails and talons”.

“We therefore vomit when others try to use (our) legitimate grievances and hide their tails between their legs.”

The premier said the ANC had in the past erected barricades because negotiation doors were closed. “Now the doors are open. Our telephone numbers are public knowledge.”

The government did not want to use force “but if they want to play games we will respond, and it won’t be nice.”

Mr Sexwale said he did not believe Deputy President P W de Klerk or his party as a whole had been behind the protests.
Sexwale to act on rent arrears

BY ZINGISA MKHUMA

PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale spent more than an hour last night reassuring the coloured community of Johannesburg's Coronationville that they were not being neglected and that his government was searching for ways of dealing with rent arrears.

Sexwale said, amid heckling and applause, that the PWV government had decided that council houses were paid for "over, and over, and over again" and it was very clear that the people could not continue paying for them.

"We cannot remove arrears in Soweto and not in Coronationville," Sexwale said. But he warned that a premier could not "wake up one morning and say scrap the arrears."

"There is a Parliament which would discuss ways of taking away arrears and at the moment we are trying to find the quickest way of doing that," he said.

The meeting was at times very tense and a preacher was shouted down while praying. A heavy police presence was visible in and outside the partly burnt hall which had been surrounded with barbed wire. At one stage two heavily built men were called into the crowd to help remove rowdy elements.

Despite all the interruptions, Sexwale moved to dispel fears that the government was neglecting coloured communities.

"Who can leave the coloured community behind when I live with coloureds in my own house," he said, referring to his two young children.

Montshiwa Moroke reports that residents of Alrapark, near Nigel, observed a stay-away call and marched to the Nigel Civic Centre where a memorandum was handed to town clerk Johan van Rensburg.

They are dissatisfied with the state of newly built "matchbox" houses in Alpark Extension 2. The houses have no electricity or ceilings.

Other demands included a flat rate of R50 per month, that rent, rates and taxes arrears in Alrapark and McKenzievale be written off, and the immediate disbandment of both management committees.
Ratepayers in Benoni join protest

By Martin Frain

The only thing missing was the toy guns, the chants and the placards were there when a crowd of about 3,000 white Benoni ratepayers marched on the city's council chambers last night to demand a monthly flat rate of R45 for rates and taxes.

The march comes in the wake of several marches in coloured communities on the Reef — notably Westbury, Coronationville, Eldorado Park, Albapark, Mckenziville and Reiger Park — also to demanded flat rates of between R45 and R50 as well as the writing off of electricity arrears.

The Benoni marchers' hopes of handing over their demands to the town clerk were dashed when they found the building locked up.

"They knew we were coming; they even gave us permission for the march; but they won't listen to us," said Helmut Loechmayer, organiser of the protest.

The yellow marchers were threatening to burn their rate and tax bills and were demanding a refund of all rates and services.
Rent arrears to be scrapped

JOHANNESBURG — Rent and service charge arrears owed by residents in coloured townships in the PWV will be written off, Minister for Local Government and Housing Mr Dan Mofokeng said yesterday.

Addressing residents of Riverlea, he said homes owned by the former House of Delegates would become the property of the present occupants.

Regulation 74 of the financial registration for villages and town councils empowered the provincial government to scrap the owed monies, he said.

Regarding a flat rate for services set at R45 a month in nearby Soweto, Mr Mofokeng said the PWV government was preparing laws to enable it to introduce “acceptable” rates throughout Johannesburg.

Protests to demand a flat rate in coloured areas caused chaos last week when police stepped in to control demonstrators who had turned violent.

Later at the same gathering PWV Minister for Safety and Security Ms Jesse Duarte received a cool reception when a large group of disgruntled residents left the hall in protest against police action during last week’s protests.

The minister stood her ground if protests turned violent, “the police have a job to do”, she said.

— Sapa (127) 6T 22/9/94
Camp residents plan protest

Randburg council is using Zandspruit transit camp as a "dumping ground" for the homeless, residents of the camp claim.

Despite Randburg management committee chairman Gary Cooney's assertion yesterday that there was no dispute with the residents, they have complained to The Star that they are unhappy with the overcrowding and lack of facilities.

They plan to march to the council offices in Randburg at the weekend and have refused to pay the R70 rent until "all the council's promises have been met".

Cooney said yesterday that the camp was closed to further occupation, and that the council would address residents' complaints.

He emphasised that the camp had always been earmarked as temporary with the possibility of being upgraded into affordable housing.

"The council has spent nearly R5 million, we don't have unlimited funds," Cooney said.

Residents say the council's attitude until now has been "take it or leave it" and they have appealed to the PWV legislature to upgrade the status of the camp.

Renamed Asyndawo, the camp was to house 550 families but now houses 820 and the condition of water, sewerage and road facilities is worsening, residents claim.

"This is not what we expected. We were told sites would be 200 sq m. This is now a dumping ground," said ANC security official Percy Makhuba.

Lanseria ANC member Norma Sharples said residents in the area had bent over backwards to make a success of the camp but met with bureaucratic opposition.

"These people are not squatters. They have paid rent and are willing to pay rent again," said Sharples. "This isn't what we worked so hard for. We wanted something which we could be proud of. What we've done is create a township of squalor."
Open door

Johnnie's, 13
coloured

PH: 31

Johnnie's

Back yard

one hundred

the government, one of whom is disabled and

the person's face or prose this cannot pay while supporting two children and

the door of R1 000 she says she owes but cannot pay while supporting two children and

the government with

the person's face or prose this cannot pay while supporting two children and

"You will not allow me to be here."
CANT PAY  ... Peninsula Arts Centre van Bloom. 60, of Bournemouth with a P&G undated council rent slip... per of P1 000 she owes but can not support while supporting two children and the grandchildren, one of whom is disabled. Should your personal circumstances change, please notify us immediately.

JOHN ASHBOURNE

Coloureds
PWV arrears written off

Sowetan Correspondent

The government is to write off more than R1,4-billion in rent and services arrears owed by PWV residents. Blacks, coloureds and Indians will benefit from the scrapping of the debt.

This was announced yesterday by the PWV MEC for local government and housing, Dan Mofokeng.

Mofokeng said the process of scrapping the arrears, which was agreed on in January, would begin on October 1 when his department convened a local summit on the issue.

Mofokeng donated the announcement was a concession to any group, although the news comes a week after widespread unrest — in which two people died — by coloured residents in and around the Witwatersrand.

In Boksburg’s Reiger Park, residents went to the extent of pelting the rent office building with petrol bombs to make their voice heard.

Asked whether a flat rate for services was being considered, Mofokeng said his department was looking at affordable rates for communities.

While he was sympathetic, he said, it was important to consider what effect a fixed rate would have on the services being rendered.

Mofokeng said funding for the writing off of the arrears in the former black, coloured and Indian townships countrywide would come from central government.

The January agreement signed by then State PresidentPW de Klerk and ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela “marked the successful conclusion of years of struggle by township residents who objected to the hopelessly inadequate services rendered by the apartheid regime”, said Mofokeng.

However, an official in the Department of Provincial Affairs, Cape Town, said it was unclear what agreement Mofokeng was referring to.

Mofokeng gave the credit to the South African National Civic Association which, he said, had campaigned for the scrapping of arrears during the past five years.

“If anyone deserves credit for the fact that arrears have been scrapped, it is Sanco — not the popcorn civic association which have appeared out of nowhere in the last few months,” he said.

However, the South Western Civic Association (Sowefoca) chairman, Mr Basil Douglas, said the concession was what residents had fought for.

Although elated, Douglas greeted the news with mixed feelings. “People have died. It wasn’t necessary to wait before making this announcement,” he said.

Sowefoca still wanted a R45 flat rate for services and for Coronationville Hospital to be restored to its previous status. “The hospital has basically been reduced to a clinic and people are being transferred to JG Strijdom Hospital,” said Douglas. Even though JG Strijdom was only one kilometre away, this was an added expense for pensioners.
Rent arrears to go from October 1

By Sowetan Correspondent

About R1.4 billion in rent and service charges arrears owed by PWV residents will be scrapped, PWV MEC for local government and housing Dan Mofokeng said yesterday.

Mofokeng said the process of scrapping the arrears, agreed to in January, would begin on October 1 when the ministry convenes a summit on the issue.

He denied the announcement was a concession to any group, although the news comes exactly one week after widespread rioting in "coloured" townships around Johannesburg, Boksburg's Reiger Park township was also the scene of confrontations.

Asked whether a flat rate for services was being considered, Mofokeng said the ministry was looking at affordable rates for communities. While he was sympathetic to residents, it was important to consider what effect a flat rate would have on the services being rendered, he said.

Mofokeng said funding for the scrapping off of the arrears in the former African, "coloured" and Indian townships throughout South Africa — which amounted to about R1.463 billion in the PWV alone — would come from central Government.

The January agreement signed by NP leader FW de Klerk and President Nelson Mandela "marked the successful conclusion of years of struggle by African township residents who objected to the hopelessly inadequate services rendered by the apartheid regime", said Mofokeng.

However, an official in the Department of Provincial Affairs in Cape Town said it was unclear what agreement Mofokeng was referring to.

Mofokeng gave credit for the move to the SA National Civic Association which he led before becoming a minister. However, the South Western Joint Civic Association chairman Basil Douglas said the concession was what residents had fought for.
RENT PROTESTS

**Sauce for the goose**

*Financial Mail* 23/9/94

Coloured community perceptions of government bias (in deciding to write off the rent and service charge arrears of black defaulters only) are at the root of the protests which flared into violence in Johannesburg’s coloured areas.

Shooting from the hip, PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale did not initially help matters by describing the protesters as racists with "tails and talons" — though he later made amends when he addressed residents of Westbury and Coronationville at a public gathering on Monday night.

Acrobatically, Sexwale promised that a flat-rated municipal levy would be addressed by parliament, and that the PWV legislature would examine the scrapping of coloured rent arrears as well.

To Sexwale’s charge of racism, spokesmen say, "We merely responded to what is a racist situation to begin with.”

The Coronationville crowd’s anger was, however, only partly mollified by Sexwale, since they refused to allow PWV housing chief Dan Mofokeng to speak. He is, unfairly, seen as the villain of the piece.

This goes back to a letter Mofokeng wrote to local councils on August 19. In it, Mofokeng mentions having received a number of complaints regarding the debts of Indian and coloured consumers of local authorities,” adding "I am aware that this is a sensitive issue since the national agreement (signed by then President F W de Klerk and Nelson Mandela on January 20, 1994) regarding Finance, Service and Service Rendering, provides that these debts be dealt with by forums.”

In the critical part, Mofokeng notes that “Though not specifically indicated, the intention was the writing off with special reference to the consumers of Black Local Authorities who would not experience the same financial consequences as other local authorities.” (Government, he said, is unable to fund the writing off.)

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

*Financial Mail* 23/9/94

This is what triggered the present outcry in coloured areas, and it seems some Indian areas are set to join the bandwagon.

The protest was in fact kicked off by the (formerly) coloured township of Reiger Park, outside Boksburg, on September 7, when a stayaway was called, enforced by blocking off roads to the area. This was organised by the Reiger Park Crisis Committee, a breakaway group from the area’s more ANC-leaning civic organisation. But the local politics are factional and complex. Given its ANC link to the evic, it seems, was expected to deal with long simmering housing and other grievances, including, later, the “distortion” over arrears, but apparently failed to deliver.

This led to the formation of the Crisis Committee, which is said to be pro-National Party, though its co-ordinator, Lionel le Roux, says he is “sympathetic” to the ANC.

The committee was formed at least partly with an eye on next year’s local elections, and its “grassroots support is overwhelmingly NP.” Le Roux concedes.

The problem relates partly to the complex restructuring of local government. Following the De Klerk/Mandela signing of the Local Government Negotiating Forum’s agreement to scrap black rent arrears, the Wits Metropolitan Chamber decided in principle that this should apply to all areas.

The chamber then asked the PWV government for money to fund the shortfall, and appointed a committee to investigate its position in coloured areas. But the committee collapsed in uproar at the same time that the chamber was disbanded on August 23. At its last meeting the chamber decided the matter should be taken up by the Transitional Metropolitan Council, only due to be established on November 1.

For all that, the protests smack of that culture of entitlement, fed by government dithering and kowtowing to hostage-takers and the like, when it should be drawing a line against being held to ransom.

The Institute of Race Relations says the protests comes in the wake of 10 years of instability in urban areas, that began with the period of "ungovernability" started in September 1984. "This has seen rent and service charge boycotts, often accompanied by violence and coercion, both succeed and become entrenched. It is little wonder then that people should draw the obvious lesson that civil disobedience is rewarded and violent campaigns will succeed.

"In progressing towards a free and open society, government has a primary responsibility to reprogram the rule of law impartially and consistently."
Slovo rejects PWV's rent arrears write-offs

BY JD-ANNE COLLINGE
and PAULA FRAY

Housing Minister Joe Slovo has challenged the power of PWV MEC Dan Mofokeng to carry out a blanket write-off of rent and service charge arrears in the province.

Mofokeng, under pressure from communities where such arrears have not been written off, made it clear this week that he regarded residents of all former coloured and Indian areas, as well as black townships, as entitled to the cancellation of rent and service debts.

The matter threatens to become a battle for jurisdiction between the central Government and the PWV province, while angry residents have vowed to continue campaigning until Mofokeng delivers the goods.

Although the constitution gives provinces primary responsibility for housing and local government affairs, Slovo has branded Mofokeng's announcement as a graphic illustration of "the dangers inherent in trying to formulate housing policy at provincial level without reference to consequences in other provinces."

Warned Slovo: "A wholesale write-off would have financial implications running into billions of rands and would be fiscally unsustainabe."

Already Mofokeng's announcement has triggered demands by the NP in KwaZulu-Natal for similar measures in that province and Slovo said he was aware of such demands in the Western Cape.

Mofokeng insisted that, in promised a general scrapping of arrears, he was simply interpreting the Agreement on Finance and Services and Service Rendering signed by hundreds of delegates to the Local Govt. Summit in January.

"Our understanding of this agreement is that funding to cover the arrears — which amount to approximately R1.5 billion for the PWV — will come from central Government," said Mofokeng.

He also announced at a meeting in Riverlea, near Johannesburg, that rental homes belonging to the former House of Delegates would be transferred, free of charge, to their tenants.

The NP government last year decided to give a fixed discount on most State housing. While in areas like Soweto the discount usually covers the entire cost of the house and facilitates "free transfer", this is seldom the case in former Indian and coloured areas where houses are newer and larger.

But Slovo suggested that Mofokeng had gone well beyond the Agreement on Finance and Services, which does not refer to scrapping rent arrears and makes no mention of the free transfer of rental housing stock.

Slovo said the houses were not the PWV's to give away.

Mofokeng and Slovo... locked in struggle for jurisdiction between central and provincial government.

"There are some people, even in Soweto, who can afford to pay," he said.

However, he said the arrears could be scrapped as a special cost of transition "as long as the correct culture of payment and sound financial principles are established for the future."

Heuter reports that the process of scrapping rent and service charge arrears amounting to about R1.4 billion in the PWV will begin on October 1 at a summit on housing.

"The summit will bring together all the major stakeholders and will look at the practical implementation of scrapping the arrears as well as the development of a social contract binding the different stakeholders to playing their part in building a new culture of payment for services," said Mofokeng.
Minister’s R16-billion blunder on housing

By RAY HARTLEY
Political Reporter

A PROMISE to hand over government housing stock to protesting residents of former coloured areas in the PWV could end up costing South Africa R16 billion, wrecking the government’s national housing plans.

Housing Ministry officials said PWV housing Minister Dan Mofokeng’s “blunder” would instantaneously erase R16 billion in potential government revenue if implemented nationally. This could further undermine the payment of around R7 billion in commercial bank loans to low-income areas.

“The effect of this will be to reduce by 345 000 the number of houses built by government in the next five years,” a grim-faced official told journalists at a briefing in Pretoria this weekend.

Late last night the housing drama was taken to the highest level when Housing Minister Joe Slovo met President Nelson Mandela.

The latest row comes amid growing government alarm at the fact that millions of rand in arrears in January this year, are again accumulating in black towns after the government removed thousands of rand in arrears in January this year.

The number of township households paying service and rent charges has in fact declined sharply since Mr Mandela appealed earlier this year for residents to resume payments.
Whites call to scrap arrears

JOHANNESBURG — Whites have joined the call for the scrapping of rates arrears.

A petition demanding that arrears owing for electricity be written off and power be switched on “immediately”, is to be handed to PWV Housing Minister Mr Dan Mofokeng today, by white residents of at least four suburbs to the west of Johannesburg.

Residents’ spokesman Mr Claudius Strydom said in a statement on Saturday, many of the people living in Montclare, Claremont, Newlands and Delarey were either unemployed or pensioners eking out an existence.

Like many black and coloured people, they were in arrears with rent and service charges and wanted these written off.

Mr Strydom said they also wanted pay meters introduced.

Petition to go to Minister

Should this not be possible, the Johannesburg City Council should supply 350 kilowatts of electricity and 10 kilolitres of water free every month. They were prepared to pay a maximum of R2000 for the duplex and semi-detached houses they were presently renting.

The mainly-white Alberton ratepayers group has threatened to boycott payment of rates and services if the local council does not address their grievances.

A spokesperson for the United Ratepayers Action Group threatened they would deposit payments for water and rates into a trust account until the problem was resolved.

Residents marched on the town council on Saturday to deliver a petition signed by 6000 residents to Alberton mayor, Mr “Deep” Dippenaar.

The petition also demanded that unemployed residents and pensioners be allowed to pay a flat rate of R60 for services like their counterparts in Thokoza.

The Democratic Party yesterday challenged the PWV legislature to explain its policy on the writing-off of rent and service areas in coloured townships.

In a statement, DF whip Mr Jack Bloom asked for a debate in the provincial legislature to take place tomorrow — Sapa
Include us in deal, say residents

Arrears row spreads to more areas

BY JUSTICE MALALA

Controversy surrounding PWV MEC for Local Government and Housing Dan Mofokeng's decision to scrap rent and service charges owed by residents grew at the weekend while several white communities demanded to be included in the deal.

Separate petitions demanding the scrapping of rent and service arrears of the mainly white Montclair, Claremont, Newlands and Delairey suburbs and another from formerly coloured areas are due to be handed to Mofokeng today and tomorrow.

Many of the people living in these areas were pensioners or unemployed, stung out an existence, residents' spokesman Claudius Strydom said on Saturday.

The decision to scrap the arrears has caused a heated public disagreement between Mofokeng and Housing Munster Joe Slovo, who said the scheme would be "fiscally unsustainable" if implemented nationally.

The Democratic Party yesterday challenged the PWV legislature to explain its policy on the write-off of rent and service areas in coloured townships.

"We have yet another damaging clash between the national and provincial governments over an explosive housing issue, and we will be looking for answers from both the Nats and the ANC," DP spokesman Jack Bloom said.

Housing Ministry officials said on Saturday that Mofokeng's "blunder" in promising to hand over government housing stock to protesting communities could end up costing the country R16 billion.

They said Mofokeng's announcement on Thursday, which came a week after widespread unrest in formerly coloured communities in which two people died, would erase R9 billion in potential government revenue if implemented nationally. The effect of this would be that houses built by the Government over the next five years would be reduced by 246 000, the officials said.

Alberton ratepayers have also threatened to boycott the payment of rates and services if the local council does not address their grievances with regard to high electricity accounts.

Residents also demanded in a petition that, like their counterparts in Tokoza, unemployed residents and pensioners living in the town be allowed to pay a flat rate of R60 for services.

The South Western Joint Civic Association (Sowejoca), which led the campaign for the scrapping of the arrears in formerly coloured areas on the Reef, yesterday vowed to continue with its rent and service boycotts.

Sowejoca chairman Basil Douglas said rent and service boycotts would spread to coloured communities all over the PWV if Slovo did not "desist in blocking Mofokeng's progressive decision."
Now poor whites want arrears written off

**Political Correspondent**

POOR and unemployed whites may soon have their rent and rates arrears written off.

The implications are to be urgently investigated by an inter-departmental task team, the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, Roelf Meyer, has announced.

This follows the controversy over PWV housing minister Dan Mofokeng's decision last week to write off arrears running into millions of rands.

The politically embarrassing move - strongly criticised by national Housing Minister Joe Slovo - has led to calls from white residents' associations for similar relief in their communities.

White communities in the PWV area have already petitioned Mr Mofokeng for relief.
No free houses

IN AN apparent retreat from his earlier statements, PWV local government and housing minister Dan Mofokeng yesterday denied having promised that state-owned homes in coloured areas would be handed over free of charge to their occupants.

He was guided by government policy drawn up last year that aimed at extending benefits to promote home ownership in terms of a capital discount of up to R7 500.

He apologised if his statements were misinterpreted by residents and said benefits in terms of the policy would be extended to those residents of "family housing units erected before July 1 1993".

Mofokeng said the handing over of houses as gifts was not his intention. He referred to former Housing Minister Louis Shik's capital subsidy scheme on state-financed houses finalised last October and which was estimated to have cost government R2.8bn.

In terms of the scheme, if the house's selling price was R7 500 or less, the occupant could take ownership "without making a further capital contribution, but if the price exceeds R7 500 then the occupant would have to pay the excess".

Southwestern Joint Civic Association chairman Basil Douglas said the pressure on the PWV government would be intensified because residents expected handovers as promised and not a referral to Shik's policy, which they were already aware of.

"Residents have decided to embark on a peaceful process of boycotting all payments on municipal services," Douglas said. "Witbank residents had already begun a boycott. It would continue until res-"
Ratepayers press for flat service rate

BY PAULA FRAY
CITY EDITOR

Hardpressed ratepayers, having tasted victory with the promise of the scrapping of rent and service arrears in the former coloured and Indian townships, are now fighting for the introduction of a flat rate for services.

PWV MEC for Housing and Local Government Dan Mofokeng said yesterday the introduction of affordable rates was being discussed with various communities.

"We have never discussed a flat rate with any person . on affordable rates," he said.

Residents in Johannesburg's former coloured townships had vowed to continue with a rent and service boycott until an affordable rate was implemented, said South Western Joint Civic Association chairman Basil Douglas.

Douglas said he would meet Mofokeng tomorrow to discuss rates.

Douglas said Westbury and Eldorado Park had already embarked on a boycott and Noordgesig residents would meet on Thursday to vote on a boycott.

"We want a clear undertaking from Mofokeng that he will not renege on anything he has said . The boycott is the only peaceful method left to us," said Douglas.

Mofokeng said he had not yet been approached by any "white" group asking for a flat rate.

On Saturday angry Alberton residents marched on the council offices to hand over a petition signed by 7,000 residents.

United Ratepayers Action Group vice-chairman Bruna Haipel said the council had until tomorrow to meet with them and reply to their demands.
PWV Minister denies promise

Coloured protest for scrapping arrears

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — In an apparent retreat from earlier statements, PWV Local Government and Housing Minister Mr Dan Mofokeng yesterday denied having promised that state-owned homes in coloured areas would be handed over free of charge to their occupants.

He was guided by government policy drawn up last year that aimed at extending benefits to promote home ownership in terms of a capital discount of up to R7,000. He apologised if his statements were misinterpreted by residents and said benefits would be extended to those residents of “family housing units created before July 1, 1993.”

Mr Mofokeng said handing over houses as gifts was not his intention. He referred to former housing minister Mr Louis Shill’s capital subsidy scheme on state-financed houses finalised last October and which was estimated to have cost the government R2bn.

In terms of the scheme, if the house’s selling price was R7,000 or less, the occupant could take ownership “without making a further capital contribution, but if the price exceeds R7,000 then the occupants would have to pay the excess.”

South-western Joint Civic Association chairman Mr Basil Douglas said the pressure on the PWV government would be intensified because residents expected handovers as promised and not a referral to Mr Shill’s policy, which they were aware of. “Residents have decided to embark on a peaceful process of boycotting all payments on municipal services,” Mr Douglas said.

Westbury residents had already begun a boycott. It would continue until residents in coloured areas received the “same write-off” as Soweto residents, as well as the houses promised by Mr Mofokeng.

Mr Mofokeng also said only coloured, Indian and black areas qualified for the scrapping of service charge arrears, in terms of an agreement signed by President Nelson Mandela and then-president Mr F W de Klerk.

The Freedom Front in the PWV said a uniform code of conduct should apply to all residents within a specific local authority.
Aircars: Motors of out
Foremost by the...
Council suspends power cuts

BY PAULA FRAY

Alberton yesterday suspended electricity cut-offs in the former coloured township of Eden Park after angry residents marched on the council, demanding a flat service rate of R60.

The Alberton Town Council cut off electricity to more than 700 houses on Tuesday after a two-week publicity campaign urging residents to pay their current accounts. Residents who had not paid their July accounts were sent a warning letter last week.

Alberton head of public relations John Welman emphasised that the decision had been reiterated by the Greater Alberton Transitional Local Council on Tuesday, despite the protests.

Welman said residents had been urged since September 15 to pay their accounts. About 500 warnings were sent to Alberton residents and 1,500 to Eden Park.

By Tuesday, most Alberton residents had asked the council for leniency while only about 150 Eden Park residents had taken similar steps. Power to 710 homes was cut off before the council suspended the action, as workers could not enter the township and the council started negotiations with residents.

The council is also under pressure from white Alberton residents over high bills.
Extra housing subsidies

Additional housing subsidies worth R338m had been awarded in the North-West and Eastern Transvaal, providing finance for the construction of a further 27,362 houses, the Transvaal Regional Housing Board said yesterday.

This would bring the total number of housing units subsidised by the board to about 60,000 since the start of August and represented a subsidy value of more than R1bn.

Board chairman Boet van Straten said no projects had been considered for the PWV province, largely due to the PWV using up its budgetary allocation earlier this year.

He said further allocations would be handled by the established provincial housing boards and the regional housing boards' duty to allocate subsidies would fall away.

The PWV government was identifying and appointing members to the proposed provincial housing board, to be established later this month.

Housing Minister Dan Mofokeng had requested the regional housing board not to proceed with the evaluation of new projects until the provincial housing board was in place.

Van Straten said he was pleased with the board's progress and it was now up to the private sector and developers to deliver.
Squatter camps seen as part of housing solution

THE development of informal settlements, rejected by government and private property owners as a threat to the reconstruction and development programme (RDP), should be seen as part of the solution to the housing crisis, Murray & Roberts group member Bernhardt Dunstan and Associates (BDA) said.

Land invasions in the northern Johannesburg suburb of Houghton Estate — dubbed the "five-star squatter camp" — and in Durban's Cato Manor have upset residents.

But BDA director Paul Hendler said informal settlements — developed on an orderly basis with the state, private sector and the communities all having a role — were an important component of "people-driven" development.

Housing needs could be satisfied only if self-help projects were made a key component of national and regional housing policies.

Hendler warned that there were severe constraints on the formal building construction industry's housing solution.

"We should be far more flexible and look to demand-side solutions," he said.

The recent allocation of housing subsidies by the Transvaal Regional Housing Board, which have brought to 90,000 the number of housing units subsidised since the start of July, were a far cry from the funds needed to support PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale's housing plans.

A building industry capacity problem would probably result in actual delivery of only half of the houses subsidised, Hendler said.

PWV housing minister Dan Mofokeng said recently that if people ignored government's appeal to stop land invasions, "other steps" would be taken.

Mofokeng said while many people failed to understand the implications of invading land, government wanted to put its housing plan into action, not react to unplanned events.

But Hendler said the ad hoc invasion of land could only be stopped through alternative land being made available by the state and regional and local authorities.

"In the absence of new local authorities, the regional governments should be empowered to make state land available rapidly for this purpose," he said.

The central government needed to initiate legislation which clearly spelled out and protected the rights of existing landowners, and the position of squatters occupying land in contravention of the law.

"The planning of new settlements on land near to work opportunities should make provision for facilities," Hendler said.

Local authorities would need to adopt building standards reflecting more closely the structures the urban poor could afford. The authorities should become involved in the upgrading process, to help ensure a continuous improvement of standards.
Paul Hendren

Social Development
dictate the pace of
Politics cannot
Soweto power cuts resume

Eskom this week resumed switching off power supply to Soweto households that have not paid their electricity bills.

Tuesday's move came after only a few people responded positively to a 30-day moratorium during which civic associations campaigned for increased payments.

The electricity cut-offs were expected to continue for the next eight weeks until residents reached a workable agreement with the company, said Eskom sales and customer service manager Ken Green.

He said residents were given a 30-day grace in September after civic groups agreed they would embark on an intensive campaign to encourage residents to settle their bills. "That period is over now and we did not have a good response from the public." — City Reporter
Mofokeng outlines housing option

PWV housing minister Dan Mofokeng yesterday presented an alternative proposal to address the region's job and housing crises, involving the creation of about 70,000 units for the temporary settlement of the homeless.

Mofokeng said that while the PWV accepted the proposed national housing strategy, it remained committed to building 40,000 homes over five years. This would be achieved by getting the private sector to put up R18bn over that period.

Mofokeng's presentation to the National Association of Home Builders came on the eve of today's crucial meeting in the Eastern Cape between the National Housing Department and the nine provincial housing ministers. Sources say that the biggest challenge facing the department was to win critical ministers over to its incremental housing approach.

Mofokeng said the PWV would have to move beyond the national housing strategy if it was to meet its people's needs.

Mofokeng

involved the emergency provision of basic services to informal settlements and the immediate establishment of reconstruction and development zones.

"We are planning to identify about 70,000 sites for these zones, and basic services will be provided to cater for health and hygiene. The zones will provide an alternative to those who are currently located in informal settlements which are preventing development. Illegal squatters and land invasion will be discouraged.

The provinces would begin massive clean-up operations in impoverished areas, and where services had been suspended.

The emergency project would run concurrently with the PWV's housing programme, which would link job creation with the provision of formal homes.

"We wish to build four-roomed houses of 50m² on plots of at least 500m². Provision will be made in residential areas for schools and community facilities."

Land would also be set aside for industrial development. Mofokeng said about 12,078ha was needed in the PWV to achieve the region's aims.
Row over crumbling new houses

BY BONGEIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Lenasia residents fear their R35 000 homes will fall apart, especially during the coming heavy rains, as cracks continue to appear in the walls and foundations of the new houses built by a leading developer.

But the developer said yesterday the homes had been built to specifications from the old House of Delegates, which had also subcontracted certain construction jobs.

The homes, in the Lenasia South area called Dcmaxwene, were built by Stocks & Stocks three years ago, said residents, adding that they had had to repair walls more than five times during this year alone.

Shanita Armugam said the foundation of her home was cracking and the windows were loose. "We have more problems than anyone who owns a properly built new home. And yet we are still expected to pay for the bond and rates," she said.

Armugam said other problems included poor electrification, leaking plumbing with water gushing from the geyser, a dripping roof, rattling windows and accessories which broke off.

Residents claim there have been fires in two houses because of improper electrical installations.

Stocks & Stocks managing director Mike Fullard said: "If there are any faults with the houses, we stand by our product and we'll fix them, but the problem could be with the House of Delegates."

He added that the company had not received any complaints from government authorities.

Officials from the Lenasia management committee could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Cracking walls ... Shanita Armugam had to cement the walls of her home three times this year and fears her home will fall apart in the coming heavy rains. She says the foundations of her home are faulty.

PICTURE RUVAN BOSHOFF
8 000 PWV houses built in 4 months

BY ESTHER WAUGH

Cape Town — Almost R272 million has already been allocated to the PWV for housing.

Housing Minister Joe Slovo said yesterday the distribution of R2.2 billion to the nine provinces for housing had been done in accordance with certain criteria.

These criteria concentrated mainly on the population in each province as well as the number of households in the various income groups of the new housing subsidy scheme.

Almost 8,000 State-funded or State-assisted houses had been built between May and August and 14,279 families, who were previously without formal housing, had benefited, Slovo said.

Replying to DP MP Mike Eila, he said the 7,837 houses were built at a cost of R131,834,529.

In response to another question by Eila, he said that last year there had been a total housing backlog of 1,443,478 houses. The PWV had been faced with a 561,573 backlog in 1993.
Crammed ... three residents of the Wolhuter Hostel in Johannesburg relax in their single room, which houses eight men in small double bunks.

IFP condemns hostel revamp

STOR 21/10/94

BY CHARMEEA BHAGOWAT
CITY REPORTER

The Inkatha Freedom Party's PWV leadership has rejected the upgrading of single-sex hostels in Johannesburg by the former Transvaal Provincial Administration as "inadequate" and "completely unacceptable".

IFP leaders Humphrey Ndlovu, a member of the PWV legislature, and Transitional Metropolitan Council nominees Fecema Buthelezi — accompanied by Soweto and Dube Meadow administrator Steve Burger — visited these hostels yesterday to determine whether similar upgrading measures could be taken at hostels in Soweto.

At the Wolhuter Hostel on the western side of Johannesburg — before visiting the Jeppe, Den-
Eskom cuts
many off
in Soweto

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Eskom has cut off about 11 000 connections in Soweto in the past 10 days after the expiry of the bill payment deadline, agreed to by the
power supplier, civic associations and political parties.

Sales and customer service manager Mr Paul Maré said yesterday there had been a "disappointing" number of payments, even though Eskom had kept its undertaking to improve its
service.

In negotiations with the Soweto civic and political parties, Eskom agreed to improve supply and billing. In return, the civic had to persuade members to pay their bills.

Eskom had disconnected those residents who refused to pay their bills. The daily number of cut-offs had " mushroomed from a "few hundred to a few thousand", he said.
RDP connections are unaffected

Eskom cuts off thousands of defaulters

ESKOM has cut off about 11 000 connections in Soweto in the past 10 days after the expiry of the bill payment deadline, agreed to by the power supplier, civic associations and political parties.

Sales and customer service manager Paul Maré said yesterday there had been a "disappointing" number of bill payments even though Eskom had kept its undertaking to improve its service.

In negotiations with the Soweto civic and political parties, which began when Eskom took over distribution in the township in March 1992, the utility agreed to improve supply and billing. In return, the civic had to persuade members to pay their bills.

Maré said Eskom had disconnected those residents who refused to pay their bills. The daily number of cut-offs had mushroomed from a "few hundred to a few thousand''.

Eskom sources were confident of reaching a "workable solution" to the problem in the next two months. The measures would have to have the community's full backing.

One of the issues is Soweto's electricity price, generally more expensive than in Johannesburg.

National Electrification Forum chairman Ian McRae said: "Many South Africans are not paying their bills because they did not see their local governments as legitimate, or because of the quality and price of their electricity service."

In Soweto, Eskom had adjusted its service, but many residents' perceptions were still locked into the old order.

McRae said the forum's proposals — including setting up a national regulator to co-ordinate the electrification programme and the creation of a national tariff system — would help put the old order to rest.

The Cabinet was expected to announce a national regulator this week. It would ensure distributors — either local authorities or Eskom — performed their task in the interests of the customer.

If local governments were judged to be unequal to the task, their electricity supply work would be handed to another distributor.

The situation in Soweto, and similar situations elsewhere, would not affect the RDP electrification programme. The programme aims to make 500 000 connections a year to the national grid over the next five years at a cost of about R2bn a year.

Soweto Civic Association president Isaac Mogase said the association would comment on the negotiations only in a joint statement with the ANC, SACP and Cosatu.

Township arrests to Eskom stood at more than R374m and were increasing at a rate of R4m a month.
Eskom cuts off 13 000 in Soweto

Eskom has cut off the electricity of about 13 000 of its 18 000 customers who have never paid their electricity bills in greater Soweto, Eskom sales and service manager Paul Maré confirmed yesterday.

Cut-offs resumed earlier this month after the expiry of the payment deadline agreed to by Eskom, civic associations and political parties in the area. The deadline was initially postponed while community groups sought to encourage people to pay.

"There was an improvement in payments but it was disappointingly low," said Maré, adding that Eskom had about 127 000 customers in greater Soweto.

The cut-offs, he said, were part of a process to normalise payment in the township. According to Maré, the cut-offs will start with clients who have never paid, then move to those who paid their accounts infrequently and finally deal with clients who were in arrears.

Cut-offs of clients who had never paid could be completed by the weekend, he said.

By mid-year, Eskom had had an accumulated debt from inception of about R874 million with monthly outstanding accounts of about R50 million.
Eskom to cut power to 40,000

ESKOM will cut the electricity supply to about 40,000 consumers in Soweto in the next two months, the corporation said yesterday.

District manager Mr Ken Green said the planned cuts followed the expiry of a payment deadline agreed to by Eskom, civic associations and political parties more than two years ago. He said about 13,000 consumers had so far been cut off. However, about 4,000 had soon afterwards paid up.

The electricity tariff charged in Soweto was slightly lower than that charged in Johannesburg, Green said. He said arrears by township consumers throughout South Africa amounted to more than R874-million since Eskom's take-over in early 1992 and the figure was increasing by R45-million a month.

When Eskom took over the distribution of electricity in Soweto it was agreed that civic associations would persuade residents to pay accounts. — Sapa
PWV Local Government MEC Dan Moko-
eng has urged Johannesburg north resi-
dents to review their plans for a rates
boycott as the new structures would fail
without financial support.

The Parktown Association — which is
affiliated to the Northern Areas Group
(NAG) — began last week to canvass sup-
pport for tactics to express their unhappi-
ness with their "unfair" representation on
transitional local structures.

This week the residents voted to stage
sit-ins, at negotiating forums next week
and to organise a rates boycott.

Anger is growing over the lack of rep-
resentation afforded to ratepayers' feder-
atons on the transitional local councils.

Ratepayers attending the annual general
meeting of the Parktown Ratepayers' As-
sociation were enthusiastic in their sup-
port for a sit-in next week.

Their anger at being ignored by their
former town councillors and subjected to
the process has spurred formerly passive
residents to vote for mass action.

All 350 households in Parktown —
which include very influential people —
have been polled about a rates boycott.

The 100 people who attended the meet-
ing on Thursday night unanimously voted
for a trust fund to be set up to administer
their rates money, and indications are that
the suburb will vote to withhold their rates
from the Transitional Metropolitan Council
(TMC), due to be constituted before the
year-end.

If a suburb like Parktown takes such a
step, it is likely that some of the other 20
ratepayers' associations representing 84
suburbs in the NAG ratepayers' feder-
aton could follow suit.

The main complaint of ratepayers' fed-
erations in Johannesburg, Randburg and
Boulevard is that they have ended up
with less than 8 percent of the 120 seats
available to the former councils, political
parties, and ratepayers on the seven new
metropolitan substructures (MSSes).

Not enough seats

The four ratepayers' federations have
been allocated one seat each and the po-
litical parties have divided the rest-up
among themselves — nominating the same
councillors who have not faced their elec-
torate for six years on to the TMC and
MSSes.

An association such as NAG, which has
had its support base split between three of
the new municipalities, does not have
enough seats to allow it to represent its
constituency on each of those three trans-
itional councils.

"We as ratepayers are faced with pay-
ing more and getting less. The decision to
enter into a rates boycott was seen as a
last resort," Parktown chairman Peter
Rickard told the meeting.

Ratepayer activist Flo Bird said resi-
dents' associations were being sidelined
by former councillors. "We've never sug-
gested a rates boycott before, but not one
councillor met their election promises. I
cannot think of any service that is effi-
ciently run in this city, except maybe the
library service.

"And for that rubbish bunch to come
back now and tell us that they are our
representatives is unacceptable. TLC-NP
and DP councillors are taking two-thirds
of the seats allocated to the statutory
side. Did they get two-thirds of the vote in
the last municipal election? The rates boy-
cott is the only weapon we have left."  
Said NAG executive member Mike Mc-
Illraith: "The amount of money we are
withholding doesn't matter. It's the idea
of a rates boycott from a normally civilly
obedient group of people which will dem-
strate our dissatisfaction"
Squatters: Up to three-quarters of a million people live in shantytowns sprawled on both sides of the road from Soweto to the Vaal.

The highway of zinc

An explosion of shanty towns in the Vaal may force the PWV government to rethink its rejection of site and service schemes.

Drew Forrest looks at the growing blight along the Golden Highway.

Driving south, it starts with Freedom Park and St Martin's Trust, two landmarks of Soweto. The road to Freedom Park is the Tshwane road, which leads to the main road to Pretoria. Across the road lies the Johannesburg Hilton, where residents drive from one side to the other. The main road is known as the Golden Highway.

Since the election, four new settlements have sprung up into existence, and residents of older townships unanimously report an accelerating influx of people from the countryside. The residents of Soweto, from the plots and shanties of the townships, are not prepared to live in their present houses, or to pay high rents on garages and backyards. The election provided the trigger.

The Golden Highway gives context to the PWV government's efforts to control the situation.

Drew Forrest

Shacks on golf courses

The number of shack dwellers in the Johannesburg municipal area has doubled in the past year, and the first shack dwellers are starting to rise on golfcourses and parks in the city.

A year ago, according to Johannesburg's director of urbanisation, Credo de Beer, there were 2,000 shacks in the city. In the last few months, the number has doubled to 8,000 people. The council has identified 10,000 sites for the construction of police stations, fire stations, and community halls. The council has also identified 1,000 sites for the construction of school, and 500 sites for the construction of hospitals.

The council has identified 1,000 sites for the construction of police stations, fire stations, and community halls. The council has also identified 1,000 sites for the construction of school, and 500 sites for the construction of hospitals.

Drew Forrest

Shacks on golf courses

The number of shack dwellers in the Johannesburg municipal area has doubled in the past year, and the first shack dwellers are starting to rise on golfcourses and parks in the city.

A year ago, according to Johannesburg's director of urbanisation, Credo de Beer, there were 2,000 shacks in the city. In the last few months, the number has doubled to 8,000 people. The council has identified 10,000 sites for the construction of police stations, fire stations, and community halls. The council has also identified 1,000 sites for the construction of school, and 500 sites for the construction of hospitals.

The council has identified 1,000 sites for the construction of police stations, fire stations, and community halls. The council has also identified 1,000 sites for the construction of school, and 500 sites for the construction of hospitals.

Drew Forrest

Shacks on golf courses

The number of shack dwellers in the Johannesburg municipal area has doubled in the past year, and the first shack dwellers are starting to rise on golfcourses and parks in the city.

A year ago, according to Johannesburg's director of urbanisation, Credo de Beer, there were 2,000 shacks in the city. In the last few months, the number has doubled to 8,000 people. The council has identified 10,000 sites for the construction of police stations, fire stations, and community halls. The council has also identified 1,000 sites for the construction of school, and 500 sites for the construction of hospitals.

The council has identified 1,000 sites for the construction of police stations, fire stations, and community halls. The council has also identified 1,000 sites for the construction of school, and 500 sites for the construction of hospitals.
BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Johannesburg families who forced their way into a vacant block of flats as part of a campaign against high rentals and exploitation have accused the Government of neglecting the inner-city community.

On Saturday about 42 families broke open a metal gate and invaded Claridge Court in Joubert Park, which has been standing vacant for four years.

The families, who are members of the Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota), said they intended invading three more unoccupied buildings.

Jota spokesman Moses Moshoeshoe said this action showed their commitment to continue fighting for a flat rate of R250 rent for the low-income, inner-city tenants.

Families in the Claridge flats were eagerly cleaning the rooms and corridors yesterday, and some were moving into their furniture.

"We are already settling in but we don't know how the owners of the building will react," said a woman who gave her name as Patience.

Some of the tenants said they came from Park Station. Others claimed they had been evicted from nearby buildings because they could not keep up with the rent. Some had lived in overcrowded flats.

Moshoeshoe said tenants were faced with high levels of exploitation by landlords and estate agents who charged them steep rentals and high electricity bills.

He said the Government had ignored their pleas for a law that would protect inner-city tenants.

"We demand that the Government attends to our problems and to institute landlord-and-tenant legislation," he said.

He said the Government was leaving the Reconstruction and Development Programme in the city centre to individual landlords and businessmen.

Jota's demands include a direct payment of electricity to the council, and that the Sectional Title Act — formulated by an apartheid government "to protect white tenants and make it difficult for blacks to buy flats" — be changed to a social housing Act.
EU might help fund 4 000 units

Housing plan for inner city

BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

A R200 million housing scheme — submitted to the European Union for consideration last week — could lead to the construction of 4 000 affordable rental homes and the upgrading of existing accommodation in Johannesburg's inner city.

“The scheme will undertake up to 60 housing projects in the inner city and create jobs for more than 1 000 people who will be trained with construction skills,” Kagiso Trust director Eric Molobi said at the weekend.

A conglomeration of non-governmental organisations — to be called the Johannesburg Housing Association — will manage the scheme.

The association will involve Kagiso Trust, the Building Industries Federation of South Africa, the South African Black Contractors Association Programme and the Civic Association of Johannesburg.

Molobi said a feasibility study on the housing scheme was submitted to the EU last week for consideration.

The EU has already committed R50 million in principle to the scheme and will make a final decision before the end of the year after considering the study.

Government subsides and the private sector are expected to help fund the scheme.

Molobi said there were efforts to obtain further equity investments from other stakeholders to enable the association to expand its programme beyond what it had initially envisaged.

Kagiso Trust deputy projects director Nkululeko Sowazi said the scheme aimed at providing a model for low-income housing schemes. “We are not saying we will solve the problem of housing, but this venture can be of much assistance to the community,” he said.

The PWV government and the Johannesburg City Council have acknowledged the initiative.
Residents of Reiger Park in Boksburg on Saturday started paying a flat rate of R35 for water and electricity as well as varying amounts for rates and taxes.

Reiger Park Crisis Committee chairman Kennedy Mosane, who monitored the payments at the Boksburg City Council offices yesterday, said residents demonstrated they were not subscribing to the culture of non-payment.

"Our people have shown their willingness to pay reasonable rates which they can afford," he said.

Before, some residents paid between R400 and R500 a month for water and electricity, he said.

Mosane said all arrears in the area had been frozen until further notice.

— Staff Reporter.
Plan to invade inner city

BY PAULA FRAY and BONGIWE MLANGENI

About 1 000 people have put their names on a waiting list for soon-to-be-invaded vacant flats in the inner city, according to the Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota).

Jota organised the illegal occupation of 40 unoccupied flats in Claridge Court, Joubert Park, at the weekend, and warned it had targeted three other buildings in the city.

Jota has also threatened to occupy a recently built low-income development in Troyeville initiated by the Johannesburg City Council.

The illegal occupation has met with strong calls for decisive action to prevent further inner-city invasion and for a solution to the city's housing problems.

The council has condemned the invasion.

City council director of urbanisation Cedric de Beer warned yesterday that any attempt to occupy low-income houses would jeopardise future low-cost housing developments.

**Demands**

The Claridge Court landlord, believed to be Pietersburg businessman David Phahladra, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Mosheshoehe said Jota would continue to invade more flats until the council and the government responded to its demands.

"The city council has contributed a great deal to the inner-city decay. They should see to it that they do something about it soon."

Jota spokesman Moses Msheshoehe said Jota had been trying to contact Phahladra and wanted to negotiate the sale or the rental of the building.

Residents were willing to pay R250 rent, as well as water and electricity accounts directly to the council.

Adestor's Gas Coovadia said yesterday that although it was immoral for flats to stand empty while people were.

**PERISCOPE**

*We will fix all that is broken*

BY BONGIWE MLANGENI

CITY REPORTER

On Saturday afternoon Getrude Ntaba waited impatiently in the rain outside a block of flats.

She was ready to move into Claridge Court in Joubert Park and choose her new home.

Ntaba and her three children are among the 40 families — members of the Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota) — that forcibly broke into the building and took occupation of flats abandoned for four years.

She now stays in a bachelor flat which is tiled and has brightly painted walls, electricity and water. Apart from the built-in cupboards, the only other furniture is the kitchen sink.

"We have problems but we are prepared to fix all that is broken. For instance, we don't have hot water, the doors do not lock and the toilet does not flush," she said.

Ntaba said she used to share a flat with friends in the same neighbourhood. She could not take the overcrowding anymore.

"I decided to join Jota because I could not stand the frustration. Fortunately I was at the top of the list of people who were desperately in need of a home," she said.

Needing a home was not her only reason for invading the flat. "This is one way of showing the Government how bad the problem of housing is and how urgently they need to address the problems faced by inner-city residents."

She said that once everything was settled with the owner of the building, she would start paying R250 rent.

Drawing attention Getrude Ntaba invaded Claridge Court in Joubert Park to show the urgency of inner-city problems.
Plan to invade more flats in inner city

sleeping on the pavements, the invasion was not the correct way to address the housing problem.

Coovadia said the invasions were a disservice to the homeless as they would simply be evicted.

The low-cost housing units being targeted had been built after an “intensive process of consultation” and it would be wrong to invade these houses when there were other needy people on the waiting list.

According to De Beer, most of the Troyeville units have been sold.

Coovadia said the major city players — including the Central Johannesburg Partnership, the council, Actstop and Jota — should meet to try to solve the housing problem in the inner city.

Coovadia said the new Transitional Metropolitan Council needed to have a clear programme of action to deal with the problem: “The TMC needs to act quickly and assertively ... we must at all costs avoid a sustained strategy of occupation.”

The threats of invasion come as the European Union studies a R200 million proposal which could lead to the construction of 4000 affordable rental homes in the inner city.
1 000 on ‘list’ for illegally occupied flats

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — About 1 000 people have put their names on a waiting list for soon-to-be occupied vacant flat buildings in the inner city, according to Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota) spokesman Moses Moshoeshoe.

Jota organised this weekend's illegal occupation of 40 unoccupied flats in Claridge Court, Joubert Park, and warns it has targeted three other buildings in the city. Jota has also threatened to occupy a recently built low income development in Troyeville, which was initiated by Johannesburg City Council.

The illegal occupation has been met with strong calls for decisive action to prevent further inner city invasion and to solve the city's housing problems.

The council has condemned the invasion, but Mr Moshoeshoe dismissed remarks by health and housing committee chairwoman Mariette Marx as "irresponsible."

However, city council director (urbanisation) Cedric de Beer warned that any attempt to occupy low income houses would jeopardise future low cost housing developments.

Police said they had received no complaints from the landlord nor had they received any requests for assistance from the landlords of any of the targeted buildings.

The Claridge Court landlord, believed to be Pietersburg businessman David Phahlastra, could not be reached for comment.

Mr Moshoeshoe insisted Jota would continue to invade more flats until the council and the government responded to their demands. "The city council has contributed a great deal to the inner-city decay. They should see to it that they do something about it soon."

Mr Moshoeshoe said they had been trying to contact the landlord and wanted to negotiate the sale or the rental of the building. Residents were willing to pay R250 rent and water and electricity accounts directly to the council.

Actstop's Cas Coovadia said it would be wrong for them to condemn the invasion although they did not believe it was the correct way to address the housing problem in the inner city. "While people are sleeping on the pavements, it is immoral for flats to stand empty."

But Mr Coovadia said the invasions were a service to the homeless as they would simply be evicted. The low cost housing units being targeted had been built after an "intensive process of consultation" and it would be wrong to invade these houses when there were other needy people on the waiting list.

According to Mr De Beer, most of the Troyeville units have already been sold to people who qualified.

Mr Coovadia said the major city players — including the Central Johannesburg Partnership, the council, Actstop and Jota — should meet and see what could be done to "bring about a sustainable solution to the problem of housing in the inner city."

Actstop hoped this was "not the start of sustained occupation."

Mr Coovadia said the new Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC) needed to have a clear programme of action to deal with the problem. "The TMC needs to act quickly and assertively — we must at all costs avoid a sustained strategy of occupation," said Mr Coovadia.

The threats of invasion come as the European Union studies a R200 million proposal which could lead to the construction of 4 600 affordable rental homes and the upgrading of existing accommodation in Johannesburg's inner city.
ANC to discuss rent payments

JOHANNESBURG — The ANC PWV region yesterday resolved to call a provincial mass democratic movement conference to discuss rent and service charge payments.

ANC PWV secretary-general Mr Paul Mashatile said the conference would be convened later this month.

Organisations which would attend included civic, church, trade union and provincial representatives.

Other resolutions taken by the ANC’s fifth congress included the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the establishment of reconstruction and development local structures.

Mr Mashatile said the ANC wanted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to be established urgently. He said the unknown could not be forgiven and any attempt to “water down” or delay proceedings should be condemned, Saps reports.

Condemning the country’s taxi violence, the conference noted that the previous government had tried to steer the taxi industry towards failure. It resolved to lobby for more police at taxi ranks and for an “urgent holistic transport plan.”

It also resolved that MK chiefs should provide political leadership during integration in the SA National Defence Force.

President Nelson Mandela had condemned the SANDF top officers for the handling of integration process. ANC deputy president Mr Walter Sisulu told reporters.

He claimed the process was being made worse by the placing of obstacles by defence force members who wanted the past status quo maintained. He accused them of bad faith.

Mr Mashatile said the structures dealing with the integration should be representative of the population in SA.

The congress resolved that everything possible should be done to increase resources to deal with crime and improve the conditions of the police.

It said RDP councils would be created at local levels to represent the people.

PWV regional leader Mr Tokyo Sexwale said the conference further resolved that the remaining political prisoners be released before Christmas.

Mr Mashatile said last week no major changes were envisaged regarding ANC elections which are to be held next weekend.
Seven-day strike threat

THE South Western Province Association in Johannesburg yesterday demanded to meet President Nelson Mandela within seven days, during which they would call for a seven-day stayaway.

Addressing about 500 residents from coloured and Indian townships around Johannesburg after a march on the PWV legislature offices, Sowetojca chairman Mr Baasie Douglas said Mandela should address their grievances.

The protesters delivered a memorandum addressed to PWV premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale, demanding the scrapping of arrears and a monthly fixed fee of R45 for rent, electricity and rates.

They also demanded a public apology from Sexwale for allegedly calling them "vomt" on national television.

Sowetojca deputy chairman Mr Shabram Ismail said the association would not call off the rent boycott in the townships until they had met Mandela.

Douglas accused the government of stopping "the struggle when the gravy train pulled out of the station" after the elections.

PWV legislator Mr Robert McBride, who received the memorandum on behalf of Sexwale, was jeered when he tried to explain the absence of Sexwale, said to be at another meeting in Kimberley.

PWV spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said most of the grievances in the memorandum had been presented last month and were being addressed.

"Hopefully a delegation from Sowetojca will soon meet (MEC for housing and local government) Mr Dan Mofokeng and McBride to discuss the issue."

They also demanded that the South African Broadcasting Corporation give them a television channel "for our people." — Sapa
Eskom cuts off power to Soweto defaulters

ESKOM had in the past month cut off about 18,000 defaulters in Soweto who had never paid their electricity bills, and would cut off a similar number of defaulters who had paid their bills infrequently, the national power supplier said yesterday.

Sales and customer service manager Paul Maré said Eskom had cut off all those defaulters in the township who had refused to pay, and was now dealing with all those who had paid infrequently.

Maré said about half of those who had already been cut off had either paid all or some of their arrears, or had made arrangements to pay them.

"It is very encouraging that consumers are now reacting positively to their obligations," Maré said.

Eskom started cutting off defaulters last month after the expiry of a bill repayment deadline agreed to by the power supplier, political parties and civic associations (127).

In negotiations with the Soweto civic and political parties, which began when Eskom took over distribution in the township in March 1992, the utility agreed to improve supply and billing. In return, the civics had to persuade their members to pay their bills.

Soweto Civic Association president Isaac Mogase could not be reached for comment yesterday.

National electrification forum chairman Ian McRae said recently that the situation in the Soweto area, and similar situations elsewhere, would not affect the RDP's electrification programme (171).

He said many South Africans were not paying their bills because they did not see their local governments as legitimate, or because of the quality and price of their service. The forum's proposals — including setting up a national regulator to coordinate the electrification programme and the creation of a national tariff system to equalise electricity tariffs countrywide — would help put this old order to rest.
Eskom makes service pledge

Eskom would not cut off defaulters until its service was up to scratch in areas where people either refused to pay their electricity bills or paid them intermittently, the national power supplier said yesterday.

Senior GM distribution John Bradbury said Eskom had started cutting off defaulters where it offered "normal service", such as Soweto.

Bradbury said that in Daveyton, the utility had recently cut off about 8 000 defaulters a month. About 800 of these had paid their arrears, while 2 000 had made arrangements to pay.

It had cut off about 500 of the 1 200 connections in Bekkersdal in the West Rand. Three quarters of these cut off had paid their arrears. There had been no cut-offs in Katlehong as Eskom was still organising records.

The utility had just started cutting off defaulters in the East Rand township of Vosloorus and was planning a major drive next month.

Eskom sales and customer service manager Paul Maré said last week that half of the 18 000 homes cut off in Soweto had since paid all or some of their arrears or had made arrangements to pay them.

Eskom was preparing to cut off a similar number of defaulters who had paid their bills intermittently.

Sapa reports Eskom is to take strict action against people reconnecting electricity supplies illegally.

Official Ken Green said it was not only illegal and dangerous for non-paying consumers to reconnect their electricity supplies, it caused financial hardship for paying customers.

Non-paying customers would have to pay R59 to have their supplies reconnected legally.

Eskom's action against Soweto's 18 000 defaulters followed the expiry of a half payment deadline agreed on by the power supplier, Soweto civic associations and political parties.

Bradbury said since talks with Soweto civic associations and political parties began in March 1992 Eskom had been upgrading its service.
PWV owes R11m for water

By Joshua Raboroko

BLACK local authorities in the PWV owe the Rand Water Board about R11-million resulting from non-payment of water tariffs.

The board's chief executive, Mr Vincent Bath, said yesterday there were no immediate plans to cut off water supplies to the townships.

He warned, however, that there was a need for consumers to pay for services, urging the Government to create an environment that would make defaulters start paying.

Meanwhile, the South African Housing Trust announced in its annual report yesterday that R333-million in new home loans had been held back because of boycotts.

The SAHT's managing director, Mr Willie Conradie, said about 22,000 blacks had been denied the opportunity of owning their own homes.

Moves to end rent and services boycotts have been supported by the PWV general-secretary of the South African National Civic Organisation, Mr Linda Magonela, who said yesterday: "We must get out of the culture of boycotts."

"Boycotts are no longer hurting apartheid but will affect the Government's RDP policy," he said.
PWV considers what’s owing

BY CHARMEELA BHAGOWAT

The issue of arrears owing to PWV local governments, which run into hundreds of millions of rands, will be thrashed out at a summit between provincial and local authorities this weekend.

In addition to the R1.5bn arrears owed by black residents to the end of January this year, the summit will have to come up with ways of dealing with another R2.5bn in debt incurred by black residents in townships and informal settlements from January to October.

On January 20, then president F.W. de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela signed an agreement to scrap previous arrears.

While a decision to write off all debts is not envisaged, a PWV official said delegates at the summit would be looking for workable solutions to the problem.

Latest statistics show that only 22% of black township residents in the PWV are paying their bills.

There are indications that the PWV government will request local authorities to transfer their share of the R1.5bn debt into suspense accounts, effectively rolling the debt over.

It seems likely the PWV government will ask local authorities to allow payment of arrears up to October over an extended period.

"Nationally, there is an agreement in principle that people should start paying and the PWV government holds this view," the official said.

...
Moses is housing the masses

Moses Mashehshoe, leader of the Johannesburg Tenants’ Association (Jota), justifies Jota’s invasions of vacant buildings as the only way to make the government understand the problems of inner-city residents.

But political opponents say Mashehshoe is a dangerous man who likes power.

Mashehshoe is frank about Jota’s intentions to continue to invade any unoccupied building until its grievances are met by the government.

“We are not asking a lot from them. All we want is the government to attend to our problems and introduce landlord-tenant legislation,” he said in an interview this week. “This will protect black tenants from eviction by the state.”

Since the formation of Jota after the April elections, the organisation has occupied six blocks of flats in the inner city alone. The drill hall, a former public works building, Milton Court in Pritchard Street, the Red Cross building in Quartz Street, Claridge Court in Joubert Park, Cradock Mansion and Christie Mansion.

At the head of the invading crowds is Mashehshoe, who breaks the locks on entrances and leads his followers cheering into the buildings.

Born 34 years ago in the Northern Transvaal, Mashehshoe has worked in the client services division of Trust Bank and served as a shop steward for the South African Commercial and Catering Workers Union for 11 years.

However, it was his involvement with Actstop, an organisation formed to protect black tenants in white areas, that brought him into tenants’ affairs — and this is where critics claim him emancipated.

One former Actstop member described Mashehshoe as strong-minded but unrealistic. “He felt he knew it all and did not want to take advice from the others.”

He said Mashehshoe was also seen as politically naive and “shallow-minded.” “He was also dangerous.”

“He would come up with ideas and encourage others to take action. But when he was confronted with the problem, he would be the first one to back down.” He claimed when Mashehshoe was arrested after one incident, he was ready to resign from Actstop.

Mashehshoe’s decision to form his own organisation does not surprise some former colleagues, who say he always wanted to be in control. They concede he is a good organiser. He did voluntary work as an organiser for the ANC’s Joubert Park branch and was elected to the executive.

Mashehshoe this week denied the allegations of his former colleagues, saying all he was doing was trying to help the community.

“While I was still with Actstop, we spotted a few problems that the inner-city community was facing, especially those encountered by the tenants. We tried to set up campaigns but they failed.”

When tenants of one block were evicted because the building was in a bad state, he decided to form Jota.

“Our demands include tenants having control of their deposits, direct payment of electricity bills to the council and also to allow tenants to be included in the RDP in terms of housing in the inner city.”

Mashehshoe said Jota would choose vacant official buildings to house homeless people who could not pay rent, but that Jota members planned to pay “reasonable” rents in privately owned buildings.

He dismissed accusations that Jota is undemocratic, accusing these to his unwillingness to deal with the ANC, and denied that he collects rent from members. He also dismissed allegations of anti-Semitism — Jota has emphasised that many inner-city buildings are Jewish-owned. He had not encouraged members to opt for violence, and Jota had nothing to do with the torching of a Berca building earlier this month after squatters had been evicted.

Accusing his accusers of intimidation, he said “People want to threaten us but we won’t stop. In fact, we have spotted a few more vacant blocks which we will occupy soon.”

He admitted that Jota members had ignored summonses to appear in court on charges arising out of the invasions, but denied that this showed contempt for the law. “We don’t have lawyers, so there would be no one to represent us in court. That’s why we don’t go.”

Members of Jota, who are listed and then supplied with housing after an invasion, pay an initial membership fee of R5 and a monthly subscription of R2.50, he said. They did not pay rent to Jota and had not yet paid rent to landlords — as two landlords had come forward to collect it.”
PWV to write off service arrears

JOHANNESBURG. — The bulk of service charge arrears in the PWV area to be written off and council houses will be transferred to township residents, the provincial legislature announced here yesterday.

The mechanics of the transfer of ownership, which will affect over 140 000 state-financed rental properties, will be debated at a PWV housing summit tomorrow.

At a news conference, PWV Housing Minister Dan Mofokeng said the writing-off of the arrears will be discussed.

He said massive service arrears were brought about as residents refused to pay because they were governed by illegitimate structures who provided poor quality services. But this had changed and residents now had to pay.

Mr Mofokeng said residents argued the rent money they had paid over the years more than covered the cost of a bond on their homes. "We will be able to give tenants full occupational rights."

The R1.6 billion in service arrears accumulated in the PWV before January 20 would be dealt with in terms of the agreement signed that day for the writing-off of arrears in black areas, he said.

Options to handle the R530m accumulated between January 20 and October will be discussed at the conference.

These include allowing residents to negotiate terms of repayment with transitional local councils or to allow TWCs to write off the debt. — Sapa
**PWV to write off arrears**

The PWV government announced yesterday it was set to write off or suspend about R1.16bn in rent and service arrears, and transfer 140,000 houses to tenants after a "historic summit meeting" tomorrow.

PWV housing and local government minister Dan Mofokeng said it was also possible that partial payments of the debts could be negotiated. The meeting would discuss transferring state-financed council houses to township residents.

Civic associations, local authorities, parastatal organisations, political organisations and representatives of the business sector would attend.

They would deal with three kinds of arrears:

1. Those accumulated before the signing of the January 20 agreement, when then president FW de Klerk and current President Nelson Mandela agreed to write off R1.16bn in arrears in an attempt to encourage residents to begin paying rent and service charges. These arrears would be dealt with as set out in the agreement.
2. About R380m in arrears accumulated between January and October. These would be written off by transitional local authorities, or the transitional authorities would be mandated to negotiate repayment, or meeting delegates could agree to suspend repayments until a later date, and
3. Service charges, which the PWV government would encourage people to pay immediately, although Mofokeng said new tariff structures would have to be negotiated.

Residents owed the Rand Water Board.

---

**Arrears**

about R6bn and Eskom about R7bn

Mofokeng noted that Deputy-President Thabo Mbeki and Housing Minister Joe Slovo had made passionate calls for residents to start paying for services. The PWV government would echo those calls forestally at the meeting.

The province would adopt a "carrot and stick" approach, with the carrot being the establishment of legitimate forms of local government and the handing over of houses. The stick would be a new emphasis on the need for residents to take responsible decisions about paying for services.

There was a need for the more than 2,000 tariff structures for services to be made uniform according to principles that would be debated. But Mofokeng emphasised that residents should start paying accounts now.

"The payment of services is vital if we are to improve the quality of life for the people of our province."

The meeting would commit all stakeholders to an agreement that the culture of non-payment was coming to an end.

He said he was confident that as a past secretary-general of Sanco, he could convince the organisation, which was campaigning for blanket write-offs, of the need to improve the situation.

Mofokeng said the mechanics of the transfer of ownership of the rental properties would be debated at the meeting. Housing boards should be established to deal with applications from those who wanted to stake claims on the houses available. The criteria would include a requirement that only residents who had lived in the properties for long periods — up to 20 years — could apply for ownership.
Vehicle ‘disappears’ from po

Arrears to be scrapped

Society, 23/11/45

It is proposed that arrears due to members of the society will be scrapped from January 1.

(127)

(No other text visible on the page.)
Mechanisms for house transfers to be explored

Summit over rent payments crisis

BY CHARMEE LA BHAGOWAT
CITY REPORTER

Tomorrow’s summit involving the PWV government, local authorities and community organisations follows the formal announcement of the transfer of more than 140,000 council houses to residents in the province by PWV MEC for Housing and Local Government Dan Mofokeng yesterday.

In addition to resolving the massive service charge and rent arrears crisis, delegates to the summit would explore mechanisms for transferring the houses to their long-term tenants, said Mofokeng.

He said the government intended creating housing bureaux to administrate and arbitrate in the process.

Referring to the issue of arrears — which amounts to about R2 billion in the PWV alone — Mofokeng urged people to start paying up.

**Resources**

“Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Housing Minister Joe Slovo made passionate calls on the community to start paying for services now. We in the PWV echo that call. The new transitional local councils and the transitional metropolitan councils will need financial resources to deliver services and effect programmes,” he added.

Mofokeng said black local authorities in the PWV had to contribute R608 million of their R1.2 billion budget through revenue generated from residents, and it was important for people to start paying.

He said the PWV government was talking to Eskom and Rand Water about arrears owed to them by local authorities and residents, and the institutions were prepared to consider transferring the arrears into suspense accounts until payments or other arrangements had been made.

Mofokeng said he was hoping for a compromise from the SA National Civic Organisation on the issue of arrears because Sanco was also interested in improving the level of payments.

“If we don’t experience a high level of payment, government will be unable to continue with its programmes,” he said.
PWV to write off arrears

THE PWV government announced yesterday it will set to write off or suspend about R1,6bn in rent and service arrears, and transfer 140 000 houses to tenants after a "historic summit meeting" tomorrow.

PWV housing, and local government minister Dan Mofokeng said it was also possible that partial payments of the debts could be negotiated. The meeting would discuss transferring state-financed council houses to township residents.

Civic associations, local authorities, parastatal organisations, political organisations and representatives of the business sector would attend.

They would deal with three kinds of arrears:

- Those accumulated before the signing of the January 20 agreement, when then-president PW de Klerk and current President Nelson Mandela agreed to write off R1,6bn in arrears in an attempt to encourage residents to begin paying rent and service charges. These arrears would be dealt with as set out in the agreement.

- About R330m in arrears accumulated between January and October. These would be written off by transitional local authorities, or the transitional authorities would be mandated to negotiate repayment, or meeting delegates could agree to suspend repayments until a later date; and

- Service charges, which the PWV government would encourage people to pay immediately, although Mofokeng said new tariff structures would have to be negotiated. Residents owed the Rand Water Board.

Arrears

about R4m and Eskom about R100m

Mofokeng noted that Deputy-President Thabo Mbeki and Housing Minister Joe Slovo had made passionate calls for residents to start paying for services. The PWV government would echo those calls forcefully at the meeting.

The province would adopt a "carrot and stick" approach, with the carrot being the establishment of legitimate forms of local government and the handing over of houses. The stick would be a new emphasis on the need for residents to take responsible decisions about paying for services.

There was a need for the more than 2 000 tariff structures for services to be made uniform according to principles that would be debated. But Mofokeng emphasised that residents should start paying accounts now. "The payment of services is vital if we are to improve the quality of life for the people of our province."

The meeting would commit all stakeholders to an agreement that the culture of non-payment was coming to an end.

He said he was confident that as a post-secretary-general of Sanco, he could convince the organisation, which was campaigning for blanket write-offs, of the need to improve the situation.

Mofokeng said the mechanics of the transfer of ownership of the rental properties would be debated at the meeting. Housing boards should be established to deal with applications from those who wanted to stake claims on the houses available. The criteria would include a requirement that only residents who had lived in the properties for long periods — up to 20 years — could apply for ownership.
140 000 houses to be handed to PWV tenants

JOHANNESBURG — The PWV government would transfer more than 140 000 council houses to township residents and could suspend or scrap R1.9 billion in rent and service charge arrears at a summit today, said PWV Housing Minister Dan Mofokeng.

“We will be dealing with the transfer of council houses to township residents — a move which will ultimately affect over 140 000 state-financed rental properties in the province,” said Mr Mofokeng.

“Today’s summit will mark the formal announcement of the transfer of these houses and will look also at the mechanics of how this will take place.”

He said the meeting also would address the service-charges arrears affecting “most families living in townships around the province” and would “look at mechanisms for dealing with the arrears which have accumulated as a result of the boycott years”.

Among the arrears to be dealt with are those accumulated before the signing of a January 20 agreement on service charges, an amount of about R1.6 billion in the PWV; those accumulated between January 20 and the end of October, an amount of about R330 million in the PWV, and those charges that are due now, which the PWV government “will actively encourage people to pay”. — Reuter.
140 000 houses to be handed to PWV tenants

Johannesburg — The PWV government would transfer more than 140 000 council houses to township residents and could suspend or scrap R1.9 billion in rent and service charge arrears at a summit today, said PWV Housing Minister Dan Mofokeng.

"We will be dealing with the transfer of council houses to township residents — a move which will ultimately affect over 140 000 state-financed rental properties in the province," said Mr Mofokeng.

"Today's summit will mark the formal announcement of the transfer of these houses and will look also at the mechanics of how this will take place."

He said the meeting also would address the service-charges arrears affecting "most families living in townships around the province" and would "look at mechanisms for dealing with the arrears which have accumulated as a result of the boycott years."

Among the arrears to be dealt with are: Those accumulated before the signing of a January 20 agreement on service charges, an amount of about R1.9 billion in the PWV, those accumulated between January 20 and the end of October, an amount of about R330 million in the PWV, and those charges that are due now, which the PWV government "will actively encourage people to pay." — Reuter.
Decision to stop boycotts

By LINDA RULASHE

RESISTANCE politics would have to be replaced by the immediate payment of rents and services, it was agreed during a PWV summit in Boksburg yesterday. "Every rand withheld for debt is R1 withheld for services," Housing Minister Joe Slovo told delegates from nearly 30 bodies comprising civic associations, local authorities, parastatals and political organisations.

"We cannot afford the boycott one day longer. The time to begin paying again is now."

The organisations pledged to normalise the payment of service charges in their areas by signing a document of intent, to urgently communicate the document's contents to their constituents, and to ensure that people kept to the agreement.

Arrears in all communities in the PWV up to January 31 1994 — totalling R1.5-billion — will effectively be written off.

SIDE BY SIDE: PWV Housing Minister Dan Motlokong and his national counterpart, Joe Slovo.
‘Our houses are flawed’

PROTEST MARCH Residents threaten to suspend bond payments:

By Sibusiso Mabaso

RATSI SEBOKENG ZONE 16 residents marched on the offices of Khayalethu Home Loans in Vereeniging at the weekend to protest against poor quality houses. Residents threatened to embark on a rent boycott and suspend their bond payments if their damaged houses were not repaired immediately.

They complained in a memorandum about defects caused by shabby infrastructure and the cheap building material used to build their houses.

Not surveyed

They claimed that the houses were not surveyed properly.

They accused Khayalethu Home Loans, a subsidiary of the South African Housing Trust, of using delaying tactics whenever approached about the defects in their houses.

They claimed the company’s management was refusing to allow independent engineers and evaluators to investigate the quality of the houses.

Discuss grievances

Khayalethu representative Mr Gupe promised the marchers that his company would discuss their grievances at the company’s next meeting to be held soon.

Gupe, who promised to report back to residents, said his company was also concerned about the cracking of their houses and told residents that they would soon be busy with a rectification programme.

He demed that the cracks were as a result of inadequate foundations.
Delft houses to be sold off

Banks suspend loans to project

BY CHARMEELA BHAGOWAT
CITY REPORTER

Two major banking institutions have suspended the granting of home loans to Delft homeowners in Eldorado Park because of the bad publicity surrounding the housing scheme, according to the Johannesburg City Council.

Last year the former House of Representatives gave the Johannesburg City Council R6 million to develop about 200 homes costing about R35,000 each in the former coloured suburb.

The scheme allows private developers to build homes at predetermined prices.

The housing project has been steeped in controversy from the beginning, when residents claimed the houses in extensions 3 and 7 were of sub-standard quality.

Rent

Then a group of people illegally occupied some of the homes before their owners could move in.

Applicants were approved subject to getting bonds and were asked by the council to pay occupational rents while their bond applications were being considered.

After negotiations with the four major banks, First National, Absa and Standard Bank, the institutions agreed to consider and finance the applicants.

However, after bad publicity surrounding the Delft houses, two of the banks — Absa and Standard Bank — suspended the granting of loans, according to the council.

Also — after paying occupational rents for more than a year — about 50 prospective buyers' bonds were turned down, resulting in a council resolution on Tuesday to sell the houses directly to them on a deed-of-sale basis.
More squatters evicted in Jo'burg

SQUATTERS were removed from a second Joubert Park building in Johannesburg yesterday, after a gun battle between illegal residents and police followed evictions at Claridge Court on Monday night.

Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota) spokesman Moses Mohoeshoe said the Claridge Court squatters intended to reoccupy the building and would defend themselves against further police action.

One policeman was injured during the shoot-out on Monday night.

Jota member Isaac Spier said a second group of residents was evicted from Chris-tiauca Court when police arrived yesterday afternoon with a Supreme Court order.

Evictions

It would “address the problems in the inner-city” and a request for subsidies by Johannesburg’s Seven Buildings Project.

PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale would meet Jota, which had organised several occupations in the city centre, including Claridge Court, to discuss the eviction of squatters in the inner city.

Mofokeng said Jota had not attended a single meeting on the housing problem.

PWV finance minister Jabu Moleketi, addressing the PWV legislature, also promised a thorough investigation into Monday night’s events.

Sapa reports that Mofokeng said the PWV government did not encourage invasion of land or buildings. "We have created forums to discuss problems surrounding housing."

Leasing agents Johannesburg Property Services said Claridge Court’s owners would work something out once the building was “completely ready for occupation” and peace had been restored.

PWV housing board chairman Martin C. Van Zyl said a task team would be set up at tomorrow’s meeting to investigate all aspects of the Seven Buildings Project, a scheme whereby families staying in seven blocks of flats in Hillbrow, Berea, Joubert Park and central Johannesburg will buy the buildings through the acquisition of shares. The legal representative of the 459 families involved in the project, Trevor Bailey, said the matter was urgent.

Theo Rawana reports that PWV Safety and security minister Jesse Duarte said some homeowners had told her they feared going on holiday in case their houses were occupied by illegal tenants.
Squatters vow: we'll come back

By Sibusiso Mabaso

ILLEGAL tenants evicted from Claridge Court in Joubert Park, Johannesburg, said yesterday they would continue their struggle to occupy the building and not bow to pressure from the authorities and police.

The squatters were evicted on Monday by officials of the sheriff's office following a Supreme Court order.

The same night a policeman was wounded in a shootout between snipers in the building and police who sought to prevent the squatters reoccupying the building. This came after the squatters had set the building alight.

Two other buildings were set alight on Monday night allegedly by angry squatters, causing damage estimated at thousands of rands. A furniture shop was completely destroyed by fire.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Eugene Opperman said yesterday the injured policeman had been shot in the leg.

About 40 squatters had broken the metal gate to the building for the second time on Monday night and moved in in defiance of the court order.

Members of the Johannesburg Tenants' Association yesterday toyi-toyied in the street outside the building. Police described the area as quiet but tense.
Alexandra residents threaten violence

JOHANNESBURG — About 3,500 Alexandra township families displaced in their homes by political violence nearly four years ago will take up arms if they don’t get their houses back, Displacee Co-ordinating Committee chairman Mr Tsetsi Kungoane said yesterday.

The threat came as President Nelson Mandela, on a visit to Orange Farm yesterday, asked residents of the informal settlement near Vereeniging to bear with the government’s slow progress in meeting its election promises.

Mr Kungoane said the former residents of the Sandton township’s notorious “Beirut” section had been living in huts around the area.

He told a news conference PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale, Minister for Safety and Security Mr Jesse Duarte and Housing Minister Mr Dan Mofokeng appeared uninterested in the group’s problem.

‘Prepared to die’

“Eventually Alexandra will be on fire if they (the PWV government) don’t do it (return displaced people to Beirut).

“We are prepared to die for Beirut if we have to.”

He said Alexandra should receive the same treatment as the East Rand townships of Thokoza, Katlehong and Vosloorus where houses were being restored, hostels upgraded and displaced people returned to their homes.

Mr Kungoane said his group had met Mr Sexwale once and Mr Duarte twice. Mr Sexwale had promised to evict the people, mostly IFP supporters, living in the displaced people’s houses. But appointments for further meetings had not materialised.

Mr Mandela told more than 2,000 people at Orange Farm: “The wheels of government grind very slowly and people should not expect miracles.”

He said the slow progress was due to the budget inherited from the former government. — Sapa
Police, squatters swap bullets and blame

A video shows another side of this week's election of illegal squatters in central Johannesburg. Reports

Videocassette created by

JOHN YAKAYA

JOHANNESBURG — Only to be elected this week

Police, squatters swap bullets and blame

A video shows another side of this week's election of illegal squatters in central Johannesburg. Reports

Videocassette created by

JOHN YAKAYA

JOHANNESBURG — Only to be elected this week

Police, squatters swap bullets and blame

A video shows another side of this week's election of illegal squatters in central Johannesburg. Reports

Videocassette created by

JOHN YAKAYA

JOHANNESBURG — Only to be elected this week
The actions of the police were nothing more than new forms of intimidation. They were just another way of maintaining control and preventing the citizens from organizing and resisting. The government has wisely chosen to ignore the legitimate concerns of the people and to continue its repressive policies. The police have become the instruments of the state, and the citizens are becoming more aware of their rights and freedoms. In this way, the situation has become more dangerous for the police, as well as for the people who are trying to resist. It is only a matter of time before the people take matters into their own hands and force the police to retreat.

The problem with the police is that they are not accountable to the people. They are answerable only to the government, which has given them carte blanche to do whatever they want. The police have become a tool of the government, and they are used to suppress the people's rights and freedoms. The government has always been able to control the police, and the police have always been able to control the people. This is the way it is supposed to be, and it is the way it will remain.

The police are not only a threat to the people, but also to the government. The government is afraid of the people, and the police are afraid of the government. The police are in a position to control the government, and the government is in a position to control the police. This is a dangerous situation, and it is one that must be addressed.

The police are not only a threat to the people, but also to the government. The government is afraid of the people, and the police are afraid of the government. The police are in a position to control the government, and the government is in a position to control the police. This is a dangerous situation, and it is one that must be addressed.

The police are not only a threat to the people, but also to the government. The government is afraid of the people, and the police are afraid of the government. The police are in a position to control the government, and the government is in a position to control the police. This is a dangerous situation, and it is one that must be addressed.
Invaders don’t care a jot

Illegal tenants clashing with police, gunfights, petrol-bombs, toys-toying and arson — the all-too familiar accoutrements of anarchy — broke out again in central Johannesburg this week.

Once again the police were in the thick of it — reluctantly. And once again the politicians who could — and should — have prevented it were nowhere to be seen. So much for PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale’s threat last month to “get tough” with property invaders.

For months the Johannesburg Tenants’ Association (Jota), an activist splinter group formed after the April elections, has been leading the homeless and the poor in raiding parties to invade and occupy vacant apartment buildings across the city. The fact that the buildings are privately owned and that the invasions are totally illegal matters not a jot to Jota Nor, judging by their muted response, do the responsible PWV leaders lose much sleep over it.

If landlords respond with eviction notices and police assistance, said Jota leader Moses Mosheshoe recently, “we will resort to violent actions”.

That is exactly what happened on Monday night, several hours after officials from the sheriff’s office evicted a group of 42 families from Clarendon Court in Joubert Park. The Rand Supreme Court had granted the eviction order on November 16, two weeks after the families occupied the empty building with Jota’s assistance.

According to reports, the eviction was proceeding without incident until a Jota official tried to close the building’s gate to prevent the families moving in, and a scuffle ensued. The mood turned nasty as angry squatters and residents from neighbouring buildings began toys-toying in the street. Some threatened to return that night to burn the building. One woman said as much in an interview broadcast that night on SABC TV news.

With so much forewarning, one might have expected the authorities to take preventive measures — meet with tenants, deploy police in a defensive role, lay down the law, talk tough.

Instead, the matter was left to fester and, true to their word, the squatters returned to Clarendon Court. The police were called and when they arrived, they were attacked with stones and petrol bombs “From out of the blue residents began throwing petrol bombs,” says Jota’s Mosheshoe with an air of resigned bewilderment. Flames were soon bellowing from several apartments and occupants of the building were hurling stones and abuse down on the police.

“We’re the proverbial ham in the sandwich,” commented police spokesman Lt-Col Eugene Opperman. It is not clear who started the shooting. But for several minutes shots were exchanged between members of the police Internal Stability Division and residents of Clarendon Court and from a nearby block of flats. A policeman was wounded in the leg. One alleged sniper was arrested.

Safety & Security MEC Jesse Duarte was scheduled to address the issue as the EN was going to press. Attempts to elicit earlier comment were unsuccessful. Sexwale was quoted as saying on Monday night that Jota members’ threats of violence were “unacceptable”.

The fact is that Monday’s shooting could have been prevented by firm action on the part of the authorities. More than that, it could have been prevented if the squatter issue, and Jota’s tactics in particular, were dealt with under the law months ago.

This is not to say that Jota does not have some valid complaints. There is no doubt that some inner-city landlords exploit their tenants and allow their premises to deteriorate into sordid slums. Jota also objects to landlords earning interest from tenants’ deposits. It wants legislation to ensure the deposits are held in some kind of provident fund to benefit low-income tenants who upgrade inner-city accommodation.

But Jota’s demand for a R250 ceiling on rentals is simply not viable. Rentals for the 130 000 city apartmets average between R600 and R1 200 a month. If landlords cannot earn a return on their investments, they will close down the buildings, as some have already done, and board them up.

Similarly, if property invasions are permitted to continue, the market will dry up and the inner city will die. Invasions are not defensible, as Mosheshoe simplistically states, “because it is immoral to keep buildings empty while there are people who need a place to live.” Owners don’t keep buildings closed — economics do.

But above all, it is Jota’s tactics that are at fault and they must be nipped in the bud. They impinge on the rights of the greater society just as do anarchic student revolts, political hostage-taking, violent picketing and freeway blockades.

ANC leaders have been slow to act in all these instances. That may be understandable, given that those same leaders once used the same tactics when fighting apartheid. But now the shoe is on the other foot and the erstwhile activists face activist revolt. It’s time they got over their identity crisis and began governing.

PUBLIC SERVICE

 Clash in abeyance

Discontent in the public service is expected to smoulder into the new year but will need to be resolved fairly quickly in January to...
Housing board to take stock of assets, projects

THE PWV Housing Board was launched officially yesterday and its chairman, Martin van Zyl, said it had to take stock of its assets with a view to converting them into funds for development.

The 18-member board would also consider commitments made by the previous government and "evaluate their validity and acceptability within the policies of the reconstruction and development programme and the first democratically elected government".

"We do not have the money or capacity to waste on projects where no one will live and which will perpetuate the separation rather than the integration of our cities," Van Zyl said.

Applications for subsidies totalling R21bn had been received. The board would have to get funds with which to process these applications.

As a matter of priority the board had to identify "the nature and status" of its assets with a view to converting them into funds for development.

Van Zyl said "With the amalgamation of own affairs administrations and the former Transvaal Provincial Administration, the National Housing Board acquired a vast inventory of assets, including serviced and unserviced land, blocks of flats and houses".

He said the board would also have to develop a plan of action, which would spell out clear targets, during the next four years.
Residents protest threatened cut-off

By Mokgadi Pela

Residents of Eden Park who face electricity cuts because of non-payment for services will this week submit a petition to the Alberton City Council as a protest. This was decided at a meeting in the East Rand township last week.

The meeting was to have been addressed by Gauteng MP Mr Khousan X. Organisers seemed to be in the dark about X’s whereabouts. They kept telling the audience that he would arrive to talk about the “important issue of non-payment for services.”

Mrs Maud Jacobs told the meeting that the cut-off date was December 15.

“We have to act speedily to prevent the council from going ahead with this move. We should draw up a petition and submit it to the authorities before that date. We can’t hold endless meetings about this. If we keep delaying, we will spend Christmas without lights and you know the consequences,” she said.

Supporting Jacobs, chairman of the meeting Mr Phillip de Lange said “It’s time we took the initiative to solve our own problems. We cannot be hamstrung by the divisions in the community of Eden Park.”

Alberton City Council treasurer Mr Raymond Muller confirmed December 15 as the due date for the payment for services. He said Eden Park residents, like their counterparts in Alberton, have to pay for their services.

“If they still don’t pay, we will issue a written warning on December 20 which will be delivered to their homes by hand post.”

Muller referred to the government notice which states that arrears accumulated before January 20 1994 would be written off. He said any arrears accumulated from January 20 would be reflected in future accounts.

In October, Eden Park residents accused the Alberton City Council of “divide and rule” tactics. They said it was strange that the threatened electricity cut-off did not affect neighbouring townships of Phola Park and Thekoza.

“This is a clear case of the council to pay their accounts in instalments,” council spokesman Mr John Welman said.
Eskom's get tough policy bears fruit

BY CHARMEELA BHAGOWAY
CITY REPORTER

Eskom's harsh stance against Soweto defaulters has resulted in an almost 60 percent payment rate, the company's sales and customer services manager Ken Green said yesterday.

After Eskom had decided to get tough and apply "normal credit control processes", such as cutting off electricity supplies, more residents started to pay their bills.

Of the 80,000 households disconnected in the past eight weeks, 20,000 had paid their bills and been reconnected, leaving about 10,000 without electricity during the festive season.

"The habits of non-payers are changing and even those people who were on the list to be cut off came in and paid," said Green.

Efforts by Eskom and the four-month-long civic organisation campaign to get people to start paying had had minimal effects on payments, he added.

If people wanted to avoid having their electricity cut off, they had to pay their current bills in full and pay a minimum of R40 towards their arrears, he said.
Social housing comes to fore

Social housing is a well-recognized form of South African tenure.

The concept is based on the idea that housing should be available to all, regardless of income. However, in practice, social housing is often limited by funding constraints and political priorities.

The projects that qualify for the label are social housing, which includes rental schemes and community housing. These are often managed by non-profit organizations, which are able to provide affordable housing to those who need it.

In South Africa, housing associations are a popular form of organization. These organizations can often access capital loans where individual members cannot, and can “on-lend” to members. In doing this, they can create loan conditions that are more lenient, allowing more people to access affordable housing.

The housing market is not perfect, and there are many challenges to overcome. However, with continued investment and support, social housing can play an important role in providing affordable housing to those in need.
Building for the future ... the social housing project gets off the ground and gives hope to many who were without it before. Here, willing workers help to build a house in Tamboville.

PICTURE GARY BERNARD
Style replaces over-used slogans

Housing. Jo-Anne Calhoun reports.

The Wattsville Housing Association has pioneered an alternative route to low-cost