Population - Registration

1994 - 98
Homeland
IDs valid

Citizens of the TRVC
states will be able to use
homeland ID documents
in the April 27 election.

But, Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei
and Venda citizens who
do not have identity
papers must apply for
South African documents
at the Department of
Home Affairs or magis-
trate’s offices in South
Africa. Green South Afri-
can ID cards issued since
1959, the blue IDs issued
since 1972, green IDs is-
sued since 1980, and ref-
terence books issued
since 1959 are also valid.

— Staff Reporter.
Homeland residents get their SA citizenship back

More than 7 million people regained their SA citizenship on New Year's Day, simultaneously gaining the right to vote in the April 27 election with their homeland identity documents.

The Home Affairs Department yesterday reminded SA's new citizens that they need not apply for SA identity documents if they had documents issued by any of the TBVC territories.

The decision effectively renews a confrontation with the Bophuthatswana government, which has reportedly threatened to deprive its citizens of the right to live in the territory if they apply for SA identity documents.

The department re-emphasized that green identity cards issued since 1963, blue identity documents issued since 1972, reference books issued to blacks since 1960 and ID books issued by the TBVC states would all be acceptable for voting.

Legislation came into effect on January 1 in terms of which TBVC citizens would automatically regain their SA citizenship.

A large number of these people had identity documents issued by their respective territories or still possessed SA reference books, the department said.

These people would be eligible to vote in the election, it said, appealing to them not to overburden the department unnecessarily by applying for SA identity documents before the elections.

People who did not have any of these documents could apply for SA identity documents but, since the territories in question were still independent, this would have to be done unde SA. At Home Affairs department offices or magistrate's offices.

Our political staff reports that Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte said during debate on the Restoration and Extension of South African Citizenship Bill that the measure meant residents of the TBVC states could take part in the election as full SA citizens.

They were unilaterally deprived of their SA citizenship when the four homelands became officially independent — Transkei in 1976, Bophuthatswana in 1978, Venda in 1980 and Ciskei in 1981.

Today, three of these homelands are ruled by military dictators and the government of the fourth, Bophuthatswana, was restored to power when the SA Defence Force crushed a military coup attempt against it.

During last year's debate in Parliament, the Western Cape lender of the DP, Henkie Bester, said the fact that a pen stroke and one and a half pages of legislation restored citizenship to residents of the TBVC states underscored the futility of grand apartheid.

In 1991, it was estimated there were 3,458,209 people in Transkei, 2,419,600 in Bophuthatswana, 357,400 in Venda and 446,000 in Ciskei.

However, most of these people are children and it is estimated that 3,29 million people in the four homelands are over the age of 18 — 15.7% of the total electorate.

With an estimated further 4,77 million voters in the six non-independent homelands — 22.7% of the total electorate — nearly 60% of the voters in the April 27 election will be resident in former homelands, and they could have a significant influence on the outcome of the election.

The TBVC territories are to be formally reincorporated into SA on April 27.
Picture: George Maharaj

Applications in Tembisa on the East Rand:

Hundreds of people queue up in vain every day for identity documents.

Slow, wheels of bureaucracy.

Long wait in Tembisa.

ID queues.

Staff referrals.

Tembisa.
Government battles to meet demand for ID documents

The battle to meet the demand for identity documents in South Africa has been intensifying. According to the Department of Home Affairs, it is estimated that approximately 75,000 people need ID documents every month. This demand has been driven by the need for new identification, as well as the renewal of expiring documents.

Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi has stated that the department is working around the clock to ensure that the backlog of applications is addressed. However, he has also noted that the current system is not capable of handling the volume of applications.

Motsoaledi has called for a change in the current system, suggesting the use of technology to streamline the process. He has also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the process is transparent and accessible to all citizens.

The recent floods in parts of the country have added to the challenges faced by the department. The Minister has appealed to the public to be patient and understanding, stating that the department is doing everything within its power to meet the demand for ID documents.
Aliens hoping to vote seek documents

Star 27/11/94.

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

South Africa has about 15 000 illegal immigrants who appear to be trying very hard to obtain identity documents to vote in the April 27-29 general election.

This was disclosed by Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte who said in Pretoria yesterday that strenuous efforts were being made to prevent the casting of fraudulent votes.

Schutte said that while identity documents — official IDs, voter cards, the old green ID cards, reference books or passports — were acceptable for voting, 0.5 percent of the population were in the country illegally.

This figure constituted 15 000 illegal voters.

He added that it was found that among people who were repatriated less than 1 percent had falsified ID documents.
### Independent Forum for Electoral Educ

#### 27th Land Vote

**Home Affairs can't cope with 4-million ID backlog and 300,000 birth certificates.**

The cards will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information, contact:

- Deon van der Walt
  - Temporary Voter Enquiries
  - Temporary Voter Offices

**Please note:**

- Age of 12 and above
- Proof of identity
- A passport-size photograph needed
- Even with ID in hand, temporary voter's card is needed.

### Ballot Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Party</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Party Congress</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Symbol" /></td>
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<tr>
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<td>IFP</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Symbol" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Important Note:**

- Ballot papers will not accommodate candidates who have not passed the ID test.
- If you are not clear with the options, please mark your ballot papers accordingly.

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**Ledger of the Party's Details:**

- The ledger contains the names of all candidates who have passed the ID test.
- Please refer to the ledger for more information.

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**Deon van der Walt**

**Independent Forum for Electoral Educ**

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**Contact Information:**

- Telephone: 0800 113937
- Email: info@independentforum.org

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**Deon van der Walt**

**Independent Forum for Electoral Educ**

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2-million voters without IDs

PRETORIA — Nearly 2-million eligible voters are still without identity documents or temporary voter's cards with only seven weeks to go before polling, according to Home Affairs' latest figures.

A spokesman said thousands of hours of overtime had been worked since the beginning of the year to cope with the deluge of applications.

During the past four weeks an average of 34 500 applications was received daily. In the past week 30 000 documents had been issued.

At the end of last month nearly 21 million people had been provided with documents, out of an estimated 22,8 million eligible voters.

A total of 18 million had Republic of SA identity documents and another 1,5 million had identity documents of the independent homelands. A total of 702 000 people had old reference books, the number of first applicants now being processed was 857 000, and 122 000 temporary voting cards had been issued.

Processing, the spokesman said, still took from four to seven weeks. Those applying for documents after February 1 were being issued with temporary voting cards. These could be issued right up to the start of the polling day.

A Human Sciences Research Council political analysis centre said the count and the announcement of the result could take up to four days.

Complications could arise, said the centre, if a political party claimed the election in a region had not been free and fair because of the intimidation of violence.

A suggestion by President PW de Klerk that regional "re-election" could then be considered had not been "well received."

The spokesman said a re-election in one region could have a domino effect, leading to chaos.

POLICE to set up post at Bekkersdal taxi rank

POLICE had agreed to set up a joint operations centre at a taxi rank in Bekkersdal, on the West Rand, as part of efforts to restore order in the township, a source said at the weekend.

Police also agreed to step up patrols at the rank, which the Inkatha Freedom Party says is the scene of most violent incidents in the township.

WILSON ZWANE

Police confirmed that a meeting at which these undertakings were agreed took place in Pretoria.

Meanwhile, Inkatha Transvaal deputy chairman Humphrey Ndlovu Ndluvu alleged that the person who threw hand grenades at Inkatha mourners in Bekkersdal eight days ago, killing an Inkatha supporter, was a black policeman.

"We are collecting evidence and will submit it to the police shortly," he said.

Police said a person arrested after the incident was still in custody.

"More power" for police -
21.6-m can now vote

The Department of Home Affairs said in Pretoria yesterday that 21.6 million people now had the right to vote in next month's elections.

It said total there had been a substantial increase in the number of identity documents sent to applicants this month.

The department said since last week, mobile units had been accepting applications for ID documents on behalf of the IEC in Bophuthatswana.

People who applied for their IDs more than eight weeks ago and are not in possession of temporary voters' cards must collect their documents at the office where applications were made. — Pretoria Bureau (2.28)

(Report by Y. Chandler, 216 Vismarva Street, Pretoria)
Most have Soweto voter papers

AT LEAST 96 percent of potential voters already have identification documents enabling them to vote, the Department of Home Affairs said yesterday.

In a statement the Department said 21 830 116 of an estimated total of 22 709 152 voters as determined by the Central Statistical Services had their documents by last Friday.

The department reminded the public that its regional and district offices would be open on Family Day (April 4) and Founder's Day (April 6) enabling them to apply for the necessary documents.

(Sapa)
Most voters have IDs

NINETY-SIX percent of potential voters are in possession of identification documents for voting in the election, the Department of Home Affairs said this week.

Altogether 21,850,118 of an estimated 22,769,152 voters as determined by the Central Statistical Services had their documents by last Friday. The regional and district offices would be open on Family Day tomorrow and Founders Day on Wednesday.

Sapa (223) 227-118

Report by T. van Wyk, Voerman, Bloemfontein, 31 July 1988
All should be able to vote

By Carl Peters

EVERYBODY who applies for the necessary documents to vote in the coming elections will get their documents in time and will definitely vote, the Department of Home Affairs said yesterday.

Mr Charles Theron, a spokesman for the department, said they were coping with the demand for documents and were processing about 26 000 voter cards a day.

He said that just under a million people have been issued voter cards since they were introduced in February this year.

Documents to vote

He said there were only 823 353 people whose documents were still outstanding. These people needed the documents to vote in the elections which are only 18 days away.

"Provided everybody applies, they will vote. Our office hours have been extended and we were open on both public holidays which fell on Monday and Wednesday," he said.

A recently completed census showed that there were 22 709 152 potential voters.

Temporary IDs

A total of 21 885 799 citizens had the necessary documents — identity books, temporary IDs or voter cards, he said.

Residents in the homelands who qualified to vote could use the identity documents issued to them by the homeland authorities, he said.
HUNDREDS of people gathered on the Grand Parade in Cape Town last week to take part in a mock election to see if they would know how to cast their votes on April 27 and 28.

“We are basically teaching people how to vote,” said the head of the ANC voter education task team, Ms Rashida Abdullah.

“We explain to them what to expect on the day. We explain that it’s a secret ballot.”

“We find out whether they have an identity document and if they don’t we help them fill in the form here and take them to Home Affairs.”

People at the mock election said it was useful to get a chance to practise voting.

“Many people don’t understand how to vote. In the Western Cape many people are illiterate. I never went to school so I didn’t understand voting — now I do,” said Mr Frederiek Bloem.

Mr Shepard Kama said he brought his elderly mother to the mock election because she was afraid of voting.

“Now she understands it so she says she will vote,” he said.

As election day draws closer the Department of Home Affairs is being swamped with applications for identity documents, according to acting regional representative, Mr Pierre de Villiers.

A Home Affairs report shows that 104 089 identity document applications were received in January, 103 076 in February and 100 963 in March.

A further 168 005 applications have been received at the mobile units which go into different areas each week (238).
About 70% in Transkei have no ID

East London — The Independent Electoral Commission estimates that in Transkei alone, as many as 1 million people still do not have any form of identity document.

The ANC and PAC, the main contenders in the region, are extremely concerned and fear that the backlog could have a significant impact on the final election result in the Eastern Cape region, of which Transkei is a key part. (022) 221-4949

The magnitude of the problem is highlighted by the fact that there are only 1.4 million voters in the homeland. So, by the IEC's estimation, about 70 percent do not have voting documents.

There are just over 5 million voters in the entire region.

The IEC is trying to issue a daily average of 150,000 temporary voter cards in time for the election. — Ecna.

(011) High St, Grahamstown,
Fake IDs not linked to
election fraud, say police

STPHANE BOTHMA

THE discovery of a large number of fake identity documents in Johannesburg by the SAP’s syndicate fraud unit last week was not linked to attempted election fraud, the police said at the weekend.

All indications were that the illegal activities at Vrede Peace Immigration Verteenwoordigers in Lancelot Hall and Peace Immigration Consultants in Medical Centre, both in Jeppe Street, were aimed solely at providing false identity documents to illegal immigrants, Col Eugene Opperman said.

Although two men allegedly involved in the scam handed themselves over to the syndicate fraud unit on Friday, Opperman said investigations continued. However, no further “significant” arrests were expected.

Nobelo Titus Noko from Meadowlands and Mpotsi Elphas Khumalo from Zola North briefly appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate’s Court on Friday. They were released on bail of R1,000 each and the case was postponed to June 6.

They were not asked to plead to charges of fraud and forgery and others yet to be formulated.

On Wednesday, the unit raided the offices of Vrede Peace Immigration Verteenwoordigers following a complaint from Home Affairs about irregularities.

During the raid, police seized 25 ID books, four passports, 100 passport photographs, 20 birth certificates, 584 completed and uncompleted receipts for ID applications, 203 completed and uncompleted applications for passports, two fingerprint sets which were the property of Home Affairs, and administration books with about 2,000 names of people who were suspected of having been issued false ID documents.

Following up on information received, the unit on Thursday raided the offices of Peace Immigration Consultants where 26 ID books, 13 passports and several other forged documents were found.

Report by S Bothma, TM, 11 Bungalow St, JHB
Endless queues for IDs to vote for the very first time

Situation as I imagined it

By Petra Kost

...
300,000 seek ID books

Home Affairs received 300,000 applications for new identity documents and 100,000 for re-issues during the first three weeks of last month, in spite of the passing of the election.

The department said yesterday it had issued 238,640 ID documents in that period, double the figure for the same period last year.

Many of the applications were made during the handing in of temporary voter cards. — Sapa
ID cards: 'No decision'

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

NO final decision had been taken about replacing identity books with identity cards, the Department of Home Affairs said in a statement.

The matter was only in an investigative stage, it said yesterday after the announcement last week by Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi that consideration would be given to replacing ID books with cards. "No final decision has been taken, neither have funds been allocated for the implementation."

If it decided to replace ID books with cards, the department added, the public would not be expected to replace existing identity books "or, for that matter, any of the documents issued in earlier years."

"All forms of identity documents issued by the department will remain valid."
No decision yet on replacing ID books

PRETORIA — No decision had been taken to replace the ID book with an identity card, the Home Affairs Department said yesterday.

Sapa reports the department said the matter was “only in a investigative stage”.

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi last week announced that consideration would be given to an identity card to replace identity books.

The public would not have to replace identity books or “any of the documents issued in the earlier years”. All forms of identity previously issued by the department would remain valid.

Our political staff reports that Buthelezi said the issuing of passports was taking longer than before because revised procedures had been instituted, including fingerprints, to deal with fraud.

They had been introduced, he said, because the point had been reached where certain countries were no longer prepared to accept an SA passport for the granting of a visa without his department first confirming the passport’s authenticity.

Buthelezi was replying to a question which was tabled in Parliament by DP MP Douglas Gibson.

Buthelezi said it now took an average of two to three weeks to obtain a passport because of these revised procedures.

“Internal investigations have revealed that a substantial number of passports were issued to persons who have submitted identity documents that were either falsified or obtained by means of fraudulent information.”

However, it was appreciated that in some cases passports needed to be issued urgently and consequently provision had been made for such cases, Buthelezi said.
ANC's Ferguson, followed her heart by abstaining to vote on abortion bill

Sunday 10/9p 037

By Patrick Buehner

Thursday's decision to abstain from voting on the ANC's pro-choice stance is a testament to the values and principles that are at the core of our party. It is important to support women's rights and choices, but it is equally important to ensure that these decisions are made in the best interests of all affected. Ferguson's decision was a reflection of her deep-seated commitment to these values, and it is a reminder of the power of leadership in shaping policy and making a difference in the lives of women and families. As we move forward, we must continue to support those who demonstrate the courage to stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult.
Pro-lifers will fight to the death
ANC to check on 55 absent MPs

Mostly married women take the option

POLITICAL STAFF

The African National Congress is to investigate the absence of 55 of its MPs from the abortion vote in the National Assembly this week, as well as what action to take against singer and MP Ms Jennifer Ferguson, who abstained.

ANC chief whip Mr Arnold Stofle said the ANC national executive committee would consider their position when it meets on Monday. He said it would have to be determined whether any of those absent did so without official leave.

The ANC decided last year that a R100 fine would be imposed on those who were absent during crucial votes in Parliament, following the failure last year of the ANC to pass the budget vote with the required majority of over half of the 400-member house.

The Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act was passed by the National Assembly with a clear majority of 210 to 87 on Wednesday. There were five abstentions — Mrs Emé Chast and Mr Dave de Villiers Graaff of the NP, Ferguson of the ANC, and Mrs Inka Mars and Mrs Sybil Seaton of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Stofle said the ANC would have to establish whether Ferguson's abstention was "a true reflection of her intention." Once that had been established, he said, the ANC whips would report to Monday's meeting.

PRETORIA: Most women resorting to abortion were married and were doing so because they did not have access to reliable contraceptives, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said yesterday.

The popular belief that women opting for abortion were promiscuous was untrue, UNFPA executive director Ms Nafis Sadik said.

Wrapping up a conference on population issues by Southern African ministers, she said many married women were using abortion as a method of birth control.

"In most of the countries of the world the majority of abortions are taking place because women don't have access to safe, reliable contraceptive services. They resort to whatever means are available — and that is in most cases unsafe abortions."

Sadik said countries should examine why abortions were taking place, and should try to eliminate them as a method of family planning. — Sapa

Among those absent were ANC Women's League president Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Constitutional Affairs Committee chairperson Mr Pravin Gordhan. Gordhan, however, said in a press statement yesterday that he was in Durban on Wednesday to attend a conference and would have voted for the measure.

The ANC bound its members to support the measure.

Altogether 191 of the members who voted for the woman's right to choose abortion were drawn from the ANC camp, with the remainder made up of the Democratic Party, a handful of NP and IFP members, and the Pan Africanist Congress.

Significantly, the most senior IFP member in the chamber, Deputy Safety and Security Minister Mr Joe Matthews, voted for the bill.

He was joined by veteran MP Mr Jure Mentz, the party's representative on the abortion and sterilisation ad hoc committee, Ms Sue Vos, the IFP's constitutional spokesman in the National Assembly, Mr Peter Smith; and MPs Mr Farouk Cassim and Mr Hennie Bekker.

Most of the IFP's members voted against the measure, and not a single NP member supported it. Notably absent was party leader Mr F W de Klerk, who is overseas, and deputy constitutional assembly chairman Mr Leon Wessels.
A B O R T I O N  O N  D E M A N D

TESTING TIME AHEAD FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Stepping into an unknown future

The ethical, religious and moral debates raging in parliament about abortion have eclipsed the finding by the Medical Research Council (MRC) that to legalise abortion could only cost the State R11m a year.

The Department of Health has accepted the results of a MRC study which found that, if legalised, about 6,000 abortions are likely to be performed at State institutions each year at a cost of R14m. This is only R1m more than it costs the State to provide expensive and sometimes lifesaving treatment to 13,000 women who experience complications from unsafe abortions each year.

But the MRC's figures are at best a useful guide, providing three possible scenarios of which the quoted figure is deemed "most realistic." It found that the demand for abortions could range between 26,000 and 175,000 a year, costing the State between R8,4m and R42m.

Even if the 60,000 estimate proves accurate and the State has a spare R14m to provide free abortions, this does not imply that it has the facilities or sufficient trained and willing personnel to perform 5,000 abortions a month — it does not.

The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill provides for abortion on demand up to and including the 12th week of pregnancy and up to and including the 20th week if continued pregnancy poses a risk to the woman's physical or mental health, if there is substantial risk to the foetus of severe physical or mental deformity, if pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, or if it would significantly affect the woman's social or economic circumstances.

The pro-choice DP fears that the last condition is too vague and opens the door to abortion on demand in the second trimester, especially as no verification is required.

An early abortion is a relatively simple, cheap procedure but it becomes more expensive and complicated in the second trimester.

The MRC calculates the average cost of treating a routine first trimester abortion without a general anaesthetic as R136 at a primary health care level and R168 in a regional hospital. The average cost of a second trimester abortion including two days in hospital is R417.

Free abortions will be available to women who are not members of medical aid schemes, in terms of government's policy of free healthcare for pregnant women and children under six, says Eddie Mhlanga, the Health Department's director of maternal, child and women's health.

In the past, medical aids paid for legal abortions according to the scale of benefits. At R291,50 it included the GP's or specialist's fee, the anaesthetic, theatre costs and a half-day ward fee.

But the Registrar of Medical Aid Schemes, Danie Kolver, says medical aids are unlikely to pay for abortions now unless they are medically necessary as most do not pay for elective procedures. Government cannot force medical aids to pay for abortions as benefits are no longer determined by statute.

The Bill permits a registered midwife who has undergone prescribed training to perform an abortion during the first trimester. Thereafter only a medical practitioner may terminate a pregnancy.

A technical task team representing the health department, teaching hospitals and NGOs is developing a six-week training course which will be available by the end of November.

The Medical Association of SA (Masa) feels that to ensure the safety of the patient, midwives should only be allowed to perform nonsurgical abortions under the supervision of a doctor. This proposal was tabled by the pro-life National Party in the portfolio health committee but rejected by the ANC majority.

NP MP Sheila Cramer fears that there is going to be a lack of control over where and how abortions are performed. She points out that 5%-7% of routine abortions result in complications and is not convinced that a six-week course will suffice.

The Bill allows medical abortions (those induced by drugs currently unavailable in SA) to be performed anywhere. Surgical abortions have to be performed in a facility designated by the Health Minister.

Mhlanga says that only private and State hospitals will be designated at this stage. In the long run, he envisages primary health-care centres offering abortions but accepts that initially there will be insufficient low-level facilities and trained staff available and that resources are spread unevenly across the country.

This means that initially the burden will fall almost entirely on tertiary and secondary hospitals, many of which are battling to cope with existing patient loads. Moreover, the State does not know what percentage of staff will be willing to perform abortions.

Masa has found considerable resistance among its members.

NGOs are gearing up to fill the gap. At least 10 new private reproductive health clinics seeking to provide abortions are in the pipeline. They could provide invaluable assistance to the State.

The original Bill allowed medical per-
sonnel with conscientious objections to refuse to participate in abortions, but made it an offence for them not to refer a patient to a willing practitioner. This sparked outrage among political parties and medical groups who argued that obligatory referral negates the very nature of conscientious objection. The committee responded by dropping the entire provision. This means that the Bill no longer explicitly recognizes the right of medical personnel to refuse to participate in abortions.

ANC MP Andries Nel says the provision is unnecessary as sufficient protection is provided by the Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion. But there is concern, especially among the 75 000 members of the Democratic Nursing Organisation of SA (Denosa), that the Bill affords conscientious objectors no legal comeback if they are fired or otherwise discriminated against for refusing to participate in abortions. As the majority of nurses are also registered midwives, considerable pressure will be placed on them to undergo the prescribed training.

The NP is considering mounting a constitutional challenge over the provision which allows minors to consent to an abortion without informing their parents. It argues that this negates the right of a child to parental care.

The Bill states that the medical practitioner should advise a minor to consult with her parents or guardian. However, an abortion cannot be denied if the minor refuses. No spouse, lover or parent has any legal say in whether an abortion is granted.

Masa objects because the provision runs counter to existing medical consent principles for minors. It argues that a child may not be in a position to fully understand the risks or implications of the procedure, and would in any event require parental consent to any emergency interventions which may flow from the procedure.

Mhlanga says that neither the department nor Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma are swayed by these arguments, which fail to consider the predicament of an abused child who has to obtain consent from her abuser.

But surely it is far simpler to spell out such circumstances in the Bill than deal with the medical-legal ramifications that could arise from a blanket exemption?

UCT's head of nursing, Prof Rosalie Thompson, warns that necessary medical history may be unwittingly or deliberately withheld by a minor, placing the practitioner at risk of being charged with negligence should the child's well-being be affected as a result.

Another major point of contention is that counselling before and after an abortion is no longer compulsory for adults or minors. The ANC introduced this amendment as it felt women should have the right to refuse counselling and that a lack of counselling facilities, especially in rural areas, should not be allowed to prevent women from accessing abortion.

From the outset committee chairman, ANC MP Abe Nkomo, undertook to determine the broad consensus of citizens on abortion. For three consecutive days the committee was bombarded with oral evidence from nearly 100 interest groups covering the entire range of the debate. It was obvious that it could not assimilate such a barrage of information, much of it contradictory, and emerge with the consensus view in such a short time — if, indeed, consensus is possible on issues such as abortion and the death penalty.

A referendum would provide the majority view and opinion polls indicate that it would probably be pro-life.

Four days were devoted to internal committee deliberations, which DP MP Mike Ellis describes as "shambolic" as there was no consolidated document reflecting all the amendments.

"It was the first real legislation this committee and department has had to deal with and there was a clear lack of experience in the ANC, the department and the chairman," says Ellis.

The DP considers the Bill "flawed" but is going to vote in favour of it as a block because it furthers the party's pro-choice policy. It is a sad state of affairs when the most vigilant party in parliament knowingly supports poor quality legislation because it is better than none at all.

Camerer says the Bill was "steam-rollered" through the committee. "I have never been in such an inhibited debate. Nkomo obviously had his orders to rush it through. None of the submissions were ever discussed. A lot of people who testified were wasting their time."

Nkomo slams her allegations as "scurrilous and ridiculous". He says submissions to the committee repeatedly stressed the need for improved access and true freedom of choice for women.

"That is what the ANC has delivered, in line with its election promise. We apologize to no-one, least of all the party which was prepared to let thousands of women die with no freedom and no hope."

That parliament will pass the Bill on November 5 is inevitable. The ANC is the majority party and all its members, including Catholics and Muslims, are being compelled to support the Bill. The PAC will also vote for the Bill as a block. The NP, Inkatha and the ACDP are allowing a free vote. But even if these three parties' members join the FF in voting against the Bill, the outcome in both the National Assembly and Senate will still be overwhelmingly in favour of the legislation.

With these political battle lines drawn from the start, the public participation process was little more than a sop to the pro-life lobby who failed to budge the ANC on any key points, but who had their day in court.

The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill swings the pendulum as far from the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 as the gulf between the pro-choice and pro-life lobbies is wide.

Constitutional challenges — and there will be many — may go some way towards creating an equilibrium as the Constitutional Court will have to strike a balance between competing rights such as the right to life and the right to bodily control.

This much is clear, the abortion debate in SA is far from over.
Abortion Bill rebel MP Ferguson to face music

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — The only ANC MP to buck party discipline in voting on the abortion Bill on Wednesday, Jennifer Ferguson, could face the wrath of the ANC’s leadership any day now.

Ferguson, who abstained from voting in direct contradiction of party wishes, could be told today that she was unable to follow the party line and had to follow the dictates of her heart.

ANC that whip Arnold Stoffels said after yesterday’s caucus meeting that when the voting principal had shown that Ferguson had broken ranks and abstained, the ANC had tried to get hold of her to ‘see it from her point of view,’ and had threatened a mistake, but she had already left the house.

He said that once they had discussed the matter with Ferguson, a report would be submitted to the party leadership which would be meeting on Monday.

Stoffels said there were no rules on what should happen if an MP failed to abide by party discipline. The only guide was the directive which instructed all MPs to vote for the Bill.

He explained that ANC members who were absent from the National Assembly during the vote would be fined in accordance with standing ANC rules.

Stoffels said there was also a parliamentary fine for being absent without leave.

BD 13/11/96
Marches held over abortion Bill
Abortion bill needs only Mandela’s name

I am piloting this because I am a Christian, says Zuma

BY PATRICK BULGER
Cape Town

A bortion-on-request legis-
slation scaled its final
legislative hurdle yester-
day when the Senate passed
the Choice on Termination of
Pregnancy Bill

Now President Nelson
Mandela must sign the Bill into
law for it to become operative
and to replace the Abortion
and Sterilisation Act of 1975,
which offered abortions in
specific instances.

The ANC and the Democratic
Party voted in favour of the
Bill, with the Freedom Front,
the Inkatha Freedom Party and
the National Party all dissent-
ing.

The vote was carried with
49 votes in favour and 21
against.

The debate echoed last
week’s debate in the National
Assembly and was concluded
with rousing applause from
senators and public alike.

Health Minister Nkosazana
Zuma, a Catholic Church
member who introduced the
Bill, said nurses at a hospital in
Soweto at the weekend were
fulsome in their congratulations
and were looking forward to the new provisions as-
sisting the lot of women who,
until now have gone for back-
street abortions, often with dis-
astrous consequences.

“I am piloting this Bill pre-
cisely because I am a Christi-
ian,” Zuma said.

She said that if, as claimed,
the majority of South Africans
opposed abortion, there would
be no abortions.

“If everyone chooses not to
terminate pregnancy, this Bill
will be irrelevant. But if there
are those who want to termi-
nate, they should not go to the
backstreets and endanger their
lives.”

She was confident women
would exercise their choice in a
responsible way.

“Today we must show that
women in this country are also
free,” she said.
SENATE APPROVAL APPLAUSED

Abortion bill now ready to become law

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela will put his signature to the abortion bill "in a few months" time", enacting one of the most controversial laws thus far in the new South Africa.

The controversial Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill passed its final parliamentary hurdle yesterday when it was adopted in the Senate by 49 votes to 21.

All that remains now for the measure to become law is its enactment by President Nelson Mandela.

According to Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma, the enactment will take place in a few months.

The bill provides for abortion on demand up to 12 weeks of pregnancy, as well as from the 13th to the 20th week and beyond under certain circumstances.

As in the assembly, the bill was opposed by the National Party, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Freedom Front, while support came from the African National Congress and the Democratic Party.

Although the NP and IFP gave their members a free vote, no members present of either party voted in favour. Twenty senators were not present for the vote.

Introducing the debate, Zuma said thousands of South African women who had backstreet abortions ended up in hospital all the same.

Some spent days in the intensive care unit at great cost to the health department. It was far more important to assist them with a safe termination early in the pregnancy than to try to deal with the consequences of backstreet abortions in an emergency.

The bill allowed women to uphold their religious beliefs, their cultural and moral values and to exercise their choice accordingly.

"Every woman has a right to exercise her choice, but is not allowed to impose it on others," she said.

To speak out against abortion in the South African context was merciless and cruel to those who labour.

"For every woman it is painful to have to consider an abortion. She will not take the decision lightly, knowing that the grief for her unborn child will remain a constant companion."

Only the pro-choice legal framework enabled the individual woman to wrestle with this decision as a matter between her and God, Zuma said.

The debate echoed last week's debate in the National Assembly and was concluded with rauous applause.

Zuma, a member of the Catholic Church, said "I am pilotting this bill precisely because I am a Christian." — Political Staff, Sapa

*See Page 10*
Abortion: Open Letter to Fergunson
Illegal abortions have never been difficult to obtain in South Africa. There have only been two criteria: either you had enough money, or you were willing to play Russian roulette with your life.

JACQUI REEVES reports

Last year, one of Gauteng’s medium-sized regional hospitals had 1,000 admissions for incomplete abortions, 300 of which had serious complications. Shock and septicaemia are just two of the possible complications that sometimes necessitate a full hysterectomy on the woman.

Carol Marshall, Gauteng’s chief director of health programmes, says these complications are just what the termination of pregnancy bill aims to avoid.

“We have always had to cope with the results of incomplete terminations. The clinics have made sure that the terminations are performed by correctly trained staff, under the correct conditions,” she says.

Marshall makes it clear that Gauteng will not be setting up “abortion clinics” but will offer the terminations of pregnancy services as part of the comprehensive primary health care programme.

Although the Gauteng Health Department plans to have the clinics up and running within three to four months, professionals and safe abortions have been available in Johannesburg for more than two years.

Clinics operating through word of mouth, disguised pamphlets and radio adverts had been trying to help hopeless women, despite the illegality of abortions.

“It was just too frustrating to just sit by and watch these women die or suffer great pain by going for a backstreet abortion,” said one unnamed doctor.

Gestation

State clinics plan to use two different techniques in the termination of pregnancy. A national health meeting next month will confirm the techniques as well as further details, but the two ultimate proposals depend largely on the period of gestation.

If the fetus is still under 12 weeks old, medication will be prescribed for a one- to two-day period, during which the fetus will be aborted.

The patient will experience what has been described as heavy menstrual flow, which will come to an end once the entire fetus has been expelled.

If the fetus is more than 12 weeks old, the abortion will be performed by suction and the uterus will be removed in one piece.

This technique is described as a relatively simple procedure with similar risks to normal childbirth.

The difference is that some of the women who appear to be mentally ill are being admitted to hospitals, where they are kept occupied by one of the most difficult decisions they may ever have to make.

If the consultation and alternatives have been offered, the abortion is still chosen, the procedure is performed and the woman moves to the recovery area, a pretty decorated room with beds and lounge chairs.

“They may stay here for 10 minutes or two hours. It really depends on how the individual feels,” Marshall says.

The Marie Stopes Centre has decided to move away from the strict, cold, hospital environment, making the difficult experience as untraumatic as possible.

Partners, mothers and even friends can come into the procedure area with the patient. If she feels it will help her through the process, Marshall says.

An abortion at Marie Stopes will cost R100. It is a non-profit organization that uses the funds gained from the services it offers to maintain the project and possibly expand its services further into Africa.

Within the next few weeks, branches will be opening in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein.

“We are trying to become established across the country because there are a lot of women who need the help of trained professionals in making a decision about an unexpected pregnancy,” she says.

A Gauteng-based doctor who regularly performs abortions, says the relief seen on the faces of the women he treats is indescribable.

Right track

“Sometimes these women have simply made one of the best mistakes of their lives by falling pregnant. Sometimes an abortion helps to put these women back on the right track and keeps their lives moving in the right direction. A pregnancy cannot be seen as some type of punishment,” she says.

Marshall says the department is aware of the difficulties of abortion, but is not considering any more liberal measures.

Her clients will not be harassed on our premises, but I foresee something of a problem for those pro-life in identifying these women. These clinics offer all services, they will not be able to distinguish a woman coming for an abortion from any other client there for one of the other services,” she says.

Government representatives have visited the Marie Stopes Clinic in the past few weeks, gathering information on the basic requirements for their clinics.

Marshall says no more than 10000 is necessary to run the clinic.

“The basic model requires a reception and waiting room, three counselling rooms and two procedure rooms,” she says.

The counselling room is used in discussing abortion, family planning or any of the services offered at the institution.

The procedure rooms are used for surgical procedures such as abortions or sterilisations and are situated alongside the sterilisation and counseling rooms.
you were willing to pay Russian roulette with your life.

JACQUI REEVES reports

Last year, case of Gauteng's medium-sized regional hospital had 1,000 admissions for incomplete abortion, 400 of which had severe complications. Some women even had to be flown to the United States for follow-up care. Marshal, Gauteng's chief director of health programmes, says these complications are just what the Termination of Pregnancy Bill aims to avoid.

"We have always had to cope with the results of incomplete terminations. The slow rate of those terminations are performed by correctly trained staff, under the current conditions," he says.

Marshall makes it clear that Gauteng will not be setting up "abortion clinics" but will offer the termination of pregnancy service as part of the comprehensive primary health care programme.

Although the Gauteng Health Department plans to have facilities open and running within three to four months, professional and legal arrangements have been made to ensure the service is available in Johannesburg for more than two years.

Clinics operating through word of mouth, dispensaries, and radio advertisements had been trying to help desperate women, despite the illegality of abortion.

"It was just too frustrating to just sit by and see so many women suffer. I knew the risk, but denied the chance was worth taking," one woman said.

Gestation

State clinic plan to use two different techniques to terminate pregnancy. A national health meeting next month will review the techniques as well as further details, but the two techniques proposed depend largely on the period of gestation.

If the fetus is still under 12 weeks old, medication will be prescribed for a one to two-day period, during which the fetus will be aborted.

The patient will experience what has been described as a "surgical menstrual flow" which will come to an end once the entire fetus has been expelled.

The second method is known as "medical vacuum aspiration." The Institute, from the Marlo Hospital family planning clinic in Johannesburg, says the technique is effective and effective, when properly performed.

Forcible dilation, through word of mouth and newspapers, has been used to introduce an abortion service for the last two years. The pace of change in the clinic is slow, with the two techniques proposed depending largely on the period of gestation.

Paul Cornelissen, programme director at the clinic, says only qualified doctors, along with additional thicker solutions, are used to perform the abortions.

"These doctors have been very specifically trained, they know what to look for and what to do, so the risks are minimal," he says.

More than 300,000 women, he says, have had to be treated with medical vacuum aspiration.

Nurses stand with the patient during the procedure, holding her hand and keeping her calm.

"In private clinics, the doctors may have to perform the abortion less than a month. At the state clinic, the doctors do the abortions on a regular basis, with the experience giving them a superior skill," he says.

"Termination of pregnancy clinics in Marlo and Stopeh Sites. The procedure is not used, with the doctors preferring to use the "local" instead of general anaesthesia is used.

Briefer

"If the patient is pregnant for more than 12 weeks, the local anaesthesia is used, with the doctors preferring to use the "local" instead of general anaesthesia is used.

Nurses stand with the patient during the procedure, holding her hand and keeping her calm.

"Careful pre-counselling help to explain the procedure to the woman, who is carefully trained on the technique, the time it will take, and the levels of discomfort. We do not tell the woman that it will be painful, because it is uncomfortable. We do not tell her that she will feel a sensation of pain, because it is minimal," he says.

"The procedure takes between one and five minutes to complete. More than 300,000 women receive abortions at the state clinic, the doctors have to cope with a large percentage of first-time users. Walking into the clinic, thelight pink reception is no different to any other doctor's reception experience as untraumatic as possible. We do not tell the women that it will be painful, because it is uncomfortable. We do not tell her that she will feel a sensation of pain, because it is minimal," he says.

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Pro-lifers set to subject women to ‘pavement counselling’

By JACQUI REEVES

Pregnant women making their way to abortion clinics in South Africa will have to run the gauntlet of “sidewalk counselling” if Claude Newbury, spokesman for the Pro-life organisation, has anything to do with the matter.

“We will use all legal means to oppose the killing of foetuses and will do everything possible to offer these women an alternative to murdering their children,” Newbury says.

The controversial activist says the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Bill, passed by the Senate this week, is biased and does not afford people the grounds to protest against abortion on demand.

“The Government is planning to use our taxes to sponsor abortion clinics which, morally, many South Africans cannot agree to.

“We have profound moral objections to abortion and want to see our taxes being used to offer alternatives to women.”

Newbury says the Government’s failure to provide alternatives is like “putting a pressure cooker on the stove, turning up the heat and then sealing the pot.”

One of the tactics employed by pro-life supporters is group prayer outside abortion clinics.

**Attack at clinic**

Protestors kneel, saying they are praying for the souls of the children about to die.

Early last year, American pro-lifer, Johan Salvi, appeared in court on charges relating to an attack at one abortion clinic and the killing of two receptionists at another.

This occurred after Paul Hill, another pro-lifer, murdered a doctor who regularly performed abortions.

Is Newbury concerned that South African pro-lifers might adopt this fanatical approach?

“It depends what you mean by fanatical. Pro-life is generally a very moderate organisation. There have been isolated incidents where people claiming to be pro-lifers have acted violently, but that is highly unusual,” he says.

Five people have died at the hands of anti-abortionists.

Newbury says “Forty thousand children have been murdered at these ‘abortioners’. Thousands of children are murdered every day by abortion. These are the levels of so-called fanaticism we should be worrying about.”

Paul Cornelissen, programme director of the Marle Stopes Clinic, says clinic staff are expecting opposition but will not be deterred.

“We are serving a cause and are sure of our reasons. We would like to advertise our telephone number and home phone numbers for women to contact us on, but we will obviously not be able to do this because of possible pro-life harassment. However, we will not give up.”

Pro-life plans a similar approach.

Says Newbury: “Don’t expect us to disappear into the night because the legislation has been passed. We will keep up this battle for the most basic of human rights.”
'Pro-lifers' may resort to group prayer outside abortion clinics

PRETORIA – Pregnant women making their way to abortion clinics in South Africa will have to run the gauntlet of "sidewalk counselling" if anti-abortion activist Claude Newbury has anything to say on the matter.

"We will use all legal means to oppose the killing of foetuses, and will do everything possible to offer these women an alternative to murdering their children," Mr Newbury said.

One of the tactics employed by anti-abortionists in other countries is group prayer outside abortion clinics. Protesters kneel down, saying they pray for the "souls of the children" about to die.

Mr Newbury said South Africa's latest Termination of Pregnancy Bill, which was passed by the Senate this week, is biased and does not afford people the grounds to protest abortion on demand.

"The Government is planning to use our taxes to sponsor abortion clinics, which, morally, many South Africans cannot agree to.

"We have profound moral objections to abortion, and want to see our taxes being used to offer alternatives to women," Mr Newbury said.

He added the Government's non-provision of alternatives was like "putting a pressure cooker on the stove, turning up the heat, and then sealing the pot".

Paul Cornelissen, the programme director of the Marie Stopes clinic, said clinic staff were expecting opposition, but would not be deterred.

"We are serving a cause and are sure of our reasons. In the past we have advertised cellular telephone and home telephone numbers for women to contact us on.

"We will obviously not be able to do this because of possible pro-life harassment, but we will not give up," Dr Cornelissen said.

Anti-abortionists plan a similar approach.

"Don't expect us to just disappear into the night because the legislation has been passed," Mr Newbury said.

"We will keep up this battle for the most basic of human rights."
There are no easy answers in the debate on termination of pregnancy.
Abortion requests overwhelm clinics

Hospitals and clinics in Tembisa and Kempton Park have been overwhelmed by demands and requests for abortions since the Constitutional Assembly and Parliament approved the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Bill two weeks ago. - City Desk
JOHANNESBURG Reports that Baragwanath Hospital near Johannesburg was performing abortions on request were denied by hospital superintendent Olene Rabenowitz yesterday.

Although we are going to have to perform abortions under the new legislation at some stage, there are still too many issues surrounding the operation which have not been discussed by the health department," he said.

Rabenowitz was referring to uncertainty over how the operations would be carried out, either by suction or through the use of drugs.

He added it was still illegal to perform abortions on request as the legislation had yet to be signed into law by President Nelson Mandela.

He doubted, however, that medical institutions providing such treatment would be prosecuted as the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill was due to be signed any day now.

Johannesburg Hospital social work department head Beverly Kriel said abortions were being performed in terms of the old Act. These cases included women suffering psychological trauma, or where the life of a woman or that of the unborn child is threatened during birth.

She added the gynaecological unit could barely cope, and expressed concern that the scale at which hospitals would be expected to perform the procedure would exacerbate the problem.

She said a workshop to train doctors, organised under the auspices of the Women's Health Project, would be held at Baragwanath Hospital at the end of the month to discuss some of the questions surrounding the operation. — Epa
Pro-lifers take stand on blood

PIETERSBURG - Blood banks in the Northern Province fear stocks might dry up because Pietersburg Christians are refusing to donate blood, for fear it might be given to women who have abortions.

A movement to establish a non-racial private blood bank is also gaining momentum.

Anti-abortionists said the move to plug the private bank was a step towards ensuring that "women requesting abortions are not supplied with their blood."

Provincial blood transfusion service director Mr Andre Fouche, himself a Christian, said that to deny any patient blood was "immoral, inhuman and unethical."

Anti-abortionists said they expected a backlash from pro-choice groups, but felt they could choose how their blood was used.

Pietersburg NG church pastor Dominie Dame de Rok said that if their blood was used in such cases, Christians would feel their consciences objection to abortion had been violated.

African Christian Democratic Party provincial chairman Mr Neels Roelofse said the issue needed a careful approach as Christians did not have the right to deny a fellow human being the right to life. — Sapa

ST 141196
The Catholic Church is not taking action against those who voted for the Bill. It is not clear if the Pope and the Church are pushing for an open debate on the Bill or if they are stopping it from being discussed. The Pope is said to be considering a change in church law to allow for abortion in cases where the life of the mother is in danger. The Pope has also been quoted as saying that the Church is not against abortion in all cases, but only in cases where the life of the mother is in danger. The Pope is also said to be considering a change in church law to allow for abortion in cases where the life of the mother is in danger.
Abortion issue is one of peace.
Study to form basis of contraception project
strange beliefs about sex
Survey uncovers some

Hillary speaks out on child prospects