POVERTY-GENERAL

1985
Stricken Namibian families. A mother and her family in the district. Suffering-stricken Namibian and the situation in 2nd phase. The Red Cross has appealed to the Country's people for help in sending relief. The situation in Harare. The Red Cross has asked for assistance in sending relief to the country's people.
Rock against hunger

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — They came to Ellis Park here to hear the music and to give Operation Hunger a helping hand. More than 110,000 people made it to the biggest rock concert on the continent and gave R500,000 to starving children.

In the words of the famous Diana Ross song — sung by Blondie on Saturday afternoon — they "reached out and touched somebody's hand to make this a better place".

Mothers, fathers, children, teenyboppers, punkers, new wavers, rock 'n' rollers, Transvaalers, Cape Tonians, Durbanites and Free Staters of all races and creeds packed the Ellis Park super stadium to overflowing.

They were given 10 hours of music by 94 of South Africa's hottest bands.

Problems

"We expected to sell 25,000 tickets before the gates opened on Saturday. 'We sold 72,000,'" with the record-breaking crowd for South Africa assembled at the giant stadium, the mammoth concert had its problems.

It took most people at least an hour to make their way from their seats to the refreshment areas and there were long queues outside the toilet facilities.

"We can hardly stand any more — we've been working flat out for six hours," one of the food kiosk workers said.

"But the people are thirsty, so we'll just have to keep going."

Isolated incidents of fighting broke out, leaving some with scratches, bruises and a few cuts.

Teenagers

But according to an organizer, Mr. Hilton Rosenthal, the incidents were only minor and first-aid was administered mostly to hysterical teenagers and people overcome by the heat.

A fence erected around the massive stage failed to keep fans under control and buckled under the weight of about 30,000 people crammed onto the rugby/ice hockey field.

At one stage an overexcited fan threw a bottle on to the stage, gashing the head of a member of Feather Credit.

As a result the band could only complete two songs.

A few intoxicated individuals managed to break their way through the barrier around the stage and had to be carried out by security guards and deposited outside to keep it off.

The stage area also became a mini-hospital for women who had fainted as a result of the heat and crowds.

Lost

However, people rallied around to help the damsels in distress by lifting them over the crowds to the safety of the stage, where they were given first-aid by security guards, St. John members and the Red Cross.

Lost children, who were in a state of great abundance, were given the same assistance. They were escorted to the stage and their images displayed on the video screen so that their parents could identify them.

Children were not the only lost property. At 6pm 17 wallets, 25 sets of car keys, five purses, one identity document and some shoes had been handed in.

The organizers, who had prayed throughout the week of preparation that rain would not stop the event, breathed a sigh of relief as the weather remained perfect.

The crowds took advantage of the sunshine — men stripping down to the waist and the women cooling off in their bikinis tops.

There were also plenty of adeshows apart from the incredible entertainment offered by South Africa's top bands, who appeared free of charge and had 110,000 people on their feet for 10 hours.

About 4pm the field area became a circus arena for balancing artists, with groups forming human pyramids of four people.

Breakdancers fighting for a piece of ground took to the air doing their thing on their shoulders.

Zulu dancers wove their way through the massed bodies, ululating and stamping to the ethereal sound of Juluka. The stadium became a sea of hands as thousands danced together to the hypnotic drumbeat.

About 250 security guards and members of the South African Police helped to ensure that the afternoon ran smoothly.

The police arrested a few people after outbreaks of violence, but spent most of the day offering a helping hand.

Some policemen were seen assisting distressed children, while others helped people find refreshment areas and hands offered to stand in queues.

Woodstock

As familiar songs, magnified by 40,000 watts of power, washed along the audience at the "Concert in the Park", thousands sang along, conjuring up memories of the historical Woodstock concert — the world's most famous pop concert.

The cries of "we want more, we want more" which echoed around the stadium at the end of each act said it all.

For those who did not make it to Ellis Park, a double live album in a video of the event will be released in April, with all proceeds going to Operation Hunger.
Child deaths far higher in rural areas, says group

Medical Reporter

The infant mortality rate is far higher in the rural areas of South Africa than in the urban areas, according to an analysis submitted by a study group to the annual conference of the National Medical and Dental Council held in Johannesburg at the weekend.

The infant mortality rate is also higher among blacks, the group says.

The rate (death of infants below one year for 1,000 live births) among blacks was 100.2 and whites 20.1 for 1,000.

There is also a lower life expectancy in general in the rural areas.

Reflection

The excess of rural over urban deaths is a reflection of the inaccessibility of health services in rural areas," says the study group.

Of the natural causes of death, deaths due to heart and circulatory failure were most common among whites and Asians. Infectious diseases were the most common causes of death among blacks.

The rural health care needs, according to the group included:

- Services for chronic, degenerative diseases for a smaller part of the population.
- Primary health care facilities — with preventive and promotional services — and improved health care for children.
Desperate plight of PE starving

WIDESPREAD hunger is increasing daily in Port Elizabeth's black townships as unemployment soars and welfare organisations battle to feed the starving thousands.

The health of many people, particularly children, has been affected and there has been a serious escalation in the number of malnutrition and tuberculosis cases in the city's townships. Some deaths have been attributed to malnutrition.

There is a general mood of despondency and pessimism, and predictions have been made that, for many, 1985 will be a nightmare year.

Announcements of retrenchments have become commonplace, but with each one the starvation problem increases as the queues at charity feeding schemes grow longer.

Some welfare organisations have gone so far as to warn of a possible 'Ethiopian disaster' in the Eastern Cape unless something is done soon.

The public does not seem to be aware of the desperate plight of hundreds of hungry people living in and around Port Elizabeth. For most people, food is very much taken for granted but for many black mothers forced to watch the health of their children deteriorate because of malnutrition, even a slice of stale bread is precious.

Life has become a battle for survival for many township residents — a battle some will not win.

Welfare organisations report that the sheer weight of numbers of those needing help has made it difficult for the already hard-pressed groups to cope.

* Bessie Bouwer today takes an in-depth look at the problem. Her report — Page 11
How do you cope, when the City of Promise becomes a City of Despair?

By ALLAN SOULE

PORT ELIZABETH, once the symbol of promise of a better future for thousands of settlers and locals, is sinking into a city of suffering and crisis.

The ghosts of unemployment, poverty and hunger that have long haunted the country's fifth largest metropolitan area are now emerging in proportions far worse than predicted.

In the poorer quarters of all race groups, stomachs are empty.

Reports reveal that in extreme cases children are dying of malnutrition-related diseases.

The artificial aura of everyday normality, which has subdued the city since the first signs of economic crisis began to emerge late last year, is beginning to dissipate.

Rocketing unemployment and its dark consequences are driving thousands of the helpless and homeless into welfare offices throughout the city.

What less than four months ago was described as a trickle has turned into a flood of destitute humanity.

Poor whites

"According to weary social workers, the effects of recession in the city know no racial barriers."

Mrs Reha van der Merwe, head of social work representative of the Afrikaanse Christelike Vrouevereniging, an organisation that deals exclusively with white welfare cases, says her organisation is hard-pressed to meet the burgeoning needs of the poor-white community.

"The increase in pleas for assistance has grown dramatically. It is reason for great concern," she said.

"Every week about eight new families come to us for help and we are only one of many welfare organisations in Port Elizabeth."

"Unemployment is our greatest enemy and it's increasing at an alarming rate. Families are selling their furniture for food."

"In extreme cases where parents can no longer afford to feed their children we are sending them to rural boarding schools."  

Embattled

The recent announcement of Ford Motors Company's attempts to draw new industry

In fact, recently several new industries have moved to the complex and more are expected after the government's announcement of an improved incentive package for the region.

In the meanwhile, beyond the sprawling industrial waffle-grid complexes of the greater Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area, lie the vast black townships.

And judging by reports of widespread hunger and malnutrition, the shortage of food in the townships is already causing alarm.

Children

Operation Hunger organisers point out that the Eastern Cape and Border areas are among the neediest areas.

Recent statistics from Livingstone Hospital, Port Elizabeth's biggest black medical facility, show that 41 percent of children under the age of five admitted to the hospital are underdeveloped.

Severe cases of malnutrition and tuberculosis are on the increase and there is concern that the situation may get out of hand.

Mr C Stadler, local representative of Ford Motors, says: "We need money to feed these people."

Depressed

Mr Harold Davidson, director of the Community Service Council, says: "They come to us as a last resort, in some cases it's too late - children are dying from malnutrition-related diseases. We need money to feed them."

A homeless family build a makeshift shelter at a Port Elizabeth refuse dump.
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Poverty whites

According to weary social workers, the effects of recession in the city know no racial barriers.

Mrs Reitsma van der Merwe, head regional representative of the Afrikaanse Christelijke Vrouevoereeniging, an organisation that deals with the welfare aspects of white welfare cases, says her organisation is hard-pressed to meet the burgeoning needs of the poor-white community.

"The increase in pleas for assistance has grown dramatically. It is reason for great concern," she said.

"Every week about eight new families come to us for help and we are only one of many welfare organisations in Port Elizabeth.

"Unemployment is our greatest enemy and it is increasing at an alarming rate. Families are selling their furniture for food.

"In extreme cases where parents can no longer afford to feed their children, we are sending them to rural boarding schools.

Embattled

The recent announcement of the Ford Motor Company's merger with Amclear and the consequent loss of thousands of jobs in Port Elizabeth was accepted with brownbeats resignation by the region's embattled workforce.

One Ford worker soon after the news broke, "I'm glad the waiting is over, now we can plan for the future and try to get on with our lives.

Despite efforts by local industrial and civic leaders to soften the rumours developing for the past eight months, there is growing despair in the homes of workers throughout the area.

A homeless family build a makeshift shelter at Port Elizabeth refuse dump

The black male unemployment figure is already extremely high and this is now being aggravated by an increase in jobless women.

"Most work as domestic servants in white areas. Because of the recession, and financial pressures in white households, thousands are losing their jobs leaving families with no source of income.

"Malnutrition among black children is reaching alarming proportions," Mrs J Krembou, administrative secretary of the Port Elizabeth Charity Organisation, which runs a local feeding scheme, says her organisation is battling to cope with the flood of destitute and hungry people.

"The increase over the past few months has been marked. Babies are brought here for help," she said.

"They come to us as a last resort, in some cases it's too late — children are dying from malnutrition-related disease. We need money to feed these people."

Depressed

Mr Harold Davidson, director of the Community Chest, said, "We are doing everything in our power to raise money but it's unlikely that we will ever be able to keep up with demand.

"Our commercial and industrial sectors, where the bulk of our contributions come, are in a severely depressed state.

"On average the organisations we support have asked for about 50 percent more this year. It is impossible to meet these demands.

While the current unemployment figure for the Eastern Cape is 80,000, some social workers believe the figure to be at least three or
Reel unemployment problem to be discussed

A change of $2,500,000 was promised to Mrs. W. E. Stinson of Operation Hunger to raise the position of a new chairman in the functions of Operation Hunger. The change was due to the fact that Operation Hunger, through its cooperation with various community agencies, has been able to provide relief to many families who are in need of food. The chairman of Operation Hunger, Mr. W. E. Stinson, expressed his appreciation for the support received from various organizations and individuals.

The chairman of Operation Hunger also expressed his concern about the unemployment problem in the community. He stated that the problem is not only affecting the unemployed workers but also their families. The chairman called for the need for a more effective unemployment assistance program to help those who are affected by unemployment.

The meeting was held in the community center, and the chairman emphasized the importance of community cooperation in addressing the unemployment problem. He invited everyone to attend the next meeting to discuss the issue further.
Starving children in classrooms across

BY WENDY FRAENKEL

THE chronic hunger situation in Port Elizabeth has reached crisis proportions over the past two months.

And those most severely affected are young children of schooling age.

For teachers at many black, coloured and white schools, it is no longer unusual to find pupils collapsing in the classroom, many not having had breakfast that day or supper the night before.

One primary school teacher in Gelvandale told Weekend Post there had always been one or two children in a classroom who might not have eaten breakfast, but it was the first time lack of food among pupils had become obvious.

"At least half of my class are finding it difficult to concentrate. I don’t even have to ask why — the reason is written all over their faces and in their eyes," she said.

Hunger and malnutrition are also resulting in other problems. The children are continually complaining about tummy cramps and many of them are breaking out in sores.

"Many of my pupils complain of not having eaten any meat, vegetables or fruit for weeks and the staple diet appears to be maize, rice and bread.

,"I dread to think what it is doing to them in the winter with the resistance of the children being low and a consequent susceptibility to colds and chest complaints."

Other teachers said they were even bringing extra sandwiches to school for pupils to eat the "really bad cases."

A private organisation, known as Martha’s Hands, which has been running a feeding scheme at the school for many years, can now no longer supply enough food for the hungry pupils.

The organisation is only geared to supply 200 pupils with soup and bread but, according to Mrs Wendy Vroom, convener of the organisation, there were possibly three times as many children who now needed feeding but there were neither the funds nor the manpower to cope.

The headmaster of the school, Mr Robert Gysman, said his school was not the only school with a growing proportion of hungry children.

"We are probably a lot better off than many other schools where no feeding schemes exist," he said.

At the Bethvale Primary School in Chatty, the situation has become so desperate that teachers are now collecting money among themselves to buy soup to feed many of the children.

Mr William Sampson, headmaster of the school, said only a handful of the children could be fed in a situation where nearly 90% of the school were desperately hungry.

The plight of the hungry in the coloured areas has become so severe that there are moves to start state-subsidised soup kitchens at certain schools.

Headmasters from black schools in Port Elizabeth said that with the recent unrest at their schools it was still too early to establish whether more pupils were coming to school hungry.

They were also mindful that the situation would have markedly worsened.

Even white schools in Port Elizabeth are experiencing hunger problems among pupils.

The headmaster at Agora Park school said in the past there had been only one child who came to classes without lunch — normally brought in sandwiches to give. \n
Hungry pupils at primary school in Gelvandale stare eagerly at a box of sandwiches. A steaming bowl of soup could well be the first meal these children have had for the day.
children in MS across PE

Selina hasn’t eaten well for days

Post Reporter
SELINA has not eaten a square meal for days. Neither have her eight brothers and sisters.
Her father has been out of a job for a year and has slim chance of finding another in the present economic climate.

Her mother does odd jobs for friends and neighbours which brings in just enough to buy the odd pocket of potatoes or bag of mealie rice for the family’s evening meal – this unfortunately has to last the entire week.

It is not unusual for Selina and her brothers and sisters, who live in a two-bedroomed council house in Gelvandale, to arrive at school without having had breakfast, not even a dry crust of bread or a cup of black coffee.

Lunch might be a few scraps kindly donated by neighbours or relatives who can scarcely afford it themselves.

At least Selina’s baby brother has some semblance of a balanced diet – he lives off donated powdered milk and porridge.

Not only has Selina grown very thin but she constantly suffers from sores and colds. Her work has also dropped off considerably.

She is just too hungry to concentrate.

Mr Robert Gysman, headmaster of the school, said only a handful of the children could be fed in a situation where nearly 80% of the school were desperately hungry.

The plight of the hungry in the coloured areas has become so severe that there are moves to start state-subsidised soup kitchens at certain schools.

Headmasters from black schools in Port Elizabeth are experiencing hunger problems among pupils.

The headmaster at an Algoa Park school said that in the past there had always been the occasional child who came to school without lunch – teachers normally bought additional sandwiches to give them.

This year things had become so bad that teachers were no longer able to bring enough for all those needing sandwiches.

The headmaster reacted by approaching a local newspaper about the plight of some of the families who had children attending the school. Donations poured in and a bakery offered to donate bread for sandwiches for these children.

But the headmaster feels that this is only the start. Worse is still to come.

school in Gelvandale stare eagerly at a box of sandwiches. A sandwich plus a hot cup will be the first meal these children have had for the day.
Starving bushdwellers eating cats says Mopp

EAST LONDON — Poverty and starvation are forcing bushdwellers here to eat cats, according to community leaders.

The MP for Border in the House of Representatives, Mr. Peter Mopp, said he witnessed the practice in the bush off Parkside during the weekend where cats were being bred for consumption.

The practice was discovered by community worker Mr. Horatio Kroutz while he was delivering food parcels for his Christian-based humanitarian organisation, Emmaus Outreach, which works in conjunction with World Vision.

"There are about 400 adults and 200 children in that settlement deep in the bush and, because the food and other aid is normally not enough to go around, I had to try to check the most urgent cases."

"To my horror I found that the people were cooking cats."

Mr. Kroutz said the people were deep in the bush trying to dodge the East Cape Administration Board.

Mr. Mopp said he saw about 30 to 40 cats around one family and actually witnessed one being cooked. There were also cat pelt lying around.

"It is not only the starvation which is unreal but the other social problems in this area which are frightening. I have spoken to people about it and everybody seems to be at a loss," Mr. Mopp said.

Mr. Kroutz visited the area last night again when he accompanied a businessman, Mr. Clifford van der Sandt, to hand out food.

"Mr. Kroutz said his heart went out to the children in the settlement and this strengthened his continual call for a home for children in the Parkside area."

"It is heartbreaking to see these children being reared in such vicious circumstances and I think something must be done about it."

The director of the SPCA, Mrs. Rosemary Flack, said she had heard of such incidents before but had not been able to get to the bottom of them.

She said there was no law against eating cats but the law did come into play in the manner in which animals were slaughtered — DDR.
BLACK children in South Africa are generally far smaller and thinner than their white counterparts, due to malnutrition and other socio-economic factors.

That is according to Dr. Noel Cameron, a British expert on human growth who is now a senior lecturer in the Department of Anatomy at the University of the Witwatersrand's Medical School.

"The health of a population is reflected in the pattern of growth and development of its children and the physical characteristics of its adults," he says.

And for the majority of the South African population the prognosis is poor.

Black children in South Africa are way below the international average height, due to inadequate dietary conditions in both urban and rural environments.

But this does not apply to the country's white children, who are on a par with their counterparts in the United States and Europe, Dr. Cameron says.

Further, the smaller proportions of black children is not an international phenomenon. In the United States, there is no disparity between the size of its white and black children.

Hence, Dr. Cameron claims that black children in South Africa do have the genetic potential to be heavier and healthier.

He has initiated a number of studies relating to human growth and development, using data collected in South Africa.

They include a longitudinal analysis of the development of children suffering from kwashorkor in early childhood, so as to determine the future development of an individual child who suffers from this form of malnutrition.

In collaboration with Dr. Eric Rosen, of the Department of Paediatrics at Baragwanath Hospital, he is also monitoring the effect which an urban environment — such as Soweto — has on the growth and health of its children.

At a clinic in Muldersdrift, research is also being carried out to assess the nutritional status of children at risk of malnutrition.

He made a breakthrough in the area of tuberculosis following an analysis — organised by himself and a university student — of a sample of blacks in Bophuthatswana suffering from the disease.

It is already known that ectomorphic individuals (those with a linear build) are at a high risk of contracting pulmonary tuberculosis.

However, Dr. Cameron has also shown that those male and female patients with wide hips and narrow shoulders are more susceptible to TB than those of other body types.

A firm believer in the relationship of body type and disease, Dr. Cameron says that, since the ancient Greek civilization, people have been aware that one's body constitution relates to one's physical and mental health.

"For example, tall and thin individuals have been shown to be more susceptible to schizophrenia, while muscular types have more liability of becoming psychopaths."

And next time you're in a restaurant, observe not only how certain people eat but also the kinds of food they are consuming.

"The muscular types will probably be eating rapidly and aggressively, while fatter people are inclined to take their time," he says.

Dr. Cameron is the author of a book published last year and likely to increase the effectiveness of malnutrition studies in the country.

It is called "The Measurement of Human Growth" and constitutes the details of a standardised method to analyse data on malnutrition.

Until now, numerous studies have been made using different methods, often depending on the particular bias of the researcher, says Dr. Cameron.

As a result, no definitive conclusions have been reached.

His expertise on the subject of growth has been in demand at universities throughout the world. He has been a visiting lecturer at eight universities, including Cambridge, the University of London, the University of Turin in Italy and three universities in Canada.

He has spent the past 10 years as a clinical auxologist and lecturer in the department of growth and development at London University's Institute of Child Health, where he worked with Professor J M Tanner, a well-known specialist in this area.
Rioting and unrest sweep Eastern Cape

A spokesman for the Police Directorate in Pretoria said that after the assault the rioters burnt the house down. He said that three other houses were also extensively damaged by fire.

Langa Township near Uitenhage was hit by a wave of unrest early on Monday, but police said that by late yesterday the situation was back to normal. Five people were arrested for public violence.

In one incident on Monday morning, about 100 people surrounded the house and set it alight. Burning to death a woman inside, police said.

The crowd set alight three vehicles near the house and stoned a car passing the scene.

Later, rampaging youths burnt down a policeman's house and that of his neighbour.

Police fired birdshot in two stone-throwing incidents during the morning, arresting a 28-year-old man and two others.

And late in the evening, police used birdshot to disperse a mob of about 200 youths who were stoning cars - including police vehicles.

Hundreds of students at two high schools in Graaff-Reinet have been boycotting classes since Monday in sympathy with Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth, Cradock and other areas.

Students at Asberwills High School also demanded the dismissal of their headmaster, Mr F.W. Daniels, and the reinstatement of coloured teachers he had replaced with whites.

"We reject whites at the school because they are paid more than coloureds," a student leader said. "We don't want second-hand education - we want equal education."

He said students were also demanding the reinstatement of Mr Matthew Goniwe, the Cradock headmaster whose dismissal a few months ago has been a key issue in Eastern Cape unrest.
EAST LONDON — If you live in the bush at Parkside, it’s a struggle to secure even the most basic necessities of life.

Getting water means a walk with a bucket to the houses in the surrounding area, knocking on doors and asking to be allowed to buy a bucketful. The going rate is 10c. Mrs Grace Limkaya, a member of the newly elected committee of five representing the bush dwellers, said:

Sometimes people refuse to sell water “There are so many who come,” she said.

“It is a heavy load,” she says as she looks over the valley where the bush-dwellers live, to the township beyond and the shimmering East London skyline in the distance.

Next to her is the roughly constructed shelter that is her home. It is hardly high enough to sit up straight in, and is crammed full of people.

There are nine who depend on her to survive, she says. A brother, his wife, children and other relatives — all of whom have been able to find work.

Her brother sometimes works on the municipal tip, salvaging scrap for sale. She manages to find work a day at a time. She makes cushions for sale, often there is nothing.

She has been in the bush since 1968 “We live here because we can’t find a house. We don’t want to live like animals.”

“Everybody wants to work and get a proper house.”

Last year, when officials demolished shelters in the area, she was in jail “It was the dompas I came out and my house was gone.”

She denies that people in the bush have ever eaten cats “I never saw such a thing. We keep the cats to hunt the snakes while we are asleep.”

Mrs Limkaya hopes, however, that the future will be better. The committee can help the people to get what they want.

The main needs, she says, are water, blankets, a place to stay and work.

“We are asking our community to help us, and praying to God to help us too. We want to be people like others,” she says. — DDR
Policies ‘hamper quality of life’

THERE was sufficient evidence that influx-control laws, the policies of homeland consolidation and the “forced removal of people” negated or seriously hampered attempts to improve the quality of life of the poor, according to the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa (SCIPDSA).

The first post-conference report issued by the SCIPDSA — based on the research of more than 400 academics, professional people and community workers countrywide, and drawn from discussions at last year’s Carnegie Conference — was compiled by Mr R Fincham, the author of “Food and Nutrition in South Africa: Assessment and Policy Recommendations.”

“It is hoped that this report (The Food and Nutrition Group, FNG) has outlined in sufficient detail the dimensions of the nutrition problem facing the country, and that it will facilitate dialogue between academics, community workers and decision-makers,” he said.

The FNG — under the chairmanship of Professor John Reid, deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town — calls for:

○ “Health programmes that are not imposed from above, but actively involve the community at grassroots level.

 ○ Clean drinking water for all. This itself may be sufficient to prevent diarrhoea.

 ○ Health education, especially for mothers, and more effective use of available medical personnel in promoting immunization and breastfeeding.

 ○ A countrywide food-stamp system which can be targeted at the most needy groups in society like the aged, unemployed, tuberculous sufferers, those who live on disability grants, pre-school children and selected pregnant mothers.

 ○ Diet supplements for pre-school and school-going children, especially at schools identified as having significant numbers of underweight children, and

 ○ Regular monitoring of the growth of all schoolchildren and the compulsory notification of all those below 60 percent of expected weight for age without specific disease causes.”

Mr Fincham argued that the proposed short-term recommendations for improved nutrition could not be separated from long-term policy changes.

“Sufficient evidence exists to support the contention that influx-control laws, together with policies of homeland consolidation and the forced removal of people, negate or seriously hamper all attempts to improve the level of living of the poor.

“It is therefore recommended that the severe restriction on the process of urbanization of the poor, paralleled by significant rural development and the curtailment of the repatriation of people to the homelands, are the most important long-term policy changes that could provide for improvements in nutritional status,” he said.

Drawn on the findings of the Carnegie Conference papers, Mr Fincham found that nutritional conditions varied geographically. Homelands were the worst areas to raise children, and severe malnutrition — kwashiorkor and marasmus — were a major problem in resettlement areas.

Community surveys of pre-school children in the Elim Hospital area of Gazankulu and the Drieteen Tribal Trust Area showed one-third of children to be underweight.

Half the children in Gelukspan, Bophuthatswana, were underweight, and 10 percent of pre-school children surveyed in Tselelewele, Ciskei, had signs of kwashiorkor.

A study in Natal and KwaZulu showed that rural adults tended to be more stunted in growth than their urban counterparts — about a quarter of rural men were underweight. In contrast, a fifth of rural women were obese, and in urban areas this rose to a third.

Mr Fincham concluded that obesity — the result of a diet high in carbohydrates and lacking sufficient protein — was a serious nutritional problem, especially among urban women.

“State policies which bring about the resettlement of substantial numbers of people, restrict the freedom of individuals to seek employment where they want to, and other facets of apartheid are restraints on better standards of living and nutrition for the poor,” he said. — Sapa
Most blame sickness for lost jobs

58% of Sowetans living below par

By Kate McKnennell

Fifty-eight percent of Sowetan households live below the Household Effective Line (HEL), a study last year showed.

At a conference on families in Johannesburg yesterday, Dr David Webster, senior lecturer in social anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand, said the HEL is an estimate of a "reasonable" standard of living including school and transport costs.

Dr Webster said his study showed that 33.9% percent of Sowetans were unemployed last year. If participation in the informal sector was discounted, this rose to 51.6 percent unemployed.

"In the survey we asked unemployed people why they had lost their jobs. Only 12 percent attributed it to the recession, while 60 percent said illness was the cause.

"We wonder if this is related to the high incidence of malnutrition among black adults," said Dr Webster.

While Government statistics show the population of Soweto at just over a million, the study estimates the actual population to be between 1.6 million and 2.2 million. Other statistics:

• The population density is 100 people a hectare, compared to 23 people a hectare in central Johannesburg.
• On average there are 10 people to a house.
• About 23,000 families are living illegally in Soweto.
48 pc of coloureds below poverty line

Forty-five percent of coloured people are unemployed and 48 percent live below the Poverty Datum Line, research involving 38 families has shown.

Representatives of the Centre of Social Development (CSD) told the "Families in the City" seminar at the University of the Witwatersrand yesterday that families they studied were a representative sample of families in Western Township and Eldorado Park.

Mrs Jessie Duarte, a community leader, said coloured people battled to find work because companies tended to employ whites first and then look for qualified blacks.

Mrs Mendelle Menделow said the average wage for coloured parents in the sample was R445.

"But 27 percent of household income was found to come from alternative sources such as relatives, tenant rental and maintenance payment," said Mrs Mendelow.

Of the coloured families, 84 percent lived in rented accommodation and 79 percent lived in houses with four or fewer rooms (not bedrooms).
Budget proposal from academics

Staff Reporter

A 15 percent increase in spending on health services for Africans and a 52 percent increase in social welfare payments to Africans would also be possible.

The alternative budget, which projects government spending until 1990, concludes that an average increase of 10.7 percent on per capita expenditure on African education between 1983 and 1990 would be possible.

The budget proposes allocations that would enable spending on education, housing, health and social welfare to rise from 43 percent to 41 percent of the State's total expenditure.

The proposal, which will be released later this week as an academic paper entitled "Justice, Development and the National Budget", has been written by University of Cape Town economists Mr. Charles Simkins, Ms. Dalia Hendrie and Mr. Ira) Abedian and University of the Western Cape researcher Professor Pieter le Roux.

It will be released as part of the Post-Carnegie Conference Series.

A statement released by the Carnegie inquiry says the authors chose education, health and welfare as the focus of their budget because they believed increased government spending in these areas would "go a long way towards achieving the goals of justice and development".

No faltering.

The authors say the tremendous increase in government spending on education since 1976 should not be allowed to falter.

Assuming that expenditure on white, coloured and Asian pupils remained constant, a projected increase of as much as 13.2 percent a year on African education could be possible.

In addition, if levies of about 10 or 15 percent were imposed on white pupils, "as a reflection of their privileged position", the authors say it would be possible to make "substantial progress towards equality on per capita expenditure between the races by 1990".

Spending on health services could be increased on average by 4.5 percent a year — which would allow for a 15 percent improvement in spending per person.

Expenditure on social welfare could increase by between 2.4 percent and 7.2 percent each year. As in the case of education, all improvements could be assumed to accrue to Africans.

Serviced sites

The authors say the area of greatest need in the State's housing policy is the provision of serviced sites — of which some 64,000 will have to be provided each year. They calculate that the State could finance at least 46 percent of the serviced sites required to accommodate South Africa's growing population.

The necessary revenue for this would come from additional taxes including fringe-benefits, taxation, a capital-gains tax, a tax on agricultural returns, to be levied in such a way that the productive farmer would pay less tax than at present, and a heavier estate tax.
RURAL POVERTY (241)

Call to action

Business and academic sources are again considering establishing a private sector Rural Foundation, similar to the Urban Foundation. It would be a vehicle for the general upliftment of predominantly black rural areas.

Says John Hanks of Natal University’s Institute of Natural Resources. “One of the greatest threats to the long-term stability of SA is the environmental and associated social problems resulting from the neglect of the rural areas. We can no longer afford this state of affairs.”

More than 50% of SA’s blacks live in rural areas where abject poverty, unemployment and environmental degradation mark a deteriorating situation. Hanks says there is an urgent need for action.

He has received powerful support from Santam chief executive Fred du Plessis. At the recent “Mandate for Growth” conference in Johannesburg, Du Plessis proposed the establishment of an organisation that can look at the whole rural problem on a permanent, on-going basis.

The rural socio-economic problem is aggravated by rapid population growth, and Du Plessis wants a “suitable body” to coordinate rural economic growth and family planning.

Saying that “the matter must be lifted out of the political arena,” he adds that a Rural Foundation should have a definite timetable aimed at the solution of the rural poverty cycle. The organisation’s goals must be formed by the private sector in association with government, says Du Plessis.

Underlining the urgency of the problem, Hanks says Africa is in a “self-reinforcing process of desiccation, literally drying out the continent.” This is the result of increasing numbers of people trying to live off rapidly decreasing natural resources.

He adds, “The neglect of rural development in many parts of Africa and the associated degradation of the environment has undoubtedly stimulated and accelerated rural-to-urban migration. Those left behind are becoming trapped in a vicious circle of poverty, which is characterised by a loss of human dignity and self-respect, stagnating or even declining agricultural production, low productivity, malnutrition, loss of forests and soil, low incomes and high birth and death rates.”

“Twenty-three of the world’s 35 least developed countries are in Africa, and despite years of intensive effort, most of them are going backwards, or at best standing still, when accepted indices of development such as the gross national product, food production per capita, education and infant mortality are concerned.”

Statistics paint a dismal picture. Although Africa was nearly self-sufficient in food production in 1970, the Food and Agriculture Organisation calculates that the continent’s food production has been falling by 1% a year since then. By 1984, food imports reached 24 Mt, while 140m Africans (out of a total population of 531m) depended on imported grain.

Says Hanks, “Importing food is one thing, but depending on food aid is another. In 1983-1984, the total food aid requirements for 22 African countries was estimated at 3.2 Mt, more than double the food aid they received in the previous 12-month period.”

He adds that indices of malnutrition and infant mortality are already among the highest in the developing world and are not expected to decline significantly in the next decade.

Hanks notes that the causes rather than the symptoms of the problem be tackled. Long-term solutions should be linked to halting environmental degradation, introducing programmes of sustainable rural development and reducing the population growth rate.

Population growth is “a highly sensitive issue in SA,” he says, “but we cannot afford to wait for political change to take place before a major national commitment is made to a population policy, because by then it might be too late.”
Relief for tenants hit by recession

Staff Reporter

HOUSING Minister Mr David Curry is planning measures to help recession-hit tenants who are unable to pay their rents.

Local authorities have been called on not to evict people until these steps are announced.

Mr Curry, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives, said in a statement today that tenants in municipal housing schemes who could not meet their rent payments must submit proof of their situations to their local management committees without delay.

RELIEF MEASURES

He called on local authorities not to evict tenants until the department announced relief measures under consideration.

He had asked the National Housing Commission (NHIC), which has funded most municipal housing schemes, to approve in principle the downward adjustment of rents on an ad hoc basis — so that where tenants could prove their earnings had dropped, they could pay lower rent as soon as the following month.

POLICY

According to the chief director of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the administration of the House of Representatives, Mr Carel du Preez, the general policy of the NHIC does not allow for this at present.

Tenants' rents, which go towards repaying municipal housing loans from the NHIC, were calculated in proportion to their income.

Although some municipalities provided for rent reductions as soon as breadwinners' wages decreased, this was not generally done because it was not the formal policy of the NHIC, Mr du Preez said.
Coloured people in rural areas ‘neglected and in need’ — MP

The abundance of apartheid legislation, especially the Group Areas Act, “make us slaves in our own country”

Mr Erasmus said “We have become disillusioned at what we have to remedy. How will the Minister do it? The money has been spent on ideology — like homelands. It seems to me that we have come into the new dispensation at the wrong time. There is no money.”

In sub-economic coloured suburbs of Port Elizabeth there were two-roomed houses inhabited by 32 people. The conditions caused frustration and gave rise to the “housing pathology” — TB, drinking and incest.

BOYCOTT

“Men turn to drink because they earn too little, their families are too big and their accommodation too small. This is the breeding place for rats where people live like animals.”

He said regardless of the efforts made by the UDF to boycott the coloured election last year, 10 000 people in the Swartkop area and 16 000 people in the Port Elizabeth area went to the polls.

“Isn’t that a passport to participate?”

Mr Julius moved that the debate be adjourned until after the recess — Sapa.
Alexandra scheme feeds 15 000 children a day

By Olga Horowitz

Overcrowded Alexandra, a township on the edges of Johannesburg and Sandton, has had an African Children's Feeding Scheme centre deep in the township for nearly 40 years. Initially the centre was moved from place to place, but in 1966 Mr P Nkutha, an active churchman and member of the Alexandra Health Committee, agreed to the building of a tin hut in the grounds of his home in 16th Avenue. It is still in use.

And the Nkutha family have maintained their support and interest. Mrs P Nkutha, despite her years, has continued to give practical help, and her son Mandla, his support. Another dedicated worker, Mrs Clarice Nkutha, died in 1982.

Today the ACFS feeds 15 000 children each day. The recession, with the sharp increase in food prices, has also brought about an increase in the number of children whose parents can no longer afford the subsidised meal. One third of the children presently fed do not contribute, says Mr A M Roscholt, chairman, in his annual report.

Health teams continue to uncover children in need.

The "health" aspect is emphasised to avoid any stigma of relief. Milk powder is distributed to pre-school children.

For more than 20 years the scheme has employed trained nurses and needs many more.

Prominent Johannesburg citizens belong to the men's and women's fund-raising committees and there are hard-working committees in many of the townships. But in spite of these, and generous donations, there was a deficit of R28 560 in 1984. The scheme spends more than R700 000 a year.
Once they saved R155 a month

The middle-class family of four relax in their comfortable suburban home. They used to have money to spare but their economic situation has deteriorated and costs continue to spiral. Now money is limited and months go by with expenses often totalling more than their income.

“We used to save R155 every month — but with prices continually increasing we often have to use our savings to cover the extra costs,” said Mr Peter Jones of Pinelands.

The family’s monthly income is R1 900 but budgeted monthly expenses presently total R2 041.64, and unexpected expenses often cause the Joneses to dip even further into their savings.

**Groceries**

Grocery prices increase continually and cost the family R360 a month. Tax is still deep as Mr Jones hands over R281.96 every month and the high cost of being well-insured totals R159.58. The mortgage bond is R206.

The running of a car means budgeting R150 a month on petrol and paying R111 a month on the motor car loan. Another large expense is the pension which is R142.38.

The Joneses set aside R200 for miscellaneous costs such as clothing for the children and themselves. Other costs which use the rest of a month’s salary are electricity, telephone, domestic servants, medical aid and car servicing.

**School uniforms**

Annual expenditures such as car licences, third party, TV licence, school fees and sporting facility fees ensure that savings account figures dwindle even further.

The Jones family cut back on petrol by walking as often as possible and buying second-hand school uniforms.

Holidays are a luxury of the past for the Jones family and they realise that if they want to spend time away from home with the whole family it could take up to five years of saving before they can afford it.

Combined pension is R340, rent R188

The charming pensioner couple sit in their modest Parow flat. Together Mr and Mrs John Russell draw a pension of R340 a month.

“Our basic costs are R500 a month — it would be impossible to live if we did not have savings to draw from,” said Mrs Esme Russell.

Budgeted costs include the “continually rising rent” — R188. The Russells spend R150 on grocery bills — including meat.

Most groceries are bought during bargain time and the place which receives continual praise from them is the Tygerberg Service Centre where they eat twice weekly for R1 each.

**Telephone**

The centre provides inexpensive meals and entertainment for the aged in the Tygerberg area.

“We used to have R5 or R6 left over after our monthly expenses, but now we have nothing,” said Mr Russell.

The bi-monthly domestic servant costs R38 a month and the telephone — which they use “very sparingly” — costs R11.

Other expenses include medical bills and “pocket money” for Mr Russell.

**Pocket money**

“My wife has always dealt with the finances and she gives me pocket money for golf and other minor expenses.”

“If our rent went up I don’t know where we would go — old age homes are so expensive.”

If the Russells had lived “hand to mouth” when they were younger they would never have managed in today’s economic climate.

“I think God will provide for us,” said Mr Russell.

Making ends meet — after four years

The Brackenfell family of four have only just started getting onto their feet after four years of marriage. Mr and Mrs Michael Jacobson are finally making ends meet with as little as R21 left over from their combined monthly income of R1 462 — if anything at all.

They have no savings behind them to draw from if unexpected expenses crop up at the end of a month.

“We can only cut down on something that is in our budget — otherwise we just would not have the money,” said Mrs Jacobson.

The monthly house instalment costs R174 and the car instalment R200.

Over and above budgeting R80 for monthly petrol expenses, the Jacobsons spend R41 on public transport.

Combined pension payments total R105 and both hold separate insurance policies which cost R88.50 a month.

Other combined costs include tax which is high for married couples — R113.50 — and medical aid of R40.25.

Groceries are the single largest expense of R160, followed by furniture hire purchase instalments which total R120 every month.

**Church donation**

The Jacobsons budget R143 to cover clothing and Buy-Aid expenses and R80 is donated to their church every month.

Electricity, refuse, telephone and subscription shares take the remainder of their salary.

With expenses continually increasing and the two children having to start school in a few years, the Jacobsons don’t know when they will start “serious saving.”
Plan to fight rural poverty

EAST LONDON 18/9/55

The deepening recession was forcing city workers to return to their homes in the rural areas, which were unable to support those already living there, the regional office of Operation Hunger said here yesterday.

In view of the present situation, Operation Hunger's regional committee had decided to expand its self-help projects and attempt to create a greater awareness of the extent of poverty in the rural areas around East London.

Artwork by rural residents was being successfully marketed in America, while beadwork by Ndebele women was recently sold for R27 000 in the Transvaal, the statement said.

Artwork among people in the rural areas was one of Operation Hunger's self-help projects.

Last month Mr. Harold Winearls was elected chairman of Operation Hunger's regional committee here. — DDR
Bread subsidy cash to fight hunger proposed

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent
THE Carnegie Inquiry has proposed a children's feeding scheme sponsored from government funds currently used for the bread subsidy as a strategy for countering South Africa's massive malnutrition problem.

An Oxford University researcher, Mr Peter Moll, has calculated that a supplementary feeding scheme for children would cost about R176 million — and could be drawn from the more than R1606 million spent annually on the subsidy.

In the latest paper to come out of the Carnegie Inquiry which is aimed at generating strategies against poverty, Mr Moll proposes a supplementary children's feeding scheme as "a simple, reasonably inexpensive solution to the severe problem of malnutrition in South Africa."

In addition, it would have the related benefits of higher attendance at school and greater pupil motivation and concentration.

He recommends that the government pay 100 percent of the initial capital costs and 75 percent of the running costs. An organized group of teachers and parents at schools or institutions would raise the balance.

This would guarantee community participation in the scheme and act as a catalyst for future community projects.

Mr Moll suggests that a food stamp scheme — targeted specifically at needy groups in society such as pregnant mothers, pensioners and TB sufferers — could complement a supplementary school feeding scheme.

He warns, however, that school feeding schemes have their drawbacks and limitations. Most serious is that they often fail to reach those most in need of "nutritional supplementation", reaching instead the "survivors."

"Children of school-going age are those who have survived the ravages of malnutrition. Their weight, vigour and levels of concentration might not be up to standard, but they will probably not die from malnutrition."

"Children who are too poor to go to school, and those under school-going age, are more vulnerable to malnutrition-related diseases."

Mr Moll cites government figures which suggest that more than two million of the country's nine to 10 million children are underweight for age.

"It would be ludicrous to attribute a problem as acute and vast as this to ignorance or good eating habits or laziness."
Price rise rate slows, food costs go down

Financial Editor

The rate of increase in consumer prices slowed dramatically last month, giving South Africa its lowest monthly inflation rate for several years.

Consumer prices, after rising a record 3.2 percent in February, rose only 0.43 percent in March, while food prices actually went down by 0.44 percent, official figures show.

This is the smallest monthly increase in the consumer price index since the late 1970s, which will be good news for the authorities, say economists, as it shows that their policy of squeezing inflation out of the economy is beginning to work.

Economists point out that the Government is curbing demand as much as possible in order to stop importers increasing prices.

Because of a number of increases in administered prices, April's inflation rate is likely to be above the March figure. But, with the Government's squeeze expected to intensify in the next few months, price increases in May and June could well be no greater than the modest March increase.

However, in view of the country's poor history of combating inflation, no economist would be likely to forecast such an event.

The consumer price index (1980 = 100) rose from 183.6 to 183.6 last month, to stand 13.1 percent above the figure for a year ago. This is a reduction from the 15.5 percent increase in prices in the year ended February.

The food index last month dropped from 169.6 to 168.9.
Survey shows 27 live in one flat at Hout Bay harbour

By MICHAEL MORRIS, Municipal Reporter

The Hout Bay harbour community is living in conditions which are so overcrowded that one flat is housing 27 people, a Divisional Council survey has found.

Plans to proclaim more land for coloured people in Hout Bay have been submitted to the Government and more houses are being built as a result of the survey, which showed that 450 houses, a school and three playgrounds were needed.

Divisional Councillor Mr Len Pothier says the Hout Bay coloured community is "bursting at the seams and needs more space".

BUILDING 101 MAISONETTES

"Expansion must happen. There are probably more coloured people living in the harbour area than whites living in the rest of the valley.

"We are looking at a timescale of five years for our plan to provide more housing and facilities—two years to plan, find funds and buy the land and three years to build the township.

"In the medium term we will be building 101 maisonettes to relieve the shortage in the harbour area and money is being set aside for other improvements."

Mr Pothier said the report on the survey had been handed to Mr David Curry, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, who would present it to Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning.

NEW COLOURED TOWNSHIP

The report calls for a new coloured township in Hout Bay and suggests various sites, but Mr Pothier said, details would remain confidential to prevent the upset of any necessary property deal.

A new township would require proclamation of a new group area.

In another development, 40 squatter families living near the harbour community are being moved to a site and service scheme at Philippi.

Mr Pothier said this followed "threats of court action from North Shore residents and police over shebeen, drug abuse and prostitution by squatters."
Milk increase feared

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA — Consumers facing another increase in the price of milk in June are growing weary of the endless cycle of price rises and the routine explanations for them.

The present price of 68c a litre for home-delivered milk is likely to increase by another 6c — the fourth increase since July last year.

The price of milk in cartons will also increase by this amount.

Supermarkets, which sell milk at almost cost price, are now charging between 71c and 74c a litre. Cafes charge considerably more and the present recommended price is 85c a litre.

In spite of the increases since mid-1984, farmers, distributors and small retailers complain of hardship.

Each group in the chain of supply seems to have good arguments for increases, and the plight of the consumer — battling with an inflation rate running at about 16 percent — is also well known.

Farmers are suffering under the same burden of inflation, and say their problems deserve to be understood by consumers.

Although the retail price of milk is between 68c and 95c a litre, farmers receive only 39c a litre, according to Mr. Bossie, the chairman of the Dairy Committee for the South African Agricultural Union, Dr. Louis Theron.

The last producer price increase of 3c a litre was granted by the government in July 1984. But farmers had to pay back 2c a litre into the Dairy Board's stabilization fund to buy up surplus dairy products.

After other levies were paid, dairy producers received only 38c a litre — and at such price it was impossible to make a profit, said Dr. Theron.

There is growing dissatisfaction among farmers about their representation on the Dairy Board. They feel distributors dominate decision-making and do not put the interests of farmers first.

For example, in November last year an application for a producer price increase was turned down. Yet distributors have been granted two increases since then — 2c a litre on all deliveries last November and another 2c on milk cartons in February.

"We have asked for the composition of the Dairy Board to be changed. Farmers are reliant on the board for increases, yet the distributor and retail price of milk is not price-controlled," said Mr. Bossie.

Price control was lifted in July 1983, but distributors bound themselves to a two-year period during which they agreed not to ask for Government approval for further increases.
Plea on coal price rise

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — With winter looming, black consumers — already reeling under the effects of inflation and increases in gas and paraffin — are to appeal to the Government to reconsider the average 13 percent coal price rise gazetted on Monday.

Mr Eldridge Mathebula, executive director of the Black Consumer Union, said the union intended to seek a meeting with the Minister of Mineral Resources about the matter.

"We black people depend on coal and winter is at the door. We are also charged exorbitant prices by the merchants," he said.

There has also been criticism of the Government from the Housewives Union. If the Government cannot control administered prices, how can it expect private companies to keep prices down, it asked?

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives League, said: "We have just had increases in paraffin and oil, which have especially hit the consumers in the townships and rural areas hard — and now coal."

"We cannot carry on with this constant procession of price increases which the consumer is supposed to just happily absorb. When you consider inflation, unemployment and money not buying what it did how are we supposed to survive?"

"Coal is another area where an administered price will push up our inflation rate. It will affect other industries and manufacturers."

A spokesman for the Transvaal Coal Owners Association said the increases announced over the various grades of coal averaged 13 percent. But the increases of top grade coal were greater than the increases of the lower grade.

Grade D coal, which was used by many consumers in the townships would rise by 10.3 percent. The higher grade coal, bearing the greatest increase of 15 percent, was mainly used by people with complex boilers and mechanical equipment requiring sophisticated types of coal.

He said the Government determined the price increases.

"The last coal increase was in April 1984. Over the last six years the price increase has been below the consumer price index. This year we expect it will be below as well if we go by the economists.

He said the rise was necessary because of the increased costs of producing coal.
Call for State-backed feeding scheme

MORE than one in five of South Africa's children are well underweight for age.

The serious problem of malnutrition in the country has prompted Mr Peter Moll, a writer connected with the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa, to suggest a Government-backed feeding scheme.

This scheme, which Mr Moll feels should be paid for from the State's annual bread subsidy, would have great benefits like higher attendance at school and more pupil motivation and concentration.

More than R 100 m is allocated to cushion the cost of bread every year.

According to Mr Moll, his feeding plan would cost R 17 m annually.

In a recent paper he said it would be ludicrous to attribute the fact that over two million of the country's nine or 10 million children show signs of malnutrition to reasons such as ignorance of good eating habits or laziness.

"Malnutrition, and the poverty which is its cause and effect, is not an isolated phenomenon," he said.

Despite his propagating the idea of the new feeding scheme, Mr Moll also acknowledges that small-scale nutritional programmes alone will not bring about improved nutrition for South Africa.

Economic reforms are also desirable, and he sees his idea as merely a contribution to the long-term development of a comprehensive, integrated nutrition policy package aimed at eradicating malnutrition in the country.

"Children most susceptible to malnutrition-related diseases are those too poor to go to school, and those under school-going age.

"Those who do attend school may often be underweight, but they will probably not die of malnutrition," said Mr Moll.

NEED

School feeding schemes, he feels, therefore, often do not reach the children who need them.

Mr Moll has suggested that the Government pay the entire initial cost of the scheme, and thereafter 75 percent of the running costs.

Teachers and parents connected to particular institutions would have to raise the rest.
More whites in 'social distress'

By DIRK VAN ZYL
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — A Gov-
ernment investigation
has found that there is
“no crisis situation”
among whites in the
Port Elizabeth-Uiten-
hage area, but that
there has been an in-
crease in the number
of whites finding them-
selves in “social dis-
stress”

This was said today by the
Deputy Minister of
Health Services and
Welfare in the white
“own affairs” admin-
istration, Dr George
Morrison

In a statement, Dr Morri-
son said that according
to recent media re-
ports, some white fam-
ilies in the Port Eliza-
beth-Uitenhage area
found themselves in se-
rious material diffi-
culty and the position
was attributed to the
deteriorating economic
climate

The House of Assembly’s
Ministers’ Council had
therefore, at the
request of the previous
chairman (the late Dr
Nak van der Merwe),
decided that the
Department of Health
Services and Welfare
should investigate the
matter locally

Thus had just been com-
pleted, Dr Morrison
said, and it revealed
that “no crisis situation
exists, but that an
increase of people who
find themselves in so-
cial distress has taken
place”

As a result of the rise in
the number of people qualify-
ing for social rel-
lief in the area, the
white Minister’s Counc-
.il had decided to meet
the need by allocating
additional funds

Dr Morrison said people
who found themselves in
material difficulties
and who had not yet
departed in the de-
partment’s social relief
scheme were requested
to approach the De-
partment’s Regional
Representative, Eben
Donges Building, North
End, Port Elizabeth
0 543321

(Report by Dirk van Zyl,
Press Gallery, Parliament,
Cape Town)
‘Desperate shortage’ of coloured housing

A University of the Western Cape report has shown a critical lack of accommodation for coloured families, single people and the elderly. By Education Reporter GAYE DAVIS.

AT LEAST 100 000 homes are needed to eradicate the critical shortage and severe overcrowding of coloured housing in the Western Cape, according to a pioneering report by the University of the Western Cape’s Institute for Social Development.

The report reveals a desperate lack of housing for families and especially for single people and the elderly, thousands of whom are living in overcrowded conditions.

It debunks the traditional approach to providing housing, which has long rested on planners’ assumptions of the size and make-up of families, and starkly illustrates how types of housing most needed — those catering for people other than families — has not been provided.

The report forms part of a five-volume study commissioned by the Human Sciences Research Council, which is expected to rank as the most comprehensive research yet carried out on coloured housing in the region.

Expected to be generally available within the next few weeks, the report offers the first in-depth focus on the specific housing requirements of coloured people in the Western Cape.

Its authors were the institute’s director, Professor Pieter le Roux, senior researcher Mr. Laub Loots and researcher Miss Amanda Young, who is now attached to the City Council’s Department of Housing.

Among its findings are:

- The housing shortage in the Cape Metropolitan area is anything from 30 000 to more than 50 000 units, depending on families’ make-up. Households surveyed were made up of nuclear families, single-parent families, single men and women and the aged and about 150 000 extra bedrooms would be needed to accommodate them, Professor Le Roux said.

- Of 90 000 single people over 35 years old, 65 000 were living in overcrowded conditions and 7 000 of more than 21 500 elderly people were in similar circumstances.

- Surveys showed that more than 10 000 two-parent families were lodgers in other families’ overcrowded homes.

- More than 20 000 single-parent families in financial straits need homes.

However, to simply build more one and two-bedroomed homes would be short-sighted, Professor Le Roux said.

“There are too many of these and not enough three and four-bedroomed houses which is resulting in the overcrowding,” he said.

One solution would be adding bedrooms to overcrowded homes but there was also a “tremendous shortage” of alternative accommodation such as flats for single people and old-age homes, he said.

However, the people most in need of housing were likely to be those least able to afford it.

Professor Le Roux based his research on 1970 and 1980 census data surveys and information on housing from various municipalities.

His colleague, Mr. Loots, used census data to estimate housing needs for Greater Cape Town, including areas such as Wellington, Cape Town and the Strand. His research revealed that:

- More than 40 000 homes for families and 60 000 other housing units, mainly for single people and the elderly, are needed.

- The shortage of subsidised housing increased from 25 percent in 1979 to 33 percent in 1983.

- Developments considered up to 1983 showed the situation for families living above the poverty datum line had improved, while for those below it had worsened.
Pupils faint from hunger — PSFA

By CHRIS ERASMUS

Medical Reporter

FOR the first time in several years, reports are reaching the Peninsula School Feeding Association of children fainting at schools because of malnutrition.

In the past month, about 6,000 more children joined the school feeding programme and it is probable that, in the present economic circumstances, many more would soon join, the PSFA organizer, Mr N F H Freeman, said yesterday.

"We have received a number of reports from headmasters of a relatively large percentage of their pupils arriving at school without having had breakfast and having no lunch. Some of these children have been fainting as a result."

"There is no doubt that the poor economic situation of the country is having a marked effect on families in the Peninsula, particularly in Atlantis and Mitchells Plain," he said.

"Malnutrition and TB have been linked by medical authorities. It is therefore possible to assume that the present situation will aggravate the task of those combating TB in the Peninsula."

"The worst malnutrition is seen in country schools, especially the farm schools," said Mr Freeman.

The PSFA was now feeding about 140,000 children in about 260 schools, with at least 5,000 loaves of bread used daily in its programme.

While the PSFA still had some money set aside, most of this was earmarked for the construction of 26 kitchens at schools in Khayelitsha, each at a cost of about R6,000.

Mr Freeman said the Association was not now in desperate financial trouble, but with a number of price increases "in the pipeline" and the increasing numbers of children in the feeding programme, it was important to keep "the fund-raising wheel turning."

"The people who were boiling the eggs which we were feeding the children pulled out of the programme, forcing us to substitute with skimmed milk powder, which is more expensive."

The Dairy Board Stabilization Fund is subsidizing the cost of this by 50 percent but only for as long as there is a surplus.

"We are facing other price increases. People do not realize it, but an increase in the bread price of just 1c a loaf costs us about R13,000 a year," he said.

The PSFA is totally dependent on public support and receives no aid from the government or the Community Chest.

Those wishing further information should telephone the PSFA at 25-3964 or send donations directly to PO Box 4055, Cape Town.
Apples donated to the needy

The first consignment of a gift of almost 350,000 apples was handed over to Operation Hunger by the Deciduous Fruit Board in Cape Town last night.

Mr. Mohammed Dangor, assistant director of Operation Hunger, said the 20,000 cartons of apples would be distributed among the hungry people of South Africa.

Mr. Leo Fine, chairman of the Deciduous Fruit Board, who presented the donation to Mr. Dangor, said, "The deciduous fruit industry is blessed with a good export season this year, but we are very much aware of the distress inflicted on many of our fellow citizens by unemployment and drought."

Mr. Dangor said about 7,000 cartons were to be sent to the Transvaal, Venda, Bophuthatswana, the Free State and Lesotho, 3,000 to Natal, 5,000 to the Eastern Cape, Transkei and Ciskei, and 5,000 to the Western Cape and Namibaland.
Children starve as unrest halts helpers

By KEITH ROSS
EAST LONDON — The continuing unrest in the Eastern Cape has disrupted the work of Operation Hunger, causing thousands to starve needlessly.

This was disclosed this week by Operation Hunger's regional director, Mrs Roselle Frasca.

"Mrs Frasca said in an interview that Operation Hunger had been forced to abandon its work in centres torne by unrest.

"In other areas — despite calls for help — we have been unable to start feeding schemes," she said.

"Some of these areas are in desperate need. It is really heartbreaking."

Mrs Frasca said she had tried to make contact with those behind the unrest to speak to them about the need for feeding schemes.

"But without exception it has been impossible to find the instigators in any area, so there is nobody we can speak to," she said.

"And to further complicate matters, we are reluctant to enlist the help of community-oriented black people."

"We are reluctant to use them in spite of their courage because they would then be in danger of having their homes burnt or their children beaten in the streets."

Mrs Frasca said a child was severely beaten in the streets of a Graaff-Reinet township because his mother was working for Operation Hunger.

"The child's mother had been employed by us to identify families in need of feeding, so he was caught in the streets and beaten with a length of wire," she said.

Mrs Frasca recently visited Graaff-Reinet in response to a call for help, but has been unable to start any feeding schemes there.

"All schools were closed and the black Mayor of the township had been forced to flee his house the night before we arrived."

"His house had been covered with the contents of toilet buckets."

"We did, however, see as many community leaders as we could find and were satisfied that the need for feeding is beyond question."

"There are many people in Graaff-Reinet, the children and the old in particular, who are going hungry."

Mrs Frasca said the number of unemployed in Graaff-Reinet had grown rapidly because of the recession in Port Elizabeth.

"Workers who have lost their jobs in Port Elizabeth have returned to their homes in Graaff-Reinet," she said.

Mrs Frasca said Operation Hunger had been forced to abandon a school feeding scheme in Cookhouse because of the unrest.

"We were feeding about 800 children who are badly in need and the scheme was very successful," she said.

"Then the riots started without warning and the local school was closed."

"But for about a month afterwards the children came to the school with their bowls in the hope of getting a meal."

Mrs Frasca said her feeding schemes at the Cookhouse coloured school had continued, as well as at the local TB clinic.

"But the latest news is that the clinic is also going to be boycotted."

She said Operation Hunger had been forced to stop its feeding scheme in Bedford for about a month.

"We were feeding about 1500 primary and pre-primary schoolchildren, as well as about 85 families."

"Bedford is a particularly depressed area and the local school has a class that caters only for children who are malformed or brain-damaged due to malnutrition."
**Call for free milk at school**

Post Correspondent

An appeal for the introduction of a school feeding scheme in the Eastern Cape using the areas' surplus milk supply which could be bought at reduced prices was made in the Provincial Council yesterday.

Speaking during the debate on the hospital budget vote Mr J H van de Vyver (NP, Albany) appealed for the introduction of the scheme.

He said in Port Elizabeth 80% of black schoolchildren went to school without food. In Grahamstown, with a black population of about 55,000, only 12% were employed.

"If this unemployment continues, the Eastern Cape will have a disaster in store," he said.

The milk industry in the Eastern Cape had a huge surplus. Consumers in Port Elizabeth could absorb only 20% of the production. Milk was being distributed to as far as Durban and Lesotho.

United Dairies, the largest distributors of fresh milk, were prepared to supply a large quantity of milk to schools at a reduced price.

The time had arrived to shift the emphasis in health services to preventive medicine, Mr Van de Vyver said.

Mrs Molly Blackburn (PPF, Walmer) criticised the provincial Health Department for allowing the security police in the Eastern Cape to interfere in the treatment of patients at hospitals.

She said she had been prevented by two "heavily armed policemen" from entering a ward of unrest victims.

Patients of all ages and both sexes had been "crammed" into the ward "in a most unhygienic way.

- The "barbaric" treatment meted out in chaining a patient at Conradie Hospital to his bed was "clearly in conflict with medical and nursing ethics", the council was told.

During the debate on the hospital budget vote yesterday, Mrs Di Bishop (PPF, Gardens) said the patient, a convicted criminal, had been admitted to Conradie Hospital where after-care was provided to neurosurgery patients treated at Groote Schuur Hospital.

For about 19 days he had been guarded 24 hours a day, a normal practice.

"But in addition, for the duration of his hospitalisation, he was chained to the bed by the left leg.

"I asked a highly respected GP what he would have done if it had been his patient. He responded without hesitation that he would have ordered the shackles to be removed," she said.

- Social workers, child cancer patients and others who pay no hospital fees could be asked to pay nominal fees of R1 to R2 on admission for treatment as in-patients in Cape Provincial hospitals.

During the hospitals vote debate yesterday, Mr Koos Tenron (MEC for Hospital Services) said a mere 6% of expenditure — about R1 million — more than the sum budgeted for in the 1985 financial year had been received from hospital fees.

Many patients were given free treatment if they said they did not have money to pay and they were being abused.

After discussions, it has been decided that if the income of the average family was linked to income tax payable this would result in a just classification.
THE Dairy Board sustained a loss of nearly R22 million on the export of skim milk powder in the 1983/84 financial year.

This is expected to rise to more than R31 million.

The report of the Auditor-General of the accounts of the Dairy Board tabled in Parliament showed that during the same financial year the board donated R9 000 for drought assistance in Ciskei.

The MP for Port Elizabeth Central, Mr John Malcomess, who disclosed in Parliament recently that South Africa was exporting powdered milk to Japan as food for pigs, described the loss as "disgusting".

Mr Malcomess, who had suggested that the milk could be used to combat widespread disease resulting from malnutrition, said the fact that a huge loss had been sustained to feed pigs in Japan while only R9 000 had been given to Ciskei for drought relief "said it all".
Survey: more bread eaten

Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — A noted increase in bread consumption among all households presented "telling statistics" in view of the recent increase in bread prices and the prospect of further increases, the director of Research Surveys, Mr Henry Barenblatt, said.

There could be cause only for "disquiet and discontent," he said.

The latest poll conducted by the company revealed bread consumption was up five per cent for white households and up 10 per cent for blacks compared with four years ago.

Mr Barenblatt said any increase in excess of three per cent was significant.

"There is no other staple food households can buy in that price bracket, resulting in a devaluation of the quality of lifestyle," he said.

Milk consumption, another staple food affected by a price increase, had gone up by three per cent in black households. However, in white households, consumption had dropped 11 per cent.

There has been a 12 per cent increase in gravy consumption among black families. "This is stark evidence of how they are having to fall back on basic means to provide nourishing meals," Mr Barenblatt said.

Egg consumption was up five per cent among blacks and was still the cheapest source of high protein.

Rice had increased nine per cent since 1981 for black homes, while the survey also found that rice was becoming a major alternative to maize.

In all households, baby food consumption had remained steady or increased. "This suggests that wherever sacrifices have to be made, baby is not going to suffer," he said.

Items which showed a decrease in consumption among black households included beef, margarine and butter, poultry, takeaways for home consumption, chocolate and sweets.

Fruit consumption among all groups had dropped back to 1981 levels, the survey reported.

"White South Africa has also said goodbye to the traditional breakfast," Mr Barenblatt said. He said the survey suggested that with more wives working, foods which required preparation, such as porridge, had given way to such ready-to-eat products as breakfast cereals.
The cheapest meal in town — for 50 years!

BRUCE HEILBUTH reports on one of Cape Town’s most extraordinary institutions

ONE of the world’s most remarkable eating-houses celebrates its 50th birthday in Cape Town next week. In all those years it has kept its price of a hot, nourishing meal constant at 3c although over the same period the cost of living in Cape Town has risen by 1 000 percent.

And for those who can afford no more than one cent, a bowl of soup and a slice of bread is available.

Amazingly, there are thousands in the city who have never even heard of the Service Dining Rooms on Canterbury Street, at the edge of what used to be District Six.

Those who know it only too well are the poor who claim it has been a lifesaver for half a century. Many would have starved if it were not there.

How has it been possible for the Service Dining Rooms to hold its prices, defying every precept of the economic law of gravity?

It enjoys no cash contribution from the Government, only R1 000 a year from the City Council and R220 a year from the Provincial Council.

How far would that go paying for the quarter-million hungry people — a conservative estimate — served annually with hot meals, soup and bread, jam and bread or hot drinks?

To say that the Service Dining Rooms operate on love and fresh air is pretty close to the truth. More often than not, their annual balance sheet reflects a loss — but somehow, whenever they are at their most desperate, an unexpected windfall materialises and they soldier on.

Obviously, the few cents paid by diners covers only a fraction of their meal. The deficit, as well as the running cost of the Rooms is made up mainly of income from bequests and trusts, interest from investments and contributions from the public. A fair number of firms have been extremely generous “in-kind” — Irvin and Johnson have given fish twice a week for about 30 years.

Running costs are kept right down with the biggest group of workers unpaid. These are mainly white women usually from affluent homes, who form a roster of about 40 and take turns to serve the meals to the patrons — lunches are provided every weekday.

Their really is a labour of love and at times it can be frightening, for tempers understandably flare among these deprived people. When they do, fists and chairs are liable to fly.

Mrs Bunty Martin, secretary of the Service Dining Rooms for 10 years and small, grey and middle-aged, commented: “They know me very well and although I have had plenty of threats, nobody has laid a finger on me. So I’m never nervous.”

Little Mrs Martin, unflappable kingpin of the organisation, is the daughter of one of the founders of the Service Dining Rooms, Mrs Christine Sandeman, “The Rooms” first secretary. So her roots grow deep.

It all started in 1905 when Miss Doris Syfret (the only surviving child of E R Syfret, founder of the trust company of that name) was asked by a drunk man for a “tickey” (threepence) to buy a drink.

How as it Miss Syfret asked sadly that he could afford to buy drink but not food? To which the beggar replied: “I can buy a drink for a tickey, but where could I get a meal for that price?”

From that reply grew Miss Syfret’s resolve to provide a hostelry that could indeed provide warm food to the hungry for three pence. The Service Dining Rooms opened for business soon afterwards and on the first day fed 40 people.

By the end of the week, that number had grown to 400. On one day this week, 50 years later, The Rooms fed 1 468 people, both 3c hot meals and 1c soup and bread servings.

“With unemployment growing the way it is,” the numbers are growing all the time,” says Mrs Martin.

A vow made by Miss Syfret and her first little committee was to keep the price of a meal to the poor at three pence for as long as humanly possible.

Fifty years later, the price, almost unbelievably, is the same.

But the struggle to feed the city’s hungry thousands grows harder. With their unobtrusive style, this marvellous organisation is reluctant to beg.

But remember that a contribution of just R5 would buy 170 hot meal tickets. Or 500 bowls of soup and a slice of bread.
Water 'trickle' for unpaid bills

THE Divisional Council may restore a "trickle" of domestic water supply to Atlantis households which have had their water disconnected as a result of being unable to pay their bills.

The chairman of the council's health committee, Mr Clive Bilski, has suggested that the health problems that could arise from the disconnection of the supply could be "partially solved" by restoring a "trickle" supply sufficient to fill the lavatory cistern and for cooking and drinking purposes.

'Inconvenience'

"It is reasoned that the resultant inconvenience to the occupants of an affected dwelling would cause a householder to settle any outstanding water accounts," according to a report from the committee.

The report, to be considered by the full council tomorrow, says the Medical Officer of Health, Dr L R Tibbit, "realized that if a householder failed to pay a water account and a disconnection was refused by the Health Department on health grounds many households would not make any effort to pay outstanding or overdue water accounts."

The council has refused to supply water to 211 houses in Atlantis until their water accounts have been settled.
A decayed road in the C C Lloyd (Dunga) township where residents have waited five years for the area to be upgraded.
Concern about EL slum

EAST LONDON — An area a few kilometres from the centre of the city which has been declared unfit for human habitation is posing a potential health hazard.

Civic leaders have expressed concern over the conditions at the C.C. Lloyd township (better known as Dunga), and their concern has been corroborated by a report from the head of East London's health services, Mr. J. Claasen.

Mr. Claasen confirmed the area's health hazards at a recent Coloured management Committee meeting, and admitted that it was not fit to accommodate people.

Report by NIKI KOTZE
Pictures by GARY HORLOR

Mr. Claasen refused to elaborate on the issue this week and referred inquiries to the town clerk, Mr. Les Kumm, who in turn referred to the director of housing, Mr. Ken Martens.

Mr. Martens said the city council had no jurisdiction over the area and was waiting for it to be deproclaimed until it has been controlled by the East Cape Development Board.

He said a written application was made to the municipal engineers to investigate the upgrading of the area, as well as the costs involved.

The report would be submitted to the housing department of the House of Representatives which would allocate the necessary funds, Mr. Martens said.

But, he said, there were no immediate funds for emergency work in Dunga.

The vice-chairman of the Dunga Residents' Association, Mr. Henry Krount, said the indecisiveness of political and civic leaders in accepting responsibility for Dunga had been at the expense of the residents.

"The most despicable conditions have developed there, with burst sewerage pipes and refuse piling up. The stench and the filth in the area is unbearable," he said.

"How long must our people still endure the indignity and humiliation of living under these conditions?" he asked.

Most people in Dunga were poverty-stricken, he added, and could not provide funds for repairs and maintenance.

At play in the filth — one of the children who live in an area declared "uninhabitable"

"We're not in a war with the city council, but there must be some relief for these people," he said.

The acting chairman of the Coloured Management Committee, Mr. Corrie Alexander, said yesterday that the area was a slum.

He said that for almost five years residents had waited for the upgrading of the area, and had only recently caught the attention of those in charge.

"In the meantime the long wait and misery continues for these people," Mr. Alexander said.
Hard times in Namaqualand

By RONNIE Morris

Namaqualand is not only the "Land of the Thirst King" but also the land of the unemployed and children suffering from first-degree malnutrition.

Unemployment is high and there is no relief in sight as the copper mines battle to survive the slump which has nearly paralyzed the industry. Alternative employment is non-existent and with the area in the grip of a severe drought, the outlook remains bleak.

The executive director, Operation Hunger, Mrs Ina Perlman, said yesterday that 51 percent of the schoolchildren in the O'Kiep, Springbok, Nababiep triangle were suffering from first-degree malnutrition.

She said the organization, which had fed 5 500 children under the age of 12 in 1981, now had to feed more than 8 500 children.

Operation Hunger, in conjunction with the South African Red Cross Society, has set up a schoolfeeding project and is now feeding both primary and pre-school children.

The organization is also providing relief schemes for entire families.

In some villages there was 100 percent unemployment, Mrs Perlman said.

Determination

"The situation is very serious. One of the mines has closed down completely and the other mines have entrenched heavily. The fishing industry is also in trouble and there is no alternative farming as a result of the drought."

However, people in Namaqualand were well-organized and were eager to help themselves. A variety of schemes was being put forward by the community and an atmosphere of determination prevailed, Mrs Perlman said.

Operation Hunger is feeding 653 600 people countrywide with an additional 320 000 on its waiting list. Appeals from Bushmanland, Cape Town, Graaff-Reinet and other areas in the Eastern Cape are straining the resources of the organization.

"All over the country we are faced with a deteriorating situation and increasing appeals for help. Frankly we don't know where to turn. This is undoubtedly going to be the worst winter," Mrs Perlman said.

She praised the Apple Board who recently donated 22 000 boxes of export-grade apples to Operation Hunger for distribution in South Africa. She appealed to producers to donate their surpluses to the organization.

A spokesman for the South African Red Cross Society said yesterday that the Red Cross ran a pre-school for children in O'Kiep. They also planned to extend the schoolfeeding scheme to include elderly people.

She confirmed that the society, in conjunction with Operation Hunger, was feeding 8 875 children in Namaqualand.

Carnegie Inquiry

They had conducted an informal survey on a family basis in seven communities in April this year and the outcome "was very much in line" with the findings presented to the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa last year.

The informal survey found that the average income per family was R139 a month, which was R6 less than was found by field workers of the University of Cape Town last year. Mrs Perlman said.

The spokesman said they believed that the current situation was linked to the drought, the drop in copper production and the lack of alternative employment. The situation was unique to Namaqualand as people traditionally depended on the mines, she said.

"There has been tremendous migration to the cities by young people who send some sort of finance home. "In Bushmanland the migratory labour force are going around in circles looking for work especially in the Britstown, Victoria West area."

But, she said, people in Namaqualand were becoming more motivated towards self-help. They also relied on the leadership of church ministers.
‘Twilight children’
get a helping hand

By Kashvina Jaga

For several years Lenasia has had a population of children and young adults who live on the streets. Some are runaways, some abandoned.

They are shabbily dressed in torn and dirty clothing and have to fend for themselves to survive. The Star recently visited Lenasia on an evening when the children packed the Jiswa Centre to enjoy a hot meal — to them it must have seemed like a gift from Heaven.

These children recently attracted the attention of the Lenasia Youth Club, which has now established a regular feeding scheme for them.

WINNING CONFIDENCE

Executive club member Mr Imtiaz Loonat said the club invited Mr John de Villiers, chairman of the Twilight Children organisation, a branch of Child Welfare Society in Johannesburg, in the hope of getting help for the Lenasia children.

Mr de Villiers has already set up a centre in Hillbrow for the ‘twilight children’ of the suburb who have no homes and live on the streets.

Mr Loonat said club members originally spotted the Lenasia children living on the site of an abandoned high school.

Many slept under stairways of flats in the township.

“At first the children were reluctant to talk to us,” he said. “They did not trust us at all. We had to approach small groups of four or five to try to win their confidence,” he said.

At first, only five children used to go to the Jiswa Centre on Wednesday nights for something to eat, but gradually word got round, and today about 30 to 40 turn up, said Mr Loonat.

“I think they’ve got used to us now, which is a positive step in trying to give them some assistance,” he added.

Speaking to the children, one said colleagues were not from surrounding areas such as Soweto, but came from as far afield as Durban and homeland states.

The youngster went on “They have no food in the homelands. That is why they have run away and come to stay in Lenasia. I grew up here myself.”

Asked how most of them managed to live, as they had no families to take care of them, he replied “We usually do odd jobs, like washing people’s cars or household chores.”

The youngster also talked about violence and mentioning a stabbing incident between some of his colleagues.

Mr de Villiers said the children had banded in peer groups which worked like family units.

The problem was to find suitable premises that could be used as a base to aid them.

He said the eventual aim was to establish rehabilitation centres outside the city centre.

Some of Lenasia’s ‘twilight children’ tuck into a meal of rice provided by the Lenasia Youth Club.
Fund feeds 20 000 a day

EAST LONDON — The Mayor's School Feeding Fund helped to feed 20 000 children each schoolday, the chairman of the society's committee, Mr A Addleson, said here yesterday.

Delivering the report at the fund's annual meeting, he said the fund continued to have wide support, but with rising costs it had become difficult to cover expenses.

Mr Addleson said of the children who benefited from the scheme, 18 000 were from Mdantsane, while the remainder came from Duncan Village and other townships. Initially the scheme started in Duncan Village, but had to be extended when children were moved to Mdantsane.

Mr Addleson said the children in Mdantsane had been approached about serving soup instead of the fortified biscuits.

"In the last 10 years we have supplied fortified biscuits to 140 000 children at a cost of R40 000."

In all, R34 262 had been spent this year in comparison with R49 900 last year, he said.

A total of R10 541 was given to the fund by the Selborne Primary School, the Clarendon Preparatory School, the Clarendon Primary School, the Clarendon High School and many schools in Mdantsane.

Mr Addleson was re-elected as chairman of the fund's committee. Other office bearers elected were the vice-chairman, Dr L B Schneider, the secretary, Mrs J. Beckwith and the honorary organiser, Mr A. Heppell.

Mr Addleson has been the chairman of the scheme for the last 17 years.
The world is facing a food crisis. The United Nations' World Food Program estimates that 350 million people are at risk of hunger, and the United Nations警告确保,除非采取行动,否则到2030年,饥饿人数将增加2倍。在非洲,情况尤为严峻,饥饿问题已经导致数百万儿童死亡。联合国呼吁各国政府和国际社会采取紧急行动,以防止更多的饥饿和死亡。
Natal's needy get bread

Last-minute negotiations by Mrs Inks-Mars, Durban representative of Operation Hunger, saw the Sweet, Food and Allied Workers Union allow thousands of loaves of strike-bound bread to be taken to needy communities in Natal country areas yesterday.

The union, which is affiliated to Fosatu, laid down a condition that some of the bread be taken to the striking BIR Sarmcol workers and their families in Mpophomeni, near Howick.

They also wanted to handle the packing of the bread onto the trucks, but BB Bread management would not agree and in the end, staff members loaded the open-bed trucks with brown and white bread that was still fairly fresh.

Mrs Mars said she had listened to the conditions of the union and took directions for delivering the bread to the Catholic Church in Mpophomeni.

"This is our operation and we will keep control of the situation," she said.

He said he refused to let the strikers load the bread because they were not needed for this purpose and they had decided to strike — so were not working.

"All I want to see is all this bread going to people who can use it before it all goes rotten."

Reasons

Mr Maunce Grant.
Bongweni four ‘sho

By RIAAN DE VILLIERS

RESIDENTS of Colesberg's Bongweni township claimed last week that four people killed earlier this month were shot in an ambush set by police who had hidden in a black policeman's house.

They claimed the youths had not been attacked by the police but that they were shot in cold blood without any warning.

They also claimed police had provoked township youths into burning a policeman's car earlier that day by placing a youth on top of a Casspir armoured vehicle with a sjambok tied around his neck, and repeatedly attacking him.

The Sapa version of the police situation report for Wednesday July 3 published in the Cape Times on Friday, July 5, read as follows.

"Two men were shot dead by a policeman who fired on a mob stoning his home (on Wednesday evening). A fourth black man injured in the incident, died of his wounds in hospital yesterday morning."

Passer-by

Residents alleged that five people—four youths, two of whom were girls, and one adult man—were shot.

They said a group of youths walked around a street corner some 20 metres away from the black policeman's house in which police were hiding and police opened fire on them without warning. They believed the adult man was a passer-by.

They said two youths were shot dead at the scene. A third person died on the way to Bloemfontein hospital. According to a relative, the girl was 15-year-old Pumeka Suyonzana of Dmbaza, who was visiting Colesberg.

A fourth person died in hospital and another was admitted with gunshot wounds.

Group of youths

Residents claimed the person who died in hospital was followed by policemen, caught near his home and hit with the butt of a shotgun or rifle.

A woman who said she witnessed the incident that night was standing outside her house when she saw a group of ten to twenty youths walking around the street corner into the street past the policeman's house.

Suddenly, shots rang out and the youths dropped to the ground. More shots were fired and the youths got up and started running away.

The shots were fired from inside the policeman's house, before the youths had drawn level with it.

Casspir 'hiding nearby'

A Casspir armoured vehicle then arrived and turned up the scene. She said she had gained the impression that it had been hiding nearby.

She said the youths had simply walked around the street corner and had “done nothing”. None knew the policemen were in the house and they had opened fire without warning.

Residents pointed out the house where they alleged the police were hiding. There were small holes and one large hole in the windows. Shards of glass were still lying outside on the stoep. There were no stones on the stoep or in the yard.

I walked around the little house, one of which contained the back door. There were no signs of a car.

Residents pointed out the nearby street corner, where they alleged the children were hit.

They also pointed out a house on the opposite side of the intersection which had several bullet holes in the facade.

Residents also said police removed a 17-year-old youth from a house about 9 that morning. They placed him on top of a Casspir armoured vehicle with a sjambok around his neck and repeatedly assaulted him while driving around the township.

Cold shower

They claimed this provoked youths into burning the policeman's car in the late afternoon. The shooting took place at another policeman's house about 10pm.

It was also claimed that the youth was later taken to the police station where he was assaulted and placed under a cold shower throughout the night while being interrogated. He was not charged and was released the following day.

These allegations were submitted to the police directorate of public relations in Pretoria.

The following reply was received.

Police reply

"At 20h30 on July 2, a group of youths erected makeshift barricades at the entrance to the township.

"Members of the SA Police, who attended were stoned. A black member of the force and his family were evacuated from their home as a precautionary measure.

"On July 3, the private motor car of a black member of the police was removed from his yard, overturned and set alight in the street. Guards were posted at his house that night in order to protect his property.

"Early that night, a large group of youths surrounded the house, forced open the back door and threw petrol bombs.

"Mob returned"

"Members on duty fired shots. Three black males, ages 20-22, were killed on the scene and a fourth later died in Bloemfontein hospital. The usual inquest proceedings will follow.

"On July 4 a mob returned to the house and set furniture alight. On July 4 and 5 police arrested 80 persons for public violence.

"Should any person be of the opinion that there is a legal basis for complaint against the SA Police, such a person can file an affidavit at the nearest police station. The allegations will then be investigated."

The entrance to Colesberg's

Finance costs affect results
in ambush'  Half are without work

THE sleepy sheep-farming town of Colesberg has 11,000 white inhabitants. Its location appears to be no more than a handful of tumble-down brick shanties at the bottom end of town.

Stretching up a ravine and hidden from sight are three townships housing no less than 13,000 people. Almost half are unemployed.

The townships were the scene of a week of brutal violence early this month.

On Tuesday, July 2, youths barricaded the entrance to one of the townships with car wrecks burning tires and toilet paper. The youths were dispersed with teargas and rubber bullets.

Several people killed

The next day, youths burnt a black policeman's car. Later that evening, several people were killed in a shooting incident. Two days later, police arrested 70 people — mostly youths — on charges of public violence.

The townships were seething when I visited them last week. At the entrance, the ground was blackened from burning barricades.

Higher up, in the "Old Location" and "New Location," trenches had been dug and boulders rolled into the streets to keep police out.

Groups of youths stood on corners. Some picked up stones and shouted abuse as I passed by.

In the Bongweni township, shocked residents and prominent community figures gave their account of recent events in the township, including the shooting of five people.

Doors kicked in

They said they had stood and watched on Wednesday, July 3, as police hunted children in the hills surrounding the township firing teargas and birdshot. Police had searched houses and kicked in doors. The township had been blanketed in teargas.

They claimed many youths had fled from the township and were in hiding.

They also claimed wounded people were hidden in the township as they were afraid to go to hospital.

"People are scared of the police all the time. They come every night. We are living in terror," one resident said.

Another said: "It is very bad. In the evenings, everything is in flight. We sleep in fright.

Children were not attending school as they were scared of being arrested.

Certain shops were being boycotted as their owners had "helped the police to shoot the children."

The community leaders accused police of provoking violence. "If they had left the children alone, nothing would have happened," one said.

Average wage R25 a month

Conditions in the township were "very bad." Rents ranged from R20 to R30, while the average wage for domestic work was R25 a month.

They said there was no formal organization operating in the town. Some time ago, youths had gone to the development board office to "ask permission" to form one, the Colesberg Youth Organization.

They had been sent to the magistrate's office. The magistrate had "promised to come to the township but never came," they said.

According to a police report, a gathering of about 250 people was dispersed with teargas, birdshot and rubber bullets on Monday this week. Thirteen people including 11 youths, were arrested.
Council lashes Atlantis' attitude

Staff Reporter

The attitude of the Atlantis Residents' Association, expressed in a report that more evictions were expected in Atlantis, was criticised at a Divisional Council meeting today.

"This council is not in the business of evictions. We are a body which provides housing and evictions are only carried out in extreme situations," said councillor Mr Niel Ross.

He was reacting to a report that "hundreds of tenants" who were served with notices last Friday to discuss their arrear rentals had not attended a meeting with the council "as a form of protest."

He said he had a severe complaint about the Atlantis Residents' Association, which had advised people not to come to the council.

"When people are in economic distress and come to this council they always get a sympathetic ear. Evictions are a last resort and discussing matters with the rent office is a first line of defence. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the problem is solved and no evictions occur."

He said the association had acted in "gross dereliction" of its community duty.

"The people being disadvantaged are the very people they are trying to help. They are stopping people coming to the council to seek help to keep roofs over their heads."
Belhar health-care 'totally inadequate'

Staff Reporter

HEALTH-CARE facilities in Belhar are "totally inadequate" but the Provincial Administration has no funds to establish the community health centre necessary in the area.

Among the major problems are malnutrition, tuberculosis, a high birth-rate among teenagers, sexually-transmitted diseases and many elderly people requiring attention, according to Divisional Council medical officer of health Dr L.R. Tibbit.

"There are at present no curative or dental services available in Belhar," he said.

However, at a meeting yesterday, the council stood by its policy of providing preventive and promotive health care services and rejected a proposal that it become involved in establishing a primary health care centre in Belhar.

Dr Tibbit said the council was already providing preventive and promotive health care at "inadequate" clinics in Belhar I and II. New facilities were to be built with a grant from the Department of Health and Welfare, he said.

"The inhabitants (of Belhar) were drawn from overcrowded and depressed areas. These people require a tremendous amount of social upliftment."

In liaison with provincial department of hospital services, it had been agreed that the council's health services be incorporated with a curative centre in one community health complex.

Subsequently, the director of hospital services had told the council that while his department wanted a joint health complex in Belhar, the provincial "no funds" available.

He proposed that the council obtain additional funds from the National Housing Commission.

This was outside the council's sphere, said Dr Tibbit.

Meetings: A question of timing

Staff Reporter

A PROPOSAL by Mr Arthur Wienberg that Cape Town City Council Executive Committee consider starting monthly council meetings after lunch instead of 10am sparked a lively debate.

"The public do not really have the opportunity of seeing us," Mr Wienberg said.

Mrs Joan Kantey felt council procedures had been "tested and tried" over a long period.

Mr Norman Osburn said the average age of the council had been reduced drastically in the past 10 years.

"In the old days council was a much older group of people who had the luxury of time," he added.

Mrs Eulalie Stott said there were those who felt "more working-class people" would be interested in council affairs if it did not sit through working hours.

The motion was approved.

HAWKERS AND CANVAS

KENILWORTH WARD 3
WARRINGTON RD, N
Opp. Kenilworth Centre, C.A.

Phone: 675 3133
Families to get trickle of water

Staff Reporter

FORTY-TWO Atlantis families whose water supply was disconnected when they failed to pay their water accounts, will receive water on a trickle system.

Mr Neil Ross told a Divisional Council of the Cape meeting yesterday that of 289 problem water accounts in Atlantis at the last due date, 56 had not been disconnected, and only 42 consumers were still disconnected.

"Disconnections have not been done regardless of health hazards," said Mr Ross.

The council had looked at the health aspects and found that the families affected had made other arrangements for water supply and there was no hazard, he said.

"The families have been hit by the general economic downturn and as a result have been unable to meet water payments."

"They are suffering the inconvenience and if we could implement the trickle system it would be a step in the right direction."

The system, which uses a ring to reduce the aperture of the water outlet, was approved as an experiment because the high calcium content of the water in Atlantis might cause deposits to form and block the system.

Nature jobs — but no pay

Staff Reporter

NATURE conservation students at the Cape Technikon may work in Divisional Council nature reserves during their final practical year. Students will be able to sign a contract with the council for work in the Cape Point or Rondevlei reserves without pay.
THE recession is biting deep into the rural areas as agricultural workers are laid off — leaving hundreds of families destitute.

In the Eastern Transvaal, 700 families have gathered around the black settlement areas surrounding Phalaborwa and the Swiss Mission.

An urgent appeal has been made to Operation Hunger to help feed them.

A letter from the Phalaborwa Evangelical Presbyterian Church said: "Due to the recession which has affected the whole of South Africa, a number of firms and industries have had to reduce their staff.

"We now have 700 families with unemployed breadwinners."

By SARAH SUSSENS

Mrs Ima Perlman, director of Operation Hunger, said she dreaded opening the post each day as there were so many appeals for help.

Operation Hunger, the organisation which feeds 83,000 people a month, is battling to keep pace with the growing mass of hungry people.

The long years of drought — affecting farmers as well as agriculture-related industries — combined with massive layoffs in urban areas have swollen the ranks of the unemployed.

"Seasonal work, which is the lifeblood of the rural workers, has been reduced.

"In some villages there is only the occasional bakkie instead of the usual four to five trucks which used to come to collect workers," Mrs Perlman said.

"The permanent farmworkers who get laid off usually have a family to provide for. When they lose their job their family is left without a home and with no income.

"In the Zebediela area in the Eastern Transvaal there is a squatter village of about 100 families who are destitute.

"A lot of the urban-based workers who have been retrenched are returning to their families in the rural areas.

"Their attitude is: if we are going to starve we may as well starve together," Mrs Perlman said.
Alarm as hunger hits Peninsula children

THOUSANDS of Peninsula children go to school hungry and the situation gets worse every day.

### Staff Reporter

- The Peninsula School Feeding Association receives fresh applications for help every week.
- World Vision estimates that 20 percent more people are malnourished than 12 months ago.
- The Red Cross is running feeding schemes in Namaqualand, where the closing of mines has meant no jobs and no prospects for thousands of people.
- In Atlantis, school principals say up to half their pupils do not get enough to eat and fasting from hunger is "not unusual."

Mr Norman Freeman, organiser for the Peninsula Schools Feeding Association, said the association was feeding 160,000 children at 284 schools and fresh applications were being received every week.

### Traders in bid to cut theft in shops

#### Labour Reporter

BUSINESSMEN in Mitchell's Plain are giving meals to children rather than lose out to increasing shoplifting attributed to unemployment in the area.

This is one of the findings of a survey in the Beacon Valley area carried out by the Mitchell's Plain Minister's Fraternal, the Mitchell's Plain Advice Office and the Clothing Workers Union.

The three groups combined because each was being called on to deal with different aspects of what they viewed as the same problem — the effects of unemployment.

Areas covered by the survey were the family, schooling, unemployment and the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

The survey showed 30 percent of households were in arrears with rent, 15 percent were unemployed, 24 percent of households had one breadwinner unemployed and 60 percent had lodgers of whom 33 percent were unemployed.

### PROBLEMS

The high rate of lodging was linked with the economic situation and housing problems. Families took in lodgers to help with rents but there was also a housing shortage. In many cases, the lodgers later lost jobs, creating further problems.

The Rev Maxwell Malan of the Ministers Fraternal said, "Families already having problems with unemployment find it difficult to turn a lodger out if he becomes unemployed."

Many psychological problems were encountered, including guilt over the situation and frustration, leading to family problems.

The Advice Office takes up rent and eviction problems and has so far successfully halted the evictions of 11 families and gained reduced rentals for 41.

The Advice Office supplies meals to about 120 people three times a week financed with gifts from businessmen and individuals.
Hunger hits more children

Staff Reporter

CHILDREN at white schools in the Peninsula are fainting in classes and arriving at school without sandwiches, the organizer of the Peninsula School Feeding Association said yesterday.

Mr Norman Freeman said that when the association began assisting Peninsula schools in feeding needy children in 1988, there had also been a few white schools on the books.

Today the association assisted only coloured and black schools, Mr Freeman said, but would welcome any white schools where children were becoming ill and unable to concentrate on classes because of hunger.

Unemployment was a large factor in the increase of malnutrition in schoolchildren in all sectors of the community and the school feeding association was constantly receiving requests for help.

Applications

The association currently feeds about 160,000 children and the problem is worsening every month.

"Today I have ten new applications in front of me, supported by medical evidence, from schools in, for instance, Caledon, De Doorns, Atlantis and Mitchells Plain.

"Two schools in Khayelitsha involving about 1,650 children have also requested assistance," Mr Freeman said.

Sophie Tema reports from Johannesburg that the number of hungry children in the townships is increasing.

"Meanwhile more and more people are losing their jobs and find it difficult to cope under the situation," Mrs Ina Perlman, founder of Operation Hunger, said yesterday.

"The problem of starving children in the townships is getting worse. "And although more and more people who have lost their jobs and their homes in the city are taking their families back to the homelands where they came from, they turn out to be the worst affected."

This week OK Bazaars responded for the third year in succession to the urgent need for food in rural areas struck by drought.

The supermarket chain donated food to Operation Hunger for the drought-affected Lezvuba area in Venda, Northern Transvaal.

Truckload

This year the chain has undertaken to donate a further R100,000 in food and will again carry out distribution at an additional cost of R30,000.

At the weekend a truckload of food was delivered to the St Joseph's Mission in Lezvuba.

Mr Ken Coote, Senior Director of OK Bazaars, who made the donation to Mrs V Mphephu, wife of the President of Venda, said his stores approached business associates and elicited their support for Operation Hunger and raised an additional one million rands.

Mr Coote said: "South Africa's business community had been magnificent in raising the necessary money to keep food supplies moving to the rural areas.

"In addition to our support, the OK has approached business associates and elicited their support for Operation Hunger.

"As a result of their generous support and our active fund-raising efforts, we have raised an additional one million rands.

"I think all of us were surprised and delighted to discover just how much people really care."

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Refused unrest duties — fined

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — A riflemen's camp who is opposed to the ICU's proposed parade was yesterday fined R100,00 for disobeying orders to go on a vehicle patrol.

Christopher Dodson, 25, pleaded not guilty to disobeying a lawful command for a vehicle patrol to go on a night of July 31, 1979.

Lieutenant Haslett, who has a degree in commerce from the University of Natal, was described by a partner in a Cape Town firm as a "professional" who did not have a record of misconduct.

Lieutenant Haslett said that Dodson had made it clear that he was not prepared to go on the patrol. He continued under cross-examination by defence counsel Mr. Nicholson that he had received a message at the beginning of the week that they should accommodate the RIFlemen in an administrative or guard position.

Frederic Wingate, the court sentenced Colonel Henry, who was described as a "political" in the use of the SADF, to pay the fine imposed by the legislature. He said as a soldier it was his duty to obey all commands. He denied the court's right to hold any political views. The court sentenced him to pay the fine imposed by the legislature. He said as a soldier it was his duty to obey all commands.

Colonel Henry appealed the sentence to the High Court, saying it would be considered a breach of the court's powers by the Defence Force to order other members to disobey orders.
Recession-hit Whites

soil has announced that school feeding schemes will be suspended because of the lack of food and because of the high cost of feeding. The scheme is to be suspended from next Monday, and the money will be used to assist those who are in need. Health Services and Welfare, Dr C de V Moret, has announced that a special relief scheme will be established to help the unemployed. The scheme will be available to those who have been laid off due to the recession. The scheme will be funded by the White House Council. The scheme was approved by the National Correspondent.
Butchers rally to help feed children

Jackie Unwin

Butchers are concerned that the poor are not benefiting from the discount sale of the surplus beef and have decided to try to help feed the hungry on the Witwatersrand.

Mr. Eddie Bielovich, chairman of the South African Federation of Meat Traders and chairman of the Witwatersrand Retail Master Butchers’ Association, said:

“We invite all recognised welfare and church organisations who are involved with the feeding of children who go to school hungry, to contact us.

“Over the next two months we are going to attempt to co-ordinate supplies of meat at cut prices through butchers in the areas where the organisations are situated. This is irrespective of colour, race or creed.”

He added: “We are confining the project to the Witwatersrand initially, but if it is successful we hope to extend it further.”

The move was prompted because a church organisation approached Mr. Bielovich after conducting a survey among schools.

It discovered that in one junior school alone 50 children went to school hungry every day.

“Anybody with any feeling for somebody less fortunate cannot watch a child go hungry.

“A lot is said, but nothing is done. We feel we have to do something constructive to feed these people,” said Mr. Bielovich.

Organisations wishing to take part in the scheme should write to the Secretary, Witwatersrand Retail Master Butchers’ Association, Box 9478, Johannesburg.
New feeding scheme will help thousands

Thousands of starving children and their families will benefit when the Department of National Health and Population Planning launches a nationwide, multiracial feeding scheme.

Help has already been given to families in the Eastern Cape and the Witwatersrand has been designated an emergency area.

An interdepartmental committee headed by Dr Colin Cameron, a chief director of the department of National Health and Population Planning, will submit a report in the next 10 days outlining the main problem areas.

"Our resources are fairly limited and so it is essential that we pinpoint the areas where help is needed most," said Dr Cameron.

The food, which will be bought from the agricultural marketing boards, will be carried by the army to the areas where it is needed. It will then be given to the local authorities who will use clinics, school services or other organisations for the final distribution.

"This new scheme will not be easy to coordinate. Our aim is not to create a new feeding system, but to help those already in existence," Dr Cameron said.

AVAILABILITY

He was not sure how long the feeding scheme would last.

"The availability of food will obviously dictate the duration of the scheme," he added. If people wanted to help with the distribution of food or with donations they should contact local welfare organisations or their local director of health.
Aid for thousands of starving children and their families

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Aid will be given to thousands of starving children and their families within the next few weeks when the Department of National Health and Population Planning launches a nationwide feeding scheme.

Help has already been given to families in the Eastern Cape. The Witwatersrand has also been pinpointed as an emergency area.

An interdepartmental committee, headed by Dr Colin Cameron, a chief director of the department of National Health and Population Planning, will submit a report in the next 10 days outlining the main areas to be tackled.

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If you want to help distribute food or to give a donation, contact local welfare organisations or the local director of health.

Autolot

Over 48,000 used cars sold.
That's a lot of satisfied people!

Proof that Atkinson's Autolot is trusted to offer only the best quality used cars and the...
R10 000

In Pretoria, R2 000 was spent by World Vision on repairing a drainage system and building a new water tank. In South Africa, the World Vision office in Durban was able to raise R100 000 for a new laundry facility in a local shelter house.

A further R10 000 was spent in Cape Town on a new community centre for the unemployed. In Durban, R10 000 was spent on repairing a local kindergarten.

The total amount spent by World Vision on these projects is R10 000.
Encouraging start to helping

Johannesburg — There has been an encouraging start to Operation Hunger, the national promotion to help the growing number of hungry children in South Africa. With one company, the Coca-Cola Export Corporation, guaranteeing a minimum donation of R100,000 a month over the promotional period.

Mr Fred Meyer, manager of the Southern and Central Africa division of the corporation, said they would be reaching out to about five million hungry children.

A competition to encourage consumers to contribute to the cause has been built into this promotion, said Mr Meyer, and entry forms must be sent to the company's regional centres in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein.

South African jeans manufacturer Mr Ronald Sassoon has also joined Operation Hunger with his "Let's Rock the World" campaign and he said his company would invest money in a campaign "with a worthwhile humanitarian cause" rather than launching a huge advertising campaign.

Three members of the British group, the Bay City Rollers, will be joining top local musician Neil Solomon and his band, the Passengers, in performances at various shopping centres next week in order to raise funds.
The Divisional Council will reduce the water supply to 330 families in Atlantis to a "trickle" over the next two weeks.

According to a council press release, the families affected are in arrears with water accounts and have failed to respond to a request that they pay outstanding amounts on an instalment basis.

"Council recently, after rendering accounts and final demands, despatched a registered letter of warning to approximately 437 consumers in Atlantis whose water accounts have not been paid for some considerable time."

Only 107 consumers responded by making arrangements to pay.

Consumers affected by the measure will still have to pay for water consumed, but the trickle system "will ensure that arrears do not escalate to a level beyond the consumers' ability to pay."

The council decided to implement the system after a public outcry following complete disconnection of water to households who were unable to pay accounts because of massive retrenchments in Atlantis.
Bread price and the poor

It is cold comfort to poor people faced with the second bread price increase in five months to be told they have the cheapest bread in the world. The fact is they will be paying more, and as a result many of them will eat less.

The real reason for the increase is the Government’s failure to contain inflation. With farmers’ costs rising all the time, bread price increases are inevitable, despite substantial subsidies.

The Minister of Agricultural Economics, Mr. Wentzel, has a point when he says subsidies are not really the ‘answer’ because they cannot be applied selectively. He mentions the possibility of greater welfare benefits as an alternative. We hope concrete steps are already being taken in this regard, especially as subsidies seem certain to be phased out altogether in terms of the Davis Commission’s recommendations.
- Subsidize water call

Municipal reports:

ATLANTIS residents have responded with outrage to the news that the Divisional Council intends reducing the water supply to 330 families in the area to a trickle over the next five years.

The chairman of the Atlantis Residents Association, Mr. Noel Williams, said yesterday that the reduction of the water supply to people who were not able to pay their bills plus the recently-announced bread price increase meant fewer residents would be able to survive.

He called for the council to subsidize the price of water to the community instead of making profit from the service.

"The council made a profit of $450,000 from water over the past financial year," he said.

Mr. Williams said that because of massive unemployment and threat of retrenchment or short-time, people could not afford to pay for basic necessities.

"The people's anger is heightened by such nasty acts against them by the Divisional Council and the State.

"Both these authorities will have to carry the responsibility of their actions," he said.
R300 000
FOR THE
(2,41)
HUNGRY

By ALI MPHAKI
A LEADING soft drink company has pledged to give at least R100 000 a month over the next three months to Operation Hunger.

The Coca-Cola Export Corporation will be running a national promotion from October to December to help all hungry children in South Africa.

"Hunger is no longer an isolated problem in South Africa. "It is impossible for us to turn our backs on those who are starving and we feel that we have a social obligation to do something urgently now, to help those many children who do not know where their next meal will come from," said Mr Fred Meyer, manager of the southern and central African division of the company.

"Conservatively speaking, we will be reaching out to some five million hungry children of this land," he said.

Mr Meyer said royalties on the sale of T-shirts depicting the promotional theme would also assist Operation Hunger.
Marketing boards send much food to hungry Wentzel

THE marketing control boards are channeling large quantities of food to the hungry in terms of government's food aid programme, Minister of Agriculture Greyling Wentzel said in Pretoria yesterday.

Large consignments of potatoes and milk powder had already been distributed, much of it in the Eastern Cape.

Quantities of meat, eggs and egg products had also been offered to programme organizers.

Wentzel said in addition to all this, 20,000 cartons of bananas had been offered free by the Banana Board.

Maize millers and other processors of maize and grain sorghum had indicated that quantities of these would be available at reduced prices.

Wentzel said that, notwithstanding the difficult position of the agricultural industry, mainly because of protracted drought, the industry realized its responsibility as a provider of food.

For this reason the marketing boards were also prepared to give aid although this meant a drain on their funds.

Referring to the R600m special employment programme and the R20m of government funds for food aid programmes, Wentzel said this was in line with the recommendations of the Davin Commission.

One recommendation was that more relief should be given to the hungry.

In this way, Wentzel said, the flaw in the present bread subsidy system — that all consumers share equally in the subsidy — would be eliminated.
Marketing boards help feed the hungry

Various agricultural marketing boards are helping to feed the hungry.

They are making surplus food available for distribution at subsidised prices in terms of the Food Aid programme, the Minister of Agricultural Economics and of Water Affairs, Mr J J G Wentzel, said yesterday.

He referred to the special R600 million employment programme recently announced and to the R29 million which the Government has made available for a food aid programme.

Mr Wentzel said: "This programme is in line with the recommendation of the Davin Commission in connection with the bread subsidy, that more relief should be afforded to those suffering physical hunger."

"In this way it will be ensured that the flaw in the present subsidy system, namely that all consumers share equally in the subsidy, is eliminated," he said.

He said considerable quantities of potatoes and milk powder had already been distributed, while maize, eggs and egg products had also been offered.

"In addition, 20 000 cartons of bananas have been offered free of charge by the Banana Board."

"Millers and other processors of maize and grain sorghum have also said they will make maize meal and other maize and grain sorghum products available at reduced prices for this purpose," the Minister said.

"Notwithstanding the difficult circumstances in which it is placed at present due to the protracted drought, the agricultural industry realises its responsibility as a provider of food, and for this reason the marketing boards are also prepared to afford this assistance, even though it entails a drain on their funds."

Mr Wentzel expressed his gratitude to the marketing boards and other people and bodies concerned in giving assistance, for their willing support."
years have been laid off. About nine
or 10 per cent of these were white
The figure: of 100,000 jobless
means 500,000 people have no
breadwinner, if one assumes an
average 5-member family.
The industry representative says in
the 1982/3 phase of the recession, it
was primarily blacks who were laid
off. But recently whites have been laid
off “almost disproportionately.”
Hardest hit was the steel construction
industry and the foundry industry.
Contributing factors have been a fall
in the dollar price of steel, continuing
inflation and the world’s recession of
four years ago. Now high inflation
at its worst since the 1930s. “Whites
have never saved for that rainy day.”
It’s never been a feature of their
thinking. This economy has been short
of skills (skills have been reserved for
whites in many fields) and white
skilled workers have been secure.”
All of this has meant that the
protected white minority did not need
a welfare system.
Now it is no longer so secure. And
with ongoing political crisis and little
sign of a let-off in economic
pressures, the days when whites were
cushioned — and did not need a
welfare system — may be gone
forever.
The spectre of the poor white haunts us again

Feeding schemes, previously for blacks only, are having to feed whites. White schoolchildren can be seen begging in parks. PAT
SIDLEY reports

NOBODY in the last half century would have imagined that South African whites could ever be poor again — but it's happening.

White unemployment is growing feeding schemes, which previously gave of black children, are feeding hungry white children. And white schoolchildren in Johannesburg beg in streets and parks, sometimes from blacks.

White South Africa has no welfare system comparable to those found in Western Europe or Australia. It never needed one since the "poor white problem" of the early 1930s, things have been geared to help secure the position of whites in the economy.

Africans, who made up most of the poor whites of the 30s, sought to alter their position and they succeeded. Jobs for whites could always be found in the civil service, the railways or Iscor. (The state's steel corporation set up at least partly to employ white skills.)

Now the civil service has frozen jobs, as has SA Transport Services, and Iscor has a waiting list of white skilled artisans who want work.

Until a few years ago, a surplus of skilled artisans was unthinkable.

Now the children of white unemployed South Africans queue for hand-outs of high protein soup — the only good meal they will get on a day.

The problem is very small, compared to black unemployment and poverty. In that area, academic estimates put unemployment as high as 39 percent in some areas — never lower than 20 percent anywhere.

Five years ago, a conservative estimate of malnutrition said that three million children were malnourished — a figure which will have grown immensely during the current recession. And poverty-related disease among blacks has led to a rural infant mortality rate of 50 percent.

Now whites have been struck too.

A headmaster at a central Johannesburg school for white children is using a feeding scheme to help about 80 children who need extra food.

One family, he said, was so poor the children had begged for food from black vagrants eating porridge in a park. The family, he said, did not want to be named, nor does he want his school identified, the embarrassment among whites is acute, and the children receiving help are not even identified to their classmates.

"You can see when they're hungry," the headmaster says. "And some don't bring sandwiches to school when there is no money in the family."

The government has earmarked funds for feeding schemes in schools, and the headmaster has received some of these to help feed the children.

While in his area there have been tough times for children in the past, he says the problems have increased significantly this year, largely due to unemployment among the parents.

Figures for unemployment among whites are unreliable. They reflect those who have registered with the state as unemployed in order to qualify for the Unemployment Insurance Fund or to be offered a job by prospective employers.

But many whites are not eligible for the unemployment fund and would not bother to register, and fewer still know they can register to get another job.

Nevertheless, in June this year there were 27 000 white men registered as unemployed. This was double the figure of the year before.

Furthermore, employers are not bound to tell the Department of Manpower when they need workers.

As a result basic food consumption has shown a tendency to decline. People are eating less, or at best, they have altered their eating patterns drastically.

In South Africa's metal and steel industry, 100 000 workers out of 445 000 workers in the past four years were laid off.

And political considerations are exaggerating problems.

For whites, unemployment is devastation, and the shame makes it impossible to reach out in society and know there will be somebody to feed.

"In this respect," says David Cuthbert of World Vision, "the black poor are advantaged."

World Vision as well as Operation Hunger are two organisations usually occupied feeding blacks but which have now been asked to feed white children in need.

In the Transvaal alone, 12 000 white school children are hungry, going to school in the mornings without anything at all to eat, says member of parliament for Sunnyside, Jan van Zyl, of the Conservative Party.

He has no doubt about the causes the National Party government has let the (white) people down.

"This government is wasting its time and money bringing coloureds and Indians in Parliament. It's so occupied saying 'yes' to the rest of the world that it stopped looking after the poor," van Zyl said, referring only to whites.

The R500-million earmarked by the government to create jobs was a "drop in the ocean" and in any event was not specifically for whites, he said.

"Before 1983, our people would not have been hungry," Van Zyl said, referring to the last constitutional referendum.

In the Winnipetersrad area, there are now at least 30 soup kitchens with hundreds of white families being fed by church organisations and charities.

Operation Hunger feeds 300 white school children in Johannesburg alone. (And over 600 000 black kids)

One economist says the problem is
Government's answer to the problem has been simple, if not entirely salutory: it has spent millions developing an industrial decentralisation strategy designed to disperse industry away from the metropoles and into the hinterland. The objective — to take the jobs to the people and in the process stem the tide of urban drift.

But critics of the scheme argue that the decentralisation effort is too thinly spread to be really effective, that the cost of job creation is excessively high and, more tellingly, that the modern phenomenon of urbanisation is an irreversible process anyway.

Like it or not, it seems that SA is lumped with urbanisation — decentralisation notwithstanding.

There is, however, another route — the one postulated by the Institute of Natural Resources (INR). That is, rather than squander scarce resources on duplicating infrastructures, government's energies should be directed more at uplifting the quality of life of the rural population itself.

**Disarming logic**

The INR thesis is disarmingly logical. It holds that rural blacks don't drift to cities out of choice, they do so because their own lives are so impoverished that even the vague promise of life in the city must offer an improvement. It follows that if life for rural blacks could be improved in situ, fewer of them would head for the towns.

The INR is a small, private sector-funded research organisation attached to the University of Natal in Maritzburg. As such, its message is unlikely to carry much clout among the country's premier policymakers. But for all that, the work it is doing in rural KwaZulu is attracting both national and international attention.

On the Nansindleiwa research and demonstration farm outside Maritzburg, experiments are being conducted in the use of modern intensive farming methods to increase the productivity of Zulu agriculture, while at the same time preserving natural resources.

The farm is a mix of self-sufficient production units ranging from a dairy, milk goats, egg and broiler poultry to vegetables, crops, an orchard, woodlot and a fish farm.

The experiments at Nansindleiwa are being applied under field conditions in the Byela project area, a 23 000 ha region typical of rural KwaZulu near Eshowe that currently sustains a rural population of some 30 000 people.

Five egg and broiler production units have already been established in Byela, along with numerous woodlots, vegetable gardens and market stalls. The project is still in its infancy and will move more fully towards implementation in its next phase.

Says the institute's acting director, John Brekme: "Most rural Zulus do have fruit trees, chickens, goats and cattle but it is approached only as subsistence farming. It's making money out of their farming oper-
ations and creating jobs that is what we are really striving for.

The need for better, more productive farming techniques is real. Research conducted by the INR has revealed that only 5% of rural Zulu household cash income is derived from agricultural activities. By far the bulk comes from migrant labour remittances.

Erskine does not see the INR's efforts as ultimately putting an end to urbanization. Rather, he sees them as complementary to decentralisation in arresting the flow of people to the cities. Indeed, he says, more intensive farming implies that inevitably some people will have to move.

"You've got to have some level of urbanisation to allow the people to move off the land if they want to," he says. "We're doing in the rural areas what government should be doing in the urban areas as well, that is creating opportunities so that people don't have to rely on handouts and massive levels of aid.

The results achieved by the INR at Byela are impressive. One Byela egg producer, Walter Nyanda, has 500 chickens which produce, at the height of their laying cycle, 35 dozen eggs a day which he sells at the farm gate for R1.40/doz. As a result, Nyanda's income is around R2 000/year — phenomenally high by rural Zulu standards — and employment opportunities are created for his immediate family and neighbours, too.

Better yields

Nyanda is so heartened by his success that he wants to start a second egg production unit. Each unit costs around R7 000 to set up for which soft loans are available to approved applicants through the KwaZulu Finance Corporation.

Erskine, however, says the intention is to spread income generating activities to as many people as possible. Once they see the success enjoyed by Nyanda and others, he says, "there's no shortage of candidates."

Similar successes have been enjoyed by market gardeners who farm vegetables under irrigation in the Byela lowlands and sell their surpluses into the market. Researcher Paul Colvin, is also experimenting with cheap feeding schemes for Zulu cattle. The intention is to fatten up the animals so that better yields are obtainable on the market. Colvin says cattle ranching could easily be more integrated with other Zulu agricultural activities like sugar cane growing where the cattle could be fed on cane tops.

Community woodlots, too, are being viewed both as a source of energy and revenue. It is estimated that in KwaZulu alone up to 150m working hours/year are spent on gathering firewood. In some cases, women are spending up to nine hours a day collecting 40 kg headloads of wood, which is enough to last a typical family three days. Community woodlots obviate the need for women to walk miles in search of firewood and, in addition, the timber can be used for building purposes and furniture making.

Financial Mail October 18 1985
Launch of new food relief plan

By KIN BENTLEY

A NEW phase in hunger relief food distribution in the Eastern Cape is about to be launched.

The Eastern Cape region of the Department of Health and Population Development has been given the go-ahead to provide "certain foodstuffs" to the needy, prior to final details being decided on in the latest phase of the Government's hunger relief scheme.

Regional director of the department, Dr J D Krynauw, said today that he did not yet know what proportion the Eastern Cape would receive of the R20 million which would be spent as part of the R600 million project to combat the effects of unemployment.

The Minister of Health, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said his department would initially spend R10 million on basic foodstuffs such as mealie meal, milk powder, eggs, sugar, meat and potatoes for distribution to the hungry.

Dr Krynauw said having more time to prepare for the distribution this time, his department was "preparing on a wider basis" and would "certainly make use of welfare organisations."

He said the distribution would be controlled by the departments of Health and Welfare of the three Houses of Parliament as well as the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning which would liaise with the various welfare organisations.

He said his department would play a co-ordinating role.

He would later be able to clarify the role of charities and churches in the distribution of the food.

The possible use of the SA Defence Force in helping with distribution would then also be made known.

Last time the SADF transported several tons of food to the Ibhayi Town Council offices for distribution in the various PE townships.

There was some criticism from certain charity organisations about the effectiveness of distribution methods used last time.

Dr Krynauw said the first project, which was launched in September, had lasted a couple of weeks and had been done at very short notice. Although he did not know the limits of the region's allocation this time, he expected to have "no problem" with funds.

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) in Port Elizabeth has released a statement "deploring" SADF involvement in the distribution of hunger-relief food.

The chairman of the ECC in PE, Mrs Janet Cherry, said in a statement she understood the food would again be distributed by "or via" the SADF.

"Surely churches and welfare organisations are better equipped than the army to feed the hungry," she said.
Govt ups aid to jobless whites

By BARRY STREEK

The maximum cash payments for unemployed white people were increased to R164 a month for adults and R49 a month for children at the beginning of October, the Minister of Health Services in the House of Assembly, Dr De Villiers Morrison, said yesterday in a statement issued in Pretoria.

Dr Morrison urged people in material distress to come forward to benefit from the assistance offered.

"The degree of support will be linked to the combined income of a family," Dr Morrison said.

The whites-only scheme for cash payments to the unemployed has been introduced by the House of Assembly's own affairs administration and is therefore not available to other races. When the scheme was introduced, it was strongly criticized by a number of groups because it is available only to whites.

Dr Morrison said that since the scheme was implemented on September 1 this year, R111,658 had been paid out to 327 adults and 315 children. Initially the grants were a maximum of R151 for adults and R46 for children, but these had been increased on October 1, he said.

His department had also introduced a social relief scheme to assist people in material distress. During the current financial year, R232,269 had already been spent on this scheme, compared to the R163,376 during the 1984/5 financial year.

A relief scheme to assist farmers in drought-stricken areas was introduced on May 1 this year. Since the implementation of this scheme, R261,916 had been granted in assistance to 419 adults and 386 children.

"The increasing prevalence of child abuse and emotional crises within family life were a direct consequence of unemployment and current economic circumstances," Dr Morrison said.

"It is a source of grave concern how increasingly prevalent child abuse and emotional crises within family life are becoming," he said.

"Should there be white people in need of such assistance, they are urged to contact the regional offices of the department."

Dr Morrison also said that according to press reports, some welfare organizations were experiencing problems in providing food to whites in financial distress. As his department had a supportive role in the distribution of food, welfare organizations in need of this aid should urgently contact his department.

His department had brought out a brochure on these issues because "most families are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet."

These brochures could be obtained at local regional offices of his department or at magistrate courts in those centres where there were no offices.
EACH weekday morning, Gwinyai Chigumbo walks 10 miles to school, wading through a river on the way. He frequently falls asleep at his desk. Occasionally, he faints.

He is small for his nine years and the scratches on his knees that he picks up on his hike through the bush take months to heal. His eyewash is chronic infection and a hacking cough keeps him up at nights.

His daily trek takes him past fields of deep red soil, supporting an acre of ripening wheat, bright green lucerne pastures, fattening Frisian cows, banks of ripening tomatoes and sleek Hereford Steers stuffling themselves at stalls.

Gwinyai is one of 1.5 million people living in Zimbabwe’s commercial farms. They are estimated by researchers to be the poorest, most disease-prone and worst nourished in the country and are at the heart of a major industrial dispute now affecting Zimbabwe’s plantation workers.

Since the government unilaterally announced a wage increase of 122 per cent for agro-industrial workers in August, strikes, demonstrations, lock-outs and violence have hammered the industry.

The owners of the country’s tea, coffee, sugar, timber, fruit and poultry plantations say that their men will wipe out any profitability in the industries.

A report in Harare’s Herald newspaper said estates owned by multinationals could carry on for

another two years before having to close down, while independent-owned plantations might exist for “no more than a matter of months.”

Workers classed as “agro-industrial labour” work alongside ordinary farm labour. “It is not surprising that some workers who handle only cattle or maize are demanding the higher wage as well, as are domestic workers on farms,” the Herald says.

According to a survey carried out by a team of researchers at the medical school of the University of Zimbabwe in 1983 and subsequently updated, about 40 per cent of commercial farm labourers’ children under five years are classed as “under nutrition the condition creates “stunting” where children cannot develop normal physical proportions and remain short and weakened for the rest of their lives.

They are also subject to a wide variety of intestinal and respiratory diseases, and the study shows high incidences of diarrhoea — probably the biggest child killer in Africa — dysentery, tuberculosis, measles and trachoma.

The level of poverty and resultant disease tends to be twice as high in commercial farming areas as in the communal areas dominated by the peasant farming population, now rapidly turning from a subsistence e xistence to cash crop producers.

The risk of mortality in the under-five age group has dropped in commercial farming areas from 40 per cent before independence to about 20 per cent now.

“But it is still the level it stands at in communal areas,” said one member of the investigating team.

Nineteen per cent of children born on commercial farms die within the first year of life, a figure again double the standards in communal land.

An ante-natal trauma plagues the wives of commercial farming labourers, who have little or no recourse to medical advice. Neonatal tetanus is also high, with practices like rubbing cow dung on the umbilicus as a preventative form of sterilisation frequently responsible.

“Poor quality housing, single water points for over 300 people and overcrowded communal sanitation were found, underlying reported communicable endemic diseases,” says a 1983 evaluation of family health care available in commercial farming areas.

Farm schools are another source of disease. Primary schools in commercial farming areas had four times the number of pupils per class compared with schools in communal area, while commercial farm secondary schools had nine times the number.

The minimum wage for commercial farm workers is $45. “I don’t believe anyone can live on $45 a month,” said one of the research team. The poverty datum line is generally agreed to level out at about $74.

The situation has worsened largely because of minimum wages. With the progressive increase in wages, farmers have tended to lay off labour and spend money on productive items such as dams, boresholes and greater use of pesticides and machinery.

The commercial farm labour force has shrunk from 335,000 in 1979, the year before independentence, to 263,000 now. The number of farms has hardly changed.

With further wage increases pending, the researchers predict that farmers will be reluctant to spend money on schools, health services and supplying fertiliser to labourers to develop their own gardens, a crucial source of nutrition.

On some of the large estates, management has reportedly begun charging workers for these.

The farmers point out that they are the only ones in the country’s business community who are expected to pay for social services for labour, while at the same time bearing the burden of increased farming inputs.

Zimbabwe leader.

They also point out that while communal areas have received enormous assistance in recent years — in the way of boreholes, schools, clinics and food handouts in droughts — commercial farming areas have received virtually nothing.

“Everybody feels there is a great need for an improvement in these things,” said David Hasluck, director of the farmers union. “It is unfair that the farmer should provide them when other employers go scot free.”

Hasluck and the research team agree that a significant improvement has taken place since independence, but it is by no means universal —

LONDON OBSERVER SERVICE.
ATLANTIS residents who owe the Divisional Council of the Cape more than R750 000 are to apply to the chief magistrate of Malmesbury to hold a meeting tonight on the cash crisis.

The Atlantis Residents Association yesterday failed to have a ban on a similar meeting declared for yesterday set aside in an urgent application to the Supreme Court Cape Town.

Families face eviction.

The association is prohibited from holding meetings until midnight on Wednesday in terms of a declaration by the magistrate Mr W de Klerk made on Friday.

A spokesman for the association said Mr de Klerk would be asked for permission to hold the meeting tonight.

Residents want to discuss the crisis in which families face eviction for not paying rent and outstanding instalments.

Mr C H Moche, secretary of the Divisional Council, has confirmed that notices have been sent out to all residents for rent arrears totaling R145 468.11 and 422 repossessions notices involving R567 602.71.

In addition 236 residents have been put on the "trickle system" for non-payment of a total of R48 405.90 in arrear water accounts.

Mr Moche said the council's social workers were helping families wherever possible.

The council approached such matters with sympathy and endeavours to assist wherever possible.
Atlantis residents to meet Divco on crisis

Tygerberg Bureau

ATLANTIS residents are to meet the secretary of the Divisional Council, Mr C H Mocke, on Thursday to discuss the unemployment and housing crisis in their town.

Thousands of rands are outstanding in unpaid rent and water bills for homes in the town and food parcels are being distributed to families hit by industrial layoffs and the fast-rising cost of living.

Tomorrow night a public meeting will be held at the Saxonsea Civic Centre in the town to decide on priorities for Thursday’s discussion.

Tomorrow’s meeting goes ahead after “informal” intervention by Mr Willem de Klerk, chief magistrate of Malmesbury.

“Good cause”

He said he had been approached by the Atlantis Residents’ Association councillor Mr Charles McDonald and realised that “residents had good cause to hold a meeting about their unemployment and housing crisis.”

He said that while a magistrate did not give permission for meetings and by law could only restrict or ban meetings, he had asked police “informally” to allow the meeting “as long as it would not feature schoolchildren who could disrupt the public peace.”

Mr Mocke confirmed that he would meet residents on Thursday.

Earlier this week he said notices had been sent to 1,638 residents for rental arrears totaling R143,465,18 and 428 repossession notices involving non-payments totaling R557,502,12.

Also, 238 residents have been put on the “trickle system” for not paying water accounts and final notices were sent on October 3 to a further 425 consumers.

Total arrears on water bills is R48,465,93.

“Crisis proportions”

An Atlantis minister of the Church of the Province of South Africa, the Rev Alan Lindhorst, said the situation in the town was taking on “crisis proportions.”

“Allant’s basic problem is that it is an artificially created growth point, and since the economy has taken a dive, with the resulting retrenchments, it leaves residents high and dry 50km from Cape Town.”

Mr Lindhorst said Divisional Council officials were “very forthcoming and considerate” when he approached them with specific problems of residents.

“However, this issue cannot be corrected at local level. A decision will have to be made at a higher Government level to help these people until the economy gets going again.”

“Rentals and house payments should be reassessed and rates adjusted downwards. If the Divisional Council cannot carry these costs, a decision will have to be made higher up.”
Rural flood damage: relief fund set up

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN — A relief fund has been established to assist people and communities in distress due to the recent heavy rains, the Mfesane Christian Service announced here yesterday.

In large parts of Transkei and Ciskei it rained for a fortnight, and at places more than 300 mm was measured. According to reports, more than 3,000 huts in Ciskei have already collapsed entirely due to the rains and thousands of others have been damaged severely.

Army tents and schools have been made available to provide shelter for those who had to vacate their homes, Mfesane said in a statement.

When announcing the creation of the relief fund, the managing director of Mfesane, the Reverend Almero Cloete, said that the emergency action by Mfesane was being coordinated with that of the Ciskei Government.

"Mfesane has already started helping people on a small scale to provide them with plastic sheets for immediate protection," Mr Cloete said.

"But now that the rains have stopped, a large rebuilding action will start and the relief fund will enable people to rebuild their homes with improved materials and techniques."

"The planning of Mfesane has been doing in connection with low-cost housing has now been tremendously accelerated and the creation of numerous small brickyards is envisaged where soil cement bricks with a much longer life span than the traditional materials will be made."

The present emergency emphasised the need for long-term measures to improve the quality of especially rural housing, Mr Cloete said.

Mfesane's director of communication, Mr Steenkamp Vorster, said yesterday that World Vision had donated the first R5,000 towards the fund.

Another R400 has been given by about 15 individuals from throughout Southern Africa, Mr Vorster said.
Unemployment doubles

Hunger hits all races as

The Mercury Group
Atlantis: Plea to write off R300m

Tygerberg Bureau

ATLANTIS residents are to ask the Government and the Divisional Council of the Cape to write off the R300-million it cost to build the town.

At a meeting attended by about 1,000 people last night, Mr Noel Williams, chairman of the Atlantis Residents Association, also proposed a vegetable garden scheme to turn Atlantis into a farm to grow food for the unemployed.

Mr Williams today heads a delegation meeting the divisional council to discuss the growing crisis in the town. Residents -- many unemployed -- owe thousands in rent, rates, repayments and municipal bills.

Hundreds face eviction today unless they can make arrangements to pay off arrears.

Mr Williams said the R300-million should be written off by the Government.

"The country is bankrupt and the people of Atlantis can no longer afford to repay that huge investment to build this anachronistic scheme.

He asked residents to help carry the furniture of their evicted neighbours back into their houses if it was removed by council officials and to restore the water supplies if other words to stand together.

The vegetable garden scheme was greeted with enthusiasm.

He suggested that residents form a people's garden committee to start growing food on a communal basis for redistribution to all residents who need help.

A resolution was adopted that today's delegation would ask the council to reduce rents for pensioners with a monthly income of R102 from R35 to R2.

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Defiant Atlantis vows to "take action"

By HILARY VENABLES
Municipal Reporter

A MEETING of about 1,000 visibly defiant Atlantis residents last night cheered a call to "take action" if the Divisional Council refused to stop evictions or to re-connect the full water supply to 238 households in the town.

The chairman of the Atlantis Residents' Association (ARA), Mr. Noel Williams, who will lead a delegation to meet the council this morning, told the meeting not to be "too optimistic" that the council would agree to residents' demands.

If the delegation failed to achieve anything, the residents themselves would have to decide what further action to take, he said.

"If they evict your neighbours, you can help carry their furniture back inside. If they don't restore the water supply, we can reconnect it ourselves," he said to loud applause.

Stop paying rent

"A suggestion from the floor that everybody stop paying rent was enthusiastically received.

The council is due to evict more than 2,000 tenants and homeowners today for failing to keep up with rentals and payments on their houses.

Mr. Williams said the delegation would demand that the council and the government "write off" the R300-million which it had spent to build the city.

"Our rents are so high because we are paying off this debt, but we didn't choose to live here and we are not going to pay it any more."

Retrenchments

He said Atlantis residents faced further retrenchments in the near future and warned that the situation would worsen unless people mobilized themselves to fight for a better life.

Before the meeting began, Mr. Williams asked four policemen in the audience to leave.

A fifth policeman was later escorted from the hall.

The ARA will hold another mass meeting on Sunday to report back on today's talks with the Divisional Council and to discuss what further action to take.
Families ‘would not survive’
without daily food handouts

Mercury Reporter

AT LEAST 60 families living in KwaMashu near Durban would not survive without daily handouts of powdered soup and bread - and their numbers are growing at an alarming rate.

All the families have one or more members who suffer from tuberculosis and live in appalling conditions. As their numbers grow, so does the danger that the feeding scheme will soon be inadequate.

What started as an unofficial bid by the nurses at the KwaMashu Chest Clinic to help TB patients whose recovery was being slowed down by their poor eating habits, has now become a full-blown effort to keep starvation at bay.

Headed by staff nurse Mrs Isabel Dhlomo, the nurses discovered that the patients were fainting after having their daily injections because they had nothing more to eat or drink than a cup of tea for the previous day or two.

The nurses’ immediate reaction was to help. They made urgent appeals for second-hand clothing which Mrs Dhlomo sold on her Saturday mornings.

The money collected, plus the little given by concerned organisations, was pooled and this made it possible to buy soup and bread - at 7c a loaf - which is given to all the patients for their morning tea.

Appalled

On the days when there are very few or no reject loaves, the patients have to go without - ordinary loaves of bread are too expensive.

Appalled at the scope of the abject poverty and sheer suffering around her, Mrs Dhlomo and her colleagues decided to take 60 of the most desperate families under their wing and started to provide sparse weekly and monthly food parcels.

Of the 60 families, 20 of the most desperate - in which the mother and father suffer from the disease - often consist of as many as eight members. They have to survive on a small packet of samp, beans, mealie meal, tea, sugar and powdered milk for a month.

Although it’s little enough, most of the families would simply starve without it.

Haven

None of these families has any income. Often the mother is getting a daily injection or is partly paralysed and the father is in hospital. The children just have to fend for themselves," says Mrs Dhlomo.

The clinic has become a haven for the children of these families, who call in on their way to and from school.

It means they can learn with a full belly even if it is just soup and bread.

Out of the more than 500 cases being treated at the clinic, most rely on the handouts to supplement their food.

"We could not just ignore the problem. We knew we had to do something, and the feeding scheme was the only way we could help," says Mrs Dhlomo.
Atlantis talks halted after mancom row

Staff Reporter

A MEETING between the Atlantis Residents' Association and the Divisional Council about evictions in the town was abandoned yesterday after three members of the Atlantis management committee refused to leave.

The residents' association said the mancom members were not elected representatives of the residents.

The chairman of the residents' association, Mr Noel Williams, who led a nine-person delegation to the meeting, said later his group had been given a mandate at a residents' meeting in Atlantis on Wednesday night to halt negotiations with Dveco if any mancom members were present.

He said that at this stage he could not speculate on what steps the residents' association would take.

"A decision will have to be made at a residents' association meeting this Sunday," he said. "The community will have to decide what we are going to do next."

The Dveco chairman, Mr L J Rothman, said the residents' association had requested the meeting to discuss matters of "grave concern" in Atlantis.

"I explained to Mr Williams that the recognized official channel of communication is the legally elected management committee and I had, on the other hand, no mandate to exclude them from the discussions."

"I and my fellow councillors appealed to Mr Williams not to allow political issues to cloud the real purpose of the meeting."

Some 'may have to be evicted'

Mr Rothman said several of the residents' complaints about exorbitant rents in Atlantis and threats of eviction had already been brought to the attention of the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives, Mr David Curry, by the mancom.

"This has resulted in concessions on a national basis in respect of unemployed, retrenched or staff on short-time, as well as medically unfit people or those on early retirement," he said.

"I want to reiterate that those home-owners and tenants experiencing hardship and who qualify for reconsideration of relief in respect of the laid-down concessions, are invited to apply."

Those who did not qualify for the concession or who failed to approach the council in order to make acceptable arrangements to pay arrears, had to be dealt with in terms of the provisions of the Housing Act, Mr Rothman said.

"It must therefore be accepted that certain tenants and house-owners may have to be evicted," he said.
Large amounts of surplus food have been distributed through local authorities, churches and welfare organisations in the East, Western Cape and Southern Transvaal regions since the Government announced its hunger relief project last month.

The project is part of the R600 million programme to combat unemployment.

Of the R20 million the Government had allocated for the alleviation of hunger among the destitute of all population groups, the Minister of Health, Mr Willie van Niekerk, said:

- R10 million was being used to distribute free food supplies to needy families.
- R5 million would be made available to registered welfare organisations on a rand-to-rand basis.
- The remaining R5 million would be allocated to the non-independent homelands for emergency food supplies.

Dr C M Cameron, chairman of the central coordinating committee for the emergency distribution of food, said fresh produce, eggs, milk powder, and various other products had already been purchased.

"Because of the haste and urgency with which the programme had to be carried out, statistics are not yet available."

The chief director of the Department of National Health and Population Development, Dr W W Anderson, said details of the rand-to-rand scheme had been worked out.

The idea was to get communities involved by raising their own funds, he said. Whatever money they collected would be doubled by the Government.
Staffs donate Christmas party to hungry

JOHANNESBURG—Operation Hunger this week welcomed the move on the part of several companies who had decided to donate the money they would have spent on Christmas parties to Operation Hunger instead.

Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, said this Christmas was going to be the 'worst ever for a frighteningly large number of people through the length and breadth of South Africa'.

She said that in the past few weeks several companies had indicated that both management and staff had agreed to forgo their annual Christmas parties and give the money saved to those whose Christmas would be anything but merry.

Mrs Perlman said escalating unemployment had made hunger and want familiar to people of all races and colours.

She said in a Press release this week that more and more areas had notified Operation Hunger that it was imperative they set up alternatives to school and pre-school feeding schemes during the school holidays.

Mrs Perlman said the organisation should be feeding at least 200,000 more people than it was at present. (Sapa)
Apartheid behind misery of Atlantis

"The only reason we’re in Atlantis is because of apartheid," said one of the residents. "If it weren’t for apartheid, I wouldn’t even have come here."

Atlantis, however, is under no illusions about its chances of persuading the authorities to agree to its demands for lower rents, better pensions, and a moratorium on evictions, never mind its ultimate aim of democratic local government.

While Daveo’s bureaucratic machinery grinds slowly round, trying to find conventional ways to appease this increasingly defiant community, women send their children to school with no food, a man cannot afford to buy shoes, families find themselves sitting on the pavement surrounded by furniture with locked doors behind them.

"We will have to find our own solutions," Mr. Williams says. "Reconnecting water and electricity, moving people back into their houses while the authorities try to move them out, and putting constant pressure on the council to listen to their demands is one part of the strategy."

"The other is to ensure that the people of Atlantis survive.

"We are going to start a programme for people who have no money and no work," Mr. Williams says. "We are going to form a group which will go from street to street to organize people so that they can provide their own food.

"Every garden will become a farm. We will grow our own potatoes, carrots, melons — whatever people need.

"The people in each street will look after their gardens and exchange produce to feed themselves.

"We will buy other groceries in bulk and share them.

"Apart from ensuring that everyone has enough to eat, the self-help programme is the community’s way of telling the Daveo, the Atlantis Management Committee and the State that they have failed in their duty to provide Atlantis with the means to live.

As far as the people are concerned, they are victims of a failed racial economic experiment.

To them the government is responsible not only for their current situation, but for the repeated attempts to sabotage the community’s efforts to find solutions.

Last week’s meeting identified the police, army and the authorities as its enemies, and the apartheid system as the source of its misery.

Faced with the choice of continuing to work within a system which has betrayed and used them, the people of Atlantis have decided to take their future into their own hands."
Atlantis to try to meet Divco

Municipal Reporter

THE Atlantis Residents' Association (ARA) is to approach the Divisional Council again this week to try to organize a meeting to discuss the crisis in the area.

However, a public meeting in the town yesterday resulted in the meeting being stopped by members of the local management committee present. 

Talks between the council and an ARA delegation last week were abandoned when the management committee refused to leave.

A group of four PPA council members, Mr Neil Ross, Mr Jasper Walsh, Mr Stuart Collins and Mr Paul Andrew, who met the ARA in Atlantis yesterday morning, said they "certainly believe that the ARA is more representative than the management committee".

Special meeting

The four are to press for a special open Divisional Council meeting this week to discuss evictions and the introduction of the trickle water supply to households which cannot afford to pay their bills.

They will also raise the "startling" complaints made by Atlantis residents that council officials are ill-mannered and unco-operative. Residents say their attempts to pay off arrears in small amounts are rejected by officials who threaten them with eviction unless they can pay more.

The chairman of the ARA, Mr Noel Williams, told the audience of about 800 people yesterday that he was prepared to organize buses to take people to the special council meeting.

The audience supported a call for everyone to help to move furniture back into the houses of evicted families and to reconnect electricity and water supplies themselves when these were cut off by the council.
Ending influx control ‘will reduce poverty’

THE removal of influx control will reduce rural poverty and encourage economic development, says a leading development expert.

Writing in the latest issue of the journal Indicator S.A., the head of the University of Natal’s Development Studies Unit, Prof Jill Nattrass, said influx control limited black people’s access to economic opportunities and reinforced income inequalities.

Rural living conditions were not better than those in the cities and the flow of people to the cities would not increase poverty and unemployment.

Prof Nattrass said urban black incomes were six to eight times greater than those in the rural areas.

The overpopulation of the rural areas and the almost total lack of productive employment opportunities in the rural areas has generated a situation in which average per capita income levels there range from a low of R70 a year to a high of R400 to R500 per annum.

A migrant living in an informal ‘shack’ area and working in the informal sector could expect to earn between R25 and R100 a week.

Furthermore, the city dweller has better access to education, health care, entertainment and shopping facilities, all of which help to improve his quality of life.

Provision of public-sector services was cheaper and more efficient in an urban environment.

Increased numbers of town dwellers increase the size of the urban market and the opportunities this offers will help to create some of the additional jobs needed by the growing population.

‘The possibilities for a community to pull itself by its own bootstraps are considerably greater than in a dispersed rural settlement,’ Prof Nattrass said.
Crisis-town residents to flock to Divco meeting

Tygerberg Bureau

ATLANTIS residents were faced with a rents-and-eviction crisis, until they use “every form of transport they can rent or borrow” to travel to a Divisional Council meeting in Cape Town on Thursday.

This was decided yesterday by about 500 people at a report-back meeting by Atlantis Residents Association (ARA) chairman Mr. Noel Williams on failed talks with the council last week.

Withdraw

Mr. Williams criticized the “near-presence” of police when the nine-person delegation arrived at the council offices in Waie Street last Wednesday.

ARA delegates withdrew when they found members of the Atlantis Management Committee at the meeting.

Yesterday the audience asked Mr. Williams to try to organize another meeting with the council but said it should not be ahead of members of the Management Committee attended.

Four Progressive Federal Party members of the Divisional Council — Mr. Neil Ross, Mr. Stuart Collins, Mr. Jasper Waas and Mr. Paul Andrews — met the ARA yesterday and said they believe that the ARA is more representative than the Management Committee.

Ill-mannered

The four councillors plan to ask for a special council meeting this week to discuss the town’s problems and will raise complaints by residents that some council officials are ill-mannered.

Some residents have said their offers to pay off arrears in small amounts have been refused by officials, who threatened them with eviction unless they paid more and officials “are driven by some unscrupulous men to steal money and some women to work the docks”.

Residents yesterday supported a call to help move furniture back into the houses of evicted families and to re-connect electricity and water supplies themselves if cut off by the council.

Mr. Williams told the audience that he and his family had been threatened at the weekend that his home would be burned down and that he had been visited by men who threatened him after saying that he was “causing big trouble”.
‘Secret’ Atlantis debate

Municipal Reporter

THE crisis in Atlantis will be debated at a special meeting of the Divisional Council on Thursday, but the meeting will probably be held in secret.

Mr Neil Ross, who asked the council chairman, Mr Louwtye Rothman, to call the meeting, said Mr Rothman had indicated that the meeting would be closed to the public.

The first motion on the agenda, however, will be a call for the meeting to be opened.

The Atlantis Residents’ Association (ARA) has also called for an open debate and a public meeting in the town on Sunday to support a suggestion that residents travel to Cape Town by bus to attend the special session.

The ARA also hopes to send a delegation to meet the council this week, on condition that members of the Atlantis Management Committee do not attend.

The ARA has demanded an indefinite stay on evictions in the town, the reduction of rents and the restoration of full water and electricity services where these have been disconnected from households unable to pay because of massive unemployment.

It has refused to negotiate with the management committee on the grounds that it has no credibility in the community.
Commuters angry at bus fare rise

The cost of a ten-journey clip card from Nyanga to Bellville, Eisle's River or Parow rose yesterday from R2.20 to R3.70.

"Many unemployed people can no longer afford to travel by bus they are walking around looking for jobs. A single fare from Nyanga to Cape Town, without a clip card, now costs R110.

The increase would cut into the grocery money of many, he said.

"It will cause conflict between workers and employers too as the fares have gone up while the workers have got no increment. It must lead to higher wage demands. Where else must workers get the money?"
Tech fees up by at least 15 percent

TUITION and residence fees at the Cape Technikon rise by at least 15 percent next year.

The increase was necessary because of inflation and an adjustment to the Technikon's fee structure, a spokesman said.

Tuition fee increases varied depending on courses and the extent to which expensive equipment was used but could be as high as 25 percent, he said.

RESIDENCE FEES
Courses most affected by the increases were those in humanities.

"To date these were essentially so-called chalk and talk courses but increasing use is being made of computers, word processors and other equipment, which has made the adjustment necessary."
DIVCO meeting on Atlantis crisis today

Municipal Report

The Divisional Council's special meeting on the Atlantis crisis will take place today at 3pm instead of tomorrow as originally planned.

The council chairman, Mr. Louwthe Rothman, said this was the only time he "could fit it in."

Mr. Rothman said he "personally" felt the meeting should be public but there was a possibility of councillors present calling for it to be held in camera.

The Atlantis Residents' Association (ARA) is planning to organize buses to take residents to the meeting at the council's headquarters in Wale Street.

Mr. Rothman said he spoke yesterday morning to the chairman of the ARA, Mr. Noel Williams, but that talks had not yet been arranged between the ARA and the council.

The ARA has refused to meet the council if members of the Atlantis Management Committee are present.

Mr. Rothman said it was council policy to invite the management committee to any meeting affecting its area and that until this policy was changed, he could not overrule it.
Atlantis: Divco backs mancom

By HILARY VENABLES
Municipal Reporter

ANY chance of talks between the Atlantis Residents’ Association (ARA) and the Divisional Council about the crisis in the town faded yesterday when the council decided at a special meeting that the Atlantis Management Committee should be present at any such talks.

The ARA, acting on a mandate from two mass meetings in the town last week, have refused to talk to the council in the presence of the mancom.

Roadblock

Meanwhile, a bus carrying about 80 residents from Atlantis to the meeting in Cape Town yesterday afternoon was stopped and turned back at a police roadblock in Table View.

According to one of the passengers, police said the bus could not continue to Cape Town, but a delegation of seven would be given police transport to the meeting.

“We refused to be divided and turned back to Atlantis,” the passenger said.

“We were all very angry and frustrated and on the way back, someone threw two loose bus seats out of an open window,” the passenger said.

A police spokesman last night confirmed that the bus had been stopped by police because it was believed the passengers were going to convene an illegal gathering in Cape Town “because of the crisis in Atlantis.”

After deciding to go back to Atlantis “they nearly broke the inside of the bus in pieces and two seats were thrown from the window”, the spokesman said.

“The bus was stopped and two people were arrested and charged with malicious injury to property.”

During the Divco meeting, which took place under tight security, Mr Len Polther said the ARA enjoyed widespread support in Atlantis precisely because, unlike the management committee, it was not seen as part of the government system.

He urged the council to deal with the ARA and other civic associations in preference to the management committees which had been rejected by the community.

“If we are to follow democratic procedures, we must listen to what the community says, not to a body in which people have no confidence.”

Mr Jasper Walsh said he was “convinced that the ARA was established to help people” and that it had a bigger following than the mancom.

He said the council would not be able to alleviate the problems in Atlantis if “we adopt the stance that we won’t talk to members of the ARA except through the mancom system which they have rejected.”

Mr Gideon Basson said he was sure people as hard-pressed as the residents of Atlantis would “not mind” if the council discussed their problems with the mancom.

He blamed the low polls in mancom elections on the media which had “discouraged” people from voting.

‘Agitation’

A candidate in a recent by-election in the town was elected on a 1.05 percent poll.

Mr PJ Grobbelaar said a mancom was a “platform” for coloured people to bring their problems to the attention of central government “and they must use it.”

He said people did not vote in mancom elections because of “agitation, incitement and intimidation”.

The motion calling for the mancom to be present at all meetings between the council and the ARA was carried by eight votes to five.
Atlantis talks dilemma over Divo’s demand

DISCUSSION of the economic crisis in Atlantis could be jeopardised by the Divisional Council’s decision to meet the Atlantis Residents Association (ARA) only if joint meetings will be held with the town’s Management Committee.

The decision, at a special council meeting yesterday was carried by eight votes to five. It will be reveared to the ARA today by the chairman of the council, Mr Louwrie Kotman.

The council rejected a motion by councillor Mr Neil Ross that it should disregard the Atlantis Management Committee and negotiate with the ARA.

The council referred a number of proposals on how to deal with the rents and unemployment crisis in Atlantis to Tuesday’s council meeting.

Many in arrears

Mr Ross said that 1,638 families were in arrears with rent, owing a total of R143468.426 home-owners owed R567002 in arrear payments and R48000 was outstanding on water accounts.

Before the vote Mr Len Botha said the people of Atlantis wanted direct representation.

He urged the council to conduct its normal business with the civic and ratepayers’ association.

“I’d be upset”

“Would be upset if this council went to the ratepayers in my ward, because that is what ignoring the management committee and working with the ARA means.”

Earlier a bus carrying Atlantis residents to the meeting was turned back by police who arrested two men.

The passengers were told that under emergency regulations their presence was an illegal gathering.

Police offered to take a delegator of seven to the meeting but the residents refused to be split up. They were told to turn back to Atlantis.

As they drove off one man hit a police officer in the face. Police were turned around and turned to Atlantis.

A police liaison officer, Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, today confirmed the incident.
Poor Whites in the news again

Argus Foreign Service

LONDON — The emotive concept of the "poor white" is an issue in South Africa again, says the BBC.

British television viewers this week saw whites eating at segregated soup kitchens and joining queues for Salvation Army handouts.

"White poverty was once very real in this, Africa's richest land," said Michael Buerk, BBC TV's Southern Africa correspondent.

"It fuelled Afrikaner nationalism and led to the creation of the political system that now runs this country. Today the 'poor white' is a political issue once again."

Conservative MP Koos van der Merwe told the BBC, "I believe the Government is selling whites down the river."

"The mere fact that whites are hungry, that whites are out of work, that whites can't buy food and other things, that their cars are being repossessed, is proof."

And a white mother said, "In the morning you worry, what am I going to give my children to eat? When they're busy eating you worry again: what am I going to do tonight? Tonight when you're eating you worry again. It's not nice."
Queenstown ratepayers: Food should be withheld

Own Correspondent

FORT ELIZABETH — The Town Clerk of Queenstown, Mr Peter Gerber, said yesterday that ratepayers want the government to withhold emergency food aid from the town's African community.

Mr Gerber, who is also chairman of the Queenstown Mini Joint Management Committee, said the committee was formed earlier this year "for the purpose of identifying problem areas in the community and helping to find solutions". It represented "a broad base of people in the community" and at an executive meeting held earlier this week, had decided that food aid should be withheld from the area's Mlungisi Township, he said.

Rumours that the distribution of food would be withheld until such time as the African boycott of white shops in the town was terminated, were not true, he said.

14 dead

At least 14 people have been killed since Sunday in violence which erupted in Mlungisi Township.

Government food scheduled for the township is due to arrive in Queenstown before the end of the month, according to information released by the East Cape regional offices of the Department of Health and Population Development.

Mr Gerber said they were not sure when the food was due to arrive but did not want it sent.

"We feel in Queenstown that the distribution of the food now would not be in the best interest of the community as a whole. We don't want them to send food to Queenstown and if they do we dissociate ourselves totally from any such action in saying that I'm echoing the sentiments of the entire Queenstown ratepaying community," he said.

The regional director of the Department of Health and Population Development, Dr J D Krynauw and the chief director of the East Cape Development Board, Mr Louis Koch, had also informed the matter to the Deputy Minister of Law and Order and of Defence, Mr Adriaan Vlok, he said.

Commenting on the Queenstown decision yesterday, Dr Krynauw said, "I cannot condone it under any circumstances and neither can my department."

Dr Krynauw said he had been informed on Wednesday of the Queenstown decision to withhold emergency food aid from the township.

His department had no recourse if this was to be done, as once food had been delivered to the area it was up to a local organisation to distribute it.

"Our hands are tied. As far as we are concerned the food should be given to each hungry person I did ask them to please see that the food was not wasted. We can only ask for cooperation," he said.

Telex

Mr Koch said last night Mr Gerber contacted him on Monday and told him of the committee's decision. "He appealed to me not to get involved in the distribution of food in Mlungisi."

Mr Koch said he had told Mr Gerber that he would consider the matter and had sent a telex to the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning indicating the situation and asking for instructions. He had not yet received a reply to this letter, he said.

Mr "Vlok could not be contacted for comment last night."
No food aid for ‘boycott’ township

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — A Department of Law and Order official said from Pretoria yesterday that he had been told government food aid would be withheld from Mlungisi township residents in Queenstown because white traders had complained that it could promote a three-month-old consumer boycott.

Earlier this week Queenstown’s Town Clerk, Mr Peter Gerber, said that the decision to withhold the food was taken by a “broad-based” joint Management Committee at a meeting earlier this week.

He said the decision was in line with the sentiments of the entire Queenstown rate-paying community.

Shopkeepers complained

Captain Andre Stander, secretary to the Deputy Minister of Law and Order and Defence, Mr Adrian Vlok, said he understood that some food had been distributed in Queenstown.

He said shopkeepers had complained that they were battling to survive and that food from the government would result in the boycott continuing indefinitely.

He said it was “not worth supplying food” to township residents because once people had enough to eat the boycott would last longer.

This was “bad for the economy” because shopkeepers might have to close their shops.

The consumer boycott in Queenstown has resulted in 30 businesses closing down.

Captain Stander could not say whether Mr Vlok had approved of the Management Committee’s decision.

Mr Linda Satuba, a member of the Consumer Boycott Committee, said the move to withhold food from township residents was news to him.

He said he did not believe that other committee members were aware of the decision but thought they would not be surprised because there had been “signs of white retaliatory action”.

“The bitter part of this is that the people who will be affected are needy people who would not be shopping in town even if there was no boycott because they have no money,” he said.

Mr A Shadiack, the Mayor of Queenstown, said he could not comment on the decision of the Management Committee as he was not a member. Only its chairman, the town clerk, could speak to the press.

But Mr Gerber was not available for comment yesterday.

The atmosphere in Mlungisi was tense yesterday although there were no reported incidents.

There was a strong police presence and people stayed in their yards or ran from the streets into houses when they saw police patrols.

Some people reported that their relatives were missing but most of them did not want to give their names. They told of vain searches at the police station, hospital and police mortuaries and with various undertakers.

According to police reports, 14 people were killed after violence erupted in the township on Sunday.

● No answers in Queenstown, page 3
Food aid to be withheld

The decision of the committee to withhold food aid from the Town of Queenswood has been met with strong opposition from the residents of the town. The committee has argued that the town is in a better position to support itself, and that the food aid would only encourage dependency and eventual decline in the community's ability to support itself.

Captain Andre Stander, the deputy chairman of the committee, said that the decision was made to ensure the sustainability of the community. He emphasized that the committee's primary concern is the long-term survival of the town.

The mayor of Queenswood, Mr. Gerber, expressed concern that the decision could lead to economic hardship for the residents. He suggested that a compromise could be reached where food aid is provided in smaller quantities.

Mr. Stander responded that the committee's decision was based on a thorough analysis of the town's financial situation. He emphasized that the committee's primary goal is to ensure the long-term viability of the town.

The community is currently divided on the issue, with some residents supporting the decision and others expressing concern. The mayor has called for a town meeting to discuss the matter further.
Discarded apple wrappers don’t go to waste — Annah Kubheka neatly folds them for use as hankies.

The shop that feeds the poor

BY SINAH KUNENE

SCORES of hunger-stricken families in White City Jabavu have resorted to scavenging.

This has urged Lamula Fruit Market owner Doctor Lamula to start a feeding scheme which feeds hundreds of mouths in the area.

Over 30 pensioners converge at the shop as early as 5am — hoping to take home mixed vegetables at the end of the day.

“They are always at the shop, eagerly waiting for rejected overripe fruits and vegetables,” said store manager Bonginkosi Mhlanga, who said the scheme had been running for over four years.

To canvas for public support, the shop has since been renamed Khoja Kancane Kwa Mondli Wezintandane (Pay less at the orphans' home).

Sickly mother of eight Elisa Mokwaledi, 67, said she has to feed a 13-member family — all dependent on her R135 monthly pension.

“I can’t even use that money for food because I have to pay rent. If it were not for these kind people, we would be starving,” she said, referring to Mr Lamula and his staff.

Pensionless Gladys Mahlabo, 68, who “worked for white families for years”, regards Mr Lamula’s shop as a mini-market.

“I can’t get employment anywhere. And I am a sickly woman,” she said, “but then I have to survive.”

Mother of five and grandmother of six Annah Kubheka said she is grateful to Mr Lamula.

Her pensioned husband looks after the grandchildren while she sticks around the shop for food.

“The store also gives us apple wrappers we use them as hankies,” she said.

FORMER Swazi Health Minister Allan Nkasala Nxumalo was this week fined R78 000 or 61 months in jail for defrauding the SA Customs and Excise Department.

Nxumalo earlier pleaded guilty in the Johannesburg Magistrate’s Court to charges of defrauding the Customs Department following the import of liquor from South Africa.
By Hiray Vembides

CIVIC DIARY

Divoce out of touch with Atlantins

Capa Times, Monday, November 2

High Volume traffic only begins at 6pm

Decision soon on funds for townships

Political Reporter

THE Government will decide within the next 10 days whether any more money is to be made available for the upgrading of townships in Natal.

It announced last week that Natal would get only R214 000 of the R155 000 million promised for improving the quality of life in townships around the country.

Dr Louis Rive, head of the Natal-KwaZulu Planning Council, said he had spoken to Development Aid Ministers Gerrit Viljoen and Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heurnis about the possible allocation of more money for Natal.

Priority

He had been told the Cabinet would make a decision either tomorrow or at another meeting in December.

Earlier this month Dr Rive said he refused to be party to raising people's expectations if nothing concrete was to be done over the R107.6 million needed for 70 priority projects in Natal.

He revealed that the planning council was already working on the first draft of its final report to the Government:

"If things go well it should be available around May next year," he said.

"But if money is not made available for the projects recommended in the interim report then we might have to consider whether it is wise to bring out a second report.

"It is entirely up to the Cabinet."
Needy will still receive Christmas cheer

Emergency scheme may be axed

By Susan Fleming

The Government's multiracial feeding scheme, which provides food to about 20 000 people countrywide, may not be renewed in the next financial year, according to the chairman of the central coordinating committee of the scheme, Dr Colin Cameron.

The scheme was introduced as an emergency measure to alleviate hunger and it would not be continued indefinitely, Dr Cameron said yesterday.

About R12 million was allocated to the scheme and, by March next year, this amount would be exhausted.

"After March I am not sure what will happen. In the interim we can just hope that the drought will break and that more people will find employment," he said.

Dr Cameron stressed the thousands of hungry people and their families who had received food a school this year would be catered for in the Christmas holidays.

Meals would be available at various health clinics and welfare organisations.

Harare — Angry walk-outs from parliament, first by Mr Ian Smith and his supporters and later by all the black members of the House of Assembly, punctuated an emergency debate yesterday on the political situation.

Mr Smith has been under heavy verbal fire since he was reported to have said overseas that Zimbabwe's African people did not understand the political system founded on them.

Yesterday, he was accused of being an unpatriotic racist and of depopulating the country of "white maffia" by repatriating white investors.

Mr Smith said he was continually being misrepresented. Appealing for genuine reconciliation, he said: "I am a Zimbabwean and I have enough sense to realise we have to work together."

— The Star's Africa News Service

Uproar as MPs slam Smith
Model town Atlantis turns ‘Hungry Town’

"HUNGRY TOWN" as the name residents have given the latest housing development scheme in the Cape west coast township of Atlantis

An Atlantis Advice Office worker explained, "After paying up to R250 a month for some of these houses, who can afford to eat?"

Very few of the local residents, it would seem — with unemployment in Atlantis running at an estimated 60 percent and retrenchments continuing daily.

Atlantis, once billed as the model of the government's decentralisation strategy, is now being variously described as a "ghost town", a "coloured homeland" and a "social and economic disaster".

Proposed as a possible solution to the chronic housing shortage on the Cape Flats, the planners behind Atlantis intended the development to draw the surplus coloured population out of Cape Town. Ten years later, in the words of Advice Office worker Fred Petersen, "The dream of Atlantis is now collapsing."

Approximately 2 000 tenants and homeowners face eviction because they have fallen behind with their payments. More than 200 residents have had their water supply cut to a trickle because they cannot afford to pay their accounts.

The grievances of the Atlantis community have come under the spotlight at a series of mass meetings held in the township during the past two weeks.

Last weekend a 1 000-strong crowd backed an Atlantis Residents' Association (ARA) decision to seek an urgent meeting with the Cape Divisional Council to discuss the community's plight.

"We demand, firstly, that all the evictions be stopped, immediately and forever," said Noel Williams, Chairman of the ARA.

"We also want a new rent structure and water must not be disconnected under any circumstances."

"It is not only the unemployed who are having a hard time. Even the employed find it expensive to stay in Atlantis," he said.

It was billed as the model township, designed to cure the chronic housing shortage on the Cape Flats. But the dream behind Atlantis is collapsing, for in an area with massive unemployment, few can afford the high rents.

MOIRA LEVY reports

Ten years ago, as an experiment in deconcentration, the government attempted to lure industrialists away from metropolitan Cape Town with attractive incentives, including 40 percent of rateable costs, 40 percent of the wage bill, housing subsidies and training grants.

The Divisional Council pumped well over R100-million into residential and industrial development.

Residents came from all over the Cape Peninsula, some from suburbs like Sea Point and Wynberg, which were proclaimed white in terms of the Group Areas Act. Most, however, were squeezed out to Atlantis by the chronic housing shortage in the townships of the Cape Flats.

And in spite of clear signs of impending economic collapse, new residents are still arriving in Atlantis, lured by the prospect of a home of their own.

Those who have jobs in Cape Town hold on to them, opting to commute the 45km to work each day, a journey which takes a total of three hours and costs R5.38 return.

Unemployment in Atlantis rises daily, Petersen said:

"There are huge factories with only a handful of workers, and they have to work twice as hard.

"They are doing the work of all those who line up outside the factory gates trying to get a job," he said.

"Workers will accept any casual employment because they are so desperate. Then they come to the Advice Office because they have not been paid or have not received any benefits. But they have no agreements or pay slips. We have no legal leg to stand on I don't know which way to turn."

The social consequences of recession and unemployment are hitting the community hard, he said.

The Advice Office has been getting appeals from women whose husbands are drinking heavily or who are selling their household goods to pay their debts.

Mixed-wed couple told to split or leave

SOUTH AFRICA'S first legally married mixed-race couple were threatened this week with the choice between separation or deportation — all because of a bureaucratic bungle.

Suzanne LeClerc and Protas Madlala married in June, the day after the government lifted its ban on marriages "across the colour line.

LeClerc, an American, lives with her husband in the village of St Wendole's outside Pinetown. On Monday, five months after the wedding, she received a letter from the Department of Home Affairs.

WEEKLY MAIL REPORTER

PFP MP Roger Burrows, the department admitted the whole thing had been a mistake. The problem had been caused by a mix-up with her name. Officials had made two files: one under the name of Madlala and one under LeClerc and no one had realised the two were the same person.

A department official visited the couple and apologised for the letter. He said that now that the department had "made the connection", she would no longer be required to leave.
Researchers: Cape children starving

GRAHAMSTOWN — From one-third to one-half of preschool children in the Eastern Cape and other homeland areas might not be getting enough food, a Rhodes University geographer who has done extensive research into nutrition in the Eastern Cape and Ciskei, Dr Rob Fincham, said.

Speaking at a Bernard van Leer Foundation-sponsored seminar here, he said while it seemed that at least three per cent of all children under the age of five in South Africa suffered from severe malnutrition, the picture was unclear because from 1967 malnutrition had not been a notifiable disease.

Dr Fincham said studies showed that on white-owned farms, general undernutrition seemed to be the main problem among blacks, while in the urban areas about one-third of blacks, coloureds and Indians were at risk.

He said civil violence, unrest and unemployment were further worrying aspects.

"We can't at present work in some areas. There are parts of the community which we are not touching," he said.

Dr Fincham spoke about facts emerging from studies in Cango Valley resettlement camps - like Oxtown and Tselela - and Port Elizabeth's smaller rural towns and the Amatola basin.

He said in New Brighton where families tended to be fairly well off, about 17 per cent of children were at risk while in Little Sovieto-by-the-sea, also a squatter community, the figure was as high as nearly 50 per cent probably reflecting the environments in which the people were situated.

In small towns there was tremendous variation. In Fingo Village, Grahamstown, a considerable number of preschool children were at risk, while at Makana's kop creche, only one was undernourished because of the provision of extra feeding.

The Amatola basin was a fairly well-provided for community, as long as the rains came together with money from migrant workers.

However, the children in Oxtown and Tselela were in a pitiful condition - marasmus and kwashiorkor were still rife.

The effects of malnutrition could result in hearing and speech malfunctions, learning problems and even brain damage.

It might not be possible to overcome these problems, even with physical rehabilitation.

"If we catch a child within the first two years of its life, we stand a chance. The younger we catch it, the more chance he has of improving."

But the programme of environmental enrichment must be ongoing, he stressed.

Dr Fincham said the problem of malnutrition was political. He said only two per cent of the gross national product world-wide was spent on health, and only two per cent of that was spent on primary health care. There was a crying need for a redistribution of resources and much more money spent on combating malnutrition.

Dr Fincham said the health care system needed to be re-oriented with greater concentration on deficiency diseases.

He added that being vegetarian and compared to food, housing, education and social needs.

Resettlement resulted in the devastation of the environment.

"We should be trying to avoid this at all costs," he said.

Malnutrition involved a wide range of problems. These included an adequate supply of water, food and skills, immunisation and nutritional education as well as child care.
THIRTY-one years of reporting black Africa during its most phenenetic transitional years has left me with the overwhelming question — what's new?

I have roamed the continent (for the past 16 years for Argus newspapers) covering wars, revolutions, insurrections, civil uprisings, famines, disasters and sometimes the tragic comedies which have been so much a part of Africa's emergence.

And now, with most African republics at least 20 years old, I realise that news in Africa runs in a series of cycles. Whatever it is — a government toppled, an economic disaster, a mind-boggling expose of top-level corruption, cross border sabre rattling, a new headline-grabbing guerrilla movement — I've been there before.

For me, it began with the Mau Mau in Kenya. This was given great international publicity as a mass black uprising against white colonialism, and has since been chronicled as Kenya's liberation struggle — the forerunner of many others in Africa.

**Struggle**

It wasn't really. Only three of Kenya's 54 tribes were involved, many of the Kikuyu and Embu and a relatively small percentage of the Meru.

Most who took to the bush did so because it was the "in thing" to be one of the lads. Atrocities against whites shocked the world, but there were not many of them. In fact, less than 50 whites were killed during the entire Mau Mau struggle, nearly half of these being British soldiers trampled by Rhinos in the forests.

Compared with Mau Mau and unconfirmed reports said they had been eaten.

The civil war in the then Ruanda-Urundi (now Rwanda and Burundi) in 1972-73, produced even greater savagery. In what is now Burundi, the ruling Tutsi minority was estimated to have killed more than 250,000 former Hutu serfs over a 24 months' period.

**Starving**

For sheer, cold-blooded callousness, there has never been any war in Africa to match the 30-month clash (1968-70) between Biafran and Nigerian Federal Government forces.

When Federal troops finally routed the greatly outnumbered Biafrans, they closed the Uli airfield, through which church and other relief organisations had been feeding a million starved people.

Then they ordered all newsmen out of the region for the next six weeks while Biafrans died.

In its early stages, the civil war in Angola, still raging, was an appalling saga of Portuguese panic. When they heard the Africans were coming, they jumped into their trucks and cars and fled south.

Driving around with Unita forces in town after town I found signs of instant flight. Houses with half-eaten meals on the tables, electrical household appliances still switched on, and everywhere, forlorn, abandoned household pets.

These were later in great demand, dogs in particular. It was a common sight to see a man going home to dinner with a happy smile on his face, a bag of mealie meal under one arm and a dog under the other.

Questioning Cubans captured by Savimbi forces I was impressed by their idealism and courage. I found they were mystified about their role in Angola.

"We were told we were going to Africa to fight for the blacks against imperialists. But we find we are here fighting blacks", was a common complaint.

My favourite Africans have been found in the most primitive societies. My favourite Arabs are the Sudanese. They are the kindest, and most hospitable.

I don't have many favourite politicians. Jomo Kenyatta had the greatest charisma.
Poverty stumps brilliant academic

By CATHY SCHNEEL
A BRILLIANT Vista University student is having to forgo the opportunity of studying in America because he is now the sole supporter of his four school-going brothers and sisters.

His parents are serving five-year sentences in jail for dealing in drugs.

They were imprisoned in May, and since then 23-year-old Vusumzi Rozani has been responsible for feeding the family and paying the rent for their tiny shack in Veeplaas.

This first-year BComm student — who received distinctions in two subjects this year — has been offered a bursary to study in America next year by the South African Education Programme, administered by the Institute of International Education in New York.

However, he has decided he will not accept the bursary if it means leaving his family destitute.

Nor will he enrol for his second-year at Vista — the bursary from the Department of Education and Training does not nearly cover the costs of the books and fees.

His immediate hurdle is trying to raise enough money to pay for the bus trip to the University of Fort Hare in Alice on December 7.

He has been invited to write a further qualifying exam by the South African Education Programme.

Quietly-spoken Mr Rozani is a favourite among Vista University lecturers.

He came top of his class this year after he obtained 80% for economics, 79% for education and 72% for business economics.

He walks from Veeplaas to Vista and back daily.

A part-time job in the public relations department at Vista barely manages to raise enough money to keep the wolf from the door.

Most days he can only afford to eat once.

"All I want in life is to be a chartered accountant. But it is so difficult to try to get money to study. Sometimes I'm so hungry it's difficult to study at all.

"I'd be glad of any kind of holiday job until term starts. Then maybe I could save up enough money to pay the rent for a few months."

His business economics lecturer, Miss Mimi Strauweg, said "He has so much potential — it's a terrible shame he has no money to go any further."

Professor Alwyn du Plessis, head of the department of Business Economics, described Mr Rozani as "very intelligent and hard-working — a man with a great future if only given the chance."
Commuters were having to pay increased bus fares which they could ill-afford because of the government's mismanagement of the economy, Mr Sam Gross told the City Council this week.

Mr Gross said the official explanation given for the recent 10 to 12 percent hike in bus fares was that the price of petrol had increased because of the falling rand. But the onus for the increase lay with the central government, he added.

The council directed the executive committee to consider ways of persuading the government to provide additional subsidies to City Tramways.
Ravensmead tenants being evicted

Tygerberg Bureau

RAVENSMED residents in arrears with their rent are being evicted from their homes.

Five families were evicted yesterday and another five or more families will be evicted today unless they make arrangements for paying arrears.

Mr. Hansie Christians said a total of R760 000 was owed by residents for back rent.

"We do not evict people from their homes if they come and negotiate and are willing to pay off at least something, but people prefer to drink away their pay and that's why they don't pay up. They are evicted because they ignore us on the management committee and don't want to negotiate with us," he said.

The chairman of the Ravensmead Action Committee, who recently joined the Progressive Federal Party, Mr. George Bieouw, condemned the evictions in Ravensmead.

"People are suffering from hunger because of the recession and increased living costs. They can barely pay their rent and still feed their children.

Residents evicted yesterday admitted that they had owed amounts ranging from R300 to R600 in rental arrears - but too, they could not afford to pay.

"Chased into buses"

One, Mrs. Lila van Rooyen of Larme Street, was evicted yesterday, owes R400.

She said they fell behind when her husband was injured at work and lay off for a month, and that their monthly rent was R145.

Sitting among her personal belongings, which were stacked outside her former home yesterday, she said she had to take her two-year-old daughter Lucille, a blood-realted illness, and needed regular treatment at Tygerberg Hospital.

We have four children to support and we are going hungry. We cannot pay our arrears. Now the Management Committee has chased us into the bus. What will we live on?" she said.

Mrs. Johanne Bieouw, 88, has three children. Her husband earns R85 weekly and they receive R100 as fuel. She owes R420 and was evicted from her Dairy Street house.

Another resident, Mrs. Julie Bosman of Pioneer Road, paneled when the men came to raze her home. She was away all the day before the men to wait until the men were clear and would pay them when she was. Today I was paid.
By HILARY VENABLES
Municipal Reporter

A MASS meeting of 1200 Atlantis residents last night called on the Atlantis Management Committee to resign.

The meeting, called by the Atlantis Residents' Association (ARA), also demanded that the Municipal Council come to Atlantis to discuss evictions, unemployment and water and electricity disconnections with the community.

The council is to discuss the crisis in the town at a special meeting at its Wale Street offices tomorrow.

ARA chairperson Mr Noel Williams said he had invited the management committee chairperson, Mr Freddie Brandreth, to the meeting, but he had declined unless he was guaranteed "protection".

"I told him if he was confident he had not hurt and belittled the people of Atlantis, no harm would come to him," Mr Williams said.

"Spreading lies"

"We want an explanation from the management committee, we want them to resign tonight," he said to sustained applause.

Mr Williams said the management committee was "spreading lies" that the Municipal Council had promised not to evict any more people.

"We know people are being evicted. The youth have been carrying furniture back into peoples' homes and we will carry on carrying peoples' furniture back into their homes as long as the evictions continue. We will not have the council humiliate us any more.

"We demand that the council write off our arrears for rent, water, electricity and payments on our houses. "If the government can write off the R500-million it spent on the stupid Sishen-Saldanha railway, it can write off the R2-million it claims we owe."

Mr Williams urged the audience to participate in the ARA self-help project, which will organize the growing of vegetables in peoples' gardens.

He also said he would organize buses to take people to Bellville South where food was cheaper.

300 people a day

"We must show that we are and can be independent," he said.

Mr Williams said 300 people a day were coming to the Atlantis Advice Office soup kitchen for food.

The ARA has also called on people to observe a one-hour candlelight vigil tomorrow night in solidarity with detainees and those who have been evicted or had their electricity or water cut off.

Late last night, Mr Williams said police had fired over the heads of a group of about 300 people walking down the road after the meeting.

The crowd retaliated by throwing stones at the police vehicle. No one was injured or arrested, he said.

Police were unable to confirm the incident last night.
Atlantis leaders held at roadblock, then freed

Tygerberg Bureau

FOUR executive members of the Atlantis Residents' Association (ARA), including the chairman, Mr Noel Williams, were detained at a roadblock in Table View while on their way to a special Divisional Council meeting in Cape Town today.

Police said they were allowed to go on after being questioned.

Mrs McKinna said she was allowed to continue when she told police at the roadblock she was going shopping in Cape Town.

ON AGENDA

Mr Williams, his brother, who was not named, Mr Yusuf Manuel and Mr Maxwell Moss were travelling on the coastal road from 'Atlantis' to attend the meeting in the council's offices in Wale Street.

The economic and unemployment crisis in Atlantis was on the council agenda this morning.

Mrs Sybil McKinna, who runs the ARA advice office in Atlantis, said she was travelling behind Mr Williams's car and saw him being taken away with his three companions.

Police ban ECC meeting

Staff Reporter

POLICE have used emergency regulations to ban a meeting planned for tonight by the End Conscription Campaign (ECC).

The police divisional commissioner for the Western Cape, Brigadier C A Swart, issued the banning order today.

The meeting was scheduled for 6pm in the Congregational Church Hall, Belmont Road, Rondebosch, and was to have taken the form of a panel discussion on conscription.

A police spokesman said no reasons were given in the banning order.
Ross joins resign call to mancom

By HILARY VENABLES
Municipal Reporter

DIVISIONAL councillor Mr Neil Ross has joined the call for the Atlantis management committee to resign.

At the end of the council’s special meeting yesterday on the crisis in the town, Mr Ross said the management committee should accept the call to resign issued by a meeting of 1200 Atlantis residents on Monday night.

“I should like to see them accept the challenge and find out what the people really think,”

The Atlantis Residents’ Association (ARA) has branded the management committee “part of the apartheid system” and claims it has done nothing to help the community during the current economic crisis.

According to a report tabled at yesterday’s meeting, the economic recession has hit Atlantis harder than any of the council’s other housing estates.

Writing off

By the end of October, tenants in Atlantis owed the council a total of R156 854 in rent — double the figure for January 1985.

The chairman of the council, Mr Louwlyse Rothman, told the meeting that the council had asked the government to consider writing off the rental arrears of all those who qualified for relief.

Council has also recommended that home owners who are unable to pay instalments on their houses should have their debts capitalized and their housing loans “renegotiated”.

The current six-month relief measures granted to both tenants and home owners suffering hardship should be extended “indefinitely”.

The council is to call an urgent meeting with the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heurnus, and the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives, Mr David Curry, to discuss these proposals and various other relief measures suggested by councillors at the meeting.

The council’s staff committee is to investigate complaints from residents that council staff are “rude and uncooperative” when approached for help.

A car carrying four executive members of the ARA to the meeting was stopped at a roadblock and searched in Tableview yesterday morning, according to the ARA chairperson, Mr Noel Williams. Eight ARA members attended the meeting.

Rejected

Mr Williams last night welcomed the council’s attempts to offer relief to Atlantis residents but said the problems in the area could not be solved until the council agreed to talk to the ARA on its own terms.

The Atlantis management committee has rejected claims by the ARA that it does not represent the people of Atlantis.

In a press statement released yesterday, the management committee claims it received 7000 votes in the last general election in 1983 and that this “clearly represents a mandate”.

According to newspaper files, only 618 votes were cast in the election. The poll was 6.88 percent.
SA hunger aid for one million

Weekend Argus Correspondent
PRETORIA — Hunger relief projects in South Africa have provided food for at least a million people this year, but charity organisations are being flooded with appeals for more aid because of the recession.

The director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Ida Perlman, said there were at least three million people in the country whose nutrition was below medically-accepted standards. There were constant appeals for help from poverty-stricken communities.

She said Operation Hunger had received requests to feed a further 233,000 people, in addition to the 562,000 who were receiving help. About R52 million had been spent on food this year and about R60 million on self-help schemes.

There had been a 30 percent increase in appeals for aid to World Vision of Southern Africa in the last four months, said the organisation's marketing director, Mr Dave Cathbert.

Increase in appeals

He said World Vision would expand its 179 self-help and feeding projects by 67 next year, with a total budget of R72 million.

Earlier this year the government announced R20 million in emergency aid for the hungry.

In recent months the State has allocated R4 million of this money for hunger relief schemes. It will spend a further R5 million before the end of the financial year in March 1986, said the chief director of laboratory services for the Department of National Health and Population Development, Dr C Cameron.

Control boards

The control boards have also contributed to the feeding effort this year by providing subsidies on surplus food. For example, according to the Department of Agriculture, food provided included:

- One million tons of surplus powdered milk have been made available at a subsidised price, at a cost of R1.5 million to the Dairy Board.
- The Potato Board has sold more than 34,000 15kg bags of potatoes at subsidised prices.
- The Dry Bean Board has donated 10 tons of beans to Operation Hunger, and the Banana Board has donated 45,000 20kg boxes of bananas to the hungry.
- Operation Hunger also received apples worth R200,000 from the Deciduous Fruit Board.

New SA fuel catalyst will save millions

Weekend Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — A new, internationally acclaimed gas-to-fuel catalyst, invented by four Witwatersrand University scientists, is likely to save South Africa millions of rands at Mossel Bay’s gas conversion platform.

The zeolite catalyst, which turns methanol (converted from the ocean methane gas) into motor fuels, has a much longer life span than similar catalysts developed in the United States, which were installed in the first operating Mobil plant turning sea gas into petrol in New Zealand.

One of the Wit research chemists who developed the new-wave catalyst, Dr Dick Copperthwaite, said: “We have proved the catalyst in the laboratory and it has not yet been patented. But a large industrial firm may take it up once the Mossel Bay operation gets going.”

He said the catalyst development was also...
Atlantis mancom defended

By Hilary Venables

The chairman of the Atlantis Management Committee, Mr. Freddie Brandreth, last week declined an invitation to address the people of Atlantis at a public meeting unless he was guaranteed "protection." He decided instead to defend the mancom in a press statement.

In the typed statement, Mr. Brandreth attacks the press, the Atlantis Residents' Association, and certain divided councillors for projecting a "negative" image of his committee.

He denies that the management committee has no mandate from the people of the town, claiming that 7,000 votes were cast in the last election in 1983.

According to press reports at the time, only 813 votes were cast. As each voter was entitled to cast four votes, the actual number of voters was considerably less than this. The poll was 6.88 percent of registered voters.

Mr. Brandreth accuses the press of inflating the number of people attending ARA meetings, saying press reports have claimed attendance of up to 2,000 people "in a hall which can only seat 500." Cape Times press reports on ARA meetings have recorded audiences of between 300 at February's ARA launch in the tiny Avondale Civic Centre and 120 at a packed meeting in the larger SAXONSAUCE Civic Centre last week.

Many of the people present were standing. "The fact that the Atlantis management committee is not holding any public meetings can be blamed on disruptions caused by people with ulterior motives," the statement continues.

The mancom also attributes the relief measures granted to unemployed people in Atlantis to its own efforts. Most of the relief measures were, however, initiated only after pressure from the ARA.

Mr. Brandreth says he and his mancom believe "that we have an important role to play in promoting the interests and welfare of the inhabitants of Atlantis." He has also stated that the interests of the people cannot be served by relief measures alone, but by people being given the democratic right to decide their own destinies.

As divisional councilor, Mr. Neil Ross said last week, if the mancom believes it truly represents the people of Atlantis, it should accept the challenge to resign, hold another election and see how many turn up at the polls.

FORMER Table View Ratepayers' Association chair and newly-appointed town councillor, Mrs. June Gee, has informed her Mayor, Dr. B.H. Reich, that she is not welcome in his parlour.

Mrs. Gee, who was the driving force behind the successful campaign for more councillors for the fast-growing Table View suburb, has obviously driven Dr. Reich to distraction by her stand on democracy.

She has clashed with the council on numerous occasions, particularly when far-reaching and controversial decisions are taken at secret meetings instead of in open council.

Dr. Reich, who considers his parlour an extension of his home rather than the office of a public representative who is answerable to both his constituents and his council, says it would be hypocritical of him to invite Mrs. Gee through its portals because she has damaged the council's "internal harmony".

During her term of office, Mrs. Gee is bound to disagree strongly with the council on a number of issues.

As the representative of the ratepayers in her area, she has a duty to attend to their interests. Whether or not she disrupts the harmony of the council in doing so is irrelevant.

Mrs. Gee, however, is not intimidated easily and her constituents can rest assured that even the prospect of tea with the Mayor is unlikely to tempt her to stray from her course.
Call to give land for bushdwellers

EAST LONDON — A charity group has asked the public to give land so that a permanent home could be developed for the bushdwellers in the area. The Bushdwellers Development Committee, headed by Mr. Hein Krantz, said they had approached the Col. M. M. M. H. A. Committee for a grant of land to build a permanent home for the bushdwellers.

Mr. Krantz said that the committee was also looking into the possibility of developing a permanent home for the bushdwellers in the area. He said that the committee had already approached the Department of Housing for a grant of land, but that the department had refused to consider the application.

The committee is planning to build a permanent home for the bushdwellers in the area, and they are hoping to get a grant of land from the government. Mr. Krantz said that the committee was also looking into the possibility of developing a permanent home for the bushdwellers in the area.

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VIVA for INA!

A PINT-SIZED mega-money maker has raised R11 million and spent it all on starving people.

She is Ina Perlman, director of Operation Hunger — an organisation known as 'The People's Charity' because it has captured the hearts of millions of ordinary citizens.

It has become one of South Africa's most viable charities and it is through Ina's ceaseless work that the spectre of hunger has been removed from the frontiers of the nation's conscience.

As a result, the battle against hunger is being fought on many fronts.

It has led to executives pushing supermarket trolleys, musicians staging their hearts out and private children giving up their birthday parties.

"I think the reason for this is that people realise how easy it is to help, and that a mere six cents a day can mean the difference between life and death," she says.

"This is what has made our appeal so effective — everybody can help. The smallest donation can save a life."

Not a day goes by without a new scheme being dreamt up to raise money in a new way.

In the first years since Operation Hunger was launched, Ina has raised over R11 million for the nation's hungry.

Figures have crept up from an original 10,000 to more than 500,000 people — and Ina feeds them all.

"Although the fight against hunger has been taken up by millions of people, Ina still worries. The waiting list of needy people is more than 200,000."

Marvellous

"You can never feel that you are home-and-dry after you have raised a sum of money. "The money will only last for so long, and more will always be needed."

"She finds her only escape is to read trashy novels into the night."

"Rather be awake I read those novels that are so bad that you can't even remember the plot after you've finished," she says.

"For every heart-break story in the rural areas there is a heartening one in town."

A pensioner walked into the Operation Hunger office and, saying she had no money to give, offered a Victorian wedding ring to be auctioned.

"Psychiatric patients at a hospital held a mini-fete and raised over R200 for the cause, and a group of friends offered to give money to Operation Hunger in lieu of birthday presents, thus swelling the coffers by R6 000."

A group of racing drivers are planning a mini-Monte Carlo, Coca-Cola and Ronald Sassoon have launched promotions which will benefit Operation Hunger, and Jesus..."
A NUMBER of people have come forward with offers of help after reading about the plight of the destitute Morolong family of Mapetla, Soweto, highlighted in The SOWETAN last week.

Mr Jeffrey Morolong, 59, his wife, Selma, and their four adult children have been unemployed since the beginning of the year. Their unemployment benefits have run out and the family has no income.

Mrs Morolong is sickly and the family's situation has aggravated her poor health. She said the whole family, which includes four minor children, sometimes goes to bed hungry. They faced a bleak and hungry Christmas until their story appeared in The SOWETAN.

Mrs. Morolong cried when she heard how concerned people were about her suffering. "God bless them all," she repeated over and over, "God bless them all, for their help."

She had pleaded for jobs: for her husband and sons. She said she had almost lost hope for the future of her family.

Mr Yunus Patel, a businessman from Rooi de Krug, was the first to offer help to the family. He gave Mrs Morolong R60 and promised to send her a hamper every week until the family members got jobs again.

A group from Vosloo's said they were touched by Mrs Morolong's plight. They read the story on their way back to work. They promised to get together to devise some way to help the family.

Mrs Du Plessis of Boksburg has offered one of the daughters a job and also said she would send the family R20.

Mr Tony Guiness of City Funerals has offered Mr Morolong and his two sons part-time work over weekends. He said he hoped the job might ease the burden.

Twenty-one workers at WEA Records' ware house have promised to donate R10 each from their Christmas bonus.

Mrs Morolong was overwhelmed with joy and cried tears of gratitude.

The family has been living on R20 a week from the unemployment benefits, but they have run out. They have been surviving on bread and potatoes.
Africa needs more than $1.3bn in aid

NEW YORK — Africa is going to need well over $1.27bn in emergency aid next year — much of it in cash needed to buy and transport food from areas of plenty to areas of want.

Contradicting reports that the famine crisis was over, United Nations office for emergency operations in Africa director Bradford Morse said that next year posed a greater challenge because of the difficulties involved in spreading the benefit of bumper harvests to less fortunate areas.

Zimbabwe, Kenya and Niger produced a combined surplus of 1.3 million tons of grain, and Malawi also had a surplus.

Yet, where crops were good, prices were declining rapidly, and unless something was done, farmers would become dispirited, he said.

His office put next year’s aid needs at $1.27bn, compared with the $2.3bn this year that went into what Morse called “the most successful relief operation in recent years”.

He added “At least 3-million lives were saved, but a greater challenge is posed by the changed nature of the relief operation in 1985, which will require that a much greater proportion of the aid be in the form of cash to purchase local food and transport it to those in need.”

The latest report by Morse’s office leaves six countries on the “serious” list — Ethiopia, Sudan, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde and Botswana.

These six account for nearly 70% of those who were in need of emergency aid at the height of this year’s crisis and 18 million people remain threatened, it states.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told a recent meeting of UN ambassadors that there were now grounds for “very cautious and conditional” hope over the famine crisis.
Minister tours ER townships

THE Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Haunis, this week ordered that other accommodation should be found for about 100 squatter families in Katlehong, Germiston.

Mr Haunis, who visited seven East Rand townships including Katlehong on Wednesday, told the regional representative of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr J Korff, that the camp must be monitored and other accommodation found for the squatters soon.

He appeared horrified by conditions at the squatter camp.

Hostels

During the tour Mr Haunis appealed to town councillors to investigate upgrading hostels in the area.

Addressing the Press and East Rand town councillors after his visit, the Minister said the introduction of Regional Services Councils next year would transfer income from more affluent societies to a more needy society.

He said the council's money would be spent in areas where the needs were...
Blacks get R19 m ‘gift’ from Heunis

Mercury Correspondent
CAPE TOWN—The Government gave black South Africans a R19 million surprise ‘Christmas present’ yesterday, with R2 000 000 of it allocated to Crossroads.

Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, announced in a press release that the extra R19 million his department had made available would go to various institutions ‘within the next few days’.

‘The money will be used for the improvement of the quality of life of black people, the creation of job opportunities and the upgrading of black towns,’ he said.

Institutions which would get the money included some development boards, community councils and black local authorities, he added.

The funds formed part of a R600 million allocation by the Government for the creation of jobs.

Mr Heunis said this latest allocation brought the total of funds allocated since July this year to create jobs to R130 million.

Crossroads, which will get R2 000 000, appears to have been allocated a greater share of the R19 million than any other township, though Mr Heunis did not list all the recipients.

Soweto would get R1 000 000, Kathiso R1 200 000, Deepmeadow R1 400 000, and Tabiso and Thabong R1 700 000 each, he said.

The Natal Development Board would receive R2 000 000, but this was on behalf of all the community councils in Natal, Mr Heunis said.
R19m for SA's 'black' towns

CAPE TOWN — The Government gave black South Africans a R19 million surprise "Christmas present" yesterday.

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Mr Heunis said the latest allocation brought the total of funds allocated since July this year to create job opportunities to R130 million.

Crossroads, will get R2 million, Soweto R1 million, Kagiso R1.2 million, Deerpennow R1.4 million, and Tembisa and Thabong R1.7 million each.

The Natal Development Board would receive R2.3 million on behalf of all the community councils in Natal. - Sapa
In the year of the problems

IT is still a matter of "nought for your comfort" for the people in Port Elizabeth's densely populated northern areas in 1986 — the so-called year of reform.

An in-depth look at the lives of the estimated 120 000 residents there has shown that they are still saddled with many of the same problems as before.

Poor housing conditions, transport difficulties, beach apartheid, cinemas apartheid, inferior or public amenities such as parks and sport fields and inequality in pensions and state grants still prevail — and the much-talked-about improvements are mostly non-existent.

This year's education crisis in the northern areas also emphasised the lack of progress in this crucial area.

Housing, however, remains problem No 1 in the community, resulting in overcrowding, disease such as tuberculosis and a serious lack of privacy.

For example, four families, numbering 29 people, live in a dilapidated house in Jackson Street, Korsten — a place not fit for human habitation — because the PE municipal housing department cannot accommodate them.

They're willing to pay the rent for a sub-economic council house. But houses are simply not available.

The following families occupy the house: Mr and Mrs Joe Draghoender and their four children, Miss Poppy Pienaar and her four children, Miss Angeline Mentoor and her four children, and Mr Minnie Mentoor, who stays with her two daughters and one son.

Miss Poet said: "I have been on the waiting list for a house since 1971. I have a regular job. I have worked there for nine years and can definitely afford the rent in a sub-economic council house. I desperately want to get out of here. I have nowhere else to go to."

Mr Draghoender said: "I don't know much about politics. But I thought things would be better for us this year. They can't even give me and my family a decent home although we can afford to pay the rent."

About 200 families in Gelvandale Extension No 7, also known as Beverly Hills, are faced with a toilet problem. Several years after moving into their homes.

Two families have to share one toilet. But money has been set aside by the authorities for providing toilets for those who do not have one. Nobody, however, knows when the extra toilets will be built.

The council's home building programme in the northern areas has come to a standstill.

Acting Deputy Director of Housing Mr A B Gibson admits that not a single house has been built there this year.

Even work on phase two of Booyens Park had to be stalled. Another assurance that has not been met with a year of great expectations.

The problem, Mr Gibson says, is a shortage of money. If the state does not provide the funds no homes can be built.

There are 7 000 families on the waiting list for houses and the northern areas has a population of more than 100 000 people.

Mr Gibson said: "Housing development depends on the allocation of State funds. I have no idea when that will be available."

Squatters in Klemmies, are among those who are suffering because of the lack of funds: for proper housing and there is severe overcrowding in Heleusville, where some of the city's poorest families live.

Last year families in Ablett Street, Korsten, offered to buy the flats they rented from the council.

The families are still renting because the council...
Poverty main cause of famine

WASHINGTON — Lack of money rather than scarcity of food causes most famines, the World Bank argues in a major study.

The report, which will be released next year, lists wars, floods, crop failures, loss of purchasing power by groups of households and high food prices as major causes of famine. But it says a decline in the food supply, home-grown or imported, is not necessarily a major cause.

"Indeed, by paying excessive attention to changes in the aggregate food supply, governments and other organisations have sometimes failed to recognise the other causes of famine," says Shlomo Reutlinger, senior economist in the bank's Agriculture and Rural Development Department.

"The loss of real income better explains why famines occur and who is hurt by them."

He says that in 1980 there were 730-million people in poor countries, not counting China, with incomes too low to give them enough to eat. — Sapa-AFP
POVERTY-GENERAL

1986
Refugees dying from disease

HARARE — Zimbabwean refugees at the Dukwe camp in Botswana are dying every month from outbreaks of disease because of poor conditions and food shortages, according to refugees who have returned to Zimbabwe.

A report this morning said more than 100 people who returned to Zimbabwe just before Christmas had given Home Affairs Minister, Mr Enos Nkala, a picture of shocking conditions at the camp.

It is estimated about 1,000 Zimbabweans are among the 4,000 refugees at Dukwe.

Mr Nkala has called for the repatriation of all Zimbabweans, saying the camp should hold only South African refugees.

Many of the Zimbabweans at Dukwe fled there three years ago when security forces carried out tough security operations in Matabeleland.

Following a visit to Botswana by a delegation from Harare, 133 Zimbabweans have returned.
need to fight hunger

Instant-food scheme is...

The report indicates that due to the low availability of food, there is a need to implement an instant-food scheme. This scheme aims to provide quick and affordable meals to those in need, especially in rural areas where access to adequate food is limited. The implementation of such a scheme can help in reducing hunger and malnutrition among the population.
Rains ease the famine crisis

DROUGHT-ENDING rains and humanitarian efforts have overcome the worst of Africa’s famine, but even as relief agencies applaud the global response they warn that the crisis is only dimmed—not over.

“The challenge of keeping people alive and getting them back on their feet and farms was the easy part,” said C. Payne Lewis, director of the Washington-based agency Africare.

At the beginning of 1985, the Organisation of African Unity said Africa’s foreign debt was $150 billion (R375 billion). At the end of the year, African leaders attending a Franco-African summit in Paris said it had risen to $170 billion (R425 billion).

“We have to prevent hungry people becoming dependent on foreign aid, but we have to help and find new ideas all the time,” Lucas said. “The long-term challenge is going to be tougher as the image of the famine disappears off the TV screens.”

Across the continent from east to west, seven nations in a belt on the burning southern fringes of the Saharan Desert are most at risk: Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia. To the south, the nations most at risk through war and drought are Mozambique, Botswana and Angola.

In London, the United Nations Children’s Fund published a special report in December saying more than 17 million children—or a quarter of those under 5 in Africa—are suffering from malnutrition. Unicef said that the trend will adversely affect Africa’s development for generations to come.

A recent UN report said that 26 of the world’s least developed nations are in Africa, where populations are growing at a faster rate than anywhere else but where life expectancy is just

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The screenshot includes a portion of a newspaper article with the headline "Rains ease the famine crisis." The content discusses the impact of rains and humanitarian efforts in overcoming the worst of Africa's famine, while warning that the crisis is not fully over. The text highlights the challenges of keeping people alive and the need for new ideas. It also mentions the African debt and the trend towards malnutrition. The article is set against a background of war and drought in Africa, particularly in nations like Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Sudan, and Ethiopia. The text concludes with a UN report detailing the extent of suffering among children in Africa. The article is attributed to the African states' request for a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to consider the African situation. The text also mentions the UN Economic Commission for Africa's publication of a report on the issue. The article is from a publication dated 29/11/86 and is labeled "Weekly Times."
A family in fear of their mobile home evicted...
Community has had a hard time — church

Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — The Anglican Church here dashed a final blow to the Squatter's Bench and the squatters over the Kasi squatters' zoning case yesterday by announcing that the church had decided not to support the squatters.

The church had previously announced its opposition to the squatters, but yesterday it said it would not support them in their struggle.

The church's decision was based on the fact that the squatters had not been able to provide adequate financial support for the church's proposed program to assist the squatters.

The church's announcement was met with mixed reactions from the community. Some praised the church for its decision, while others criticized it for not supporting the squatters.

Moorcroft warns of road danger

Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — The PFP called on drivers to be cautious in the Kasi area, where a number of accidents have occurred recently.

The PFP said that drivers must be aware of the potential for accidents in the area and that they should take extra precautions.

The PFP's warning came after a number of accidents in the area, including a fatal accident in which a squatter was killed.

The PFP urged drivers to be extra careful in the area and to report any accidents immediately to the police.
Pebco offers to assist in food scheme

By BARBARA ORPEN

A BREAKTHROUGH was made at a meeting this morning when a spokesman for a black organisation offered to assist with the distribution of food supplied by Operation Hunger in the Port Elizabeth townships.

But the spokesman for the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (Pebco) said organisations and people in the townships would have to be consulted and approval sought before anything could be done.

The meeting was held for informal and formal welfare organisations from all race groups to submit claims to Operation Hunger.

Concern was expressed at the fact that the greatest need was in the black townships but there had not been sufficient liaison with welfare organisations and structures within the townships.

The Rev Mike Crockett, of the dissolved Care and Share Programme, articulated the problem as "The structures in the townships are not evident to us.

"If Operation Hunger is to give us food for the townships, organisations strong enough must be established to administer the food"

"We seem to be scratching around the edge of thousands of people because we are not in contact with the infrastructure."

Applause broke out when the Pebco spokesman stepped forward and said "We appreciate the offers of assistance. In the townships, we have an infrastructure in the form of area committees and street committees which can handle the whole process of administering the food."

More than 50 representatives from organisations including Pebco, Black Sash, Community Chest, Idamsa (Black Interdenominational Ministers' Society), Red Cross Benevolent Society and the Utentjake Save the Starving Committee, attended the meeting at St John's Methodist Church in Have- lock Street.

Operation Hunger last year budgeted almost R508 000 for the PE-Utenhange area, but no charity successfully applied for aid and the money was used elsewhere.

The meeting today was held to clear up misunderstandings and for Operation Hunger to hear what the needs of the people in the area were, and to inform organisations how Operation Hunger operated.

Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, said the organisation did not set up projects in its own name. "We assist existing organisations as long as those organisations are in touch with the grassroots communities.

"There must be no paternalism and no handouts. Whatever we do must be in partnership with the community and with existing organisations."

In spite of a few protests, she also stressed that any assistance would be given in kind and not in cash - "this is the standardised form of assistance we give throughout the country."

"We are able to feed a child at a cost of 6 cents a meal and are able to provide 80% of the full nutritional requirement for a child."

"It is then the responsibility of the organisation or the community to organise the storage and distribution of the food."

When it was discovered that the SABC was at the meeting, a protest was registered by an Idamsa representative. The SABC was asked to leave.
You wake up, and there's another village

Jonathan Wright
WAD SHERIFE

SUDANESE smallholder Nasredin Abdullahi surveys the largest refugee camp in Africa and is angry. 'At first we welcomed these people but now we're fed up,' he says.

The camp, at Wad Shereifie, near Kassala, on the Sudan-Ethiopia border, is home to more than 130,000 refugees from war and famine in the north Ethiopian province of Eritrea, 18 km away beyond the line of hills on the eastern horizon.

'It was beautiful when it was first built,' says Abdullahi, a stout 40-year-old immaculately clad in white robes and turban.

Drab tents

In the background the drab tents of the camp extend across the plain as far as the eye can see. The Eritrean children play in the dust, their mothers go about their household chores and clusters of unemployed men idle in the shade.

They are sitting on their farmland, they send their children to our schools but their capacity to cope has limits. Public opinion is at breaking point,' adds Kareem Mohamed Karam, the regional government secretary-general.

Camp authorities have no ready solutions — the refugees refuse voluntary repatriation until the Eritrean war is over and local officials elsewhere in Sudan object whenever central government proposes a transfer to

permanent, self-sufficient settlements

Mohamed Osman, camp executive officer for the Sudanese Commissioner of Refugees, told reporters that in the past eight months 100 families had moved out of Wad Shereifie, which began life in 1982 as a temporary reception centre.

In the meantime an average of 15 to 20 new families arrive every day.

The new arrivals set up waggons of matting on the edge of the camp and clamour to be registered whenever someone in authority approaches.

'When I wake up in the morning I find a village on top of me,' Osman says. 'It cannot go on.'

The Eritreans cling to the camp as a lifeline in an unstable world, refusing to work in distant areas in case they lose their right to food rations from international agencies.

Idris Mohamed Alsheikh, an Eritrean religious leader in Wad Shereifie, said, 'If you lose your ration card that's it — you're in big trouble. Your livelihood depends on it.'

Experience of war has aggravated their unease. Moussa Ali, 20, said he left home last month after Ethiopian warplanes had strafed his village and soldiers had burnt his crops and killed his animals.

'I won't go back until Eritrea is free and independent,' he added. After more than 20 years of secessionist rebellion in the province, peace still looks a long way off.

In Khartoum the politicians affirm their commitment to an Organisation of African Unity convention promising safe haven for African displaced by civil disorder in their native lands.

Hassan Atya, Commissioner of Refugees, told reporters the only way to combat Sudanese resentment was to provide the local population with health and education facilities equal to those received by the newcomers.

'The refugees are sometimes more privileged than the Sudanese,' Prime Minister Al-Gazouli Dafaa-Allah said. 'There is too going back on the open-borders policy but the international community must understand the difficulties.'
Relief fund totals

R750 000, 'but
it's not enough'

Mercury Reporter

The funds of the
Inanda/Phoenix Relief
Committee, swelled to
more than R750 000 with
a cash contribution of
R18 000 from the Transvaal; Mr Vellan Chinnasamy, the fund's chairman, announced yester-
day.

However, he said the
amount collected so far
would not be enough to
provide relief to the more
than 1 000 Indians and
100 blacks who were left
homeless during the
height of the unrest in
Durban last August.

He said the House of
Delegates had contribut-
ed R350 000, but sent an
account later for R149
000.

If we have to pay back
the money then we won't
have enough to provide
the relief needed by fam-
ilies still to be rehoused,' he said.

Mr Chinnasamy, said the
Teachers' Association of
South Africa had donated
R75 000 and a further
R75 000 had come from
schoolchildren.

'We are holding a meet-
ing with the Minister of
Health and Welfare, Dr
M S Padayachy, regarding
the House of Delegates'
account,' said Mr Chin-
asamy.

Mr Chinnasamy said only
after the meeting with the
minister would a decision
be taken whether or not
to refund the cash.
Selling his fish to buy school books

AFRICAN schoolchildren are catching fish in the sea at Swartkops and selling them alongside the road to raise money to buy school books.

Yesterday the Evening Post spotted three youths standing on the side of the Redhouse-Despatch road trying to sell catches of fish to passing motorists.

One youth, 12-year-old Sapewa Jacobs, of Zwide, said he had caught the fish that morning. He and the other youths were hoping to sell their catches to raise money for school books.

If no one bought the skipjack, they would take them home.

"I do not like begging for money in town so I thought I would try to raise money in an honest way," Sapewa said.

He hoped to make R3 from his catch.

"I need books to study as I hope to become a teacher one day," he said.

Under the present system, school textbooks are free, but this does not include all prescribed books, a spokesman for the Department of Education and Training in PE confirmed today.
Hitching a lift on their way home from school this week were NOLENE PHILANDER, 15, at the rear, her sister, JEAN, 10, and their brother, JAKOB, 12.

By RAYMOND HILL

WHEN 10-year-old Jean Philander leaves for school in the morning, she has to walk eight kilometres or hitch a ride to the bus stop, and then take two buses to school.

If she is not lucky enough to get a lift home in the evening, she has to walk another eight kilometres getting home at 5 or 6pm.

She is one of a group of about 15 children living in a settlement near Schoenmakerskop who experience severe hardship in getting to and from school in Schauderville and Chatty every day because there are no buses to where they live.

They are the children of labourers who work at a Port Elizabeth municipal pump station

The children walk up to 16km a day in all kinds of weather if they do not get a lift from passing motorists.

This week school principals and a senior official in the House of Representatives' Education Department said they were shocked to learn of the children's plight and would investigate immediately.

The principal of the Dietrich Primary School, Schauderville, Mr Harold Wilson, said he had not realised the problems they experienced.

Yesterday Mr Salma Jonas said his three children were unable to attend school because they did not have the bus fare.

"It is not the first time that they had to stay at home because I could not afford the fare. They are keen to learn but transport is the problem," he said.

He said they walked or hitched to the railway crossing at Walmer township so that they could catch a bus into the city.

They then had to catch another bus to school.

Mrs Gladys Philander said her daughter, Estelle, six, was enrolled at the Dietrich Primary School but had not been to classes because she was too concerned about a little girl having to hitch-hike daily for the past few months.

Nolene Philander, 15, her sister, Jean, 10, and their brother, Jakob, 12, also attend the Dietrich Primary School and have been hitchhiking daily for the past few months.
African food plight acute

GENEVA — As many as 19 million Africans will need emergency food supplies and other aid this year despite largely successful international efforts to combat drought and famine last year.

The worst-hit populations are those of Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sudan and Botswana, says a UN official.

Maurice Strong, executive director of the UN Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, told a news conference in Geneva yesterday that a total estimated aid for Africa this year would cost about $800m, compared with $2.9bn last year.

Strong appealed for speedy responses from donor countries so that cereals and other relief supplies could be delivered and stored before the beginning of the rainy season in May and June.

He said the US had contributed 35% to 40% of last year’s African emergency funds.

He expected the US to raise about $300m to $350m this year — despite constraints imposed by budget-balancing legislation. — Sapa-Reuters.
Probed into diverted aid

NEW YORK — World Food Programme headquarters in Rome is investigating the illicit sale on the black market of famine relief supplies given by the US to starving African nations.

One theory is that the sacks of high-protein food, clearly marked "Not For Resale or Exchange", came from Lesotho where the WFP has a long-standing operation.

Last month's Lesotho border blockade by SA might have provided special opportunities for pilfering or diversion. The blockade "led to delays in food shipments and to reduced stocks", the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa noted in its latest crisis report.

Late last month the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) said the blockade led to severe shortages in Lesotho hospitals and clinics.

Yet WFP experts seem more resigned than surprised by the Johannesburg evidence of relief abuse.

"Like a river it flows," said an official who suggested a similarity with what happened recently in Florida. In that case, diverted famine relief stocks turned up in a Miami district nicknamed Little Haiti.

The UN-sponsored WFP uses government-donated food commodities, cash and services to back social and economic development throughout the Third World.

It had a key role during last year's crisis, when close to $1bn worth of emergency relief was pumped into Africa.

Another $900m worth will be needed this year, according to the UN emergency office.

Lesotho is off the critical list and on a transitional aid list, released at the UN on Tuesday.

A profile of Lesotho's 1986 emergency needs shows that food is no longer required, but rather assistance in improving sanitation and local agriculture. Mozambique and Angola are the two southern African countries listed as still in need of emergency food.
SATS paid out R2 600 for missing famine food

Johannesburg—South African Transport Services paid out R2 600 to the World Food Programme during 1980 in compensation for bags of the American-made famine food powder which went missing during transit, a spokesman said.

He said the money was paid to the programme and not the shipping agents Gundelfinger and Sons as had been understood previously. All the claims related to bags which were destined for Lesotho but were left behind in SATS trucks for various reasons and were later impounded at Kazerne and other railway depots.

Some of the bags of Corn Soya Milk (CSM) were sold by public auction by the SATS to defray expenses.

The auction was stopped by the Minister of Transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, this month after a press report about famine relief food being sold. Only 240 of the 22 kg bags had been sold to the public.

The spokesman said representatives of the World Food Programme had been in touch with the SATS and were satisfied with the arrangements.

An investigation by the Railways Police had failed to uncover any irregularities.

Earlier reports said 400 tons of the food powder had failed to reach Botswana. Zimbabwe Railways had been responsible for transport to Botswana, the spokesman said. — (Sapa)
When human dignity takes the back seat

The harshness of South African poverty is portrayed by this poignant picture of a migrant worker who has to live in a single-quarters compound in Johannesburg and sleep on a concrete bed. The picture was taken in 1980. Published in a new book, "South Africa: The Cordoned Heart", the photographs deal with all aspects of poverty — economic issues, as well as the lack of basic needs, such as education, health, water, fuel and human dignity. The book is a result of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa. It features photographs by 20 South African photographers who believe artists cannot be neutral about their country's suffering. The book, launched this week, is published by The Galbury Press, Cape Town.
Poor starve in a world of ample food — top banker

WASHINGTON — Famines are often due not to a shortage of food but to a lack of money to buy it, World Bank President A. Clausen said in a report released yesterday.

"The world has ample food. The growth of global food production has been faster than the unprecedented population growth of the last 40 years. Enough food is available so that countries which do not produce all the food they want can import it if they can afford to," the report said.

"Yet many poor countries and hundreds of millions of poor people do not share in this abundance. They suffer from a lack of food security, caused mainly by a lack of purchasing power."

A drop in world food prices often does not help some countries. For example, in Sri Lanka the dollar price for imported wheat and rice fell by 15 percent a year between 1970 and 1983 but the ordinary Sri Lankan buys his wheat and rice for rupees, and the rupee price of grain grew by more than seven percent a year.

The report says the number of poor people suffering from lack of food is likely to increase. It found the largest recent increases in South Asia and in Africa south of the Sahara.

The report estimates that 730 million people in poor countries, not including China, lacked the income in 1983 to buy enough food to give them the energy for an active working life. That means one-sixth of the world is undernourished.

"Food price subsidies and other government programs to benefit the poor tend to be sharply reduced during hard times," the report adds.

The World Bank's sister organisation, the International Monetary Fund, often insists on governments reducing subsidies to save money. The issue has caused some friction between the two bodies.

— Sapa-AP
Mrs. MARY HALL, of North End, Port Elizabeth and two of her children, EUGENE, 2, (left) and WILLIAM, 3, have been struggling to make ends meet for some time now. Left: Mrs. ZANDRA HANSEN of North End, Port Elizabeth, serves a small portion of food for her daughter, also ZANDRA, from a container that holds a meal for four people. Both families receive help from the CMR.

Handouts putting the bread in their mouths

BY CATHY SCHNELL

The bitter realities of unemployment and joblessness have been forcibly brought home to white families living below the median income.

In North End alone there are 129 families who depend on handouts from the ChristianMissionaries of Charity (CMR) to eke out an existence.

And North End is just the worst hit area.

According to social workers for the CMR, there are many more families suffering on welfare handouts in Algoa Park, Spitskop, Glendale and Hillwood.

Some are lucky enough to find temporary jobs. Most aren’t. But all feel the desperate helplessness and despair that only an unemployed man with a large family can have.

For many women there are daily trips to the CMR offices in North End where they receive food, clothing and support from each other.

They can share their problems without the hurtful glances they often receive from women in more fortunate circumstances.

Some have already sold precious articles, like wedding rings, to buy food for their children.

They have learnt to cook on paraffin stoves, pay for weeks to buy a chicken for a birthday treat for a child, cover broken window panes with newspaper, stop many children in one bedroom bed and to cope with no electricity or hot water.

Their biggest difficulties are renewing the selfseem of their husbands, looking after their children and at the same time working at a marriage which is no longer the strain which marriage and poverty bring.

They soon learn to steal here and there, but the women say they are still hurt when an unemployable supermarket caudler comments about their welfare teasing their children at school for not being able to pay fees or buy something from the tuckshop.

One North End boy, who lives with his large family, was condemned by the health authorities, completed his matric by studying by candlelight.

A bright idea, a pupil gave up school for a job that pays R1 a week. Both his mother and father are unemployed, and there were other children in the family to consider.

Children are precocious, says a social worker, and now learn to ask their fathers when they will find a job, or to interfere in arguments between parents.

Often there is no money for entertaining in books and some children vent their frustration by trashing or stealing.

Children are perceptible, and now learn to ask their fathers when they will find a job, or to interfere in arguments between parents.

Often there is no money for entertaining in books and some children vent their frustration by trashing or stealing.

From the CMR, they have been encouraged to search for work.

The children play in a tiny vacant piece demarcated by a washing line.

Mrs. Hansen keeps her toy dwelling spotlessly clean and has decorated the walls with pictures cut out from magazines. The family used to sleep on the floor, which was made up using two beds.

Suzannah (not her real name), lives with her mother, father and three of their four young children. She had been demarcated by the health department.

Three of their children have left home and are working in Johannesburg.

The younger three are all at school and are working here.

Three other families also live in the rundown ransack houses. The families have to chase away rats drinking alcohol.

A man who had lost his job and had no money even bought snacks in the battle.

The food stop and clothing the family receive from the CMR, coupled with a little money for Hansen recently saved for two food vendors and help from the CMR, they would have been unable to survive, said Suzannah.

Mrs. Marie Hall, her husband, William, and three of their four young children live in their ground floor rented house in New Street, North End. One of the children lives with Mrs. Hall’s mother.

Mrs. Hall was retrenched and the couple were forced to go to the CMR for help.

Mr. Hall has now found a casual job and earns R3 a week. Two of the children suffer from asthma and bronchitis, and Mrs. Hall—simply unable to make ends meet—went to the welfare for help.

Mr. Koos Vermaak lives in a shabby bungalow near Greatbatch. He has a disability grant and also receives clothing and food from the CMR.

He cannot remember how old he is, but says he has no work for as long as he can recall.

According to a social worker, his hopes of finding work are slim.
‘Excess’
R6-m for hunger relief to be used

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Government has decided to use the R6-million from the emergency feeding scheme which was returned to the Treasury this month.

The deputy director-general of the Department of National Health and Population Development, Dr G S Watermeyer, said the money would be made available to the scheme in the new financial year.

Yesterday it was reported the Government had not used R6-million out of the R10-million allocated to the scheme because it could not find "enough destitute people" who qualified for aid.

The report caused a furore among agencies feeding the hungry, but Dr Watermeyer said organisations and individuals who dispensed the money had been "very slow in coming forward".

RELIEF GROUPS

When the scheme was introduced it was specified only registered welfare organisations could apply. Relief groups such as Operation Hunger were not eligible for aid.

But today Dr Watermeyer said his department was dismayed Operation Hunger had not applied. "We could have reached some agreement."

Operation Hunger; academics and the Progressive Federal Party have attacked the Government for not using the money last year.

The PFP spokesman on health, Dr Marius Barnard, said he would raise the issue in Parliament.
Tragedy of abandoned children

By DOUGIE OAKES
HE had big, brown begging-eyes and, running from his nose, were two rivulets of snot which he occasionally licked to keep under control. And although he could not have been older than 10, he had already become a prisoner of poverty, degradation and all the evils that go with it.

He stood under the illuminated painting of Colonel Sanders's smiling face, locking his eyes onto those of satisfied customers, before launching into his begging pitch — a simple "Mister?".

It was a bad night for little Chunky, another statistic in an alarming new development — the emergence of the "street child".
And sadly the most chilling aspect of this unfolding tragedy is that more and more children are being abandoned by parents who have long passed the point of caring.

ADOPTION

Although social workers have been making valiant efforts to trace missing parents before putting the children up for foster care or adoption — the Cape Herald received of ‘reconstruction’ between child and biological mother has to be undertaken.

"Sadly, the chances are slim that these children will be able to make a go of things in later life because the damage would already have been done by then. It is a fact that the depressed backgrounds of many of these children result in personality changes and stunted emotional growth and many of them turn to joining gangs and starting onto a life of crime.
"It can be very depressing but we do our best to save at least some of them. That is why family agencies are now trying to co-ordinate their activities — to draw on our collective experience as well as calling in the help of child psychologists — to tackle this problem"

But she admitted "We may only be scraping the tip of the iceberg."

Sombre words indeed, if it is considered that hundreds of children, some as young as 10, are living as beggars throughout the Peninsula.
And their numbers are growing every day.

The year of the missing children

WASHINGTON — In the United States the past 12 months may be remembered as the year of the missing child.

And attempts to tackle the problem have included the proposal, in Congress, of nine laws dealing with missing children.

In addition, milk cartons, oil bills and paper bags now carry picture of children, the chances of tracking him down are not good," Mr Howell said.

"We have had children who came home themselves because they saw their picture as a missing child. It's visual proof that someone is looking for them, that someone is anxious about their safety."

RUNAWAYS

Mr Howell said many and then returned had nightmares, could not sleep, cried often and were afraid they would be kidnapped again.

"To the lay public, their first thought is that's a child who's with a parent, so he's not in danger. The facts tell a different story. The kids are often in physical or emotional danger," he said.

"It's a life on the run, run away from me, stay away."
quakes a week for help in this regard — there is a feeling that the number of cases which come to their notice may be only the tip of the iceberg.

Why do parents abandon their children? According to a social worker at the Retreat-based Cafda organisation, a feeling of desperation on the part of the mother is one of the prime reasons.

"We have found that in many cases mothers are forced to flee their homes after horrific batterings by reputed husbands. Having done that, however, they are unable to cope with both eking out an existence and caring for their children. So they leave them in the care of others — in many cases never to return for them."

CARELESSNESS

The social worker added: "Problem drinking, mental retardation and, sometimes, just plain carelessness are other reasons for children being abandoned."

Thanks to the help of newspapers, we succeed in tracing many of the 'missing' mothers. But then the real problem begins. For, in most cases, while children are placed under the supervision of an agency, the sometimes extremely difficult task of reunification does not come easily, because they were afraid their parents would be angry with them.

Even those abducted by strangers often did not call their parents after seeing pictures of themselves on television, Mr. Howell said.

"They easily buy into the kidnapper's rationale: 'Your parents can't afford you and don't want you back. Your parents are dead. If you tell the police you'll go to jail.'"

Society had not generally viewed parental abductions as a serious problem, but Mr. Howell said studies showed that children subjected to such an experience from the police, don't make too many friends in the neighbourhood. It's a very difficult life for a child.
Prof: cultural factors behind black poverty

Dispatch Reporter
UMTATA — The new head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Transkei, Professor Q T Mquli, said in his inaugural address that the most conspicuous characteristic of most black areas in Southern Africa was their poverty and underdevelopment.

"In this respect, of course, they are different from other parts of the Third World and I further submit that the main cause of this poverty and underdevelopment lies in some cultural factors which militate against creativity, productivity and the like," he said.

He said he knew most people would immediately say that he was talking nonsense and that the real cause of poverty and underdevelopment among blacks in Southern Africa was oppression by whites.

He said he would counter that charge by arguing that if their culture (blacks) had been as highly developed as Western civilisation, they would never have been oppressed by the whites in the first place.

"I know also that there are some racist claims by psychologists such as Jensen and Eysenck who persist in claiming, on the basis of inadequate evidence, that there are genetically determined differences in intelligence levels among members of different racial groups and that these are mainly responsible for the differences in achievement levels among members of these groups, particularly in the sciences," he added.

"I would counter these racist claims by quoting King's words that "The fact that we have no evidence on the question of the inheritance of differences in intelligence between races, and we are not likely to get any until we discover means for greatly improving our techniques of investigation," he said.

He said he needed to qualify what he had said so far, by making it clear that he did not regard all of African culture as being bad nor did he regard all Western culture as being good.

"There are good points and bad points in both cultures, and the high divorce rate is characteristic of Western culture, for example, is as bad as the polygamy that is characteristic of traditional African culture."

"In fact, it has been said that the only difference between the two is that Africans practice simultaneous polygamy while Westerners practice successive polygamy."

"If we accept that the most conspicuous aspect of the black areas in Southern Africa is their poverty and underdevelopment and if we also accept that this state of affairs is mainly due to cultural factors, it then becomes self-evident that if psychology (or any other discipline for that matter) could contribute to the alleviation of poverty through manipulation variables that impinge upon the socio-cultural structure of this region, it would thus have succeeded in making itself relevant to the needs of the region," he said.

He said the options which psychologists may follow in attempting to resolve the person-environment mismatch faced by black African organisations would be to Westernise the African.

"The first option could be to Westernise the African, particularly by attempting to change the personality and value structure mainly through appropriate training programmes. "While many psychologists, such as David McClelland and Martin Nasser are involved in this work and claim to be successful, it is nevertheless an established fact that changing people's personalities and value systems is extremely difficult, time-consuming and expensive," he said.

He said the second option would be to Africanise organisations.

"This approach would presumably be more cost-effective and more consistent with Moerdyk and Coldwell's concept of "cultural synergy" but which these authors mean, "Symbolic relationships in which adaptations are made on the part of both parties so that Western and African cultural paradigms can sustain and enrich each other in their mutual desire for growth and development to the benefit of the individual, the organisation and the national economy."

He said that many authors and speakers had used the term, Africanisation, to refer to the exclusive employment of African staff in all senior posts in organisations.

"Let me hasten to make it clear that this is by no means what is meant by the term. "All I mean is that whoever is in charge of an organisation in Southern Africa, irrespective of whether the person is black or white, must be helped to manage the organisation in a manner that is consistent with African culture, thus ensuring productivity on the part of the vast majority of the members of that organisation who, in most cases, are Africans," he said.

He said it was his contention that this would benefit all who lived in Southern Africa and it was also his contention that Southern African psychologists should treat this as an area of first priority in their research and professional endeavours.

He gave two examples of how organisations could be Africanised.

- Subdivision of the class into subgroups based on criteria other than ability with each group choosing its own leader.
- Classroom groups are relatively permanent so that group identity, group cohesion and group prestige were worth striving for.

- Each senior class is given responsibility for one or more junior classes which it assists both in and out of school.

- The individual's conformity to the group is utilized in that group members execute control and discipline over those members who are not contributing adequately to group performances.

"It is my firm belief that every university department in this region should constantly strive to make its discipline relevant to the needs of the area because no Third World country can afford the luxury of supporting university departments that are not of direct relevance to the needs of the country's people."

"In accepting the chair of psychology at this university, I wish to express my determination to make the content of the discipline's syllabus as relevant as possible to the needs of the people of this part of the world without diluting the academic status of the discipline in any way whatsoever," he said.
Destitute Family

The Ramblin' children

Robert McFarland

right: Mrs. Martha McFarland and her children

marginal note: I am about to do my miscarriage analysis, which is due for some years ago. Why. Then we were forced to move from Nevada to California, which is where we came to live on the farm. We then moved to Northern California, which is where my mother was born. She died in 1942.
the parents, there are six children and nine grandchildren in the five-
roomed house. The Re-
motis are fortunate in 
Vlakfontein terms. Other families live in 
make-shift houses made of boxes, mud and cor-
rugated iron.

Mrs Martha Hlong-
wane and her family 
came to Vlakfontein 18 months ago. They had 
to move when her job fell through on a farm at 
Greendale. She and her husband cannot find 
other work. They are supported by her son 
who works at a home of the disabled in Lenasia, 
for R180 a month.

Mrs Hlongwane's 
mud home was demol-
ished with four others in 
February. The family 
now live in a tent lent to 
them by Dr Abu-Baker 
Asvat of Azapo's Health 
Secretariat. Her daugh-
ter Ntombi cannot go to 
school as the family is 
able to pay school 
fees.

"The officials from 
WRAB told us to go 
back where we came from. They said we do not 
belong here. I was born and brought up in 
Johannesburg, so were 
my children. My hus-
band is from Lesotho, 
but he has a permit to 
work here," Mrs Hlo-
gwane said.

"We do not know 
what to do. We have no-
where to go.

"We are thinking of 
running away and hiding 
somewhere to avoid the 
police or WRAB offi-
cials."
THE Unemployed Workers Movement said in a statement yesterday that it was "disgusted" at reports that the government had decided to use R6-million from its emergency feeding scheme, which was returned to the Treasury, for other purposes.

The deputy director-general of the Department of National Health and Population Development, Dr G S Watermeyer, said last week that the money had been returned because the government "could not find enough destitute people" who qualified for aid.

The money would be made available to the scheme in the new financial year, he said.

A spokesman for the UWM said: "It is the three-and-a-half million unemployed and their families who are in real need of this feeding scheme because of inadequate unemployment benefits."
The poor are asking for more

BAKER

WASHINGTON — Developing countries at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings in Washington have called for expanded lending under the so-called Baker Plan to ease the foreign debt crisis.

The chairman of the G-24 group of developing countries (G-24), Tadeusz Gebre-Kidan, told reporters the initiative announced by US Treasury Secretary James Baker last October did not provide for enough new money.

Baker proposed that commercial banks put up an additional $20bn in loans and that multilateral development banks add $30bn to stimulate growth in countries with severe foreign debt problems. — Sapa-Rester.
Children hold up their containers as they wait for the Operation Hunger soup kitchen to open.

EAST LONDON — No more hunger! Face hunger. Now Kuni squatters face hunger.
Selling empty bottles and selling crocheted, cross-shaped bookmarks from door to door provide Mrs X's only income.

After her husband, a well-paid State official, died Mrs X (she does not want to be identified because her son might suffer as a result of recognition at school) and her son had to move from the house her husband had been renting from the State.

While her late husband's estate was being settled, she had to find a place to stay, food to eat and, very important to her, money for her son's daily bus ticket to the Hoërskool Menlopark in Pretoria.

"During The Sunrise Stars visit the boy was nowhere to be found — it embarrasses him to be seen in such a situation," Mother said. "Now my son shares a servant's room at the back of somebody's house."

On the bare cement floor, the single bed mat, which they both sleep on, is made up with only two pillows and a blanket. A candle in a tin provides the light by which she crochets at night. A ball of wool is made to last longer by twisting the strands and using each of the four strands separately. So many crosses for so many rands — if she sells 15 today, she can pay half her rent.

Her feet are sore. She walks many kilometres each day to try to sell the bookmarks from door to door.

"Sometimes the people are extremely rude, they call me a parasite and swear at me," she said. "She still has hope, though."

"One of these days the State will pay out my late husband's pension money. Then everything will be OK again."
To Golf Course
ET'S SQUATTERS FLOCK

Building contracctors cash in on plight of desperate people

LANGE SOKOSAN

Who stands in the path of progress?

The squatters are being evicted.
Hundreds rely on pastor’s soup

By ANTHONY DOMAN
Staff Reporter

FROM about 11am the queue started forming.

Three hours later a stragglng line of about 200 people stretched along the pavement outside the Assembly of God Church hall in Hanover Park.

Carrying pots, jugs, cups and anything capable of holding liquid, they stood patiently waiting for the doors to open at 2:15.

This was Wednesday and the Hanover Park feeding scheme was standing by with a dozen huge pots of steaming soup.

"It's essential," said Pastor Edwin Baatjes, "Most of these people are out of work and desperate."

Mr Baatjes arrived in 1978, during the early days of Hanover Park. "There were only two or three blocks of flats. We operated from a little shack."

Even then he saw the need for a feeding scheme.

"It was hopeless just ministering to the community's spiritual needs. The people were starving. I had to do something."

Eight years later, 500 and more pass through the church hall each Wednesday.

"It grows and shrinks from time to time. I really don't want to see it growing. My hope is that it will help people get back on their feet so that they do not need this kind of thing."

There were some who abused his efforts. "You do get the 'element' here sometimes and we often have people coming drunk. But we try not to turn anybody away."

Some other schemes charge their customers but Mr Baatjes does not look on his project as a business. "Every cent comes out of my own pocket."

That means an average of about R70 a week on soup ingredients and bread alone. "I don't even want to think about the transport costs."

From the time the gas is lit at 7:30 on Wednesday mornings, Mr Baatjes and his eight helpers are busy until well into the afternoon. Their popularity has meant growing appeals for help elsewhere.

About a month ago they took 1,000 litres of soup and 500 loaves of bread to Crossroads. "That wasn't enough. It will be impossible for me to supply everything on my own."

But he said he would go anywhere he was needed. The only problem was finding enough money to support additional feeding schemes.

The Hanover Park feeding scheme has grown. "When I started I thought I would cater for disabled people only. Now unemployed people are by far the majority."

One woman who has used the soup kitchen since the end of last year said: "We just can't get work. This scheme helps us a lot."

Another agreed. "Times are hard. Sometimes we go without food. She did not feel she was begging. "We're all in the same boat here. We're all hard up."

Picture JIM McLAGAN, Weekend Argus

Theresa Ambrail, 7, gets stuck into her helping of steaming soup.
Focus on plight of the child beggars

BY RAYMOND HILL (24)

HUNGER and unemployment has forced mothers in some coloured townships of Port Elizabeth to send their children into the city to beg for food, money and clothes.

This is one of the findings of a social worker, Mrs Claudia van Vuuren, 24, of the Child Welfare Society, who wrote a thesis on begging for her B.A honours degree which she received at the University of Port Elizabeth yesterday.

She is the daughter of Mr Peter van Vuuren, vice-principal of the Missionvale Primary School, and lives in Reshina Ridge. Mrs Van Vuuren attended the Bethelsdorp Senior Secondary School and obtained her B.A degree in social work from the University of the Western Cape.

In her thesis on begging and vagrancy in the city, Mrs Van Vuuren portrays a picture of poverty in Helenvale, Schongelville and Gelvandale.

She made the study last year.

What prompted her research was complaints received by the society from the public and traders in Newton Park, Greenacres and the northern areas where the children beg regularly.

Their ages range from six to 14, and most are dropouts from school. Some admitted that they snuffed glue and drank strong liquor.

The study showed that hunger and unemployment forced mothers to encourage their children to beg. Some mothers accompanied their children on begging excursions.

She found that each child usually receives an average just over R2 a day from the public on Mondays to Thursdays and about R4 at weekends.

In many cases the money received from begging was the family's only income.

Mrs Van Vuuren spent hours watching the children in action.

Most of them interviewed by her afterwards and they bought food with the money — usually their only meal for the day.

Many were homeless and slept in the bushes or at a city golf course. Last year one of them was found dead after a cold night in the open.

Mrs Van Vuuren's findings have led to the establishment of a day centre for the children.

The centre, in Terblanche Street, Gelvandale, is expected to open next month.

The aim is to establish a night shelter for homeless children and to get them back to school.

Heart-rending stories of drunken parents, poverty and overcrowding were related by the children. Many of them were in poor health and seriously neglected by their parents.

Other facts which emerged about the children during the study were:
- Some were held briefly in police cells and at the Nefusa Place of Safety because of begging.
- Many said they enjoyed begging.
- Most of them knew that it was unlawful to beg.

Mrs Van Vuuren summed up her research: "The child beggar is a person in need and, as such, entitled to the help of the community and social worker, like any other person in need."

"Every child is also entitled to a better future. It is necessary that attention be given to such a child."
Mom with no home

BEGGING on Johannesburg's streets has become a way of life for mother of two Ntsontu Mabel Khumalo.

But now she's begging for more than money.

She hopefully asks passersby whether they have seen her son, David - a disabled mongol.

He used to beg with her, but disappeared with another group of beggars.

David's birth 20 years ago put Khumalo on the streets.

Deserted by his father, unemployed and nursing her sickly mother, she had no-one to turn to.

"I resorted to begging in the city," she says.

She remembers how she had to carry David from one train coach to another, while commuters clucked sympathetic comments.

"When he grew older he became too heavy to carry."

"The only solution was to join the squatters in city alleys," says 38-year-old Khumalo.

She has made many friends in the city.

By SINAH KUNENE

Khumalo's 10-year-old daughter Christinah, her second child, is also disabled.

Doctors had warned her she was likely to have another mongol child after David's birth.

But Khumalo, who was the only child at her Meadowlands home, washed "to have a very big family of my own."

And now she has lost her son.

Passers-by who have he...
Street kids get a place to stay

TWENTY-FOUR bunk beds and bedding have been donated to Process (Project Street Children – Educational and Social Support) by South African Breweries.

Process, established in 1984 under the auspices of the Homes and Orphans Family Association, attempts to alleviate the plight of street children whose existence is characterised by deprivation and turmoils.

These children take to the streets of Johannesburg for their survival after having been abandoned, orphaned, brutally treated at home, or evicted from their parental homes by their parents’ employers.

Process offers these children the opportunity to join voluntarily a family atmosphere where a work ethic is re-created.

Adult ‘caretakers’ foster healthy personal relationships and ultimately the children are reintegrated into the community via foster homes or apprenticeships.

The full-time care centre is in Magaliesburg and presently caters for 13 children between the ages of five and 16.

The West Rand Development Board has allocated two hectares of land at “Steenkoppsie” in Magaliesburg, to Process for the building of cottages to house 80-100 children.

Initially, prefabricated buildings funded by the Farmers Union will be erected to house 26 additional children.

Process recently opened a “halfway house” in Hillbrow using an old lecture theatre made available by Wits University.

The West Rand Development Board has agreed that they may offer children full-time shelter and care in this facility while Process investigates each child’s background in order to ensure the best possible approach to the individual’s problems.

BECAUSE of the great success of the Productivity Clinic for Welders recently held by the Small Business Development Corporation, another Productivity Clinic took place recently at the SBDC’s Orlando West Industrial Park.

Clothing manufacturers registered for the clinic at no charge and were helped to grasp some basic principles of running an efficient small manufacturing business. They were given practical advice on how to identify and overcome their most urgent problems.

At the end of the course, participants had a “knowledge of the basics of costing and financial control, how to organise the efficient production of clothing products, how to meet the needs of the market more efficiently and how to plan for better profits.

A 16-seater minibus has been donated by SA Breweries to Soweto Care of the Aged for the transport of senior citizens to social clubs throughout Soweto.

The clubs – created by the Soweto Care of the Aged Association to provide pensioners with an opportunity for social contact – give lectures on basic health care, nutrition and other subjects of interest to senior citizens.

Boek ’n Pary chairman Raymond Ackerman said the Government should immediately abolish every aspect of apartheid and the Group Areas Act when he was awarded a doctorate of law degree by Rhodes University in Grahamstown last weekend.

He also called for the release of all detainees, eradication of detention without trial and for the rule of law to be reintroduced.

“Only then can the Government meet with all real leaders to sort out a political constitution which will meet with the needs of a fair society,” he added.

US CORPORATIONS should stay in SA to press for an end to apartheid, according to the United States chairman of Burroughs, W M. Blumenthal.

He said US companies “had had a positive impact in lobbying the SA Government to move away from white supremacy and racial separation, but many could be forced out of SA unless Pretoria made major changes.”

Blumenthal last year co-founded the US Corporate Council on SA which has enlisted more than 100 chief executives of major firms to press for expanding rights for blacks in SA.
Chaos at big handout of food to hungry in PE

By ANTON KOTZE

Some women and children fainted as thousands gathered in Zwede yesterday for hand-outs of food from Operation Hunger.

About 5,000 people waited from early morning at the Ntalo-Ntle Child and Family Welfare's office in Zwede for rations to arrive.

New Brighton charity worker Mrs Albertina Dlamva said there was "havoc" at the handing-out points and that the crowds were "completely uncontrollable".

"The people are hungry. Some have been here since 6 o'clock this morning hoping to get food. We had to turn many people with empty stomachs away," she said.

Operation Hunger spokeswoman, Mrs Molly Nicholson, said that mainly milk powders, soup, beef and chicken stock had been handed out through various organisations.

Companies in Port Elizabeth donated surplus food to Operation Hunger, which in turn handed the rations over to eight organisations for distribution.

"But the problem is bigger than ever before. From the applications Operation Hunger has received we still need R11 million to meet this year's demand for food aid."

"Taking into consideration that it costs us R5 a day to feed one person, you can imagine the extent of the problem," she said.

Food was given to thousands in the townships outside Port Elizabeth yesterday. Receiving food from the Ntalo-Ntle Child and Welfare Society were, from the left, Miss LINA KLAAS, Miss NOLUTHANDA TOLA, Mrs I TOLOM, Mrs N E MACALOHN (senior adviser of the society), Mrs G MONI and Miss WENDY RAMATA.
Squatters tell of their suffering

EAST LONDON — The evicted Kuni squatters complained yesterday that they were suffering in the cold wet weather at their Keesie Camp settlement village between Koni and East London.

The squatters said that on rainy days water comes in under their plastic tents making the floors cold and muddy.

An elderly squatter Mrs Lily Ngxaba said she had suffering from rheumatism and had left her with painful legs.

She thought the government should provide food with more permanent structures that would withstand the wet weather.

Mr Bukani Maphosa, a member of the squatter committee, said they could not tell the government from the cold since they could not make their problems heard.

Other squatters complained about the lack of school facilities in the camp.

Parents, recently decided to allocate some building materials for a temporary school to be built. There were no complaints to the repatriation officer of the Department of Development Aid stationed on the camp the RDP unit in the area.

The squatters expressed their satisfaction with other social facilities provided by the government and social organisations.

They said that their supplies were sufficient and there had been no requests for help or for access to the government since they arrived at the camp.

The squatters said that they had been supplied with enough food and that there had been no reports of instability or lack of food since they arrived.

During a visit to the area yesterday, the squad of the surveyors were going through the area and the squatters were suitably dressed for the the wet weather.

Mrs Nokwazi Dubele takes advantage of a break in the rain to do her washing. Her two daughters, Zingiswa and Nonhlanhla, look on.

Mrs Nokwazi Dubele feels her children during their daily routine.
Hunger-related diseases on the rise, say doctors

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — Malnutrition was the main cause of many diseases that plagued communities at an alarming rate in the Border, Ciskei and Transkei, medical doctors and welfare organisations said yesterday.

They reported an increase in cases of hunger-related diseases due to the poor state of the economy.

The regional director of the Department of National Health and Population Welfare in Port Elizabeth, Dr J D Krynauw, said his department had introduced emergency feeding schemes in October last year.

The department obtained statistics from regional offices and then offered the aid required. Applications for assistance should be made through the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, he said.

It was difficult to detect malnutrition related diseases, which were rife in the outlying areas, since they were not notifiable.

The department gave skimmed milk and enriched nutritious foods to communities affected by malnutrition related diseases, he said.

The medical superintendent of Frere Hospital, Dr Ben Hall, said the hospital treated few cases of malnutrition from East London and Duncan Village.

Poverty-related diseases were mainly tuberculosis (TB), kwa-shorker and stomach illnesses.

He said there had been an increase in malnutrition cases from resettlement camps recently. The hospital gave them milk, vitamins, enriched foods, tonics and other health foods.

The co-ordinator of Operation Hunger, Mrs Rosella Frasca, said that malnutrition was increasing at an alarming rate in the country areas and was accompanied by disease.

She said the worst affected area was Transkei followed by Ciskei. There had also been an increase in malnutrition cases in the Border.

She said the main suffering were children. The economic recession had led to bread-wonners losing their jobs, and returning to their homes without money, Mrs Frasca said.

Operation Hunger only started operating in Transkei in January but had already opened 300 feeding schemes which were handling 300 to 700 children at a time, she said.

More requests were pouring in for help and this pointed to the magnitude of malnutrition in Transkei, Mrs Frasca added.

In Ciskei her organisation fed between 60 and 80 per cent of school children. The worst hit area was Middledrift where an average of 80 per cent of all the children were hungry, she said.

A report appearing recently in the South African National Tuberculosis Association journal, Santa News, said TB remained the biggest problem in King Williams’ Town.

The report cited malnutrition as the root cause of TB.

Overcrowding, fatigue, poor feeding, lack of recreation and a low living standard generally combined to create a favourable condition for the spread of TB, the report said.
Atlantis Diesel Engineering Director Mr Frikkie Erasmus (left), and Mr Abe Williams (LP Mamre), yesterday handed out the first of R5 000 worth of food parcels to needy residents in Atlantis.

**Atlantis food parcels distributed**

**Staff Reporter**

The major employer in Atlantis distributed food parcels to needy residents yesterday as an example to other firms in the area to take up their social responsibility and make the donations a monthly event.

Atlantis Diesel Engineering Director Mr Frikkie Erasmus and Mr Abe Williams (LP Mamre) handed out R5 000 worth of food parcels.

A spokesman for the company said he hoped "other firms in Atlantis will accept their social responsibility and make the handing out of food parcels a monthly event because many people in Atlantis are without jobs due to economic conditions."

The ADE food fund is administered by Mr Williams and Mr Erasmus and the Department of Health Services and Welfare (Coloured Ministers' Council) identified the residents to be given food parcels.
Destitute family living in rusting car

Mercury Reporter
A DESTITUTE TRANS-VUAL couple and their two small children have been living in a rusting car beside the road with all their worldly goods for more than a week on Durban’s beachfront.

John, and without money, the young family say they have been living on money given to them by kindly strangers.

The car has become their bathroom and laundry. The parents are also the children’s playmates.

Mrs van Loggenberg, 36, and her 30-year-old husband, 36, came to Durban with their four-week-old son Jeffrey and a week ago, hoping to take up a “one month” offer made by an estate agency letting an apartment in the flat.

Flat
But their car continuously broke down on the way to Natal and eventually cost the young couple all they had.

On reaching Durban they found they could not move into the one-bedroomed flat on offer.

They were told they would have to take a two-bedroomed flat for which rent was payable immediately. Because there were a number of boys.

What could I do,” said a desperate Mr Loggenberg. "I had no money to turn to and no money we had to turn to and no job or hope and now I could find a job.

"But I’ve walked through the streets of Durban and even begged at the beachfront hotels for money. I’ve been refused and all I am told is that there are no vacancies.”

An estate agent, Mr van Loggenberg, had his own business in Johannesburg in the Trans-Vual and remembers the days when he was an employee with a healthy turnover.

But the recession soon took its toll and for the past few months he has been a desperate man going wherever there was a possibility of finding work.

The young couple have supported the church, only to be told they would be given accommodation for one night only.

After that they would have to go to some other settlement or wherever for help. They were told.

But Mrs van Loggenberg was surprised. She says her children could not be taken away from her and she’d rather not see her children’s faces before them.

According to Mr van Loggenberg, he cannot find the unemployment benefit because he lost his job to the fund four years ago.

I have been told it has stopped and that I am not entitled to any benefits.

I just don’t know what to do anymore. I am so desperate. I simply can’t show my family what I went to be able to do and I can’t bear to do it all over again," he said.

"But, he adds with a wide smile, I can’t last forever, can I?"
Offers of help for feeding scheme

ANTHONY DOMAN, Weekend Argus Reporter
THINGS are looking up for the Hanover Park Feeding Scheme since a report on its soup kitchen appeared in Weekend Argus last Saturday.

Offers of help have come in, and one Weekend Argus reader sent in R100.

"We weren't really making an appeal," said the man behind it all, Pastor Edwin Baatjies. "But I'm really excited by the response.

"We have had two offers of cash now. And I think we will be getting rolls every week from another donor."

Up to now, every cent of the money spent on soup ingredients and bread has come from Mr Baatjies' pocket.

"What we really need now are some more pots," he said. At present the soup kitchen uses about a dozen saucepans on its gas stoves, and huge, three-legged cast-iron pots over an open fire.

"We are hoping to buy three more cast-iron pots, but they cost R175 each," said Mr Baatjies.

He would like to see this sort of feeding scheme being extended to other areas.

"In these times of high unemployment, people need a bit of a boost," he explained. "If anybody needs any help with setting up this kind of operation I would be only too glad to help."

Mr Baatjies runs the soup kitchen from the Assembly of God church hall in Hanover Park on Wednesdays.

About 500 people use the soup kitchen, which is free. Most arrive with pots and other containers, and depart with enough soup and bread to feed a family.

The feeding scheme has applied for registration as a welfare organisation, Mr Baatjies said.

"This will enable us to raise funds, though that is just one part of our problem," he added.

"Some of our helpers are disabled people. I employed them so that they could have something to do and so that they could earn a few rands."

"I am afraid that this might not be possible once we are registered."
Mdantsane's extension's difficulties

Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON

Mdantsane extension residents say they are finding it difficult to make ends meet because of high costs and poor facilities in their area.

Mdantsane extension stretches from Zone 13 to Zone 16.

Residents complained that:

- Roads were in a poor condition and became muddy and impassable on rainy days.
- Transport facilities, both buses and taxis, were inadequate and expensive.
- Shops in the area charged exorbitant prices for goods that were 'obtainable' at lower prices in other parts of Mdantsane.
- They paid higher rents than other residents in Mdantsane for the same type of house.
- They paid for their water supply while other areas did not.

Mr Lizo Mgolodela, of Zone 16, said houses in his area were built on sloping ground and on rainy days the roads were so slippery that it was almost impossible to drive uphill.

The 'treacherous' road surfaces resulted in higher car maintenance costs.

Another resident, Miss Noxewe Mpinga, said muddy roads posed a danger to pedestrians who could easily slip and break a limb. Mud was also walked into people's homes.

The Ciskei Director-General of Information, Mr Heman Somtunzi, said the roads would be attended to as soon as finance was available.

Residents said the feeder transport service to their areas was inadequate and expensive.

Mrs Evelyn Nyloloe, of Zone 16, said buses and taxis dropped commuters far away from their homes, 'a long walk', home, which could be dangerous for unaccompanied women, especially in winter.

When it became dark early

The feeder service bus fare was 40c a trip and the weekly clipcard was R1.45, whereas the two cost 30c and 95c respectively in other zones, she said.

Taxis cost 50c each trip, she said, while it cost 40c in other zones.

The area manager of the CTC bus company, Mr O Odendaal, said a shortage of buses had prevented the introduction of a service to Zone 15. However, six new buses had been acquired and a service to Zone 15 would begin this week.

Zone 16 residents would have to wait until the roads had been repaired.

He said his company had contacted the Department of Works in Ciskei concerning such roads.

Regarding prices, residents said almost all the shops in the area charged "abnormally" high prices.

Half a loaf of brown bread cost 35c while the price in other centres was 25c. A packet of cigarettes cost between R1.06 and R1.20 while the same packet cost on average 95c elsewhere. A bottle of paraffin which cost about 30c elsewhere cost 45c in Mdantsane, they said.

The residents accused shopkeepers of making life difficult for them especially in light of the consumer boycott.

The president of the Mdantsane Chamber of Commerce, Mr LF Siyo, said he would investigate the matter.

He said shopkeepers who practised unfair trading methods could endanger their businesses.

On the housing issue, residents said they paid between R30 and R46 rent, while residents of Zones 17 to 19 paid a uniform R15.45 per month for the same type of house.

They dismissed a government argument that their houses were new and that they cost more to build.

In other zones water was not metered whereas in the extension it was, the residents said.

The Ciskei Government announced recently that water would be paid for in all townsships in Ciskei.

The Mdantsane extension residents said they felt something should be done to alleviate their plight in view of the poor economic climate.
Homeless, jobless families sleep in expensive cars

Tygerberg Bureau

THREE homeless and jobless families are camping at a Tygerberg golf course.

Well-dressed but destitute, they have slept at the golf course in their expensive cars each night for nearly a week.

Some are waiting for money to arrive by post so that they can join relatives up-country.

A father who recently closed his panelbeating business said he and his family, which includes two small children, had no place to go and could not afford camp-site fees.

He refused to say whether they had money for food and was hesitant to talk about their plight.

"This way, we have access to clean water from the sprinklers and sleep in the cars," he said.

He was job-hunting and said he would not stay there long.

A middle-aged couple refused to discuss the matter.

All of them insisted that they should not be identified or photographed.

One of the women said she had been selling her clothes and pawning jewellery — their furniture was sold long ago.

She had been promised a job from Thursday, "when our troubles will be over."

The bank foreclosed on their mortgage last week and they had to leave their house in Welgedoorn. They have no family to go to and were "too ashamed" to ask neighbours or social workers for help.

A Ned Gerefe Kerk social worker said their plight highlighted the growing problem of poverty among Afrikaner families.

Funds were running low as the church tried to help jobless members pay for food and accommodation, she said.

Another church spokesman said the problem was "relatively new" in the Peninsula, but that the church had been running permanent soup kitchens there for about a year.

A call was made from the pulpit of a Ned Gerefe Kerk in Parow last Sunday for tinned food to help feed a growing number of unemployed church members.
Drought aid saves 7m from hunger in Ethiopia

WASHINGTON — Seven-million people have been spared starvation in Ethiopia by "a remarkable success story of international relief", but serious problems remain, a congressional report said yesterday.

It also noted that the plight of Ethiopian refugees in neighbouring Sudan might worsen if civil strife there was not curbed.

"Ethiopia has been pulled back from the brink of what threatened to become one of the great human tragedies of modern times," said the report to the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy.

The famine left about a million of Ethiopia's 48-million people dead and thousands orphaned.

The report was prepared for Senator Edward Kennedy, the ranking minority member on the subcommittee, who visited the region in 1984.

Two members of the Kennedy party in 1984 — Jerry Tinker, subcommittee minority counsel and John Wise, a food consultant from the Krause Milling Company of Milwaukee — returned to Ethiopia and Sudan last month and told of "a new harvest of hope" brought by the "short rains" this spring.

However, the authors said one of the most tragic legacies of the drought is the estimated 20,000 to 25,000 orphans and abandoned children under the age of 18.

Tinker and Wise visited a shelter "warehousing" 1,853 orphans who they said were "simply languishing until someone figures out what to do with them." — Sapa-AP.
Infant mortality rate down

Medical Reporter

The infant mortality rate for Cape Town's coloured population was last year the lowest in the history of South Africa, according to Medical Officer of Health Dr Reg Coogan's annual report for 1985.

However, he says that although the infant mortality rate for blacks living in greater Cape Town had "come down well" in the 10 years since 1975, increases in infant deaths in 1976 and 1985 show "the price that has been paid" during times of unrest.

"For long periods Guguletu and Langa have been dangerous no-go areas, and vital street cleaning and garbage removal services and immunization programmes have suffered with the inevitable cost in babies' lives," he writes.

Figures for deaths due to measles with complications show similar upsurges in the wake of periods of unrest.

In 1985 the coloured infant mortality rate had dropped from about 22 (in each 1,000 live births) in 1984 to 17.6. The white infant mortality rate was just over 10 in 1984 and 12.4 last year. The figures for blacks were just over 30 in 1984 and 37.8 last year.

Infant mortality rates are considered important indicators of the overall social conditions under which communities live.
PETROL is cheaper, but the consumer is not being touched by any ripple effect that might have been expected in the marketplace.

Following fuel price cuts and improvements in the rand/dollar exchange and bank interest rates, the Housewives’ League was spurred to find out whether the consumer was benefiting.

And the organisation’s conclusion, after a national price survey covering 13 individual stores, was a resounding “No”.

In fact, free enterprise was being carried to the borders of lunacy, in the opinion of the League.

“Instead of finding an across-the-board decrease of four to seven percent as expected,” said vice-chairman Mrs Jean Tatham, “there was no pattern of regular price reductions.”

One store

Prices increased between one and 44 percent and only one store showed a significant decrease of 173 percent during the survey period of six weeks.

“Specials have never been stronger and shoppers could be reading this as an indication that prices are decreasing. But goods highlighted as ‘specials’ are not necessarily cheaper. Price fluctuation, too, is appalling and confusing,” said Mrs Tatham.

“There is no way shoppers can keep track of what they last paid for a particular item and they are finding themselves completely at sea.”

Seventy percent of the earmarked items underwent price changes within the survey period, but there was no definite trend of either increases or decreases.

“Dangerous”

“With supermarkets continually negotiating deals, the consumer is in a dangerous area — there is no way to see when an increase is justified,” said Mrs Tatham.

“Two brands of flour and rice were surveyed and while one package size showed a slight decrease, it was recorded that the other package size prices had increased. The prices of other brands of flour had also increased.

“Although the exercise was worthwhile it was very disappointing,” said Mrs Tatham.

According to Pick ‘n Pay chief buyer, Mr Allan Baxter, prices are very aggressive.

“The recession is still loud and clear and chain stores need to retain their market shares,” said Mr Baxter.

The petrol decrease had not affected current prices, he said, but was expected to affect future price increases, which should be lower than previous ones.
TB increases by more than 1 100 cases a year

Medical Reporter

REPORTED tuberculous (TB) cases in greater Cape Town have increased by more than 1 100 a year in the past decade — but 1 000 treatment beds have been closed.

This was "very depressing," the Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan, said in his annual report.

TB was on the increase when it should have decreased.

In 1975 2,745 new cases of TB were reported, by last year the figure had risen to 3,685.

The hospital beds were shut for financial reasons.

There is now only one bed for every 23 cases of TB in the area. Dr Coogan said this was "a grave error."

The unrest severely hampered the work of TB clinics in the townships in the past year, Dr Coogan said. The x-ray unit at Langa had been destroyed by arsonists.

"The disease is fundamentally a manifestation of socio-economic ills — malnutrition, bad housing, overcrowding and poverty. It is not possible to eradicate TB by medical means alone," he said.

He said patients now had to attend township clinics, but in spite of intensified health education, more than 30 percent of patients did not take their medication as opposed to two percent among in-patients in TB wards.

"This raises the spectre of failed treatment courses, relapses and the emergence of drug-resistant bacilli."

Pleas to the Department of National Health and Population Development and the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANA) had produced "nothing but long debate," he said.

Unrest takes high toll in babies' lives

Medical Reporter

UNREST in black areas of the Western Cape took its toll with an increase in infant deaths last year.

Cape Town's medical officer of health, Dr Reg Coogan, said in his annual report that the figures showed "only too clearly the price paid by this group during times of unrest."

"For long periods Guguletu and Langa have been dangerous no-go areas and vital street cleaning, garbage removal services and immunisation programmes have suffered, with the inevitable cost in babies' lives," he said.

While figures for the black population had dropped significantly in the past decade, they showed increases in 1978 and last year.

Dr Coogan's report said the 17,6-percent infant mortality rate for coloured people in the Western Cape was "well within the World Health Organisation's acceptable limit for a city of the developed Western world," while the white rate — at 12,4 percent — had not changed in the past decade.

He said the rate was a valuable indicator of loss of life and its close relation to social conditions.
Food-aid project in Atlantis

Staff Reporter

The Atlantis Lions Club has launched a food-aid programme aimed at helping malnourished families in the West Coast town — some of whom are close to starvation.

Mr Gerald Wynyard, chairman of the project, said yesterday that as from tomorrow the club's twice-weekly soup kitchen scheme would be re-established to aid families suffering the consequences of high unemployment.

And some 60 of the worst-affected families in the town are to receive food parcels donated by two supermarkets. The food parcels were first delivered to desperate families in March and so far more than 100 had been delivered.

"We have compiled a list of about 60 families whose names were given to us by social workers and staff at the local clinic," said Mr Wynyard. "They will receive regular parcels of fresh vegetables, bread and other necessities as a result of the generosity of Checkers and Koeborg Supersave.

"We started our soup kitchen scheme in December last year when things became very bad here. We had to stop for a while, but now we will be having soup kitchens twice a week at three points around Atlantis. We intend to keep on with our programme as long as necessary, depending on the donations we receive."

The soup kitchens will be held at Arundel Crescent in Protea Park; Sun Road in Avondale and the corner of Hope and Hoogeree streets in Saxonsia.

For further information, Mr Wynyard can be contacted at Atlantis 2 (0236) 24307.
R12m needed to save children's lives

OWN CORRESPONDENT
JOHANNESBURG — Operation Hunger — responsible for feeding thousands of blacks in rural and urban areas — hopes to raise R12-million for the coming financial year.

Miss Ina Perlman, executive director of the organization, said the money would be spent mostly in rural areas where 95% of all deaths among blacks are those of children under five.

She was speaking at a ceremony at which South African Breweries donated R250 000 — the largest private sector donation received by the agency.

About 2.9 million children under 15 are below the international height-weight-age standard and suffer from malnutrition.

Miss Perlman said that in urban areas living standards among many blacks had deteriorated dramatically since last year. She said 1986 may be worse.

"In the cities and towns unemployment, right across the colour line, is escalating at a terrifying rate. The majority of school leavers have no job prospects and their bitterness and frustration presents a frightening picture."

She believed that without Operation Hunger, which has fed between 500 000 and 700 000 people since 1983, the hunger and death statistics in South Africa would be much closer to those in African famine areas, north of the equator.

"The donation from SAB comes at a time when we, without this most generous gift, would have had to consider a severe cut-back in our relief work by the end of June."

"Escalating unemployment, unbroken drought in many areas and rains that came too late to ensure an effective maize crop in almost all others brought about a situation where the organization should be feeding 950 000 people wholly or partially in the areas where it is operating."

"In the rural scene, the drought has for the past four years imposed a norm of abject poverty bringing these areas to the brink of disaster."

"In 1983-84 there was a large-scale layoff of farm labourers — the maize industry alone laid off 250 000 people by March 1983."

Miss Perlman said that normally only 8 percent of rural people were subsistence farmers in the real sense of the word, with the average rural family of five needing about R15 a month in cash to maintain a minimum survival level.

"In 1980 nine million South Africans living in black rural areas had incomes below the poverty line, of these 1.4 million had no measurable income whatsoever."
Divco tenants to pay more for housing

By PETER DENNEHY Municipal Reporter

RENTS in Divisional Council housing estates "had to be increased" from July 1 this year, deputy chairman Mr Jasper Walsh said yesterday as he read the austerity budget speech of the finance committee chairman, Mr G M Basson.

He also announced that Divco's general, health and local area rates for the forthcoming year were all to be increased by an overall 15 percent, "due and payable on July 1".

Housing estate rent increases were "the lowest in many years", Mr Walsh said, ranging on average between R2,50 a month for a two-roomed unit to R3,80 a month for a five-roomed unit.

One of the reasons for the Divco rent increase was that "contributions in respect of rental losses" had to be made. Other reasons included the increased cost of rates, administration, and insurance, and "excess water consumption".

In contrast, the City Council decided last week to postpone the "traditional" July 1 rent increase in its housing estates.

- Divco expenditure this year on the revenue account was expected to be R138 205 387, while income would be R100 639 600. The shortfall had to be met from rates.

Shortfall

- Local area rates are Divco's equivalent of municipal rates in poorer areas. Although these rates increased by 15 percent, except in Philadelphia, their subsidization from the general rate would increase by over R800 000 from last year's provision to R2.9 million.

- Atlantis Industrial Local Area would suffer a 25.9 percent rate increase "to wipe out the recurring annual shortfall". Possibilities of recovering the accumulated deficit from the Atlantis residential local area were "remote".

- Capital expenditure of R6.4 million for the forthcoming year has already been cut by R4.5 million but still exceeded State limitations on spending by R2.7 million. Special authority for this amount would be requested from the treasury, and if it was not forthcoming further cuts would be made.
PFP call for 'poor-black' jobs drive

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The main priority for the 1987/88 Budget should be job creation through a massive public works programme, Mr Reuben Sive (PFP Beaufort West) said yesterday.

The same percentage of the Budget used to combat the "poor white" problem in the 1982 Budget — 15.9 percent — should be used to institute next year's public works programme, Mr Sive said.

This would result in an allocation of R5.936 billion for public works in the next budget, based on this year's figures, he said during debate on the Administration and Economic Advisory Service Budget vote.

Research showed it took R2.036 to create one job. If the R5.936 billion were made available, 2.920,000 jobs could be created.

The programme was essential to deal with the "poor black question" — the result of blacks being compelled through poverty to leave the rural areas to seek work in the cities since World War Two.

Mr Sive said the government's R650-million job creation scheme, introduced last year, had failed in many areas.

The scheme was closely identified with the government and implemented through bureaucratic channels, which made for "less than full enthusiasm" from the people it was meant to help.

The money provided for the scheme — at two percent of the Budget — was not enough and had to be increased drastically.

An enormous township development task faced South Africa. By the year 2000, R37.5 billion in 1989 terms would have to have been spent to meet the country's housing needs for all population groups. — Sapa
Students to plan youth shelters

Municipal Reporter

SALT RIVER fire station is to be renovated and converted by students into an "intake shelter and training centre" for 20 street youths, the Cape Technikon announced yesterday.

Single-quater low-cost premises will also be built as part of the same project on a State-owned vacant plot in Selous Street, Salt River. State approval is required.

Third-year architecture and building students had been involved in a six-week project, initiated by the Beth Uriel Association, on housing street youths, the news release said.

At its monthly meeting last week, the Cape Town City Council approved the Selous Street scheme in terms of the city engineer's report on "Accommodation for the Very Poor".

The council had also been due to approve the Salt River Fire Station scheme but until the morning of the meeting the housing committee had been under the impression that Nerco or The Homestead would take charge there.

Neither of these wanted the fire station, Mrs Eulalie Stott said, and the matter was referred back to her housing committee to be sorted out.

The council has approved five other sites in terms of the "Accommodation for the Very Poor" report: Eastern Boulevard Flyover, one of two possible sites in Buitengracht Street, under Belmont Bridge in Rondebosch, Roode Avenue in Wynberg, and the Old House in Roeland Street Prison.
Co-ordinated plan to feed hungry launched

By BARBARA ORPEN

A BID to co-ordinate feeding schemes in Port Elizabeth as a massive community project is underway.

Initiator of the effort is the newly-established Voluntary Aid Bureau which has been inundated with pleas from organisations unable to cope with the increasing number of hungry people in the area.

Mrs Fern Robertson, acting director of the bureau, said a unified effort to coordinate the distribution of food parcels, which at present was haphazard and beset with duplications, was desperately needed in the city.

She said the start to the co-ordination scheme would be the establishment of a centralised screening office, where anyone, who was desperate, could go for assistance.

"Practically, what we need is a venue and a volunteer who will be willing to co-ordinate the whole effort.

"The eventual aim will be to establish localised soup kitchens, in which the communities themselves will be involved so that we can move away from the paternalistic pattern of handing out food.

"We would like any organisations and church groups which are involved in the distribution of food to adults to be brought in so that the whole effort — buying and distribution — can be centralised.

"Weekend Post spoke to some of the organisations involved in the distribution of food and who have supported the project.

Mrs Gail Kerbel, chairman of the Union of Jewish Women, stressed the need for a concerted unified effort in the community because the feeding need had become far greater than in the past.

"When times are good, there is no tremendous need for welfare, but when things look bad organisations just do not have the commercial strength to meet the need.

"She said organisations were normally reluctant to lose their autonomy, but the problem of too many unemployed and hungry people had become too great not to join forces.

Mrs Molly Nicholson, regional director of Operation Hunger, said the organisation would give its support to the move, but stressed that community organisations would have to be involved.

The director of the PE Black Sash Advice Office, Mrs Sheelagh Hurley, said the PE office was the only one in the country which was assisting people with food.

"It started last year when the unemployment problem became worse. And although we only support about 112 people a month with food parcels which are given to us from different organisations — we realise we are only touching the tip of the iceberg.

"At least half the people who come in everyday for advice ask for food which is a problem as it begins to take precedence over our advice work.

Anyone who is willing to participate in the project should contact Mrs Fern Robertson at the Voluntary Aid Bureau.
Challenge grant from US

The United States Ambassador, Mr Herman Nickel, yesterday announced a donation to Operation Hunger which could reach $125,000 — or more than R300,000 at the current exchange rate.

The donation is in the form of a matching “challenge grant”. For every R5 raised by Operation Hunger through donations from private individuals and companies in South Africa, the US Government’s Agency for International Development will donate another R1.

The fund will be used wherever Operation Hunger has programmes, but especially in the rural areas of the Northern and Eastern Transvaal.
Food van burnt but needy fed

Donations of food from a Grahamstown motel will continue — despite the fact that the delivery van used to take the food to the needy was hijacked and burnt on Monday.

The owner of the Settler's Motel, Mr Tim Leach, said it seemed "silly" to stop the service as it was not the fault of the people who received the food that the van had been burnt.

"What happened was not normal — the van was hijacked in broad daylight at 10am in Raglan Road, the main thoroughfare to East London, and set alight in Fingo Village."

"We must take it as one of the things that happen these days. There was no logic behind the act." The van, valued at R20 000, was also used to transport the motel employees from their homes to work in the mornings — and this service would continue as soon as the motel had acquired another van.

He said the motel had been donating excess food to the needy by working with the Rt Rev S Dwane, Bishop of the Order of Ethiopia, for 18 months.

"We had worked on a few projects together in the past and this seemed to be a good way of utilising food that would otherwise go to waste."

"Why throw it away when you can feed people who are hungry," said Mr Leach.

\[\text{footnote:} \text{A new arrangement concerning the distribution of the food would be made.}\]

"Instead of sending it to the Bishop's house, we will arrange for a collection point in the centre of the town."
Many middle-class South Africans are living in a state of desperation as the sagging economy erodes their livelihoods.

Qualified, hard-working and successful white-collar and professional people are facing destitution as retrenchments and business failures combine with a shrinking jobs market.

Silent despair of a middle-class hit by sagging economy
LESTER VENTER
Weekend Argus Reporter

BEHIND the mortgaged
doors of suburbia, many
middle-class South Afri-
cans are living in silent
desperation as the sagging
economy erodes their live-
looms.

The frightening reality of
destitution confronts many
qualified, hard-working and
successful white-collar and
professional people as
retractions and business
failures combine with a
shrinking jobs market.

Last year’s all-time high of
6,278 bankruptcies and judg-
ments involving R101.8-mil-
lion against businesses and
R64-million against consum-
ers who could not meet debts
points to personal traumas
behind the statistics.

Middle class values lead af-
fected people to hide their
hardships and the harrowing
consequences of financial
strains have become their dis-
creet agony.

Expensive cars are stand-
ing in driveways of owners
who no longer have money
for petrol.

Eviction order

Families wait for the evic-
tion order that will follow
several months of unpaid
bond instalments on a house
that couldn’t be sold.

Food parcels are being de-
ivered quietly to two-garage
homes.

This is often preceded by
parents experiencing the pain
of sending a hungry child off
to school.

Employment agency wait-
ing room seats are occupied
by former executives who will
often now be prepared to
take any job.

Relationships between hus-
bands and wives, parents and
children are being torn by the
stress of financial need.

Family violence, like
shocking assaults on young
children, is festering in homes
that believed themselves im-
mune to such degradation.

These facts emerged from
interviews with social work-
ers, welfare officials, crisis
counsellors, business spokes-
men and retrenched people.

“Nothing has been easier,
with a lot of people under ter-
rible stress,” said a psycholog-
ist at the Child Welfare Society in
Cape Town.

“More middle class, well-
dressed people are turning up
at the hospital social worker’s
door,” said Miss Yvonne Her-
ring, principal social worker
at the Red Cross Children’s
Hospital.

“The recession is creating
terrific stress and tension in
families,” said a Lifeline
spokesman.

“We are getting more calls
from younger people asking
if we can feed them because
they can’t make ends meet,”
said a Meals on Wheels
organiser.

“We know of many people
— some of them our own
members — who are cur-
rently living by their wits,” said
a member of a businessmen’s
community organisation.

“Very bitter.”

“T’ll very, very, bitter,” said
an out-of-work construction
manager with 23 years’ ser-
vice who was retrenched re-
cently.

The interviews showed the
problem is not widespread.
But it is being seen in social
brackets where it did not ex-
ist before — and it’s growing.

A Bergvlei businessman,
described as “very success-
ful”, had an income fully
committed to a large house
bond, car and other expenses.
Then his business collapsed.

Soon he did not have
enough to give his children
a piece of bread, said a mem-
ber of a community organi-
ation that took food to the
family for three months
before the man found a job.

Others have not been so
lucky.

A schools health worker
said under-nourished children
at middle class schools were
recent phenomenon and the
incidence was “considerable”.

An unemployed man, said
to have had a “high income”,
was desperate to give his
child the blazer her school in-
sisted on.

But he could not afford it
and was not prepared to tell
the school that.

He turned, finally, to the
Department of Health and
Welfare.

Help themselves

“By the time people come
to us they are really down
and out,” said the depart-
ment’s assistant director for
social services, Mr Frik Rus-
souw.

He said the slowly growing
number of middle class peo-
ple seen by the department
“try everything possible to
help themselves”.

“Such people do not easily
come for State aid”.

Head of the section for so-
cial assistance Mrs Melani le
Roux said “It is a deeply
troubled and despondent pe-
son who comes to us, because
by that time he would have
made many attempts in vain
to get an income.

“Trying not forthcoming;
they are tense, get excited,
and sometimes even aggres-
sive”.

The Department of Welfare
has a special scheme for vic-
tims of the economic reces-
sion.

One of the manifestations
of recession stress that wor-
ters social workers most is
the rising level of violence
that takes place behind closed
suburban doors.

“A situation develops where
everyone works on everyone
else’s nerves,” said a counsel-
or.

Child abuse

“Our child abuse statistics
have increased rapidly in the
past year,” said Miss Herring.

A psychologist at the Child
Welfare Society described a
recent case of a professional
consultant who lost his job
and was unable to find an-
other.

His wife became the bread-
winner of the family.

“There was a role change
that was not spoken about,”
said the psychologist.

This led to the husband be-
ning bent by guilt — and the
wife by an anger that she did
not want to show because she
realized the situation was not
his fault.

Marriages and relation-
ships with children, partic-
ularly teenagers, break under
this sort of stress.

Counsellors say families in
stress should discuss their
predicaments and children
should be made part of the
discussions and methods of
dealing with the problems.

“The middle class has al-
ways been great at not show-
ning needs or feelings,” said
the psychologist.

“What, in good times, is re-
garded as privacy becomes,
in bad times, isolation.”

Reflecting the sudden
shock of loneliness and uncer-
tainty that has overtaken
tens of retrenched South
Africans, one said “I don’t
know what’s around the next
corner.”
Feeding scheme needs venue

By BARBARA ORPEN

PLANS to set up a co-ordinated feeding scheme in Port Elizabeth are gaining ground with the emergence of a volunteer who will supervise the effort.

Mrs Louise Unsworth, who has been involved in voluntary work in Port Elizabeth, said today she made herself available when she heard of the idea to set up the scheme.

The Vountary Aid Bureau initiated the effort to co-ordinate the distribution of food parcels after it had been pressed with pleas for assistance from organisations unable to cope with the increasing numbers of hungry people in the area.

Mrs Unsworth said the scheme would get under way once a venue had been found which could be used as a screening office, where anyone who was destitute could report for assistance.

"The venue is our greatest stumbling block at present. All efforts to find one have been unsuccessful," she said.

"What is needed is a large room which can be used as a screening office once a week.

"It would be preferable if it were located in Deal Party or Korsten so that people would not have to travel long distances."

Mrs Unsworth said that, when a venue had been found, she would set up a meeting with organisations involved in the distribution of food parcels.

"We can then throw our ideas together and work out a co-ordination scheme whereby the whole effort can be centralised."

A unified effort was needed to avoid duplication and haphazard distribution of food parcels, and to assist organisations handling an overflow of poverty-stricken people.

Mrs Unsworth said a number of people, including a social worker who would work in the office once a week, had volunteered to participate in the scheme.

Anyone able to assist in the scheme, or who has access to a venue, should contact Mrs Unsworth at 531717.
Why the food shortage is a myth

By DANIEL NELSON, London

The world has plenty of food. The 700-million people who do not get enough to eat each day are victims of poverty, not food shortages. That’s the finding of a World Bank policy paper titled Poverty and Hunger Issues and Options for Food Security in Developing Countries.

The report finds that:

- The world has ample food.
- Global food production has been outpacing population growth for 40 years.
- World market prices of cereal prices have been falling.

The study pinpoints lack of purchasing power as the key reason millions of people do not get a share in the global abundance: there is plenty of food, but people are too poor to buy it.

This is most dramatically illustrated in times of famine, which is rarely caused by a decline in the general availability of food. Dr John Rovers of the International Disaster Institute maintains, for example, that throughout the 1973 famine in Ethiopia, the country was a net exporter of food.

"Whether local or widespread," says the Bank report, "famines inevitably are class-specific: the poor always suffer the most."

The long-term answer, says, is to raise family incomes. In a brief introduction, Bank President Tom Clausen stresses the importance not only of reinforcing positive food and agricultural policies to achieve this aim, but of eliminating policies that are wasteful or fail to reach the target groups.

Professor Edward Schuh, director of the Bank’s Agriculture and Rural Development Department, offers an example of bad targeting: Brazil’s $1-billion a year subsidies for wheat.

A well-intentioned way of helping the poor, you might think — except that poor Brazilians do not eat much wheat. "Rice or beans would have brought the subsidy nearer to needy people," points out Schuh.

He is critical of the emphasis many countries have placed on obtaining self-sufficiency "at almost any cost, and with an emphasis on carrying stocks, which are expensive and difficult to manage."

Schuh cites the examples of India, which has achieved self-sufficiency in grain production, and has even more become an exporter, "but there are hundreds of thousands of malnourished people there, so what have they done by achieving self-sufficiency?"

The report says unambiguously: "There is no necessary link between self-sufficiency and food security."

Schuh admits that in some countries — particularly in Africa, where food output is lagging behind population growth — greater attention needs to be given to production.

In general, however, he and the other contributors conclude that "for most developing countries, the supply of food — even the cost of that food — is not the greatest barrier to achieving national food security."

"In many countries, the national food supply (domestic production plus imports) is now sufficient or could easily expand to provide the entire population with enough energy if it were distributed more evenly."

As always, the Bank is better at technical solutions than political considerations, so barely addresses the point that stockpiling offers political security.

It may also be easier than operating a flexible trade policy, which the report advocates as less costly than buffer stocks but which requires skilful management.

The report examines a variety of schemes for ensuring help gets to the poor, including cash handouts in Ethiopia, subsidised shops in poor neighbourhoods in India and food coupons in Colombia.

The message is that different countries need different methods. There are no universal answers every policy is likely to leave some groups worse off.

Even raising food prices for farmers, the current panacea in development circles, can lead to hardship. If, as in many parts of Latin America, the worst-fed people are the urban poor. In any case, often the most seriously malnourished people are subsistence farmers who do not...
Queue for a meal at Carpenter's Shop is getting longer...

By LINDA GALLOWAY
Staff Reporter

THE "drop-in room" at The Carpenter's Shop in Cape Town resounds with the clack of dominoes and cheerful laughs.

But there are also a few unhappy faces and hunched shoulders.

The shop is a day-time haven for vagrants where they can get a mug of soup, a biscuit, gossip and maybe a couple of rands for a few hours' work repairing furniture.

Many of them sleep in Cape Town's two night shelters, others have nowhere to go and huddle in doorways and alleys.

The shop is housed in the old School of Industry in Roeland Street. It was started six years ago by City Ministries to provide a place of safety and day-time occupation for vagrants, to teach simple skills and to help them find their way back into society and regular employment.

The main work undertaken is carpentry, including wood turning, and most work is done to order.

"We repair, restore and reupholster furniture but we seldom have enough work to keep all our regulars employed," said project co-ordinator Mrs Glenda Abrahams.

"We have one or two skilled workers who can teach the others, but our tools are old and we don't have many of the things we need."

The others spend their time in "the drop-in room", where a volunteer organises handicrafts and games.

Food is bought from the Service Dining Rooms in Canterbury Street for regulars.

"In winter the queue for lunch gets longer and longer," said Mrs Abrahams. "I sometimes feel desperate, knowing that when I close up at 4pm they have nowhere to go."

"Some are disabled, without an arm or a leg, and cannot be accommodated anywhere.They wander the streets."

Contributions in cash and kind make up the shortfall between running expenses and income from production and repairs.
Come rain or shine, Stella fills tiny Kewtown tums.
By GAYE DAVIS, Staff Reporter

TWICE a week, rain or shine, Mrs. Stella Smedley lifts heavy pots of soup and walks to Kewtown Primary School, where for many children the steaming cup will be their only food of the day.

Feeding “her children” is just one of the many tasks Mrs. Smedley carries out each week as part of her work for Build a Better Society, the self-help organisation better known as “Babs”.

Because there is no transport, Mrs. Smedley prepares the soup in the Babs kitchen and then walks to the school carrying the pots.

Born and bred in Kewtown, she left school when she was 11 — “I was the eldest and had to help support the others” — and went “into service” for two years before starting work in a factory at the age of 14.

“IMPROVE MYSELF”

It was many years later, after her marriage and the birth of her own children, that she heard of “Babs. She joined because she wanted to “improve myself”. But she did not realise she would learn to read — something she thought she would never achieve.

In turn she does what she can for her community where the average monthly household income can be as low as R60 and the spectre of unemployment looms large.

THOSE LEFT WAITING

But at present she has a problem of her own: she knows she is not feeding all the hungry children at Kewtown Primary as there are always those left waiting when the soup runs out.

Mrs. Smedley also provides soup for old people at Kewtown day hospital. But having to carry the heavy pots on foot limits the amount she can provide.

“Whether we really need is a combi. If we had transport we could feed all those who need extra food,” she said.

Babs may be contacted at 639 2211, or 638 1135.
Operation Hunger must feed a million

Almost a million people need to be fed by Operation Hunger, says the organisation's executive director, Ina Perlman. About a year ago the number was 700,000. This would mean a feeding budget of R7m this year, she said.

According to Perlman, the sharp increase in the number of destitute people was due to rising unemployment in urban areas and four years of drought imposed on a norm of poverty in the rural areas.

She appealed for more help from “every citizen of the country.”

The latest survey by Vista University had shown that in Port Elizabeth alone there were 70,000 to 100,000 with no visible income whatsoever.

The breakdown of the number of families fed by Operation Hunger includes:
Hard-up parents abandoning children, says welfare society

By Jackie Uawin

Desperate parents hit by the recession and unable to feed and care for their children are abandoning them, says the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

Field worker Mrs Marie Kruger reports that parents are approaching the society in increasing numbers asking to place their children in foster care because they can no longer provide for them.

The society says that if the grant for black children was raised to that for white children, hundreds more foster homes could be found.

At present a monthly allowance of R124 is paid for the care of white children, R65.50 for coloured and R48 for black children.

"It is a vicious circle," said Mrs Kruger. "A lot of people are losing their jobs. They cannot afford to take care of the children and plead for them to be placed in foster care. Often due to economic pressures the mother has to start working and cannot afford day-care facilities so the children are left on their own.

"We do our best to offer some kind of help such as organising cheaper or free day-care, or attempt to get a maintenance grant for the family."

"There has been an upsurge of couples who have come to the end of their tether and dump their children. Then we have no alternative but to place the children in care."

Mrs Jackie Loffell, manager of foster care and adoptions for the society, said "It is terrible for the child — and agonising for the parents.

"We are getting more families in this situation coming to us all the time — far more than six months or a year ago.

"There is much more real, material need now than we are used to dealing with — and families suffering hardship are right across the board, black and white.

The society has a sponsorship scheme. Individuals, service clubs and business organisations help to fund foster care in two ways:

Some pay towards the support of a particular child and receive an annual report on that child.

Others pay into a pool which is administered monthly to children who are in particular serious need — especially black children receive a smaller monthly grant.

There is also a group of sponsors paying into a fund to prevent babies having to go into institutional care and help provide the individual attention they need.

100 will die of hunger today.
Staff Reporter

IP was not for the cup of soup and slice of bread she gets every lunchtime at school, 14-year-old Joelene Scheepers would go hungry most days of the week.

A standard five pupil at Edendale Primary School in Manenberg, Joelene is one of many children who would hardly eat if it wasn’t for the lunch offered by the school.

"I don’t get breakfast and I don’t get bread to bring to school. Sometimes there is no supper at home. Before they gave us soup, I had to ask my friends for bread."

The principal, Mr. C. Peterson, said yesterday he had decided to start a soup kitchen for pupils earlier this year when a survey showed that the parents of 70 percent of the 800 children at the school were out of work.

With the help of the Association for the Guidance and Assistance of Pupils — a local community organization — the Peninsula School Feeding Fund, local traders, working parents and its own teachers, the school is able to offer soup and bread four days a week and a full meal once a week.

Joelene’s father died two years ago and her mother has been unable to find work. Joelene says her mother used to receive a welfare cheque but that "it stopped."

Her classmate, Malcolm Williams, 17, said his father had died nine years ago and his mother had no work.

"Most days I have nothing to eat but the soup. Before the soup, I used to go to the school office and ask for bread. It is hard to listen to the teacher when you are hungry."

In one standard four class, 10 of the 12 children present said they were not given bread to bring to school. A number said they had had "no pap" that morning.

Mr. Peterson said many of the pupils lived in complete poverty.

"Many of the houses have no furniture except beds and often there is no food in the house at all," he said.

He believed the situation serious affected the children’s ability to concentrate in class.

"More than half the children are older than they should be for their standard," Mr. Peterson said.

The need for school feeding had increased "dramatically" this year with the growing unemployment in Manenberg and he hoped more people and organizations would come forward with donations of food to supplement.
Namaqualand is experiencing an exodus of massive proportions from the more remote areas as younger people desert their aged farming parents and run away to the cities.

Whole towns have been abandoned, some still with furniture in the houses.

In others, elderly parents sit listlessly in the shade of their whitewashed mud-brick homes and reminisce about a time when children were obedient and lived at home until they finally married and took over the running of the farm.

In Soebatsfontein, two hours South-West of Springbok, there are 23 residents left. Their average age is 70. They have been forgotten by the children they sent to school in Springbok, the Boland and Cape Town.

Along the dusty, tortuous Messelpad leading to Soebatsfontein, Waldekraal and Hondeklop Bay, farm houses he deserted. Stray sheep wander as they please and when the engine of your car dies there is nothing but the disturbing sound of silence — an eerie cosmic humming in the mind.

Parts of Namaqualand are fast becoming a markless wilderness devoid of humans, and it is doubtful whether the process can be reversed, said many of the lonely old Namaqualanders. Weekend Argus visited this week.

Today's education system and standards forced them to send their children to greener, more hospitable pastures and now, struck by the comforts of the larger towns and cities, they refuse to return and claim the farms willed to them by future to their heritage, their land, they said.

Old farmers — one we spoke to was 85 — still tend their sheep in the barren and every day because even the labourers have fled, have run away to the cities and towns where there is work and an easier way to make a living.

But even in the larger towns where many of the boers and children fled, there are difficulties and unemployment.

Springbok, the "capital" of the Land of Begin Again — as older residents affectionately call Namaqualand — O'Kiep and Nabaabep are beginning to experience higher unemployment figures, mainly caused by the near-collapse of the copper industry after the Zambian glut of the copper market in recent years.

Many of the copper mines in the area have stopped production. They are employing less people and many who worked there have been forced to leave, said Mr An-dries Kotze, Chairman of the Namaqua Publicity and Development Association.

The Government has allocated a R4 million subsidy to help alleviate the problem. "Otherwise there would have been chaos in this region," Mr Kotze said bluntly.

"The diamond mines have alsoretrenched many of their workers," he said.

To make a living in Namaqualand is hard, it seems.

"There are places in Namaqualand which experienced..."
Oom Lourens Goosen, 77, and his wife Dina of Soebatsfontein. The children have left, all the arke members are dead yet Oom Goosen still plays a vastrap better than most and they both still manage to smile. "Soebatsfontein will die with us," they said.
Abandoned villages and farms are crumbling — the site one in the middle of nowhere. Abandoned is mournful to ordinary people. 

PARTS OF DANDOULANDA, one becoming a sourceless wilderness, devoid of human life. 

By WEDNESDAY, many of the scattered families in the village have fled towards the coast, the rest of the village is now deserted. 

The children are not wanted... ship poverty and extreme droughts in China are the trouble, the land — the land.

DESPAIR. The story of fine farmers who have fought boredom, suffered great hardship.
severe droughts for eight or nine years.

"To keep the farms going, the older people built up enormous debts and the younger people moved to find work."

"It is extremely doubtful whether these children will ever come back to the farms. It is understandable why they should come back and face these huge debts?", Mr Koeze said.

"Even my own children rarely come home now. There is no work for them here and besides their education does not suit that type of town," he said.

On Windlewiel Farm we met Oom Petrus Mostert. He is 81 this year but did not have time to talk for long, he said.

"I’ve only done half my work today and I had to thank God I’m going to finish," he said but greeted us warmly anyway, introduced us to his wife Saanke (who was busy baking suurdee brood) in a clay oven and called her mother and grandmother who died when they first trekked into the region in the 1860’s.

In the sparsly furnished vourkermer of their home Oom Mostert said the people were dying.

"This area was densely populated in my young days! Now there is nobody. It is terrible. The children have left the farms. Some of us who are still here are trying to help by just making sure the sheep left behind are still well," he said as he tied his homemade veerdikoon with some rubber, showed us the winding track back out toward Wallekraal and then made off at a spritely trot back into the barren hills to look for stray sheep.

"In the 1920’s I estimate there were about 50 people in the area," he shouted.

Now there are only five.

In Wallekraal village there was nobody.

We opened the door of one house and stepped inside the gloomy rooms. We went back a century.

Whoever had lived there had left many of their possessions behind. There were faded flower-patterned curtains at the windows, pictures and photographs on the walls and suitcases with clothing, buttons and other small articles.

"Even my own children rarely come home now. There is no work for them here and besides their education does not suit this type of town," says a resident of Springbok.

There was the screech of bats and the scurrying of rats and the cobwebs caught in our hair.

Most of the other buildings are collapsing, but some still contain bits of forgotten furniture.

Wallekraal died in the 60’s.

Two kilometers from the village stands the school and the hostel.

Oom Bertus van Zyl, 83, his sister, Tant Jeantetta, 73, and a friend, Tant Gertruda, 82, have banded together and now live in the hostel.

It used to accommodate 80 children who went to school in the sandstone building about 100 meters away.

Oom van Zyl and the women had slaughtered a sheep that morning and were busy cutting it up.

"I used to live in the hotel in Wallekraal," Tant Gertruda said.

"I used to live in the first house as you enter the town but we got so lonely when everybody left that we came to stay with Bertus," Tant Jeantetta said.

"This used to be a big town and it was very lively," she said and explained that she would listen and talk because Tant Gertruda’s hearing was bad.

WALLEKRAAL once had 50 residents, and an hotel, a police station, a goal and two shops, she said.

"It was beautiful. The police used to ride camels, you know.

"We are happy here. I just wish some people would come back."

In Soebatsfontein Oom Lourens Goosen, 77, played a sedan on his concertina for us. His porcelain-blue veined fingers flew deftly over the buttons.

His orkes members are all dead now and he buried not far from the house he built when he married his childhood sweetheart Dina.

There is no one left to play music with except his brother, he said.

"Yes, Soebatsfontein will
Plans to co-ordinate PE feeding

By DENISE BOUTALL
SUPPLIES of food and money to Port Elizabeth's many feeding schemes could dry up unless their work is co-ordinated.

This is the warning that prompted two Port Elizabeth women, Mrs Louise Unsworth and Mrs Alna Rachman, to agree to take charge of the mammoth task of trying to co-ordinate the feeding of thousands of hungry people in the city.

An organisation to undertake that work will be launched on Tuesday and all organisations and people involved or interested in feeding schemes have been invited to attend the meeting at the Friendship Club, Clyde Street, at 4pm on Tuesday, August 5.

The women were approached by the Voluntary Aid Bureau after several organisations found they were unable to solve the problems of hungry people who had approached them.

In an interview they stressed that they had no intention of taking over any of the work being done by about 30 organisations in the city who feed about 5 000 families and more than 36 000 school children every month.

"We know that there are many thousands of hungry people and that there are a large number of organisations that are running feeding schemes. However, some of the large suppliers of food believe that not all the food is getting to the right people. They want the work of feeding schemes co-ordinated and they want duplication and waste eliminated," said Mrs Rachman.

What the two co-ordinators plan to do with the aid of voluntary workers is compile a list of all the people in Port Elizabeth who need feeding and ensure that their needs are met.

The list will be kept on computer at Pietermaritzburg Shatterprufe who have offered the facility to the co-ordinators. It will be strictly confidential and only the co-ordinator will have access to it.

The women are hoping that the information obtained from the hungry people will include details of people's work experience so that they could be referred to training schemes or directed to suitable employment opportunities when these become available.

They also hope that community or church-based organisations might also start feeding schemes and that these could ultimately form the basis of self-help organisations.

They are still looking for premises to house the office and are hoping for donations of basic office equipment. All the work done by the office will be entirely voluntary and many volunteers of all races are needed.

The director of the Port Elizabeth Community Chest, Mr Harold Davidson, said the chest would continue to distribute funds to feeding schemes and people could specify that their donations to the chest be used for this purpose.

Mrs Unsworth can be contacted at 5311713 and Mrs Rachman at 535992.
Poor health and its close link with poverty

By Marika Shoros and Kate McKennell

Health was inextricably linked with politics in South Africa, delegates to the National Assembly of Women were told at the weekend.

The assembly, attended by nearly 900 delegates and observers of all races, was convened by black women's groups to formulate plans of action on the themes of equality, development and peace from now until the year 2000.

Professor Selma Browde, head of the radiation therapy department at the University of the Witwatersrand, gave a report-back before resolutions from the health workshop at the assembly.

Professor Browde said a completely new set of health services was needed if the cycle of poverty and poor health was to be broken.

Conference resolutions on the subject of health included the need to establish lobbying groups for health issues and to make use of existing groups; the provision of good day-care centres and child-minding groups; recreational schemes for children and youths.

A workshop on migration and resettlement called for (words deleted in terms of the emergency regulations) in solidarity with the plight of women in the TBVC areas, and to look at ways of pressurising for the (words deleted in terms of the emergency regulations).

The Women and Development workshop resolutions focused attention on the state of emergency and children in detention and the need to combine financial resources to help less-advantaged women.

Resolutions taken on education were:

- To reconfirm the efforts of the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) by sending it the following statement: "We women of this assembly are very aware of South Africa's present political crisis, which has virtually destroyed education for the majority of our students."

- This assembly reconfirms the resolutions of the NECC taken in March 1986. We demand the immediate release of all its members as well as parents, teachers and students held in detention. Further we demand that the Government negotiates with the NECC, the only legitimate and national educational organisation representing the interests of black students."

The assembly also resolved that action should be taken to develop informal education for students not allowed to return to school.

Important resolutions taken on women in the economy were:

- Social and other welfare benefits be equal for all races.
- It should be compulsory for maintenance payments to be deducted from men's salaries.
- Labour legislation should be updated to eradicate discrimination against women during the pre-natal and post-natal periods. Women should be granted the same work status when they return from maternity leave.
- The argument that sanctions should not be imposed because it would cause suffering among the black community was rejected as black communities felt they were already suffering.

Another resolution was that women should start by developing personal equality, and wherever possible, take stands to alter the structures under which we live and to recognise the valuable role women have in political empowerment.
R1m to be won in charity ‘Gold Rush’

Johannesburg — The biggest cash prize in South African history — R1 million — is being offered in a competition launched yesterday.

Operation Hunger, which feeds nearly a million people daily, is expected to benefit from the nationwide competition by R3.5 million or more.

Called the “Operation Hunger Gold Rush”, the competition’s finale will take place at the Turffontein Racecourse on November 29 when 20 “diggers”, representing the 20 finalists, will “rush” to determine the winner of the grand prize.

Tickets will be on sale soon at outlets around the country, including most branches of Barclays Bank and supermarkets. Hundreds of helpers will sell door-to-door and there will be a major radio phone-in.

Tickets will also be on sale overseas.

The organizer of the Gold Rush, Mr Clive Kimbley, said 30 percent of the cost of the R10 tickets would go towards the prize and the balance to Operation Hunger — “currently in a cash crisis situation”.

He said an American organization, USAID, had promised to add R30 to every R100 collected for Operation Hunger.

“First prize will be R1 million or 20 percent of total ticket sales in the event that they fall short of R3.5 million,” Mr Kimbley said, adding that there would be many more big prizes — Saps
surrendered
R347-m in
policies

By TOM HOOD,
Financial Staff

CASH-STRAPPED families, who surrendered their insurance policies and bonuses for cash, were paid out a record R347-million by South African companies last year.

This is a jump of 63 percent over the previous year's R214-million and reflects the harder bite of recession and retrenchments.

The annual report of the Life Offices Association of SA says today: "This feature, which flows from the adverse economic situation, is of great concern to the industry since surrenders directly result in the deprivation of insurance cover for beneficiaries."

The report also indicates workers are hanging on to their jobs and thinking twice before leaving with their insurance and pension contributions.

Another R250-million was paid out to people leaving their jobs and withdrawing from group schemes, a rise of 7.3 percent, but a slowdown on the 46 percent increase in the previous year.

This indicates a smaller staff turnover as a result of the uncertain economic conditions.

The industry paid out more than R11-million every working day to beneficiaries of all kinds.

In comparative terms, this represents the cost of building close on 200 modest-sized homes every working day, says Mr Pierre Steyn, chairman of the association.

"What would millions of beneficiaries have done in the absence of the services rendered by the industry," he says in his annual report.

Thirty percent of the payout went on death and disability claims — R639-million, a rise of R159-million.

The industry's total premium and investment income rose by 20 percent to R9989-million after a growth of 27 percent in 1984.

However, total assets jumped by 27 percent to R368.8-billion and, at the year-end, insurance companies had R5.5-billion available for investment.
Aid food goes to the soldiers

By STEVE ASKIN, Hearst

Somalia started misappropriating food as soon as it became a US ally. A former Soviet ally, Somalia kicked out Russian military advisers in 1977 as its neighbour and constant adversary, Ethiopia, moved closer to the Russians.

In 1979 Somalia began formal military talks with the US, culminating in an accord in 1980 which allows the US a freer military hand in Somali territory than any other nearby country.

But military links and food aid fraud grew hand-in-hand. Somalia received $96-million (R240-million) worth of US food between 1978 and 1984, under a non-emergency economic aid programme which gives Third World governments low interest loans to buy surplus US commodities. Somalia was supposed to resell goods to private buyers, use the proceeds to fund agricultural development, and thereby help the and perpetually food-short nation move toward self-sufficiency.

Instead, GAO found the Somali government sold almost all the food to its army or to government employees at far below market value. On one occasion 25,000 tons of emergency wheat was "intercepted" by government officials and sold for one-sixth of market value to friends who "realised significant windfall profits" by reselling it.

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Somalia's arch-rival, Ethiopia, was similarly deemed hostile by the US.

In "radical" Burkina Faso, one of Washington's least favourite governments, for example, US officials painstakingly monitor food programmes to prevent political abuse. As a result, reports GAO, US food distribution there was free of corruption and delivered 98 percent of the food to the "most needy".

Similarly, when this reporter visited Ethiopia last year, private aid agencies and American officials said Ethiopia was almost entirely free of corruption problems which plague food aid in many Third World countries.

Yet many of the officials who were effusive in their praise were equally vehement in their denunciations of other aspects of Ethiopia's famine response. Some charged that tens of thousands of Ethiopians died because of a politically motivated resettlement programme which moved peasants from the rebellious north to new villages in the south.

US officials felt that constant scrutiny and periodic threats kept Ethiopia honest on using American aid. Aware that their largest food donor might pull out at the first sign of abuse, authorities were careful to use US grain only for genuinely humanitarian purposes.

By contrast, Ethiopia's "arch-rival" Somalia started misappropriating food as soon as it became a US ally. A former Soviet ally, Somalia kicked out Russian military advisers in 1977 as its neighbour and constant adversary, Ethiopia, moved closer to the Russians.

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R1-million sweep in aid of Operation Hunger

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — South Africa is to get its first international sweepstake.

The sweepstake is being launched today by Operation Hunger and Barclays National Bank and will carry a first prize of R1-million.

More than a million tickets, costing R10 each, have been printed and will be on sale soon throughout the country, including most branches of Barclays Bank and supermarkets.

Mr Jimmy McKenzie, senior general manager of Barclays National Bank, and Mr Ken Palmer, chairman of the clubs racing at Turffontein, have announced the sponsorship of a R200 000 horse race.

MAKE R3.5-MILLION

The sweepstake is called Operation Hunger Gold Rush.

Operation Hunger is expected to make R3.5-million from the event.

A team of 100 helpers will sell door-to-door.

Several companies have already offered to buy books of tickets to distribute among their staff.

One group has signed up to take R100 000 worth and will next week issue a national challenge to other companies to do the same.

The sweepstake will not be confined to South Africa.

Hundreds of tickets will be on sale overseas and, September a major radio phone-in is expected to sell thousands more.

The intensive 14-week fund-raising effort will culminate in a black-tie auction dinner at the Gold Reef City Hippodrome on November 18.

SWELL THE COFFERS

The organiser of the Gold Rush sweepstake, Mr Clive Kinsley, explained how it will work.

“Tickets at R10 each will be on sale from today. Of this 30 percent will go towards the prize and the balance will go to swell the coffers of Operation Hunger, which is currently in a cash-crisis situation.

“An American organisation, Usaid, has promised to add R30 to every R100 collected for Operation Hunger, which will give the total an even greater boost.

“First prize will be R1-million, or 20 percent of total ticket sales in the event of them falling short of the R3.5-million.

“The entry involves answering five simple questions.

“At the end of October 20 finalists will be chosen in a major television draw. Each will be eligible to compete in the Gold Rush for the R1-million prize.

“The remaining 19 finalists will win prizes valued at more than R5 000 each.

“There will be a further 30 consolation prizes with values in excess of R1 000 each.”

The Operation Hunger Gold Rush sweepstake will end with a spectacular finale at the Turffontein racecourse on November 29. — the same day as the newly sponsored race.

20 ATHLETES

Twenty top athletes representing the 20 sweepstake finalists will compete in a 1 600 metres race, the Barclays Gold Rush Stakes, to determine the ultimate winner of the R1-million prize.

The ticket-holder who draws the athlete who wins the 1 600 metres running race will win the R1-million.

The horse race, formerly known as the Hawaii Stakes, will now be called the Barclays National 200 000 and will be run at weight-for-age terms over 1 600 metres.
Old and Starving and Alone

[Image of a cartoon and text]

By Sara Allgren

In a city that once was, a spot where commerce thrived.

[Further text not legible due to image quality]
A wealth of poverty

THE Vice-Chancellor of UCT, Dr Stuart Saunders, will open a photographic exhibition in St George’s Cathedral tonight called “South Africa: The Cordoned Heart.”

The exhibition coincides with the publication of the first part of a series written by Professor Francis Wilson.

The series, also called “South Africa: The Cordoned Heart”, has emerged from a major research project funded by the Carnegie Corporation — the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa.

THE following is an extract from Professor Wilson’s introduction to “South Africa The Cordoned Heart”

NOT very far from East London stands a village called Tshaba. The nearest water source is a 40 minutes’ walk. Water for the household has to be fetched three times a day in a bucket or plastic drum that, when full, weighs between 18 and 22 kg.

Tshaba is one of 19 villages in the Chalumna area of Ciskei where some 25 000 people live.

A scientific study of rural water supply in the area has shown that the energy required to carry the water home is, on average, roughly equal to that used by a miner wielding a pick. It is perhaps not surprising that people use an average of only nine litres of water per person each day — one-twentieth as much as the norm in the urban middle-class homes of South Africa.

It was also found that nine out of every 10 households in Chalumna draw their supplies from unprotected surface sources that are shared directly with cattle and other stock.

The following is an extract from Professor Wilson’s introduction to “South Africa The Cordoned Heart”

It might seem odd to start an article on the most industrialised country in Africa by describing problems of obtaining clean drinking water in remote corners of the country. Yet, these apparently isolated difficulties serve to highlight two important truths about the incidence and nature of poverty in Southern Africa.

First, what is true for Chalumna holds true for much of rural South Africa, particularly in the reserves — variously called homelands or black national states — where over half the African population of the country has been crowded down by government decree into 13 percent of the land.

Second, the difficulties facing the poor in obtaining so basic a human need as clean drinking water serve as a sharp reminder that poverty has many dimensions, it is tempting, and sometimes useful, to reduce the measure of poverty to a single number such as the average income per person. But scientists are increasingly aware of how misleading such a process can be.

One of the most striking images of poverty in South Africa is that of an elderly person walking home bent under the weight of a 40kg bag. She is passing underneath one of the huge cables that carry electricity across the country from cities, small towns and others. South Africa produces 80 percent of the electricity generated in Africa as a whole. But for hundreds of thousands of households, and not just those still comically compelled to be in the reserves, electricity is not supplied, and the lack of fuel for cooking, heating and lighting has an increasingly acute problem for at least half the black families in the country.

Throughout the country, the cities and small towns of the plateau, there is evidence of a fuel crisis facing the poor. For example, in a little town of Harare, a sack of firewood is so scarce that people chop out the runners of old deserted houses in the white dorp for firewood.

A few years ago, people could go into the veld to collect what wood there was, now farmers have fenced their properties making access difficult. Lack of fuel also has serious consequences for all the inhabitants of Southern Africa. Increased population density in the reserves served partially by government policy, has forced people in recent years to cut down live trees for fuel, as no more dead wood is available. The transition has contributed to the destruction of whole forest.

Sponge effect

When the trees go, the springs of water tend to dry up. The so-called sponge effect of forests enables them to act as regulators of water supply.

One of the photographs on exhibition at “South Africa: The Cordoned Heart”. The exhibition, at St George’s Cathedral, lasts until August 24.

who accused him of using a picture that must have been taken further north in Africa to emphasise the government and break the country’s image.

The people of South Africa, it is widely believed, suffer from various problems but starvation is not one of them. In fact, acute malnutrition manifests itself in many places and hunger stalks the land.

Dum ped

A remarkable survey on the extent and impact of respect for in South Africa, the Surplus People Project, interviewed, in a number of different places, those who had been compelled to move.

The pension for whites is small, but for Africans it is below the poverty line. In neighboring countries such as Botswana and Lesotho, there is no state pension at all for most old people. Moreover, within South Africa itself, many qualified for pensions who simply do not receive them bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption are two reasons why. But the major obstacle is that the South African government does not provide sufficient funds for the administration of the reserves to meet their commitments.

How many people are poor in South Africa? Is poverty increasing or decreasing? Are things getting better or worse? Some tentative conclusions are possible in South Africa as a whole, including reserves, the proportion of the population living below subsistence is roughly 50 percent.

Acute poverty

Few white people are responsible for this poor For Africans alone, the proportion is of the order of 60 to 65 percent. Even among the blacks, poverty is unevenly distributed in the reserves, no fewer than 81 percent of the households in 1980 were living in acute poverty.

More and more people are living in the reserves, in part because the race classification of the recipient.

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This: the disappearance of trees, caused in no small measure by this relentless search for fuel, is an important factor in the loss of clean drinking water from much of Southern Africa. Bad farming, including over-grazing and deforestation, has also contributed to the accelerated encroachment of the desert as the Karoo shrub advances from the south-west towards the heart of the country at a rate of perhaps more than a kilometre every two years, turning sweet grassland into semi-desert. Disruption of the ecological balance in a fragile environment makes life precarious for everybody.

Almost as invisible to wealthy urban eyes as the ravaged land are the ravages of the human body. Some years ago the country's leading business journal, Financial Mail, published on its front cover a photograph (taken in a KwaZulu hospital) of an emaciated baby suffering from kwashiorkor, a disease caused by acute protein deficiency.

The editor was summoned to Pretoria by an angry cabinet minister, considerable distances.

How many children die from hunger? South Africa collects no statistics on deaths from starvation alone, but some estimates have been made of infant mortality due to malnutrition and related diseases.

One of the country's leading paediatricians has estimated that the number of African children who died from these causes in one year (1970) was no fewer than 50,000. Statistics are patchy, particularly in the rural areas, but there is enough information available to know that the probability of a child dying before its first birthday varies dramatically according to whether it is black or white, or is from the country or town.

It is not only young children who are at risk. Older people, too, suffer disproportionately from the ravages of poverty.

In South Africa, there is no viable "safety net" for the elderly. The pensions paid to women over age 60 and to men over age 65 are very low. The size of the state pension depends primarily even more: because of the government's policy of relocation. Thus, the absolute number of people living below the minimum level in the reserves has increased substantially - from nearly five million people in 1960 to about nine million in 1980.

Looking ahead, there seems little likelihood that enough new jobs will be created in agriculture, mining, manufacturing and other sectors to provide work for all those coming on to the labour market.

The rate at which South Africa is creating new jobs is lower than the country's rate of population growth. The level of unemployment is high and going higher. Estimates are that one-fifth of the economically active African population was unemployed in 1980. Since then, the twin scourges of recession and inflation have gnawed away at the wage gains of the previous decade, reducing not only the number of jobs but also the buying power of workers' earnings in many sectors. The spectre of more unemployment and more poverty looms.
Where Natal's green ends, the KwaZulu dust begins

OFF the tarred road, where the lush green of Natal's sugar cane and timber plantations ends, KwaZulu's deeply shocking dustbowl begins.

Concepts like reform, sanctions or KgovaNatal indabas have little meaning in this dustbowl, which is host to more than a million people relocated from "white" farms and "black spots" in Natal, apart from the hundreds of thousands who lived there before the removals started here in the Sixties.

Life here consists of a daily struggle for fuel, food and — most of all — water. The roadsides are filled with children carrying buckets and plastic containers on their heads or pushing wheelbarrows full of containers to and from the few water points.

The landscape is one colour: dusty grey. Dust covers everything, the huts, the random heaps of wrecked cars, the scruffy poultry. PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK reports on the discarded people of KwaZulu.

In the KwaZulu dustbowl, President PW Botha's statement in Parliament at the beginning of the year that apartheid was obsolete has the sound of a sick joke. Even if there were never another forced removal, no relief has been offered to the millions of people whom the South African Land of Bathurst had to be built.

A little girl crouches to draw water from a hole in the dry river bed, one jugful at a time.

In exchange for his own patch of man with Victorian whiskers, an old land and grazing for his cattle, black polo neck jersey and torn gas.
South Africa faces an “Ethiopia-type” catastrophe with more than 1.5 million people starving, say welfare workers.

And hundreds of thousands of children, stunted mentally and physically from acute protein deficiency and likely to be economically unproductive, would form a significant sector of the next generation.

These facts have been released by the national crisis aid organisation, Operation Hunger.

And Mrs Ina Perlman, the executive director of the organisation, painted a scary scenario of widespread despair and starvation.

Welfare organisations are often the only barriers left against massive starvation.

If they do collapse through rising costs, entire peasant communities in the most depressed areas of KwaZulu, and Lebowa could starve to death.

Despite widespread relief schemes, in some rural clinics up to 24 malnutrition cases are being treated every day.

Welfare workers say one hospital in Lebowa near Pretoria averaged 60 hunger-related deaths a month. And it’s not only limited to the rural districts — or to blacks.

Emergency feeding schemes are also now being extended to white urban areas.

**Starving**

On the West Rand, Operation Hunger is supporting 300 starving white families.

But Operation Hunger — the lifeline to almost a million people — is extended to the huts with barely enough funds for three more months.

Urgent appeals from starving communities are pouring daily, and officials say the situation is going to worsen.

“One has to see the desperation in these areas to realise the stark horror of reality in this country,” said Mrs Perlman.

“In the ‘best’ areas where we are working, we are being asked for 50 percent increases in basic foods such as in our worst, it is 100 percent. The situation is totally out of control.”

Operation Hunger had 957,000 desperate people on their books, and, said Mrs Perlman, they should be providing for another 50,000.

Other community feeding schemes were providing for a further 600,000 people — which meant that more than 1,500,000 South Africa and homeland residents were almost totally reliant on relief schemes.

Most of the victims were under the age of 10, and many schemes, such as the Red Cross which was particularly active in KwaZulu, concentrated only on children.

Mrs Perlman said that by the end of March, next year, they would need an extra R9.5 million to keep operating effectively.

But she said the situation might not be as bleak as it appeared.

They had several fund-raising plans in the pipeline like a gold rush competition, expected to boost their coffers.

Also, the American Government agency US Aid had pledged relief on a 5,1 basis. For every R3 Operation Hunger raised, US Aid would donate R1, which hopefully would ease — if only temporarily — the current financial crisis.

Unfortunately, sanctions would have a big effect on the lifeline of many black subsistence communities.

Operation Hunger was firstly a self-help organisation and not only a crisis feeding scheme.

Looking at famine problems elsewhere in Africa where food donations alone were at best a short-term solution, much of their funds were ploughed back into providing agricultural equipment and technical know-how.

The emphasis was on self-sufficiency with Operation Hunger officials working both in advisory roles and side-by-side with needy communities.

However, the establishment of community self-help schemes was costing the organisation R100,000 a month, and with funds drying up rapidly, officials said they needed a further R2 million to complete their present projects.

Meals were budgeted at 6c a portion, served once a day, said Mrs Perlman.

They consisted of a cup of high-protein soup and meat. In the current financial crisis, obviously, sanctions were having an effect.

Mrs Ina Perlman... psychotherapy...

psychological effects... As most of the victims were young children in critical stages of development, the situation was particularly disconcerting.

“Children are a country’s wealth,” said Mrs Perlman. “Yet we have on our doorstep hundreds of thousands that will be irreparably stunted through malnutrition. In an economic sense, they will be misfits, suitable only for menial tasks that are now being rapidly mechanised.”

However, Operation Hunger had been most heartened by the “touching” response they had had, said Mrs Perlman.
We've had donations from people out of work, saying although they are in dire straits, there are others worse off than they are. South Africans are realising what hardship is all about.

But this was not true of the commercial and industrial sectors, where donations had been dwindling alarmingly.

"My biggest nightmare is if it ever comes to the stage where we have to say to these desperate people, we can't help them anymore."

"To have raised their hopes, and then bring them crashing down is the worst thing that can be done to them."

And, ominously, also...
‘South Africa faces an Ethiopia-type catastrophe’

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — South Africa faces an "Ethiopia-type" catastrophe with more than 1½ million people starving, say welfare workers.

And hundreds of thousands of children, stunted mentally and physically from acute protein deficiency and unlikely to ever be economically productive, would form a significant section of the next generation.

These facts have been released by the national crisis aid organisation, Operation Hunger.

Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of the organisation, painted a scary scenario of wide-scale despair and starvation.

Welfare organisations are often the only barriers left against massive starvation if they do collapse through rising costs, entire peasant communities in the most depressed areas of KwaZulu, KwaNge and Lebowa could starve to death.

Despite widespread relief schemes, in some rural clinics up to 24 malnutrition cases are being treated every day.

One hospital in Lebowa near Pietersburg averages 60 hunger-related deaths a month. And it's not only limited to the rural districts - or to blacks.

Emergency feeding schemes are also now being extended to white urban areas.

On the West Rand, Operation Hunger is supporting 300 starving white families.

But Operation Hunger — life-}

Aid society head tells of wide-scale despair and starvation

line to almost a million — is extended to the hilt. There are barely enough funds for three more months.

Urgent appeals from starving communities are pouring in daily. Officials believe the situation will worsen.

"One has to see the desperation in these areas to realise the stark horror of reality in this country," said Mrs Perlman.

"In the 'best' areas we are being asked for 50 percent increases in basic foodstuffs, in our worst, 100 percent. The situation is totally out of control."

TOTALLY RELIANT

Operation Hunger, with 957,000 on their books, should be providing for another 50,000.

Other community feeding schemes were providing for a further 400,000 people — which meant that more than 1,500,000 South African and homelands residents were almost totally reliant on welfare.

Task: the lifeblood of many black...

subsidised communities

Operation Hunger was originally a self-help organisation and not a disaster feeding scheme.

Elsewhere in Africa where food donations alone were at best a short-term solution, much of their funds were ploughed back into providing agricultural equipment and technical know-how.

The emphasis was on self-sufficiency with Operation Hunger officials working both in advisory roles and side-by-side with needy communities.

The establishment of community self-help schemes was costing the organisation R400 a month, and with funds drying up rapidly, officials said they needed a further R2 million to complete present projects.

Meals, budgeted at 6c a portion, were served once a day.

They consisted of a cup of high-protein soup and mealie-meal. Milk powder, once the staple subsistence diet, was now too expensive.

But the most alarming aspects of all were the long-term social and psychological effects. As most of the victims were children, the situation was particularly disconcerting.

COUNTRY’S WEALTH

"Children are a country's wealth," said Mrs Perlman.

"Yet we have on our doorstep hundreds of thousands that will be irreparably stunted through malnutrition.

In an economic sense, they will be useless, suitable only for menial tasks that are now being rapidly mechanised."

Operation Hunger had been heartened by the "touching" response they had had.

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But this was not true of the commercial and industrial sectors, where donations had been dwindling alarmingly.

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"To have raised their hopes, and then bring them crashing down is the worst thing that can be done to them."

12
OPERATION HUNGER has to
feed 950,000 destitute people—
most of whom are children.

"And its fund-raising director
Bernard McHardy said at a cere-
mony marking the handing over
of two containers of canned pil-
chards worth more than
R100,000. "We are desperate for
funds as we can only help 700,000
people.

The donation was made by
Federal Marine advertising
manager Ian Campbell on behalf
of the inshore fishing industry
for the third successive year.

McHardy said: "Recession and
resultant retrenchments have
placed an enormous strain on
resources.

"Therefore we appeal to more
of the business community to
give on a regular basis."

Executive director Ina Perl-
man said: "What we particularly
appreciate is that the donation
was given in spite of a shortage
of supply and was not surplus
stock."

950,000 are
destitute

SOPHIE TEMBA
Govt, AWB in massive drive to feed whites

By Hannes de Wet and Andre du Toit

The Government is providing food aid to an average of 95,000 people a month in a massive fight against poverty among people of all population groups.

And the AWB has launched its own mercy mission, to aid needy white children, especially Afrikaners.

The Nederduisse Gereformeerde Kerk is involved in similar relief efforts.

Dr Colin Cameron, co-ordinator of the Emergency Feeding Scheme of the Department of National Health and Population Development, said:

"In July, we helped 17,900 families — which amounted to 95,000 people. This is a fair reflection of the monthly average."

Mr Eugene TerreBlanche, leader of the AWB, claimed yesterday his movement was the main force behind aid to destitute white families. The primary goal of the AWB initiative was to provide relief to Afrikaner children — although white children also qualified.

The scheme includes help to people in the drought-stricken areas of the Western Transvaal.

R55 000 SET ASIDE

At Groot Marico, the manager of the local farmers' co-operative, Mr Jaap Coetzee, said farmers from Groot Marico up to Lichtenburg were sending food to the Witwatersrand.

The assistant-secretary of the Commission for Social Services of the NCK, Mrs J H Moolman said that, in the first three months this year, R55 000 was budgeted for food to the needy.

"A total of 2,000 people older than 10 years and a thousand under the age of 10 were provided with food," she said.

The general secretary of the AWB, Mr Willem Olivier, said: "During the past few months, there has been a definite increase in poverty in the Transvaal and Free State — and the indications are that the situation will get worse."

According to him, the aid included clothes.

Calling on other organisations and institutions to help, Mr TerreBlanche told The Star: "We cannot keep on looking after the country's children alone."

He also made a plea to the Government to introduce a levy on gold and platinum exports.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

"Due to the current exchange rate, South African gold and platinum are achieving unrealistic prices. The result is that mining houses are making a fortune while more and more people are getting poorer," he claimed.

"A levy on every ounce of gold sold will mean billions of rand that could be used to create job opportunities," Mr TerreBlanche said.

According to a survey conducted by The Star on the Witwatersrand and the Transvaal platteland, farmers were donating produce on a regular basis.

"I'm getting 40 dozen eggs a week from Beeno, milk from Heinrich and vegetables from Marble Hill," said Mrs Swanneke Swanepoel, who runs a daily soup kitchen for children in Mayfair, Fordenburg, Cottrelslaan and Jan Hofmeyr.

She said she was feeding 500 children and a number of adults every day.

In the Zeerust district, one of the worst-hit drought areas in Transvaal, AWB members are involved in running soup kitchens.

The Conservative Party is also said to be planning aid.
Maputo:
100,000 facing starvation

The Star's Africa
News Service

About 100,000 people are facing starvation in the southern Mozambican province of Maputo, Radio Maputo, the external service of Radio Mozambique, said yesterday.

In a broadcast monitored in Johannesburg last night, the report said the people were all from the Magude district, which borders South Africa.

It blamed the situation on five years of drought which were followed in 1984 and 1985 by two disastrous floods.

While a few years ago the people in the area had been totally self-sufficient, now they were dependent on food aid to survive, it said.

REBELS

Rebel activity had also contributed to the situation as all roads to the district had been cut by the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR), the radio said.

It added that entire villages were now deserted as people fled across the border into South Africa from the MNR gangs.

Thousands of people had also fled the district to other areas in Mozambique.

Officials had estimated that the area needed about 7,000 t of grain annually to feed the inhabitants.
4m Mozambicans facing starvation

MAPUTO — Mozambique has launched an urgent appeal for international food aid. It says nearly 4-million of its people face famine because of the war with rightwing rebels.

Co-operation Minister Jacinto Veloso, speaking yesterday to officials co-ordinating the relief effort, blamed the rebel Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) for disrupting agriculture and forcing villagers to flee their homes.

"We appeal to all countries and international organisations to assist us in this particularly difficult moment, in which hunger is affecting almost a third of the Mozambican population," he said.

Figures released by the state-run Natural Disasters Office showed 3.8-million Mozambicans, mostly in the northern province of Niassa, but also in the central Zambezia area, were critically short of food.

The two areas, both bordering Malawi, have been reeling in the past few years under a stepped-up offensive by the MNR, which has fought President Samora Machel's government for the past 11 years.

Natural Disasters Office director Amos Manhane said Mozambique urgently needed 200,000 tons of grain, 34,000 tons of supplementary food, 34,000 tons of vegetable oil, transport to move the food to the famine-stricken areas, and at least $500,000 worth of fuel.

As well as the MNR attacks, Mozambique has been hit recently by a cyclone which destroyed crops and livestock. — Sapa-Reuters
Warning of widespread poverty, famine in SA

Pretoria Bureau
Poverty and famine would be widespread in South Africa unless there was extensive modernisation in black national states, said a report compiled by the Institute for Sociological and Demographic Research released in Pretoria.

Industry-based metropolitan complexes in or near the national states would benefit not only the urban population, but would also promote the socio-economic advancement of the neighbouring rural population, the report stated.

The average number of children for each white woman in South Africa was two. The corresponding number for Indians and coloured people was three and for black women in the national states between six and seven.

Declining mortality rates and the absence of family planning have been cited as reasons for rapid black population growth.

In 1960, population density in the national states was 87 persons per square kilometre compared to approximately 16 per square kilometre in the rest of South Africa.

Were the migrant labour system to be maintained, population density in the 10 national states collectively might rise respectively to 140 per square kilometre by the year 2000 and 360 by 2030.

Research by demographers indicated that the low level of black urbanisation had contributed significantly to population growth.

The majority of black people, women and children in particular, lived in traditionally orientated rural or urban environments isolated from the industrialised population.

Consequently, technological revolution had had hardly any effect on the lifestyle of a large percentage of black South Africans.

'Pragmatic economic' measures applied now would succeed in bringing about a rational population distribution. Such measures would have the additional advantage of curbing population growth, said the report.
African states are asked to share food

MBABANE — Swaziland's Minister of Commerce yesterday appealed to black African countries who have food to share it with others who do not.

Mr Derek von Wissell was speaking here during a meeting of agriculture Ministers from the nine nations of Southern African Development Co-ordination conference.

The members are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mr von Wissell said: "We will have to look to each other for support to minimise and manage the effect that sanctions are going to have on our economies."
Job crisis on Cape Flats

By HILARY VENABLES  
Labour Reporter

COMMUNITY and family life is steadily disintegrating under the weight of mass unemployment and poverty on the vast low-cost housing projects of the Cape Flats.

The Advice Office Forum — an umbrella body for 14 advice offices in the Western Cape — said this came to light during their current two-week focus on unemployment in Cape Town's coloured community.

Mitchells Plain owes the city council R2 million in rental arrears. An estimated 78 percent of Mitchell's Plain households are behind in their rent because their breadwinners are unemployed, according to figures given to the AOF by the City Council. Some families owe the council R900 for rent.

Local advice office worker Ms Shakeda Iseg believes there is 'at least one person out of work in every house in Mitchells Plain.'

- In Manenberg in August, only 52 of 700 tenants paid their full rent. Ninety-three sub-economic tenants were in arrears in May if the City Council decides to evict people who can't pay their rent, tenants will have to evict the whole of Manenberg.

- Health screenings of the unemployed and their families this week showed unusually high levels of chronic depression, high blood pressure, malnutrition, scabies, alcoholism and drug addiction. "All the children are losing weight. One woman had a nervous breakdown because she was so worried about her arrears and she now goes for treatment at Valkenberg," Mr Patel said.

- Domestic violence is spiralling. The AOF said Red Cross workers had reported an alarming increase in incest, wife and child battering and general aggression in the home. AOF workers say the pressure of unemployment and grinding poverty is putting a strain on the most stable marriages.

- Mr Patel described unemployment as "a virulent and debilitating social disease."

"If you go into the town centres of Manenberg, Hanover Park or Mitchells Plain any day of the week, you will find them full of people, out of work and begging for anything that will put some bread in their children's mouths."

"Every day is like a Saturday. When we go around to the houses any time of the day, there is always someone home."

"I went to one house at 11am and both the parents were still in bed. There is nothing for them to get up for. They are too depressed to leave the house."

"The whole fabric of the community is breaking down. People are screaming at each other for money. Married women say they have turned to prostitution to try and feed their kids. It is a social disaster."

Mr Patel said the AOF focus was an attempt to reverse the "creeping paralysis" of unemployment and to help people articulate their demands.

"People want better and extended UFF payments, pay-out offices close to where they live, they want the council to scrap all the arrears, they want money to be ploughed into job-creation self-help projects and training and they want free health care right in their neighbourhoods because they can't afford transport."

"We hope our focus will bring these demands to the attention of the authorities. Make the unemployed realize that they have certain rights and encourage them to act instead of just sliding into a pit of depression and hopelessness," Mr Patel said.

- Survey of unemployed shocks students.

page 3
Survey of unemployed shocks students

The Baileys of Eastridge were among the many struggling families who took part in the health-screening programme aimed at highlighting the problems and demands of the workless and offering practical help and advice.

Edward and Charmaine Bailey are both unemployed. All they have to feed themselves and three children is bread and butter.

Mr Bailey's UIF benefits have expired. He is waiting for an extension.

The rent for his tiny house is R48 a month. He is R400 in arrears for rent, R100 for water and R36 for electricity.

"We haven't had lights for two years. We make hot water on our gas stove," he says.

"I lost my job as operator for a brake and clutch workshop a year ago. I have tried to find work. Sometimes our family or friends help us, but we can't keep asking."

Mr Bailey has suffered two epileptic fits since being out of work.

"Of course I have worries. What man doesn't?" he says.

Abduraman Dollie and his wife Nangmat have R57 a month in UIF benefits to support their six children.

Mr Dollie, a driver, has been unemployed for eight months.

"I'm lost. I don't know what to do," he says.

The City Council has reduced his rent from R106 a month to R47 a month, but he still owes R225 in rental arrears and R47 for electricity.

"We live on bread and jam... sometimes some porridge," Mrs Dollie says.

"I had a slight stroke because of the worries about food and the rent and the children.

"It's hard. Very hard. But what can you do except trust in God?"

Mrs Susan Louw, who came to the AOF's soup kitchen in Mamelodi on Thursday last week, gets a widow's pension of R117 a month. She owes the City Council R144 in rental arrears.

"My rent is R22 a month. My electric is R30 to R40 a month, my water is about R12 a quarter and I pay R15 a month for my burial.

"There is no money for food for me and my unmarried daughter. I say if I haven't got a piece of bread this morning, the Almighty will not let me live another day."

Mr Peter Lewis has been out of work for a year. His UIF benefits expired last year, and he has no income, except what he manages to earn from casual jobs.

He hopes to marry Georgina Ceres soon, but first he must find R56 to place an advertisement in the paper in an attempt to find his wife, who left him in 1971.

"They say I must advertise, and if she doesn't turn up, I can get a divorce. But I can't afford the money," he says.

He and his child share a house with Ms Ceres and her three children.

Her maintenance grant of R214 a month has just been cut to R70 a month "because coloured affairs says I must find a job. How can I find a job? I am four months pregnant," she says.

Between them, they owe the council more than R150 in electricity, water and rental arrears.
Food crisis on the Cape Flats

By JOHN YELD
Municipal Reporter

A FOOD crisis is sweeping the Cape Flats as a result of the “desperate” poverty, malnutrition and unemployment in city townships.

Medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan said more than 42 tons of food had been distributed since June and more would be handed out in a continuing programme.

In addition, 5 800 food parcels from the Department of National Health and Population Development are due to arrive in the city on Monday and these will also be distributed in the poverty-stricken areas.

Dr Coogan said “It’s true to say we have been aware from the beginning of this year of increasing desperation in the city council’s sub-economic townships because of unemployment, grinding poverty and all the attendant ills such as depression, malnutrition, alcoholism, an increase in the tuberculosis rate, child battering, assault and so on.”

Dr Coogan said his department had received some food supplies from the Department of Health which lasted from November to February.

THE Argus today launches the Argus Food Campaign in association with the Mayor’s Relief Fund — to help the needy.

The Argus Food Campaign opens with a R5 000 pledge from the Mayor’s Relief Fund and R1 000 from The Argus Charity Jackpot Fund.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P.O. Box 15399, Vlakburg 8018 or P.O. Box 298, Cape Town 8000. Cheques must be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund.

As The Argus is unable to accept food because it does not have the facilities, offers should be made to Cape Town’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan on 210-2100.

Organisations wanting to join this campaign, or who would like to let people know about their efforts should contact The Argus newsdesk at 208-4548.

“Then that aid tailed off and the city health department thought the position so desperate that we got control of supplies of meat and vegetables at no cost to the council.” He said this was supplemented by tinned food when it was available.

Dr Coogan’s department organised the collection and storage of supplies and since June has distributed more than 42 tons.

“We started in Langa and Guguletu but it was obvious there was a desperate need throughout the sub-economic townships on the Cape Flats,” Dr Coogan said.

“This will be an on-going programme, although the amount of food available varies because of the seasonal supply of vegetables.”

The food is distributed through 18 polyclinics on a rotational basis.

People at the top of the list are those who have been investigated by public health nurses and found to comply with the three minimum requirements for economic distress laid down by the Department of National Health.

“Everybody gets a turn,” Dr Coogan said.
Council food handout to hungry jobless

By CHRI S ERASMUS
NEARLY 6 000 food parcels will be distributed to hungry families on the Cape Flats in the next six weeks. Four tons of food have already been given out since June.

It constitutes part of a campaign by the City Council and the government to combat malnutrition caused by widespread unemployment.

The drastic decline in living conditions of the average black and coloured family has led to an alarming rise in the incidence of tuberculosis in these communities.

The incidence of TB cases is universally considered a reliable indicator of the economic conditions of a community," said Dr L.R. Tobin, Medical Officer of Health for the Cape Divisional Council.

According to his staff’s statistics, new TB cases among coloured people in the first six months this year shot up by almost 50 percent over the same period last year.

Among black people it has risen by 40 percent over the same period.

Dr Reg Coogan, MOH for Cape Town City Council, said the incidence of new TB cases among black and coloured communities in their area remained virtually constant but it was probably because of the exodus of people to Khayelitsha.

Both MOHs said the incidence of other infectious disease associated with poor socio-economic conditions such as measles had been kept under control by extensive immunization programmes.

However, Dr Coogan confirmed that his staff had been reporting dramatic increases in people developing illnesses from chronic depression to malnutrition and alcoholism.

“We are very aware of the problem and have already launched a nutritional drive to assist those most in need.

“In June we started making donations of meat and vegetables from stocks which we have managed to get control of in the past four months we have given away four tons of this food from our poly-clinics around the municipal area”

Programme to combat hunger

Dr Coogan hopes to take delivery today or early next week of 8 000 food parcels each containing 25kg of essential foods sufficient to feed a family of five for a month.

The food parcels, donated by the Department of National Health and Population Development, will be distributed at a rate of 1 000 a week to families most in need, he said.

“We can’t feed everyone in the Cape Flats, but we are at least trying to do something. The government is fully aware of the extent of the problem through reports from local health authorities and these food parcels represent our share of national programme to combat malnutrition and hunger.”

Hilary Venables reports that the president of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, Mr Peter Hugo, said the Advice Office Forum’s two-week focus on unemployment had highlighted “one of the major problems facing us at the moment”.

He said unemployment was one of the Chamber’s main concerns, but that his organization could offer “no easy practical solutions”.

The director of the Cape Town Chamber of Industries, Mr Colin McCarthy, said he was pessimistic about the chances of a significant upswing in the economy in the foreseeable future.
By HILARY VENABLES
Labour Reporter

THE number of people receiving Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) benefits in Cape Town has remained almost static over the past year, despite a huge increase in unemployment in the Western Cape.

According to the divisional labour inspector for the Department of Manpower, Mr Jan du P Marais, between 4,000 and 5,000 new applications for UIF benefits are processed by the Cape Town inspectorate every month.

But the number of people receiving benefits has increased by only 1,000 over the past year — from 15,625 in September 1985 to 16,645 last month.

According to official population surveys of the Western Cape, more than 65,000 people are unemployed, but labour experts say the true tally is far higher.

A small measure of relief for (from left) Mr Alfred Clarke, Michelle Linda, 5, Mrs Christine Davids and her two-month-old son Jonathan, all of Mitchells Plain, as they receive some of the food donated by the public and bought by the Advice Office Forum food-buying co-operative.

Jobless up but UIF claims static

As the job situation worsens there is increased pressure on community and worker organizations for the UIF system to be revised to provide for the vast number of people who are out of work and who cannot find jobs before their UIF benefits expire.

In terms of the rules governing the fund, a registered unemployed person may claim 55 percent of the wage he or she was earning before becoming unemployed. Unless an extension is granted, a worker may not claim UIF for more than six months.

Only 168 applicants were granted extensions last month. The Advice Office Forum said the focus had highlighted the inadequacy of the UIF system. Increased pay-outs and extension to the time limit on benefits were vital to prevent a worsening of the poverty crisis on the Cape Flats.

The Unemployed Workers Movement said the only solution was for people who were out of work to be given jobs or full maintenance. The Congress of South African Trade Unions said the failure of the State to deal with the problem of unemployment meant the burden of supporting the unemployed fell on other workers.
Weekend Argus Reporter

Staff at the Mowbray branch of a leading supermarket chain, touched by reports of the hunger crisis sweeping the Cape Flats, have decided to give a cash prize originally intended for their annual Christmas party to the Weekend Argus Food Campaign.

Mr. Eddie Sawyer, manager of Grand Supermarket, Mowbray, said today his store had outclassed the chain's other branches in a fruit and vegetable display competition organised by the Deciduous Fruit Board.

The Argus has launched the Argus Food Campaign — in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund — to help the needy.

The Argus Food Campaign opened with a R5,000 pledge from the Mayor's Relief Fund and R1,000 from The Argus Charity Jackpot Fund.

Cash contributions should be sent to the Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15389, Vlaeberg 8018, or PO Box 229, Cape Town 8000. Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

As the Argus is unable to accept food, because it does not have the facilities, offers should be made to Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Reg Coogan, 216-2180.

Dr. Coogan has emphasised that only non-perishable food — dried or tinned — should be given to the Argus Food Campaign.

He said the campaign would prefer money if possible because suitable food could then be bought.

Organisations wanting to join the campaign or who would like to let people know about their efforts should notify the Argus newsdesk at 208-4548.

Touched by the plight of hungry Cape Town people, the staff of a Mowbray supermarket decided to forgo their Christmas party and give R350 to the Argus Food Campaign. Behind the much-needed assistance was manager Mr. Eddie Sawyer, foreground, with staff members, from left, Mr. Abe Solomon, Mr. Eugene Bridgens, Mr. Shaheen Akherwaray and Mr. Rio Salvemini.
Huge debts 80 000 summonses each month

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Nearly 80 000 civil summonses for debt are being issued every month in South Africa as people sink deeper into debt.

And debts are becoming disturbingly larger, says Mr Paul Edwards, marketing manager of Dun and Bradstreet, South Africa.

Insolvencies have gone up from an average of 100 a month in 1983 to 354 this year and civil debt judgments for individuals and businesses from a 1982 monthly average of 26 666 to 38 898 now.

The amount involved has risen from R13.5-million in 1982 to R77.5-million. Civil summonses for debt rose from 59 917 a month in 1982 to 78 976.

Mr Ashraf Gatee, manager of Advanced Credit Bureau, said his company had noted an increase of at least 25 percent in fraudulent cheques.
A TIME FOR CARING

A CRISIS of poverty and hunger has struck the Cape Flats, the dismal evidence of it spelled out by Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan — unemployment, malnutrition, an increasing tuberculosis rate and the attendant social scourges of depression, alcoholism, child battering and assault.

It is a crisis which affects people of all ages and social levels.

Few could not have encountered the urchins, the down-and-out adults, people sometimes of good appearance and well spoken, begging for food or financial help to buy food and often showing their humiliation at having to turn to strangers on the street for help.

Few could not have noticed the growing crime rate, the sad tales of desperation told in court, the official figures showing that unemployment on the Cape Flats has risen by more than 30 percent in the past 12 months. All this, too, is evidence of the crisis.

Now, in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund, we have launched the Argus Food Campaign because we believe that ultimately every citizen of South Africa's most caring city is touched by this unfolding tragedy and because our readers have shown twice this year that when they are called on for help — first in the wake of the Crossroads violence, then to assist the families whose homes were flooded in Manganese and Heideveld — they can make the critical difference between desperation and hope.

We appeal to our readers yet again — and we make no apology for doing so. This is a time for compassion, and giving Help is needed to head off a potentially more devastating crisis than anything we have faced before, and it is needed urgently.

Since June, 42 tons of food have been distributed in the worst hit areas, but more — much more — is needed. And it will be needed as part of a continuous programme to alleviate suffering which threatens to get worse before it gets better.

The Argus Food Campaign is launched through the good offices of the Mayor's Relief Fund in response to deep concern.

Times are hard for everyone. But times are grimmer for the growing numbers faced by hunger. It is to those who do have food or funds to spare, no matter how modest, these might be, that we turn. Let us help where we can.
The city's health department has been working on a campaign to increase public health awareness. The campaign, titled "Healthy Community, Healthy Jobs," aims to reduce the incidence of disease and poverty by promoting healthy living and job opportunities.

The department has been distributing brochures and flyers in local community centers and schools. They have also been conducting workshops and seminars to educate residents about the importance of health and wellness.

The campaign has been successful in raising awareness among residents, and there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of people seeking medical attention due to preventable diseases.

The department has also been working with local businesses to create job opportunities for residents. They have been providing training and resources to help businesses hire more people, thereby reducing the city's unemployment rate.

Overall, the campaign has been well-received by residents, and it is hoped that it will continue to make a positive impact on the city's health and economy.
Funds, parcels for jobless to roll in today

Municipal Reporter

FUNDS from the public and parcels from the government are expected to roll in today for the unemployed on the Cape Flats.

Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan, was yesterday unable to quantify the public response so far to an appeal for funds, launched after a Cape Times investigation brought to light the extent of the unemployment crisis on the Flats.

Dr Coogan expected the first of 5,000 parcels from the Department of National Health and Population Development to arrive in the city today. These would initially be stored in hospital warehouses.

Each of these 25kg parcels contains enough staple foods — such as rice, mealie meal and powdered milk — for a family of five for a month.

The consent is Cape Town's share of the government's R1.4-million handout of emergency food aid which the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, announced in August as part of a broader attempt to relate the economy and stabilize society.

Dr Coogan said the City Health Department would distribute the food parcels and had already compiled lists of families who fell into the State Health definition of victims of "genuine grinding poverty".

"After the end early this year of the State's last poverty-aid programme, the city set up its own and we have distributed 42 tons of meat and vegetables since June."

Food parcels would not be handed out arbitrarily to whoever arrived at the 18 polyclinics in the worst-hit areas, he said.

"We will notify those who should come to the polyclinics, or in some cases deliver it to their houses," Dr Coogan said.

The director of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, Mr Norman Wilkie, said he believed "a new poor" was emerging.

This year the PDSA had treated 10,000 more cases in the Cape than last year, while vets had fewer clients, he said. He attributed this to unemployment and the economy in general.
Relief for unemployed pours in

Staff Reporter

FOUR truckloads of 5 800 government emergency food parcels arrived in the city from Potgietersrus yesterday, as relief funds from the public to the unemployed began pouring in.

Dr Reg Coogan, the city's Medical Officer of Health, has arranged food donation depots around the Peninsula. Donors should give only dried or tinned foods.

A special account was opened yesterday. Cheques can be made out to Operation Hunger, c/o the Mayor's Relief Fund, P O Box 298, Cape Town 8000.

The depots, open weekdays from 9am to 4pm, unless stated, are at:

- Sea Point Civic Centre, Main Road, 2pm to 3pm, telephone 448598
- Chapel Street Polyclinic, Woodstock, 2102484
- Woodstock Civic Centre, Aberdeen Street, 2102949
- Matland health inspector's office, Norfolk Street, 513812
- Rondebosch Town Hall, Mill Street, 656202.
- Claremont Clinic, Station Road, 611148
- Wynberg Town Hall, Maynard Road, 773271
- Muizenberg Civic Centre, Atlantic Road, 2pm to 3pm, 888940
Divco appeals for help to fight poverty

Staff Reporter
THE Cape Divisional Council has appealed for funds for welfare organisations helping poverty-stricken residents.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr Len Tibbit, said the Divisional Council was prevented from fund-raising because it did not have a WO number, but appealed for support for organisations involved in relief work in areas hit by high unemployment.

He said the council had been distributing emergency food parcels for a year.

Nurses helping
"During the coming few weeks we will be distributing 5,760 parcels to starving families in areas under our jurisdiction, which will bring the total number of families assisted to about 14,000 since last November," he said.

The parcels have been supplied by the Department of National Health and Population Development.

"Community health nurses work in conjunction with community organisations to identify needy families, and the organisations then help distribute the food," said Dr Tibbit.

"We also provide emergency rations of skimmed-milk powder to malnourished children and have allocated 6,000 kg of milk by the Department of National Health.

Nursing staff in Divisional Council areas run soup kitchens in Nyanga, Crossroads, Khayelitsha and Philippa with money from their own pockets.

There are other feeding schemes in Belhar, Ocean View, Noordhoek, Philippa, Grassy Park and Hout Bay.

Nurses at council clinics run self-help feeding schemes — vegetables are grown in clinic grounds and residents are encouraged to start gardens at their homes.

Welfare organisations work with the clinics to sell nutritional food at low prices.

Another pressing problem was the increase in tuberculosis, said Dr Tibbit.

"Divisional Council areas have the highest number of notified cases of TB, which is escalating alarmingly and can be directly attributed to poverty, malnutrition and unemployment."

Organisations
"Members of the public who want to help us overcome problems related to high unemployment in our areas can contribute to the following organisations," said Dr Tibbit.

- Durbanville Child Welfare Society
- Diakonale Dienste, Lions Club (Atlantic), Fish Hoek, Kommetjie and Noordhoek Welfare Association, St John Ambulance, the Red Cross Society, Catholic Welfare, Child Life (Wynberg) and the South African National Tuberculous Association.
Hungry: Divco appeal for aid

By PETER DENNEHY

DR Len Tibbit, the Divisional Council's Medical Officer of Health, appealed to the public yesterday to support the organizations which help Divco to aid the unemployed and malnourished in the Peninsula.

The emphasis thus far has been on the City Council areas, but my area of jurisdiction is even worse-hit," he said. "Divco can't raise funds on its own, as it has no welfare organization number.

Yesterday the council inadvertently asked donors to address cheques to "Operation Hunger, The Mayor's Relief Fund".

This is not permissible, as Operation Hunger is a separate organization, so cheques should be addressed to The Mayor's Relief Fund, PO Box 298.

Divco's health department had distributed 5,000 food parcels in February this year, and would distribute another 5,760 "over the next few months".

The parcels had exactly the same contents as those the City Council was distributing, and also came from the Department of National Health and Population Development, Dr Tibbit said.

Dr Tibbit said the organizations which helped Divco minister to the needs of the poverty-stricken were:

Manna (formerly Kupugan), SA National Tuberculosis Association, Durbanville Child Welfare Society, Lions Club of Atlantis, Diakonie Dienste and Ermhartighoeds Janse in Elsa's River/Flavens area, Fish Hoek, Kommetjie and Noulchords Welfare Association, Child Life, Electric Road, Wynberg, and the Red Cross, St John Ambulance, and the Co-op UV.
Help for the hungry — The Argus Food Campaign tops R10,000
'Healthy' challenge to help the hungry

Staff Reporter
CITY Council health department staff are raising funds to help the hungry and unemployed — and today challenged other council departments to better their amount.

Readers today added another R2 121 to The Argus Food Campaign, being run in conjunction with the Mayor's Relief Fund.

Medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan, who is co-ordinating relief, said Christos Supermarket in Woodstock gave 40 dozen fresh rolls and Sandown Poultry Farm in Kuils River 100kg of frozen vegetables and 130kg of chicken chunks, which are being distributed in Guguletu today.

County Fair gave frozen soup, M and L Food Distributors, canned food and Mm-Storagel at D F Malan Airport secure storage, said Dr Coogan.

Hundreds of needy people in Mitchell's Plain will have a square meal tonight — thanks to parcels handed to 269 families.

Dr Coogan's department also provided families in Maitland, Faerieon and Kensington with fresh vegetables today and 473 food parcels were distributed in Athlone.

- Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P.O. Box 15399, Vlaeburg 8018 or P.O. Box 296, Cape Town 8000. Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

The Argus cannot accept goods as it does not have the facilities but offers of food may be made to Dr Coogan at 219-2100.

- Collection points and Shawco campaign, Page 10.
Fees only for successful cases
— Law Society studies reform

From ANTHONY DOMAN
Staff Reporter

OUDTSHOORN. — Changes to centuries-old ethical practices could reduce South Africa's stand legal profession to haggling over fees, but it could mean access to legal help for many more people.

Mr Mervyn Smith, new president of the Law Society of the Cape of Good Hope, was addressing the society's annual conference.

Mr Smith, a Bellville attorney, has succeeded Mr Angus McLennan for a two-year term as president.

Various ethical practices may have cut off the poor from legal assistance, he said.

A solution to this could lie in a proposal contained in a paper on contingency fees delivered by Dr Arthur Chaskalson SC.

Under this system lawyers would not charge set fees but would take a share of the proceeds if a case was successful. "Contingency fees have been discouraged through a centuries-old legal ethical ruling which has been honoured in most Western jurisdictions.

"The question is whether people have been denied access to the courts because of the ruling," Mr Smith said.

The Law Society was studying this question The concept applied to civil actions and not criminal cases.

He spoke of "a great pressing need for more legal aid."

SPECIALIST COURTS

Advertising as a means of reaching more people was also being studied.

"We have to decide if it should be limited to institutional advertising or if individual lawyers should be allowed to advertise."

Up to now ethical rules had barred the profession from advertising.

Further discussions at the conference involved legal accessibility matters such as delays in third-party proceedings.

We believe procedures should be simplified and speeded up," Mr Smith said.

"The profession has strong views on this. We favour specialist courts. This is in fact the subject of a judicial commission to which we will be making representations."

The conference, much of which has been held behind closed doors, ended yesterday.
Mrs. W. W. W. (right), with her four-month-old son, Frances, and her husband, unemplyed for six months, was among the hundreds who received food yesterday at the pantry of the Salvation Army, 1225 15th St. NW. She said he had been unemployed for five months. Mrs. W. W. (left) was among the hundreds who received food yesterday at the pantry of the Salvation Army, 1225 15th St. NW. She said he had been unemployed for five months.

This will not solve the problem.
Shawco using mobile unit for food aid

**Staff Reporter**

Mr Livesey

**The Argus**

**FOOD**

**CAMPAIGN**

**The Argus Food Campaign**

R14 000 a week

"We would do a lot more if we had bigger staff, funds and food, but are still spending R14 000 a week on food parcels for Crossroads victims," said public relations officer Mrs Ann Botha.

"We are entirely dependent on the public for our income"

"St John have been very aware of the malnutrition crisis since we first started our township community health service in 1973, but the problem has escalated enormously in the last few months."

Mrs Botha said queues of people appealing for food were sometimes found at counselling offices in Clarke's Estate and Bishop Lavis.

**Collection points**

- Collection points for The Argus Food Campaign are St George's Cathedral, Vale St, St John's Anglican Church, 39 Fourse St, Bellville South, Bethel Methodist Church, 2 Belladonna Way and St Margaret's Church, cnr of 5th Avenue and Kommetjie Road, Fish Hoek.
- City health department food depots are Sea Point Civic Centre, health inspector's office 44-5596, Chapel Street Polyclinic, Woodstock 210-2484, Matland health inspector's office, Norfolk Street 21-3812, Rondebosch Town Hall 66-6202 or 66-6209, Claremont Clinic, Station Road 61-1148 or 61-1178, Wynberg Town Hall, Maynard Road 77-3271 or 77-1302, Munzenberg Civic Centre, Atlantic Road 68-8949, Woodstock Civic Centre, Aberdeen Street 210-2949 or 210-3049.

**Soya products**

The unit concentrates its efforts on the Mitchell's Plain and Manenberg area between 10am and 2pm.

Although the number of customers was not recorded, the unit took R260 at Manenberg last Friday.

Kupagan welfare service, which specialises in cheap soya products and milk powder, has an office at 396 Albert Road, Salt River.

They offer 250 g of soya mince for 60c, 250 g of soya chunks (eight servings) for 67c, and 500 g of milk powder for R1.90 — about 36c a litre.

Another crucial community service organisation, St John Ambulance, still has its hands full dealing with the Crossroads refugee problem and the cost has limited their assistance in other parts of the Cape Flats.
Charity 'no solution to city jobless'

By HILARY VENABLES
Labour Reporter

COMMUNITY and labour organizations have slated attempts to alleviate Cape Town's unemployed by "charity hand-outs" and have called for a concerted attempt by the State and big business to eliminate the structural causes of the problem.

The Advice Office Forum (AOF), which held a fortnight's focus on unemployment in Cape Town's coloured townships this month, said meeting the problems of the unemployed "with food parcels and hand-outs" was not the solution.

"Our solution is for the government and business people to take a serious look at the problem," AOF media officer Mr Fadiel Manuel said.

He dismissed statements by organized commerce and industry last week that there were "no easy solutions" to the crisis.

The AOF believed the situation could be immediately improved if

☐ Overtime was banned to provide more jobs.
☐ Workers were paid a living wage.
☐ Companies were prepared to accept a drop in profits instead of retrenching people.
☐ Commerce and industry stopped importing foreign technology to replace labour.
☐ Workers were encouraged to organize and form democratic trade unions.
☐ The "totally inadequate" Unemployment Insurance Fund was revised.

The regional secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, Mr Nic Henwood, said unemployment was an international problem which affected all capitalist countries.

The burden of supporting the unemployed in South Africa fell on other workers because of an inadequate welfare system, he maintained.

A researcher for UCT's South African Labour and Development Unit (Saldu), Mr Brendon Roberts, said unemployment was a "regulating mechanism" to maintain low wages.

Neither the government nor big business made any attempt to alleviate the problem until it reached a level where it threatened social stability and general economic development.

Unemployment would persist until the basis of economic distribution was changed and a new set of values was accepted.

"Soup kitches and hand-outs are great as individual efforts, person to person, but they are never going to solve the long-term problem," he said.
By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

SHOCK details of poverty among black people in the Eastern Cape—with 70 percent of black families surviving on less than R150 a month—have been disclosed by a top government official.

Mr Louis Koch, chief director of the now-defunct Eastern Cape Development Board, said in evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Public Accounts that the board’s statistics indicated that “roughly 70 percent” of black families in the whole of the Eastern Cape were “earning below R150 a month.”

He also told the committee, whose report was released in Parliament yesterday, “Our experience is that 40 percent of the employable people in the area are unemployed because of the low economic activity.”

The board’s statistics as well as those of the Urban Foundation were, however, lower than the 69 percent unemployment estimate made by Vista University for the Port Elizabeth/Umtholeni area.

“There is a very high degree of unemployment, but there is also a very large group of people with a low income,” Mr Koch said.

Mr Koch, whose evidence was given on May 7 this year, said the non-payment of rents and service charges was mainly attributable to the high unemployment level.

He said there had been an “element of indoctrination” recently “But it is going to be very difficult to attribute the amount of what one would call civil disobedience at this stage.”

He also said that though he was satisfied there was a willingness to pay rents in the community, about 25 percent of black families in the Eastern Cape were one month in arrears, about 50 percent were three to six months in arrears and the rest were higher than that.

The Director-General of Co-operation and Development, Dr Andre van Wyk, told the committee that many of the black towns in the interior of the Eastern Cape had no water-borne sewage, only the bucket system.

He thought the people in these towns would “probably regard the bucket system as perfectly normal within the environment, because the town as a whole cannot afford any other system.” But in Port Elizabeth the feeling of relative deprivation became much stronger.

Mr Harry Schwarz, PFP spokesman on finance, commented “We are dealing here with what is probably one of the most volatile areas in the country, for a lot of reasons.”

“The reasons for this volatility are clear from the statistics we have been given.”

“I fear that, unless you have massive subsidies at least to establish standards which are acceptable, you will find you are breeding continuous dissatisfaction and unrest.” Mr Schwarz said.
More and more Reef families get hungry

By Janice Simons

Growing numbers of destitute families in the Reef suburb of Clarenz are forced to rely on their communities for food, says Mrs Harriette Hughes, who runs an informal feeding scheme from her home in Clarenz.

"We meet needs that the soup kitchen can't reach," Mrs Hughes said. "It is only a packet of spaghetti for the parents to give to children at night, or before they go to school," she added.

"Pastor Wood and the desperate need was the impetus for the concentration of subsidized housing in the area," she said, "and therefore people with low incomes and rising inflation meant the food could make ends meet, he said.

Mrs Hughes and Mrs Rose Mackintosh showed The Star more than 25 residences where families were known to be struggling.

STATE PENSION

Pastor Wood and the only source of income for some families was a state pension. Most were widowed, divorced or couples where one or both received a disability pension and had between four and 11 children.

The children who had completed school were seldom able to find work, said Pastor Wood. "A lot of drugs and various problems among the teenagers and adults," he added.

Mrs Hughes said residents in need of help were helped via children, who appeared on their doorstep and helped with work or asked for food.

"We have to operate on faith and depend on the neighbours and friends to provide the extra food we need," Mrs Hughes said.

"Mrs Hughes hopes to give needy families Christmas food parcels when they can help and are asked to contact her at 57-5478."

Single mum walks tightrope of poverty

Mrs Clarence Lottering, of 16 Court, Ross Street, Clarenz, walks the tightrope called poverty every day of her life.

She is a single mother with eight children who receives a R1000 State pension. This, she says, barely covers monthly rent of R27 and the cost of feeding, clothing and educating her children.

Like many other Claremont residents, Mrs Lottering's electricity account is in arrears and the sow owes R25 to the municipality.

Her children, six of whom are still at school, eat lunch at the Claremont Community Centre feeding scheme for breakfast and supper. They often eat baby corn, rice, from "Tannie Mariët," mixed with warm water.

NO WORK

"My eldest daughter has only just found work. My son, who finished school, has tried for three months to get on to the work for the municipality," she said referring to her 23-day (10 a day) nemeshi associated with Department of Maaspos relief funding.

"I kept my youngest away from school the day they went to the zoo. I told my son to a neighbour to raise the R18 entrance fee but then my daughter cried because the other children had tickets of pannon and she did not," Mrs Lottering said.

When she moved to Clarenz 13 years ago her pension was R137.
Study pinpoints the workers' cash problems

By DICK USHER
Labour Reporter

WORKING-class households are confronted by seemingly insoluble financial problems, the university of Western Cape's Labour Research Unit, of the University of Western Cape, has found in a study of Cash problems and financial services. The conclusion was reached by Mr. Wynand Lourie, director of the university's Labour Research Unit, who said people were being oppressed by exploitative agencies.

Through the study, the university's Labour Research Unit found that the majority of working-class families lived below the poverty line and that only a handful of them were able to purchase essential commodities. This was due to the high cost of living, the lack of subsidies, and the lack of proper financial services.

The study also found that the majority of working-class families were unable to purchase basic commodities due to the high cost of living. This was due to the lack of subsidies and the lack of proper financial services.

The study recommended that the government should provide subsidies to working-class families to help them purchase essential commodities. It also recommended that the government should set up proper financial services to help working-class families manage their money better.
A dark cloud of poverty hangs over the Cape Flats...

'I just don’t see any future'

The staff of a Cape Flats welfare organisation dreads making house calls to victims of hunger and unemployment because it is “such a harrowing experience.”

A dark cloud of poverty hangs over the Cape Flats, bringing with it depression, hunger, idleness and the appalling side-effects of alcoholism, wife-beating and broken families.

Peculiarly allied to this gloom, however, is a steady resolve to cling to existing material wealth — even if it means sacrificing another meal, waking long distances when the bus stop is temptingly close.

“You don’t mind sacrificing a kilogram or two if it means keeping the things you’ve sweated for,” said a young, unemployed father of two, admitting that the desire to sell possessions for cash was a horribly tempting one.

Long-term unemployment brings with it the “what to do” dilemma when the housework is done and the children fed.

This is when the real depression sets in. Idle families in crowded homes become irritable — and violence can result. The bottle is that tempting little devil standing on the shelf.

Handouts are initially despised, but as the days pass — with a return to self-sufficiency no more than a pipe-dream — they become vital.

The World Vision-sponsored organisation gives food parcels to the streams of people who visit their premises daily for assistance.

“As far as possible we try to avoid the danger of dependence.”

To this end the organisation is trying to arrange a Human Aid concert in Cape Town at the end of next month. If the ambitious project gets off the ground it will provide paid organising work to many unemployed.

An Argus team spoke to several people who have sought aid from the centre.

Mrs Vanessa Abrams, 22, has her whole life ahead of her — and the future is bleak.

She sits in a backyard corrugated iron shack, a lonely divorcee feeding bread crusts to her shoeless toddlers. She can’t get a lift from a furniture company six months ago, his wife lost her job after 10 years with a toy firm.

Mr Peters has walked as far as Cape Town in a quest for employment. “The bus fare has become food money for the children.”

Pirms tell Mr Peters “We’ll call you back,” but the calls never come. His son, who is in Standard 8, has volunteered to give up school to go job-hunting. “I refused” — I want him to get a matric.

The family’s electricity has been cut off because they are R100 in arrears. Water arrears are R41 and rent arrears R78.

Mrs Cynthia Vincent, a divorcee, lives in a small Manenberg house with two of her four daughters and their children. Both daughters are out of work.

“This is our hardest period we’ve experienced — the whole community is in a depressed state. You can see the gloom in our street.

“My daughters do the housework to pass the time, but tempers can get a bit frayed.”

They have been without electricity for six weeks, and use candles at night. “They are dangerous for the children, but there is no alternative”.

“I really can’t see any future at the moment”
An anguished look at her unemployed father, Mr George Peters, from two-year-old Shalvana, above. The stress and frustration of unemployment is etched on the faces of Mrs Cynthia Vincent, below right, and her adult daughters, from left, Audrey, Shirley and Vanessa, and their children. Tension in the cramped house is often unavoidable.

She left her job at a clothing factory two years ago when she was pregnant, and has not found another.

Her former husband has been unemployed for 10 months, so the maintenance - her only source of income for some time - has dried up.

"I've developed a pain in my side. It was never there before. My mother says it's probably just the worry."

Mr George Peters, 45, a father of three, was a victim of staff cuts at a supermarket.
Fund leaps to nearly R26 000

(Cont. from Page 1)

Cape Town 8000 Cheques must be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund.

Offers of food may be made to Dr Coogan at ☎ 310-2100.

The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme which it is running in association with the South African National Tuberculous Association (Santa). Cheques, made out to Santa, may be sent to Santa, Mezzanine Floor, Monte Carlo Building, Ephraim 8001.
Ackerman boosts fund by R50 000

Staff Reporter

Mr Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick n Pay, has boosted The Argus Food Campaign by R50 000.

He told guests at a function to mark the opening of the new Ottery Hypermarket last night that he and his board had thought deeply about what they could do, not symbolically or for publicity, but because they felt strongly about what had been started.

The Argus launched the food campaign 11 days ago in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund as a response to the crisis on the Cape Flats where thousands of unemployed people and their families are starving.

Tough Climate

Today, the fund was just R250 short of R200 000.

Mr Ackerman said: "We need jobs more than Band-aids but because it (poverty) is there, we want to do something to help.

"I say this not to boast because we could well do with this money. It is a tough economic climate but we have decided as a company and on behalf of my wife and myself, to boost your fund with a R50 000 cheque."

Appreciated

Thanking Mr Ackerman, Mayor Mr Leon Marks said: "I am sure that science will discover that he indeed has a heart of gold."

"It is truly appreciated. There are people who are unemployed and people who are getting而已 starving. I get telephone calls and letters from people every day and I know that this money will go a long way towards assisting underprivileged people in the Western Cape."

The food fund was started on October 18 with R5 000 from the City Council and R1 000 from The Argus Charity Jackpot Fund. Argus readers have contributed R134 445. Mr Ackerman's gift boosts the total to R17 445.

Gifts to the campaign yesterday included cartons of groceries from the Thornton Methodist Church, bread and rolls from the Wynberg branch of Carlies and hundreds of kilograms of broccoli and cucumbers from Pick n Pay in the Gardens Centre.

Money can be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15830, Vlaeburg 8018, or to PO Box 284, Cape Town 8000. Cheques must be made out to The "Mayor's Relief Fund"

SANTA

Organisations wanting to join this campaign, or who would like to let people know about their efforts, should contact The Argus newsdesk on 228-8434.

The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme which is running in association with the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA).

Cheques, made out to Santa, can be sent to Santa, Mezzanine Floor, Monte Carlo Building, Foreshore, 8001.

See Pages 7 and 13

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Hypermania as crowds besiege Ottery store

Staff Reporter

Security staff closed the doors of the new hypermarket in Ottery today as thousands of shoppers, attracted by the humble word "opening special", stampeded the store.

Shoes were lost in the scramble for trolleys and scores of customers nursed bruises caused by being pressed against doors.

Long before the ribbon was cut to open the store at 8am queues of people stretched for hundreds of metres and the parking area — with space for 100 cars — was full Many vehicles were parked on pavements and in side streets.

Manager Mr Sakhe Joubert said the doors were closed at 9.30am to avoid chaos inside.

Some hopefuls had been in the queue since 5am.

Avdianche

When the doors slid apart it was like a human avalanche.

Mrs Delia Jacob of Lotus River queued from 7am to buy chicken, meat, potatoes and rice.

A microwave oven topped Mrs Johanna Pretorius's list. She arrived from Goodwood at 6am.

One of the first customers through the sophisticated-new computer-linked scanning checkout was Mrs Ian Johnson of Clarendon, laden with cartons of meat and vegetables.

"The prices are very good," she said.

Rachel and Magamat Loom, with their friend, Jerome Louw, queued from 5am to be sure of buying a-kerron bread.

An hour after the opening cars were still approaching the complex and crowds streamed towards it on foot.

M A R T I N 5

(Ackerman) We'll tell PW to read Group Areas — Page 7

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Ouch! Many were bruised in the stampede for trolleys.
Divco's R5 000 for food parcels

By PETER DENNY

THE Divisional Council yesterday took the fight against poverty and hunger on the Cape Flats a step further with a R5 000 donation towards supplementing food parcels.

Divco voted unanimously at its monthly meeting to grant the money to the SA National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA) for food parcels to supplement government parcels.

Mr Clive Bilski, who proposed the motion as a special item at the end of the agenda, said he believed the council should "take an active role in combating this dreaded disease" (hunger).

The Divisional Council had jurisdiction over the largest area of those who were starving or living on the bread line, he said, "and I feel we have a moral and a health responsibility to assist"

One of the major contributors to tuberculosis was malnourishment, he said, and if the primary battle against malnourishment could be won, the struggle against TB would be waged far more successfully.

"Our health department is fighting the TB battle against overwhelming odds."

TB notifications had increased 40 percent for blacks and 50 percent for coloured people in the first six months of this year compared with the first six of last year, Mr Bilski said, quoting Divco health department figures.

Mr Bilski said SANTA had allowed Divco to use its welfare number, and he proposed that the council appeal to the public to forward "donations in cash and kind."

Mr F L Andrew suggested that a further R5 000 should be pledged and reviewed in six months' time, but Mr Loubtjie Rothman, the chairman, suggested that this should be held over for the present and residents should instead be asked for contributions.
Ackerman gives R50 000 for jobless

Staff Reporter

PICK 'n Pay chairman Mr Raymond Ackerman last night donated R50 000 to relieve the plight of Cape Town's unemployed.

Making the presentation to the Mayor's Relief Fund during the pre-opening function for the new Ottery Hypermarket, Mr Ackerman said he had thought "very deeply" about the poverty which resulted from the unemployment crisis in Cape Town.

Impassioned plea

The relief fund was established by the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Leon Markovitz, following an in-depth investigation into the unemployment crisis on the Flats in the Cape Times this month.

"We need jobs more than handouts, but the fund is there, and I hope this contribution will go some way to relieving the poverty," Mr Ackerman said.

During his address, he made an impassioned plea to American businessmen: "For God's sake stay in this country"

"By investing and not running away", American businessmen could create the jobs necessary to bring peace to South Africa

"I appeal to those companies who are still here, in spite of the hassle factors and the criticism: Stay here. We need you," he said.

Mr Ackerman, who is to attend the Carlton III conference this month between government and top businessmen, said South Africa had two years in which to beat sanctions and disinvestment.

Minorities

"Sanctions have only just begun. It will be a long time before punitive, mandatory sanctions are imposed."

"It is time for us to get off our butts and talk to everyone; not go into the laager and adopt a hard-line attitude."

He urged black leaders to "put their hands across as well".

Eighty percent of South Africans believed in the same things: Democracy, protection for minorities and peace.

"Only by talking to each other will we discover how much we all have in common."

The following contributions to the Mayor's Relief Fund through The Argus Food Campaign have been received:

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Charlene Solomon (age
9) ... R10
J Frank ... R10
Mrs J S van Bart
Clayton ... R15
Dr A P Davidson ... R20
Mr and Mrs F C B
Mellhus ... R50
Mr Williams ... R30

24th Century
Distributor ... R300
Max ... R250
Durbach ... R25
Prof J R Cratley ... R100
Anonymous ... R100
I G A Gilmour ... R50
B S Jaffe ... R50
Wally and Kay
Laughton ... R500
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Mary Davies ... R10
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C Lorrie ... R10
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Benjamin ... R25
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Rudinge ... R15
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Daya ... R25
R Selborn ... R3
W R McCail ... R100
Antoinette ... R50
B Friedman ... R50
L Ross ... R10
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D Raubenheimer ... R100
Anonymous ... R100
Mr and Mrs L J Dillaby ... R10
D S Daley ... R10
J Walker ... R20
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Workers at Groote Schuur Hospital at a placard demonstration yesterday, demanding more pay and shorter hours.

Groote Schuur workers protest

Staff Report

About 200 Groote Schuur Hospital labourers and domestic workers yesterday held a lunch-time placard protest and marched to demand higher wages and shorter working hours.

The workers marched from the main building to a parking area where they displayed placards to motorists entering the hospital.

The workers then marched to the Nico Malan Recreation Hall where they met the hospital chief medical superintendent, Dr J Kane-Berman.

Dr Kane-Berman said the hospital was deeply aware of the problems experienced by these workers. "They are public servants and their wages are centrally determined by the Commission for Administration. We have tried to have the salary structure changed."
R35 000 boost for city hungry

Staff Reporter

PLEDGES to The Argus Food Campaign of R25 000 from Mobil OIl and R10 000 from the Seardel clothing giant today pushed the fund to feed hungry and unemployed Cape Town people to R129 410.

Mobil also provided a large sum of money for victims of the Crossroads fighting in May and the latest gift brings the company's contribution to relief in the Western Cape this year to R79 000.

Public affairs manager Mr Pat O'Malley said the gesture was part of Mobil's general commitment to South Africa and its people.

The mayor, Mr Leon Markovitz said today he wished to thank Mobil and Mr Aaron Searll of Seardel for their magnanimous gestures — "and I look forward to other large companies in Cape Town following their example".

- Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, Box 15399, Vlakberg 8019 or to Box 296, Cape Town 8000.

- Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

'Black poverty at root of S A's stagnation'

POTCHEFSTROOM—The root of economic stagnation in South Africa lay in a basic inability to cope with black poverty and a perception by businessmen that they were dealing with a First World economy with a population of five million.

This view was expressed by Prof Jan Lombard, deputy-governor of the S.A Reserve Bank, at a meeting of the Reformational Movement of S.A in Potchefstroom at the weekend on black poverty in political reform.

At best, businessmen approached the South African economy as a dualistic system in which there was a Third World component with 20 million people on the periphery, he said.

"Are businessmen inclined to believe they have dealt with the subject of poverty by making some or other donation or imploring the Government to make purely political gestures?"

Part of the solution would be to remove these wrong perceptions from South Africa's economic leaders, thus giving rise to healthy restructuring of society, Prof Lombard said in remarks prepared for delivery.

Businessmen needed vision from the market place would then arise the urgent pressure on the Government required to remove impediments to growth. — (Saps-AP)
Contributions to hunger fund nearly R126 000

CONTRIBUTIONS to The Argus Food Campaign, in association with the Mayor’s Relief Fund, today reached R126 729.

The Consul-General of the Republic of China in Cape Town, Mr H C Chan, sent in a cheque of R1 000 from him and his four vice-consuls.

In a letter to him said: “My colleagues and I have been closely following with concern The Argus Food Campaign which is aimed at helping the underprivileged on the Cape Flats. To respond my colleagues and I donate a cheque for R1 000, which is a collection from our personal salaries. We hope in this way that we can join in helping the needy.”

The pupils of Diocesan College (Bishops) raised R124,70 from a collection during a college chapel service.

Celtic Football Club and Glenville Dart Club each contributed R50.

- Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15399, Vlissingen 8018 or to PO Box 291, Cape Town 8008. Cheques to be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund.

- The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme in association with Santa. Cheques, made out to Santa, to be sent to Santa, Mezzanine Floor, Monte Carlo Building, Foreshore, 8001.

- Collection points, Back Page of Classifieds.
Contributions to hunger fund nearly R126 000

Staff Reporter

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The Consul-General of the Republic of China in Cape Town, Mr H C Chan, sent in a cheque of R1 000 from him and his four vice-consuls.

In a letter to the editor, Mr Chan said: "My colleagues and I have been closely following with concern the Argus Food Campaign which is aimed at helping the underprivileged on the Cape Flats.

"To respond to the needs of the community, we have donated a cheque for R1 000, which is a collection from our personal salaries. We hope in this way that we can join in helping the needy."

The pupils of Diocesan College (Bishops) raised R424.70 from a collection during a college chapel service.

Celtic Football Club and Glenville Dart Club each contributed R50.

- Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15399, Vlakfontein 8018 or to PO Box 298, Cape Town 8000. Cheques should be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme in association with Santa. Cheques made out to Santa, to be sent to Santa, Mezzanine Floor, Monte Carlo Building, Foreshore, 8001.

- Collection points: Back Page of Classifieds.
MARCELLE KATZ spoke to photographer Paul Alberts — part-time resident of Rhodes, the village where he took these photographs.

Violet Thiwani stands in her kitchen alongside neat rows of enamel crockery and newspaper decorations. She was kicked off a farm several years ago and her sole income is what she can get for tending to gardens and "skoffeling" for white houses. "She must be one of the poorest people I know," says photographer Paul Alberts. But she still smiles.

Nomonde Pali has to care for her retarded son Folani without any help. She works for a poultry sum and manages to clothe and feed both of them. In her daily life she displays what too few people choose to display — compassion and strength.

Images of injustice

THERE are some black people who live on a hill in a village called Rhodes. The village is so small that it takes about 10 minutes to walk through it. Possibly one of the prettiest places in the country, Rhodes symbolises the sharp paradox of South African existence.

The two extremes of wealth and poverty, beauty and ugliness sit side by side and they sit and squirm because it is unjust.

The white community comprises only 10 members including the presence of the SAP. The black community up on the hill numbers about 600 and their settlement remains precarious as plans have been in motion to remove them. The name they originally gave to Rhodes was Zakele "to build with your own hands" and they still call it that.

Photographer Paul Alberts is a part-time resident at Rhodes and sees the deprivation daily. His exhibition Rhodes Some Women Photographed forms part of the Fair Lady Book Week which is running until tomorrow at the Baxter.

His images, as usual, speak more poignantly than any words. While taking the pictures for this portfolio he says what struck him immediately was the fact that black women suffer more intensely than any other person in the country. Yet it is they who have the most dignity. They bear their hardship without a hint of pity or shame.

They have built their dwellings from discarded broken bricks and corrugated iron and while the interiors are meagre and bare, there are no houses that could be neater or cleaner.

There is an ongoing battle between the Government and the Divisional Council, says Paul, as to whose responsibility the black community is. Meanwhile there is no work, no food and no facilities. Only one tap functions for 500 people. Most of the men leave for the cities to earn a living while the women remain behind prepared to labour for 50 cents a day.

And the children pull mice in the fields just to fill their stomachs. Sometimes a parent can't look after a child and a woman will wake up in the morning to find an extra addition to her family. No questions are asked, only unconditional acceptance.
27-ton gift for the poor

The Argus

FOOD CAMPAIGN

Staff Reporter
MORE than 27 tons of food was distributed to families throughout the Cape Town municipal area in October — with the help of readers who contributed to The Argus Food Campaign.

In less than three weeks since the campaign was launched in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund, R130,000 has been pledged in cash and readers have delivered tons of food to collection points.

The campaign is a response to the crisis on the Cape Flats where parents and their children are going hungry because of unemployment and the recession.

City medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan said the 27,857kg of food distributed last month included meat, vegetables, frozen chickens, tinned goods, sugar, bread, margarine and government food parcels.

Challenged
Staff of Dr Coogan's city health department, which is coordinating the relief operation, have raised R800 among themselves and challenged the four other city council departments to better their efforts by tomorrow.

Challenges also come from the Glenville Darts Club and Celtic Football Club which have each given R50 and challenged other sports clubs to match their gifts or do better.

Contributions of bread have come from Pandoro Bakery in Sea Point, Cardy's Bakery in Wynberg, Woodlands Bakery in Wetton, Attewell's and Duens Cadora.

The staff of the cutting room at Rex Trueform cashed their pounce fund and bought bales of beans and rice for the campaign.

FOOD AID: One of the biggest contributions to The Argus Food Campaign has come from Mobil South Africa. The company's chairman, Mr Georges Racine, hands a cheque for R25,000 to the mayor of Cape Town, Mr Leon Markovitz.

- Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15399, Wynberg 8018 or to PO Box 218, Cape Town 8000.
- Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.
- Food may be offered to Dr Coogan at 219 210 or delivered to any of the collection points listed on the back page of The Argus Classifieds.
- The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme which it is running in association with the South African National Tubercolosis Association (Santa).
- Cheques, made out to Santa, may be sent to Santa, Meehan-Floor, Monte Carlo Building, Foreshore, 8001.
Walking the streets in search of food

By MIKE MABUSELA

DESPERATE and hungry people in Port Elizabeth's townships no longer have even soup kitchens to give them a half-decent meal each day.

I knew. I pretended to be such a person this week and trudged the streets of New Brighton, Zwide and KwaZakhele looking for a soup kitchen after getting requests for help from the desperate, the unemployed and the just plain hungry.

They said they had nowhere to go to find food.

Was this possible in a developed country?

I set out to discover for myself and must report, sadly, that it is true.

Numerous people said they had heard that some food parcels had been distributed.

None knew for sure and no-one had been able to establish the distribution points.

I could not establish if it was true that at times one of the churches in KwaZakhele handed out food parcels.

No-one could confirm this -- and there was nobody at the church or the mission house to give information.

I met a lot of people who are now forced to beg. Some of them were acquaintances, who asked me to give them at least R1 to buy a loaf of bread for the family! I helped one, who helped me, to understand how difficult it was to be an unemployed father.

Exhausted, I returned home, knowing a little of what it was like to be an unemployed and desperate father, unable to get something to eat for himself or his family.

Luckily for me, it was only for one day.

For others, it's every day.
Hope for Port Elizabeth’s Walmer has soup kitchen for old, poor

MIKE MABUSELA reviews the activities of various organisations feeding the hungry in Port Elizabeth’s townships.

WALMER TOWNSHIP, unlike others, has a soup kitchen to serve its needy and old people.

At a small building, built for this purpose near the township’s entrance, pre-school children and old people get their food parcels, bread, peanut butter and soup daily.

The Walmer Location Soup Kitchen has been supplying the needy there since 1990.

A spokesman for the centre said they had received grants from the Community Chest, World Vision, Firststore, Walmer Round Table and others.

Mrs Glym Bae, regional director of Operation Hunger, said the organisation was handing out parcels to the needy at 21 different points in the townships, with the exception of Motherwell, where they were yet to establish the system.

She declined to say where these points were.

"Here people are given parcels comprising of mealie meal and soup mixture every two weeks," she said.

But the organisation had yet to decide whether to establish soup kitchens in the African townships.

She expressed the fear that the number of needy people could soon rise, with increasing numbers of people unemployed.

Operation Hunger was currently feeding 161 000 people — 23 000 families — in PE African townships.

A committee of 11 has been elected by the needy people to help them.

The only one she named is newly appointed Operation Hunger field worker Mr Thabo Jonas.

Mrs Baer said local traders, all members of the East Cape African Chamber of Commerce, had helped transport food into the townships.

Operation Hunger was now appealing to groups of people who could offer help to phone Mrs Baer at 391566.

The Black Sash office in Port Elizabeth has also played a major role in securing food for needy people in the African townships.

Mrs Cathy Binnell, of Black Sash, said they had supplied food parcels to elderly people in TB Huis, Rod Location. Some township residents had helped transport the parcels.

Recently they were given a donation by the Urban Foundation to build a big shack where soup and parcels would be served to the old people of TB Huis.
a hot, dusty trek away
For thousands, food

Report: HILARY VENABLES
Putting aid where their mouths are

Staff Reporter

Critics who accuse Cape Town's municipal officials of being slow and uncaring will have to eat their words.

The officials, rallying to a challenge by the city health department, have raised more than R8 000 for the Argus Food Campaign.

The health department set the challenge by collecting R800 last week.

In response, the city administrator's department raised R2 721, the city engineer's department R2 027, the city treasurer's department R1 152, the city electrical engineer's department R310 and the town clerk's department R694.

"On this occasion it is pleasure to be beaten," quipped the city's medical officer of health, Dr Reg Coogan.

Nestlé has made a major contribution to the campaign with infant food, milk and cereal products worth about R6 000.

Cash contributions should be sent to the Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15399, Vlaeburg 8018, or to PO Box 298, Cape Town 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

The Divisional Council is also running a feeding scheme, in association with the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA).

Cheques, made out to SANTA, may be sent to Santa, Mezzanine Floor, Monte Carlo Building, Foreshore, 8001.

A list of collection points for food contributions appears on the back page of the Classifieds.

Latest contributions, Page 11
End of apartheid ‘won’t stop poverty’

The destruction of apartheid would contribute greatly to human dignity but it was also likely to be enjoyed “in poverty, hunger and despair,” said one of South Africa’s top demographers, Professor J L Sade, yesterday.

In a grim analysis of the country’s future demographic trends at the Resources 2 conference, followed by what he called “an unpleasant message,” Professor Sade said that the country’s high-fertility black community would continue to be dogged by ill-fortune from birth to death.

For one some extra 3.8 million workers were likely to be added to the 4.6 million not fully employed in the modern sector by the year 2000.

For every 100 withdrawals from manpower in the fertile community there would be 336 additions seeking work, and only 62 percent had a chance of remaining fully employed in this sector over a lifetime.

In his analysis Professor Sade argued that high fertility rates created a vicious circle of undernourished infants with poor maternal care, leading to underdevelopment of mental powers and low school achievement, reinforced by overcrowding of schools and consequent lack of much-needed entrepreneurship.

One quarter of all black children were below 80 percent of their expected weight — this was five times as much as the proportion of white children with the same problem — and half suffered from second-degree malnutrition.

“Growing up as semi-healthy, mentally stunted, lethargic and apathetic persons, they cannot derive maximum benefit from the educational system and do not develop into the kind of human material which is the prerequisite of economic development,” the professor said.
Meals for 2,500 families

Weekend Argus, Reporter

THIS week 2,500 families — about 17,000 of the city's poorest residents — enjoyed nourishing meals, thanks to The Argus Food Campaign.

The city's medical officer of health, Dr Reg Coogan, said, "I only wish the people who have been contributing to the campaign could hear the expressions of genuine gratitude from the starving families when the food arrives."

"This has been reported by many members of my staff and there hasn't been one false note — the gratitude has been overwhelming."

Dr Coogan said the supply of government food parcels would last only for a further two weeks.

"After that we will be able to continue supplying food ourselves because of the campaign."

The Sacco-affiliated Inter-denomi- national Football Association yesterday gave the campaign R1,836.

The money was won by affiliate clubs in the Virginia League Competition.

The chairman of the association, Mr Vic Rooza, said they could not use the money because they objected in principle to accepting money from liquor companies.

"We decided instead to put the money to good use and give it to The Argus Food Campaign," Mr Rooza said.

"We challenge other football associations to equal or better our contribution."

The campaign, launched by The Argus in response to an appeal by Dr Coogan for help to feed the city's hungry, has been running for just four weeks and readers have already contributed nearly R180,000.
Country's needy start to benefit from 'famine'

World Vision of Southern Africa has started to spend the R650 000 it raised in its annual '48-hour Famine' campaign in September.

All the money is being funnelled through World Vision's 280 development projects to help needy South Africans, according to the director, Mr David Cuthbert.

He said World Vision initially challenged 40 South African celebrities to help with the projects.

"More than 220 celebrities responded. Among them were singer Sipho Mabusane and Jomo Cosmos owner, Jomo Sono," he said.

IDENTIFIED WITH NEEDY

Participants learnt to identify with the country's needy by fasting for 48 hours.

"This was the eighth 48-hour famine. For the past seven years, we raised R14 million and we hope to net R15 million by the end of January next year," said Mr Cuthbert.

Sixty-thousand people took part in the famine, 42 percent more than the previous year.

Some of the places helped are the Willows Farm, near Johannesburg; the Lehlokonolong Community centre in Soweto, and the Organisation Youth Alive movement at Mzimhlohe in Soweto.
HSRC to investigate how millions live

By PETER DENNEHY

THE Human Sciences Research Council is engaged in a major investigation into the living conditions of millions of South Africans in a bid to help upgrade the quality of their lives.

Mr Philip Crouse, regional director of the HSRC's Opinion Survey Centre, said yesterday that hundreds of people in the Western Cape would be interviewed in coming weeks.

People would be asked the number of occupants per room, how long it takes them to get to work, what type of transport they use, and their needs for sport and health facilities.

The HSRC is funded by the government, through the Department of National Education. Mr Crouse said the present investigations follow earlier ones in 1980 and 1983.

Findings of the earlier surveys showed that, for example, in greater Cape Town the proportion of married women aged 15 to 49 who used contraceptives ranged from 50 percent among "Asians" to 71 percent among whites.

Black married women in the 15-49 age group had an average of 3.9 children, compared with 2.4 among whites.

Investigations in the Western Cape showed that only 3.9 percent of whites had previously lived in a "non-urban area," while the corresponding figure for coloured people was 27.7 percent and for blacks, 57.3 percent.

Figures on per capita income, room occupancy density, literacy, life expectancy and the proportion of people who were economically independent in the Western Cape were not yet available, Mr Crouse said.

He confirmed that the HSRC research is part of a "co-ordinated programme" to cope with what Dr Willie van Niekerk, Minister of National Health and Population Development, last week referred to as "multi-dimensional causes of a problematic of rapid population growth, unemployment, poverty and unrest."
Govt gives details of poverty in the Karoo

Political Staff

DETAILS of poverty in the black residential areas of several Karoo towns that have been released in Parliament have revealed that under 20 percent of people there are in formal housing. And, according to official figures, 93.72 percent of black homes in the Eastern Cape do not have electricity.

The details came from the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, in response to questions by the Progressive Federal Party’s Mr Peter Soal.

Mr Heunis revealed that in Steynsburg only 422 homes had been provided for an unofficially estimated population of 4,700. Rents were outstanding for almost half these houses. Ten houses had electricity and sewage was the bucket system.

The government had not established informal housing “because the state does not provide informal housing”

Mr Heunis said sports facilities in Steynsburg were a tennis court, two rugby fields and an athletics track. No library for black people had been built because of “the acute housing shortage throughout the area under the jurisdiction of the East Cape Development Board’s area of jurisdiction.”

Upgrading of roads, water and sanitation at a cost of R189,742 had been in progress since 1985.

The situation in Beaufort West, Jansenville, Hanover, De Aar, Cradock, Graaff-Reinet and Middelburg was essentially the same.

In Jansenville there are 304 houses for 3,870 people.
Old people 'live in poverty, hardship'

By GAYE DAVIS
Education Reporter

A survey of elderly people living in two Cape Town townships has uncovered a grim picture of poverty and hardship.

Elderly people interviewed in Nyanga and Guguletu by University of Cape Town researcher Dr Mamphela Ramphela told how they often felt exploited by their own families and neglected by the community and the church

Most of them live with their families but cramped living conditions, caused by an acute shortage of housing and consequent overcrowding, often leads to family tensions.

Dr Ramphela said: "In a one-bedroom house you will find the young people sleeping in it while the old person has to make do in the kitchen."

Unpaid servants

She found elderly women exploited as "unpaid domestic servants", having to clean, cook, care for young children and give their pension money to help meet rent, food and fuel costs.

Some of those she interviewed are left at home alone all day while the young couple go out to work.

For those old people who once had jobs, retirement often brings poverty.

Pension payments of R116 every two months mean in some cases that an elderly person's income plummeted by as much as R160 a month.

Those who were not employed find their pension brings some relief but unemployment means that sometimes it is a family's sole means of support, Dr Ramphela said.

All those she interviewed felt neglected by the community and a substantial number felt they got "zero support" from the church.

"The churches are seen as exploiters, only interested in their tithes."

"Some of the old people I talked to said their priests didn't even know where they lived and that they only continued to attend services because it meant they would get a decent burial."

She found old people in need of regular medical attention who no longer bothered going for check-ups.

They are put off by the unavailability of public transport, often difficult for an aged person to use, and long waits at hard-pressed day hospitals where busy staff make them feel they are just being a nuisance.

Dr Ramphela, a research assistant in UCT's department of social anthropology, was commissioned to do the survey by Professor Pieter Merri, head of the geriatric unit at UCT's department of medicine.
JOHANNESBURG — Sanctions will result in a transfer of wealth from South Africa's unskilled poor to the other nations of the world which have the commodities to replace SA goods squeezed out by embargoes.

The poor and the hungry of Southern Africa are going to become poorer as a result of sanctions.

This is the view of D T "Dammy" Watt, chairman of Rand Mines, one of the country's larger mining groups which employs about 100,000 people.

He says in his latest annual statement to Rand Mines shareholders: "We in the business community have been seeking to increase wages, to improve conditions of employment, and to enhance the quality of life of unskilled workers, and thereby to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth.

"One of the most horrendous effects of sanctions will be to counter this redistribution."

He says that although the initial assessment of the economic impact of the sanctions already adopted appears to be minimal, it is nevertheless certain that they will result in the destruction of a large number of jobs.

Watt says it is futile to believe that sanctions will expedite the reform process in South Africa — Sapa
Supplies of food for hungry drying up

9 576 needy helped

Staff Reporters
THE Cape Town City Health Department, aided by readers of The Argus, helped a record 9 576 hungry families in November, between 80 000 and 90 000 people.

Nearly 50 tons of food was distributed, including government parcels and gifts contributed to The Argus Food Campaign.

However, the government food parcels are finished and feeding the city's needy citizens will depend entirely on the money and food collected for the Mayor's Relief Fund through the campaign.

Medical Officer of Health Dr Reg Coogan said "The department will be reviewing the exercise now that we are back on our own resources.'

He said supplies of meat, vegetables, bread and chicken soup would be distributed to the city's poorest families, with groceries and other items.

The Standard 4 class of the York Road Primary School gave the money that was to be spent on their end-of-year party to The Argus Food Campaign.

In a letter with a contribution of R38,11 the class explained they wanted to try "to help make the families of the unemployed a little happier over the season".

"We look forward to the day when unemployment and poverty will be a thing of the past in our country."

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15399, Vlakte 9081 or to PO Box 298, Cape Town 8000. Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

Offers of food may be made to Dr Coogan at 220-2210.

The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme which is running in association with the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA).

Cheques, made out to Santa, may be sent to Santa, Mezzanine Floor, Monte Carlo Building, Foreshore, 4001.

Collection points back page classads
Christmas treat for needy Natal children

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

About 2000 underprivileged children from around Natal will be treated to the biggest Christmas party of their lives at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, on December 13.

University rag committee members have been hard at work collecting hundreds of old toys which will be handed out.

Mr Patrick thanked the people and schools of Pietermaritzburg for their generous donations, but said more toys were still needed and collection points had been set up at the city's suburban shopping centres.

The aim of the party is to give some of the less well-off children in our society a Christmas they will not forget," said Mr Patrick.

Children aged between four and 10 from creches, orphanages and homes have been invited to the party, at which Father Christmas will arrive by helicopter.
Feeding group warns of lean Christmas.

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — Many people in the rural areas will be going hungry this Christmas due to large scale unemployment, the regional director for Operation Hunger, Mrs Linda Murray, confirmed here yesterday.

"Operation Hunger will continue to keep up with the feeding of their families, as well as with the specialized feeding programme in the schools even though the schools have closed for the holidays," she said.

Mrs 'Murray said that the school-children could still go to the schools during the holiday period to obtain their meal for the day.

She added that this would continue as long as food supplies lasted, hopefully through December until new stocks could be delivered early in January.

"The way that Operation Hunger operates is by feeding schoolchildren through supplying the principals of the schools who pick up the food supplies at the allocated points and then distribute them to the mothers of the children who go to the schools and cook the food for the schoolchildren."

Mrs Murray said that the organisation hoped to start a food bank in the city early next year.

"Premises would have to be sought first, before the supermarkets and local food outlets could be approached requesting that they donate to Operation Hunger all surplus food which they cannot sell to the public the next day, so that it can be distributed to the starving people."

Mrs Murray said any community which approached the organisation for help would have to have the proper structure along with volunteers and transport, and be able to cook the food for the community before it could be assisted.

To assist Operation Hunger with the distribution of the food to the worst-hit rural areas, two new minibuses were handed over by the managing director of OK Bazaars, Mr Gordon Hood, last week.

Mr Hood said the supermarket chain had some years ago identified that poverty and privatisation in Southern Africa's rural areas needed to be urgently addressed.

One bus was donated to the Durban branch of Operation Hunger and the second to the Eastern Cape branch.

Mrs Murray said the bus was a "Godsend," as it would increase the organisation's mobility and enable herself and the fieldworker to travel to the rural areas to assess the programmes.
Operation Hunger feeds 1m

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Operation Hunger is now feeding just over one million people and calls for aid are still flooding its offices, says executive director Mrs Ina Perlman.

The figure fulfills the organization's September prediction that it would be feeding one million within six months.

Mrs Perlman said Operation Hunger's budget for the 1987 financial year was a conservative R12-million.

By May, the organization hoped to be able to phase out feeding schemes in rural areas where rain had fallen and crops had been reaped.

SELF-HELP

But there were still enormous demands from rural areas where the drought prevailed and from urban areas fraught with escalating unemployment, Mrs Perlman said.

"We are trying to introduce self-help schemes in urban areas, but reducing the demand there depends entirely on an upturn in the economy.

"For example, in Port Elizabeth, where Operation Hunger feeds 160,000 people, we hope to introduce 30 self-help schemes in January," she said.

Operation Hunger spokesman Miss Anne Scott said the organization had raised R10-million of its R12-million budget.

Twenty percent of the budget had been raised by the "Gold Rush."
Jobs joy for three families

Staff Reporter

THE Argus Food Campaign has helped three unemployed people from the Cape Flats to get jobs in time to provide their families with a little Christmas cheer.

A businessman in Observatory, touched by stories of hunger and unemployment, offered jobs to the three, whose plight was publicised in an Argus Food Campaign report.

"Mr Quinton Schroeder, owner of Dynamic Enterprises, a brick-paving and home improvement company, said he was willing to offer these workers jobs irrespective of their experience."

He said: "I hope other companies will follow my example and offer jobs to the unemployed, even if they are only last during the Christmas holidays. The least we can do is help people during the season of goodwill."

An Argus team went to Bonteheuwel to give the news to the Nyistrom, Michaels and Salie families featured in a report last month.

Mr Moses Nyistrom, a bricklayer employed for three years, said he was touched by the offer which gave him the opportunity to support his family again.

Mr Nyistrom's wife and two children had been depending on food parcels for the past six months.

He said: "Thank you very much for the chance. It really means a lot to us."

Mr Peter Michaels, whose wife and five children had been living on the breadline since he was retrenched two years ago, was not at home but his wife Lydia said he would telephone Mr Schroeder.

Mrs Jennifer Salie, mother of seven, said her son Mogamat was seeking employment in the building trade.

"As soon as my son gets home, I'm going to give him Mr Schroeder's phone number."

The Argus Food Campaign, in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund, was launched to help people on the breadline because of unemployment.

Money may be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15339, Vlaeburg 8018, or to PO Box 296, Cape Town 8000. Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the medical officer of health, Dr Reg. Coogan, at 210 2109.
Food aid sought for Crossroads refugees

CROSSROADS refugees are in danger of starving unless the public supports the St John Ambulance Refugee Fund to provide them with food parcels.

A public relations officer for St John Ambulance, Mrs Ann Botha, said it cost the organization about R14 000 a week to provide food parcels.

The refugees, who are now living “doubled-up” in Nyanga and other areas, receive a weekly food parcel consisting of “basic things” such as samp and oil, she said.

St John Ambulance plans to provide the refugees with “special food parcels” over Christmas, but these “cost a lot more than usual”, Mrs Botha said.

She appealed to the public to “come forward with either food, or money donations which will be used to continue the fund”.

Parcels of food, and donations can be sent to St John Ambulance, 54 Keerom Street, or contact Mrs Botha at 23-3140.
‘Chain of food’ to bring cheer to Flats jobless

Staff Reporter

A TWO-KILOMETRE “chain” of food will be built along the Sea Point beachfront on Sunday.

The food is to be distributed to the unemployed on the Cape Flats in time for Christmas.

The project is being organised by the Human Relations Centre in Hout Bay.

The chairman, Mr Phillip Martin, said “We aim to give something to the unemployed for the festive season because there will be no more casual employment from Monday when factories close.”

Marathon walker

Okeie van Sonne starts a charity marathon at Green Point Stadium on Sunday to raise funds for the Mayor’s Relief Fund.

He will be sent off by the Deputy Mayor, Mr Peter Muller, at 2pm and intends to walk for 50 hours, finishing on Tuesday afternoon.

There will be Carol by Candlelight at the stadium on Sunday at 8pm.
Hope, comfort to 'poorest citizens'

By JOHN YIELD
Municipal Reporter

ARGUS readers have contributed more than R180 000 to The Argus Food Campaign fund and have given hope and comfort to 70 000 of the city's poorest citizens.

Since the start of the campaign, more than 116 tons of food have been distributed to about 6 000 families, according to city medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan.

"These people were in a very desperate situation and the campaign has been going tremendously well," he said.

Goodwill

Because the city health department has access to very cheap food — "through the goodwill of manufacturers and producers" — Dr Coogan estimates that the money raised so far will allow the feeding campaign to continue virtually indefinitely.

"The money will be used to buy as much food as the department can handle logistically for distribution," Dr Coogan said.

The latest addition to the campaign is a 24-ton-capacity refrigeration unit, electrically operated with a diesel engine back-up and capable of maintaining temperatures as low as -28 degrees C. This has been lent indefinitely by Greenco, a refrigeration engineering company.

"This is a tremendous benefit to the scheme," a beaming Dr Coogan said.

He said he had "high hopes" that another shipment of "very valuable" Government food parcels would arrive and his department would make every effort to distribute these before Christmas.

Dr Coogan also paid tribute to the city health department staff for their contribution to the campaign.

However, he also wanted to acknowledge the co-operation of other council departments which have made financial contributions and given logistic support by transporting and installing the refrigerator.

The health department was constantly revising its list of people in desperate need to ensure that the food was distributed where it was most needed, Dr Coogan said.
Calitzdorp poverty ‘immobilizing’

Political Staff

The poverty level in the South-Western Cape town of Calitzdorp has led to their almost total immobilization, a University of Western Cape researcher, Dr Aubrey Redingshuys, has found.

He said 40.2 percent of the potentially economically active population was unemployed, the average monthly income was R122 and a large number of people were illiterate or had left school early.

The study has just been published by the Institute of Social Development at UWC and found that because of the economic situation in the area, "Calitzdorp is a community of pedestrians."

Three percent of the sub-economic area of Bergsig owned cars, four percent owned bakkies, seven percent bicycles and one percent donkey carts. The remaining 85 percent did not have any other form of transport.
Operation Hunger gets R470 000

JOHANNESBURG — The Italian Government has given about R470 000 to Operation Hunger.

The executive director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Ina Perlman, received the donation in Rome this week from the bank of the Italian Treasury, the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL).

A Press statement released by BNL and Operation Hunger said the money was to help the organisation "continue alleviating the poor life situation" of many people in South Africa.

The BNL said it had chosen to give funds to Operation Hunger because of its "private character and its peace and racial equality aims".

"At a Press conference in Rome this week Mrs Perlman said the money would be used to sponsor small agricultural projects which would supply 32,000 people, mostly children, with the necessary means of self-subsistence."
Friday night hell

Weekend chaos at Paarl's hospitals

Weekend Argus Reporter
FRIDAY nights are dreaded by the staff of Paarl Hospital and its satellite, the T C Newman Hospital in Paarl East. Every weekend is a "minor disaster", according to Dr Willie van Zyl, medical superintendent of the hospital. The Western Cape has the highest accident rate.

Contributing to overcrowding is the rapid population growth, violence aggravated by unemployment and alcohol abuse and a shortage of full-time specialists.

Dr van Zyl said staff at the T C Newman Hospital were threatened regularly and attacked at weekends in spite of the presence of security staff.

Doctors and nurses have been threatened with knives and scissors by patients - even patients who are attacked during gang fights spill over into the hospital itself.

Houseman Mr Christiaan Avenant said he had been attacked with scissors. Dr Edwin Jordaan said he had been threatened with knives "once or twice" and even Mr Sydneer Jord, the administrative officer, has had his share of abuse and threats from patients and their friends.

Guards, dogs for safety
Matron Naraan Ebrahim's standing orders are not to argue. "You can't have a conversation with a drunk. The best is to ignore them. We do have security guards and dogs for safety."

In 1984/85 the hospital saw the same number of casualties, 28,000, as Groote Schuur. Of each weekend's 300 patients, 50 percent were victims of road accidents and assaults.

The Paarl East hospital's 88 beds were full and overflowing at weekends with trolleys added in the lobbies. The 20 overnight beds were used by up to 40 patients a day and often occupied by long-term patients.

In 12 hours of a night shift, a houseman and three or four sisters often deal with 70 or more patients. Their major materials are sutures.

"What really gets to me is when patients demand so much of us. They want our time and efforts. They want us to be pleasant and helpful but they are thoroughly unpleasant in return," says Matron Ebrahim.

"Dr van Zyl, she sees grassroot causes."

"There is no stimulation in the people's lives. Many of our patients get off the bus from the Traneski and Oxies and appear next morning with acute and terminal illnesses. They've come all that way for help. They often want all day to see Sister Joubert, the paediatric nursing associate."

Hospital needs expansion
Paarl Hospital was always full with a waiting list and patients were discharged as soon as possible, not being kept for observation. Only Tygerberg and Groote Schuur handled a greater number of patients each year, according to provincial statistics.

Dr van Zyl said the hospital needed to be expanded and its medical staff enlarged. Of the 11 doctors' posts at the Paarl, Paarl East and Wellington hospitals, of which Dr van Zyl is medical superintendent, two are vacant.

"Applicants are either young, newly-qualified doctors filling the gap between graduation and setting up practice, or close to retirement," he said.

Farmers resent their workers being sent home after a minimum recovery time. They expect them to be returned only when they are fully fit for work. This also meant a heavier outpatient load.

Dr van Zyl attributes the problems to the poor quality of life of the people the hospital serves - poor housing, low incomes, the fighting and drinking that result from these conditions.

Dr van Zyl's hospitals - two at Paarl and one at Wellington - serve an area from Klipskouvel and Pnol, near Stellenbosch, to Frankshoek, Tielag, Malmsbury and Ceres, including Makeewen's population of 28,000. A new hospital at Porterville is expected to relieve Paarl to some extent.

Part-time surgeons, physicians
Because Paarl is not a teaching hospital, young doctors cannot work there for higher qualifications. Stellenbosch sends some students and registrars to the gynaecology department where they work under the full-time supervision of Dr Paul de Villiers. But other departments have only part-time surgeons and physicians.

To get and keep medical staff, the hospital would have to be able to offer posts as registrars and housemen. There would be scope for community medicine training but for the lack of full-time specialists as supervisors.

CASUALTY: This man was stabbed in the lung during a fight. Later, in hospital, he passed out and tumbled out of his wheelchair.

UNWELL: Amid the blood and the mayhem, this little boy presented himself and announced he did not feel well.

EMERGENCY! A wide-eyed boy is rushed into the hospital by his grandfather, thought to be suffering from meningitis.
Louw: Govt has to help raise living conditions

THE transfer of black local government to the Provincial Administration and its subsequent reconstruction after the recent unrest would bring together white, coloured and black local governments under one roof, the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Gene Louw, said in his New Year message.

Mr Louw said this was one of the "biggest responsibilities" facing his administration, as the lives of about three million blacks were affected by this new responsibility, which includes squatter control, housing and social services.

"We realise that the most pressing needs of the majority of inhabitants of this province is that their living conditions should improve and the central and provincial governments will have to lend a hand," Mr Louw said.

In discussions with "favourably disposed black leaders" in an attempt to solve the numerous problems facing the administration, Mr Louw said he was "struck by the large measure of goodwill which prevailed in spite of strong pressure from political activists and intimidators".

However, the availability of funds remains "the biggest worrying factor", and priorities will "have to be weighed up very carefully".

He said the province had a budget "in excess of R2 000 million for the new financial year", but that this "was not an enormous amount, considering the wide-ranging needs of our province".

Mr Louw said the year ahead was going to make "hefty demands on all of us, and the extent to which we achieve success will be decisive for the further political ordering of our country as a whole".