Poverty - General
1987
Jan. - December
Readers open hearts — R205 000 in Kitty

The Argus
The scourge of Rhodes’s plight
Positive Response

"...you, your family and all those who blessed fall upon May God's Aza!" 13/11/17

The Communion of Faimers
The Communion of Faimers

{image cropped at right edge, out of focus, unreadable text}

above: Happiness...living on brand new clothes. The garments donated by a
case. Town clothing manufacturers were sorted out and distributed among the
residents of Rhodes according to age. Paul Alpert said that once the people had
received their clothes, they never swat them because they were so happy to 
Receive. Mr. Alpert stressed the importance of clothing for promoting a

[map or diagram of a location, possibly Rhodes, with labels and annotations]
Public rallies to aid city's needy

MORE than 114 tons of food have been distributed to needy Cape Town families since the start of The Argus Food Campaign three months ago.

Launched on October 18 to help the medical officer of health, Dr Reg Coogan, and his City Health Department cope with desperate poverty and hunger resulting from the recession and unemployment, the fund this week reached R203,731.58.

Dr Coogan said a "fairly ample helping hand" had been extended three times to each of the 8,000 families on the department's "genuinely hungry" list since the start of the campaign.

This list was constantly updated as families' circumstances changed.

The Food Campaign had resumed with "great vigour" after the holiday and 55 tons of food had been distributed through 17 centres to more than 2,000 families last week, Dr Coogan said.

He believed factors contributing to the campaign's success included:

- A "heartwarming response" from the public;
- The assurance that every item of food went only to the most needy families whose circumstances were investigated by his field staff;
- The lack of administration costs as the campaign was run by his department's workers as part of their duties;
- The generosity and goodwill of food producers and suppliers and, particularly, the loan of a giant freezing chamber for perishables.
Fears for the future as grim starvation stares SA in the face

Ina's fight against famine

Whites seeking aid as hunger grows

This year may be one of the most difficult for Operation Hunger as starvation increases and funds are harder to come by, according to the relief organisation's executive director, Mrs Ina Perlman.

Since 1985 there has been a sharp increase in the number of urban dwellers requiring aid from Operation Hunger.

The organisation is now feeding 300,000 urban people a day, an increase of 200,000 since 1985.

An example of the plight in the urban area is in Port Elizabeth where Operation Hunger feeds at least 185,000 people daily.

"This year will be a difficult one for Operation Hunger. Urbanites simply do not have the same survival techniques as homeland people," Mrs Perlman said.

She predicted an increase in the number of whites seeking aid. At the moment Operation Hunger is feeding about 20,000 whites a day.

"We never used to get appeals from whites, but these are on the increase. One of the most shattering aspects of white relief is that some of those who apply really do not need it. Of the first 100 cards we got requesting relief we found that 80 percent were cons." She added: "My greatest fear is that in an economic upswing there will be more mechanisation and less people needed. Unemployment will rise and that means we will have a bigger job to do."

"There are so many school leavers, especially in the rural areas, who have been out of school for three years and more and have still no work," Mrs Perlman said.

When Ina Perlman enters the rural areas women and children cheer.

Her arrival sparks festivity and while villagers sing and dance in Mrs Perlman's honour they look at them shyly and smile.

The head of Operation Hunger has been described by some people as South Africa's Mother Theresa. She should shudder at this description. Her modesty and "let's get down to it" attitude does not allow for gushy talk.

Tens of millions of rand have been raised by this diminutive woman, her staff and the high-powered Businessmen's Action Committee to feed the starving and sponsor self-help projects.

Operation Hunger, the largest relief organisation in South Africa, was launched in August 1985 and 10 months later had raised R235,019. Since then it has experienced massive growth and the 1986/1987 annual budget was R12 million.

In her "wildest nightmare" Mrs Perlman said she never expected Operation Hunger would become the huge relief organisation it is today.

"Initially we saw ourselves as a temporary relief organisation to combat malnutrition and become involved in self-help projects. But, the drought changed this and because our network was so developed we found we were able to step in very quickly and help people who were starving."

BUDGET FOR THE HUNGRY

She adds: "People in South Africa are incredibly compassionate. I think they budget for the hungry as they would for tea, sugar and their holidays at the coast."

Mrs Perlman was aware of poverty at an early age. "Being brought up in Port Elizabeth made one very aware that there were people who were starving."

Her "career" in community help started in her 20's when she worked with the African Children's Feeding Scheme. Years later, in 1972 she joined the finance department at the South African Institute of Race Relations.

"Before I joined the institute I did an appallingly long stint of school galas, rugby matches and taking my four children from one place to another. I think I knew every rugby field and swimming pool in the Johannesburg area. When the job came up at the institute I jumped at the opportunity."

Mrs Perlman was appointed the southern Transvaal manager of the institute in 1974 and in 1980 Operation Hunger was launched.

Operation Hunger has gone from strength to strength, but it "lives on the brink."

"The minute money comes in we spend it. The need is enormous and I live in constant fear that we won't have enough money. Every cent counts."

Earlier this year mealie meal rations had to be cut by half because of a shortage of funds. But a large donation from the German Government solved this crisis and once again full rations were sent to hungry recipients.

One of Operation Hunger's biggest crises was in September 1984 when it was R1 million in debt. "We owed that money to our suppliers and fortunately they agreed to wait for the money rather than let people go hungry. By November we had raised R5 million, 95 percent of which was raised by the Businessmen's Action Committee."

Until last year 90 percent of Operation Hunger's funds were raised in South Africa. In the past financial year this position has changed and about 30 percent has been donated from overseas governments and companies.

Although Operation Hunger has received massive public support, Mrs Perlman fears for the future.

"People keep saying they have turned the corner and overcome the hunger problem, but we are still getting appeals all the time."

After a recession people assumed that the plight of the hungry would diminish.

"With each recession companies mechanise that little bit more which means more people lose their jobs and need help."

The good rains countrywide also gave people the wrong impression. Despite the rain in some areas the critical period for planting crops has passed.

When numbers for feeding drop Mrs Perlman hopes to concentrate on self-help projects. At the moment Operation Hunger spends R100,000 a month on these projects.

Mrs Perlman speaks with pride of the successful self-help project in kwaNdebele. At one time Operation Hunger was feeding about 10,000 people in kwaNdebele. But, when their lucrative beadwork business was launched this dropped to 1,500.

One of her philosophies is not to "teach" a community about self-help. "One of the most fatal words is 'teach' because it implies superiority. We are there to support a community and share knowledge if they want it. It takes a long time to break down that 'Yes Madam' relationship."

As the executive director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Ina Perlman spends a lot of time in the rural areas finding out how bad things are. The barren area of Sekhukhuneland in Lebowa has received a great deal of her attention.
MP's worker stole for food

Tygerberg Bureau

A GARDENER employed by Mr Myburgh Streicher, MP for De Kaap and Deputy-Minister of Transport Services, was to-day fined R200 (or two months) by a Bellville magistrate for stealing copper cable from his employer's garden.

Denner Brand, 26, of Oval Street, Beacon Valley, Mitchell's Plain, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing the cable on January 20.

He told Bellville magistrate Mr FJ Venter he took the cable, which was among some bushes in the garden, and sold it for R25 "to buy a train ticket and food for my five children."

Brand returned the cable, valued at R200, to the Durban-
Nun selling Operation Hunger food claim

By Susan Pleming

Operation Hunger will stop its feeding scheme in the Northern Transvaal areas of Mothapo and Molepo because of claims that a Roman Catholic nun is charging villagers R2.40 a month for food supplies.

The executive director, Mrs Ina Perlman, said she was shocked and horrified to hear of claims that the nun was charging for food and said an investigation would be launched.

Mrs Perlman added that in 1982 she had discovered that villagers were being charged for food. Operation Hunger had immediately stopped feeding in that area. Feeding was resumed one year later.

Sister Walburga told The Star the money had been collected by the community each month to cover her travelling costs, the service of a cook and for the onloading and offloading of food.

School principals were also accused of charging food.

Mrs Perlman says . . .

"It is the policy of Operation Hunger not to charge for food and I am horrified and shocked at the claims that Sister Walburger is charging for food. We will investigate this issue immediately."

"In 1982, we heard that Sister Walburger was charging R1 for food. This was taken up with the bishop in the area and supplies were immediately stopped. About a year later it was resumed when we were sure that money was no longer charged."

"Whenever I have visited the area I have asked whether people are being charged and have been told they are not. If Sister Walburger claims she is using the money for transportation costs and to pay people to onload and offload food, then I am dismayed."

"If there is a problem with distribution then we normally step in and help. We would subsidise petrol if the need was legitimate."

Sister Sehogene says . . .

"Money has been collected from the villagers to cover my travelling costs, the use of a cook and for people to onload and offload the food. For example I spend at least R600 on travelling in this area."

"I did not collect the money myself. The community collected it and delivered it every month."

"We need this money. These people are not cripples and need to look after themselves."

"I'm very sad that Mrs Perlman is thinking of stopping food supplies. I beg her not to. I'd like it very much if the feeding was taken over by another denomination. I'm sick of the problems."

"Mrs Perlman says that I should not be paying people to onload and offload food. I have had such problems getting the community to do this for free that I had no choice but to pay people."

ay January 29 1987
Staff Reporter

Op Cape Hunger launches $24 million US grant

The new Op Cape Hunger opened in Windhoek last night, with U.S.
Ambassador to Namibia, Mrs. Perkins, calling the event a significant
step in the fight against hunger in Namibia.

Mr. Perkins said the grant, totaling $24 million, would be used to
help fund projects aimed at reducing hunger in Namibia. The
grant is one of several provided by the U.S. government to support
tackling issues like hunger and poverty in the region.

"This grant is part of our ongoing efforts to support communities
and individuals in need," said Mr. Perkins. "We hope that with this
grant, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by
hunger and poverty."
R256,250 for hungry

The United States Government is to give R256,250 to Operation Hunger.

The pledge was signed by the US Ambassador, Mr. Edward Perkins, at the opening of the organisation’s Cape Town office last night.

The fifth contribution to the organisation by the United States since September 1984, it is a "challenge grant" which provides funds on a 3:1 matching basis.

This enables Operation Hunger to gain funds from institutions with the understanding that their contributions will be increased by matching funds from the United States.

"Recipients of aid from Operation Hunger have risen by 400,000 in just 2½ years," Mr. Perkins said.

It is heartening to note, however, that in areas where Operation Hunger has established feeding programmes, both chronic malnutrition and deaths through undernourishment have subsided significantly," he said.
Nun admits to charging R2.40 for relief food

By Sue Pleming

An investigation by Operation Hunger in the Mothafo/Molepo area near Pietersburg has shown that pupils were charged 20c a month each for food and, in some schools, were not given rations if they could not pay.

The investigation was sparked by reports last month which alleged a Catholic nun charged families R2.40 a month for Operation Hunger food and that school principals were charging 20c a child a month.

In a meeting between the executive director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Ina Perlman, her staff and school principals at Sibaca Mission yesterday, the principal said some children had not received food because they did not pay the 20c.

FEEDING SUSPENDED:

The feeding of about 19 000 children and 650 families has been suspended until at least March 8 when Operation Hunger and community leaders meet again.

Mrs Perlman has told principals "If you can assure us your community wants the feeding and that nothing will be charged, the scheme could be resumed within 24 hours."

The principals told Mrs Perlman the money charged had been used for transport, for a cook and for cooking utensils.

Several said they had given the Catholic nun half the money they collected. Sister Walburga Sibone, of the Sibaca Mission, denied this, but admitted charging R2.40 a family a month. About R250 a month was collected.
Pupils charged for charity

JOHANNESBURG — An investigation by Operation Hunger in the Mothapo/Molepo area near Pretoria has shown that pupils were charged 20c a month each for the organization's food rations.

The investigation was sparked by reports last month which alleged that a Roman Catholic nun charged families R2.40 a month for Operation Hunger food and that school principals were charging 20c a child a month.

Principals told Mrs Ina Perlman, the executive director of Operation Hunger, that the money had been used for transport, for a cook and for cooking utensils.

Sister Walburga Schone, of the Suid-Afrika Mission, admitted charging R2.40 a family a month. About R250 a month was collected — Sapa.
Nun didn’t feel need to tell charity about fees

By Susan Pleming

The Catholic nun who charged villagers in the Methapa/Molepo area near Peterburg for food given through Operation Hunger did not tell the relief organisation about it because she thought it unnecessary.

Speaking from Subaco Mission last week Sister Walburga Sehono said she knew that food given by Operation Hunger could not be charged for.

Sister Walburga charged families R2.40 a month.

“I did not think it was necessary to tell Operation Hunger that people were making a donation I never thought all of this would become such a big thing,” she said.

At a meeting between Operation Hunger’s Mrs Ina Perlman and school principals in the district last week it emerged that pupils paid 25c a month for food and it was claimed that those who could not afford this were often not given food.

The principals also said half the money they collected went to Sister Walburga for transport costs. She denied this.

“I never took money from the schools,” she told The Star. “I received money only from some of the families.”

Sister Walburga said she collected about R25 a month from the villagers. Only a few of the 690 families getting food had paid, she said, and the money was used to pay for the unloading of food, to pay cooks and to cover transport costs.

She denied families went without if they could not pay. “The poor who were in need got food but I’m not the good God and I could not reach everyone,” she said.

Mrs Perlman said in no circumstances should money be charged for Operation Hunger supplies. She also stressed that people should not pay for cooks or food distribution.

“There appear to have been a number of misunderstandings about feeding in that area. Christian conditions have to be met by people who accept food from Operation Hunger and these conditions cannot be changed,” she said.

“The community has to accept the responsibility for the running of the schemes. There has to be total community involvement,” she said.

Feeding suspended

Under the Fund Raising Act relief organisations were not allowed to charge for supplies given to communities.

The feeding of about 10,000 children and 530 families has been suspended until at least March 8 when Operation Hunger and community leaders again discuss the issue.

Until that date Mrs Perlman has told principals to consult villagers to ensure they understand the principles of Operation Hunger and realise the need for maximum community involvement.

“If you can assure us your community wants the feeding and that nothing will be charged, the scheme could be resumed within 24 hours,” Mrs Perlman told the principals.

She added “Operation Hunger is an organisation which hopes to stamp out malnutrition. “The feeding is crisis intervention but the most important step is to assist the community with projects so that they will then be able to buy food themselves. “That is why we are so adamant that there is community involvement,” she stressed.

After meeting the school principals Mrs Perlman addressed a group of women waiting for food in the grounds of Subaco Mission.

“I am sorry there have been problems in this area,” she said.

“We will have to make new arrangements for the feeding. We had to stop the scheme and I am sorry, but we will start again as soon as we can,” she said.
State food parcels a boost for city’s poor

FOOD for the city’s poor has been boosted by 10 000 Government food parcels.

They would make a “significant difference” to the supplies being distributed through the Argus Food Campaign, said Dr Reg Coogan, Cape Town’s medical officer of health.

Cape Town’s citizens have given R11 634 and tons of food to the Mayor’s Relief Fund through the campaign, but contributions have diminished to a trickle, according to a spokesman for the mayor’s office, which is handling the fund.

Dr Coogan said food distribution was going ahead at a rate of 5½ tons a week.

“Last week we distributed food to 1 700 families,” Dr Coogan said.

We have maintained this figure from the second half of January and all through February. That works out at about 15 000 people who have benefited.”

“MIRACULOUS”

The 10 000 Government food parcels, each weighing 11kg, can feed a family of five for from three to four weeks, Dr Coogan said.

“We will be distributing these in addition to our own mixed parcels over the next 10 weeks. They will make a significant difference to the number of eligible families we are able to help.”

Paying tribute to his staff, Dr Coogan said it was “really miraculous” that no problems had been experienced in the distribution.

“Tremendous gratitude” had been shown by recipients.

* Cash contributions to the Argus Food Campaign should be sent to PO Box 15939 Vlaeburg 8018 or to PO Box 298 Cape Town 8000.

Cheques should be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund.

* Latest contributions:

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<td>J P Neuwemeyer</td>
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<td>Robyn and Christina Gerber’s blackjack game</td>
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The P i g h t o f t h e J o b l e s e s

APRIL 10, 1954

241
Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — The East London branch of Operation Hunger spends more than R2 million a year on food alone.

At the third annual meeting of the organisation last night, the regional director, Mrs Linda Murray said more than one million people were fed at a cost of R10 million nationwide by the organisation annually, most of whom are children.

"Because of the closure of so many factories, and the spiralling unemployment, requests for feeding are constantly on the increase — and will not abate," Mrs Murray said.

"Operation Hunger has a greater responsibility to assist more people who are affected by the recession. Many school children have opted to return to school this year, which may mean more requests for feeding programmes."

The chairman of Operation Hunger in the Border, Mr David MacNaught, said the importance of Operation Hunger was shown by how many people rely on it for daily nourishment.

"The most difficult task is not to feed the people but to turn hunger into self-sufficiency," he said.

"The problem of hunger is much greater than anyone in South Africa thinks. We need to educate the public as to the magnitude of the problem."
IS THEIR HOPE

THE MAGIC FOOD BOOK

Work, no money, hungry children, no know so well — The old story we
HAVE you ever stopped to think about the poor—the really hungry poor, who stoop under the weight of the sheer poverty of everything in their life? It is not a pleasant thought and less of a pleasant sight. But it is a reality.

Those of us who work for charity organisations witness this reality weekly, right here in Port Elizabeth.

We swallow the lumps in our throats and often wipe the tears from our eyes as we listen to case histories and try to assess which families to put on our food lists and which to turn away. “Turn away,” yes, because that is what we have to do at times due to insufficient funds to feed them all.

As one of these charity workers, I have often wondered if our meagre handout was worth it.

Or whether it really made any difference to the folk who received it—or whether it was a little “do-gooder” game we were playing and if it would even be missed if we stopped.

I pondered on this until one rainy Thursday recently when we were due for our weekly township day.

We have a mobile unit on the outskirts of the township. We arrived before the rain started.

But the skies were dark and grey and farmers and gardeners were all praying for the heavens to open.

Our meager, hungry, cold, poor folk stood in long queues awaiting the food handout for those already on the books.

The prayer of others was not for rain but just to have their names written in that magic “food book.”

My own duty is to interview and assess these hopefuls.

On noting the condition of the weather, I remarked to the other workers that after the first shower we would all be able to go home as the mobile unit is only big enough for a few of our workers. The others have to stand outside.

That day changed my entire outlook towards the needs of our poor here in Port Elizabeth.

The first shower came and no-one moved—except our workers who rushed into the unit and complained about the cold and wet conditions outside.

We re-arranged ourselves about so as to accommodate them and looked out expecting that some of the queues would have shortened. But there

We swallow
the lumps
in our
throats and
wipe the
tears from
our eyes

the people just stood
The shower passed and another and another came down that morning.

But not one single person moved out of the queues.

The lucky ones had brought black refuse bags with them and had fashioned coverings from these.

Four hours after the first shower I was still interviewing hopeful people.

By this time, however, they were so cold that some could not speak. They were not just shivering, but actually shuddering from the cold.

One woman came in with a wet shivering child.

There were handed a loaf of fresh brown bread.

The sweet smell of this delicacy set the little one’s saliva glands working.

He swallowed and put his hand gently on the bread.

This mother said quietly in Xhosa “Not in here, my child.”

That was dignity in the extreme.

The only way he could have eaten that bread was to wolf it.

She knew and did not want that disgrace witnessed.

We knew and saw and swallowed for different reasons.

He kept his hand on the bread, caressing it and never taking his eyes from it.

The rain kept falling.

A man in his thirties came in, evidence of a new trend.

Men now come and try for food for their children.

In earlier days, when most men had employment, we never saw them apart from the aged wanting pensions.

He was wet and cold and extremely anxious.

He stated his case. The old story, we all know it now hungry children, no work, no money.

I said I was sorry we could only feed the unemployed, old and sick.

“Madam,” he pleaded, “I am a man and I made a promise to my children this morning.”

I told them they should have something in their stomachs tonight. I have been three days now on one cup of coffee.

“I can cope but they cannot. I cannot bear their crying. I cannot let them cry one more night.”

“Please, I cannot let them down. I am their father.”

“I will do any work anyone offers me, but tonight I must have food. If I leave here with nothing I must steal. Please help me not to do that.”

He battled to control himself. I broke all our rules and gave him food, but only on that one day.

I do not know where he is now.

Perhaps he has found work—but, more likely, his children are still crying, if they are able to.

Some of the tales are terribly tragic. Some hopeless and some even funny.

But always, there is one case each week that gets to me more than others.

Mabel came in, destitute.

She suffered from very poor health and had no means of support at all.

The days of sharing with your neighbour are virtuously over.

When food is so scarce it is extremely difficult to starve your own child so that your neighbour may eat.

We had good news for Mabel. Word had come from Pretoria that her pension had been granted.

We told her and said that she could expect her first payment in approximately three months’ time.

With a huge smile of gratitude on her face, she said “Oh! I will be so happy to be able to wash with a piece of soap again.”
50 000 city hungry get parcels

THE Argus Food Campaign reached 5 521 Cape Town families — about 50 000 people — in "staggeringly successful" first two weeks of this month, said the Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan.

In only eight working days 45 tons of food were distributed. This is an average of about 22 tons a week. In late March the average was 18 tons.

The parcels were handed out at 27 Peninsula centres.

"They were tremendously well received. Whatever planning is made for future relief of unemployment and the recession, the need is now," Dr Coogan said.

Contributions to the fund had reached R223 000, he said.

"But, of course we have spent quite a bit of that.

He said the campaign's policy was to buy as much food as could be stored and handled at the best possible prices.

Thoughts of stopping or even slowing down did not enter his mind.

"I intend to carry on indefinitely," he said.

Competition

The personnel manager of cosmetics company Yardley, Miss Wendy Gittins, said the firm was waiting to establish the proceeds of its fund-raising competition for the Food Campaign.

"We hope to have R8 000," she said. The company will match the amount collected, so the campaign could benefit by R16 000.

Tickets were sold at shopping centres and schools throughout the Peninsula during the past two weeks. Prizes include a colour TV, a sailboard, a computer, and cash prizes for pupils and schools.
OVER a million rand was collected for Operation Hunger in 24 hours at the weekend in three massive "telethons" held in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.

While the final count is still to be done, the figure given at the end of the Friday-noon to Saturday-noon telethon was R1.2 million, about R250,000 of which was collected in the Cape Province.

Included in the donations from people in the Cape was a pledge of a litter of prize piglets — which led to pig farmers all over the province equalling or bettering the offer.
Remembering the hungry

Staff Reporter

THE Argus Food Campaign is heading for its first quarter-million after a R18 000 boost by Yardley of London.

The campaign fund, started six months ago, stands at R232 531.67.

The gift is the proceeds of a competition organised by the Yardley Sports Club and a matching contribution from the company.

Club members and pupils and teachers from four schools — Herzlia Copstantia, Cape Town High, Valhalla Senior Secondary and Wynberg Girls' High — sold R9 500 worth of tickets.

S Barden of Greenhaven won a 67 cm colour television set, C Lavies of Wierda Park, Pretoria won a sailboard, Ellen Goldston of Wynberg won a computer and Maria Gordon of Scottsville, Kraalfontein won a radio-cassette recorder.

Mrs Irene Chambers and Miss Dolores Andrews won prizes for selling the most tickets.

Food parcels

The Argus Food Campaign, in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund, was launched in October as a response to widespread hardship caused by unemployment.

Since then Argus readers and have opened their hearts and pockets to help feed the hungry citizens of Cape Town and thousands of families have benefited from food parcels distributed by the City Health Department under the direction of medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

Offers of food may be made to Dr Coogan at 210-2100.

The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme which it 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, 8001.
Turn over a new culinary leaf

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — A dish to rival South Africa's best culinary offerings may be contained in a government pamphlet on "Making Ends Meet".

It recommends that SA families use vegetable peels and leaves in stews, and in particular pumpkin shells or beetroot leaves.

"Delicious when cooked with potato and onion," it adds.

It also urges families to cook or bake potatoes, carrots and sweet potatoes in their skins.

The pamphlet, issued by the Department of Health Services and Welfare Administration,House of Commons, appears to be aimed at the country's "poor whites".

"Families are finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet. Here are hints on how to lighten your load."

1. "Families to"

□ Not take bets or gamble.
□ Buy goods free of GST.
□ Grow their own vegetables.
□ Buy children's clothes that allow for growth.
□ Save pieces of soap and melt them down to make their own.

Recipes for cleaning aids are also contained in the pamphlet.

A PE dietician said she had experimented with vegetable peels and leaves and had found them to be "very tasty" and exceptionally high in vitamins A and C. Carrot leaves were especially tasty.

Her hint for prospective food entrepreneurs: Beetroot leaves should be cooked as spinach.
Practical aid for the city's poor

Municipal Reporter

THE Argus Food Campaign, which, in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund, has raised nearly R250,000 to help feed the city's very poor, is helping an "unhappy situation" in a practical way.

In his budget speech today, Executive Committee chairman Mr. Dick Friedlander said the high level of inflation, allied with two years of severe economic recession, had brought "extreme hardship and financial difficulties" to many.

"And the large-scale unemployment that now prevails will inevitably cause bitterness in many of the thousands of households that have been affected," he said.

"TOLERANCE"

Although social welfare was not a recognised function of local government, the council had responded to the "unhappy situation" in a practical way through the organisation, collection and distribution of food, arranged through the Mayor's Relief Fund.

Where there was "satisfactory evidence" that an inability to pay was because of unemployment, the council made every effort to show "tolerance, understanding and patience".

Cash contributions may be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 13399, Vlueberg 8016, or to PO Box 291, Cape Town 6906.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

Offers of food can be made to Dr. Reg Coogan, 210-210.
Call to help feed hungry children

By CLARE HARPER
Education Reporter

THE principal of Cascade Primary School in Mitchell's Plain has appealed to the public and business sector to assist with project "Plain Aid" — to help feed hungry schoolchildren and their parents in the Eastridge/Tafeisng area.

Mr Joe Maart said that a survey last year had shown that more than 2,400 children in seven schools in the area were going without breakfast or lunch each day.

He said children were "under-nourished; right on our very doorstep" and the situation warranted "urgent action."

Mr Maart said the survey was initiated after a teacher found 11 Std 2 pupils in her class falling asleep during lessons.

Subsequently the survey found that 500 children at Tafeisng Primary School were attending school without a morning or midday meal, 300 at Huguenot Primary School, 250 at Tafeisng Senior Secondary School, 300 at Eastville Primary School, 250 at Yellow Wood Primary School, 400 at Cascade Primary School and 250 at Spine Road Senior Secondary School.

Mr Maart said it was hoped that Plain Aid, a campaign to be officially launched on June 10, would raise funds for a central soup kitchen, so that children and their parents could have a meal before school and at lunchtime.

He said they also hoped to tackle other social problems, such as unemployment and liquor and drug abuse.

As a temporary measure the American-owned pharmaceutical company Warner Lambert is currently taking sandwiches — donated by children and parents from Bergvliet and Plumstead schools — to the seven schools.

Mr Maart urged "anybody who could help" to attend the Plain Aid launch at the Cascade Primary School on June 10, when the organization would draw up a constitution and apply for a welfare number to legally collect funds.

He also appealed for a vehicle to collect the donated food and bring it to a central point.

An organizer for the Peninsula School Feeding Association, Mr Norman Freeman, said yesterday that 168,000 children were being fed by the association in the Western Cape.

The organization currently supplies Cascade Primary School with 20 loaves of bread daily.

However, Mr Freeman pointed out that this only provided a third of each child's actual food requirement daily.
Rising costs may cut her family link

By RENEE MOODIE

MRS Florence Bailie of Wynberg is 83 years old and can no longer read or write because of failing eyesight.

To her, the telephone is an essential means of communication with her children and grandchildren, who are spread as far afield as Johannesburg and Namaqualand — but she is afraid that rising costs may eventually take this precious link from her.

It was announced in Parliament this week that telephone rentals were to increase from R11 to R15 a month and telephone unit charges from 12c to 13.5 cents.

"When I turned 80 I got an extra R10 a month, but that doesn't go far and everything just keeps going up.

"I am lucky, my children are very good to me but there are many elderly people who do not have even that privilege," she said.

Mrs Bailie is not the only pensioner to be angered by the latest postal and telephone tariff increases.

She said yesterday several people living in her pensioners' complex had also complained about the increases.

"One lady even said she would have to give up her phone," she said.

She said that the residents of the complex also relied on their telephones for safety and security.

Mrs Bailie worked in a variety of government jobs before her retirement at the age of 60. "I also worked during the war. Come to think of it, I've done a good bit for my country, and I paid taxes all those years," she said.

PHONE LINK... Mrs Florence Bailie at the telephone which is her only link with her family.

Picture: RICHARD BELL
Deposits for electricity punish poor in Atlantis

Staff Reporter

ATLANTIS residents are being hit hard by the extra deposits they have to pay if their electricity is disconnected.

The Atlantis Residents Association (ARA) has appealed to the Divisional Council to change its policy and be more sympathetic to the plight of people already struggling under a series of financial difficulties.

“They pay a R50 deposit when they move in, but if they are disconnected they have to put down further deposits,” said ARA secretary Mr William Cloete. “This is simply punishing people for being poor.”

The council’s policy, according to a spokesman, is that after a first disconnection residents must pay an extra R50 deposit, a R5 reconnection fee and their outstanding account before supply is reconnected.

“Money problems”

For a second disconnection, a further deposit is required. This is calculated by multiplying the amount due by three. The deposit required is the difference between this sum and the R100 already on deposit.

“This is not a new policy, it has been in effect since 1985,” she said.

Mr Cloete said about 75 people had come to the ARA offices this week to complain about the extra deposits.

“We’ve asked for a meeting with a senior council official, but so far have heard nothing,” he said. “People have difficulty paying their bills because they have money problems.”

“But electricity is not a luxury, it’s a necessity and if they’re disconnected they have to scrape together the money to pay the bill.”

“This is harsh enough, but they’re shocked when they are told they have to find enough for a further deposit.”

“We deal with people who sometimes have R200 or R250 on deposit with the council,” said Mr Cloete.

“These are huge sums for people who are often in financial difficulties because they’re unemployed.”
The poor can help end unemployment

From MARY ELLIS (Kennithworth):
ONE of our most urgent problems is unemployment. The cause of this unemployment is lack of money in circulation among the very poor. Because money is the scarcest resource for the poor, there is no demand or buying power to stimulate production of more staple food, clothing, transport, education, housing and other commodities.

The problem can be tackled in two ways. Firstly, by comprehensive social security for:
- All unemployed people between 16-60 receiving some weekly money, which would stimulate manufacture of the necessities of life,
- Similarly all pensioners and handicapped people should receive some weekly money for the necessities of life.

Secondly, by large state and private works campaigns, for example
- Building a city by labour-intensive methods,
- Fencing agricultural land, building water supplies, improving roads;
- Paying the unemployed wages to build their own homes and getting rid of the waiting lists for houses in this way.

At present, money is spent on many "non-productive" activities like military defence, bureaucratic, ideological, duplicating state administrations, etc.

Our poor people could buy our surplus food and not be assessed for hand-outs by overworked nursing and volunteer personnel in different associations. If small amounts of money were spent weekly by the very poor, the money would not create inflation but stimulate demand for goods and services and employment.

It seems illogical to keep money as the commodity in shortest supply among the vast poor where it is least likely to create inflation and more likely to stimulate economic activity, improve housing, skills, jobs and manufacturing.

Public works campaigns are likely to oil the wheels of home industries by increasing demand. The grave anti-social consequences of widespread unemployment make it urgent and imperative for local and state government and private enterprise to address the inequitable money system for the prosperity of all South Africans.

Money spent on social security is less inflationary than money reused. I hope that economists with similar views can influence those with power to address the problem of unemployment among the very poor in the next six months.
Rent rises: Poor 'fighting for survival'

Municipal Report

RENT increases in Cape Town City Council housing estates have been strongly condemned by the Federation of Cape Civic Associations.

The federation said the increases, which range between R2 and R10 a month, had come at a time "when poor, oppressed people are fighting for survival.

"The scourges of poverty, unemployment and homelessness are haunting the people in the townships," the federation said.

"These rent increases mean there will be even less money available to feed hungry children, debt will increase and more people will be evicted."

The federation wanted to know why the council had decided to increase rents at a time when people - "who have paid for their homes/over and over with their rents" - could least afford them.
Philippi

children

underfed

study

Staff Reporter

ALMOST half the children studied in the vegetable farming areas in and around Philippi suffer from malnutrition.

According to a study delivered at the recent conference of the Epidemiological Society of Southern Africa by Dr S Whittaker, 41% of the children surveyed were found to be malnourished on a weight-for-age scale, the accepted South African medical means of measurement.

Of the 156 children in the study, 29% had had cases of diarrhoea in the first year of their lives sufficient badly to warrant hospitalisation, while 26% had been underweight at birth.

The study, which looked at the prevalence of malnutrition and associated socio-economic ills of the farm workers' children, also found that more than a third of the families surveyed had recently had a case of tuberculosis.

Dr Whittaker found that the average wine consumption of the 129 families surveyed on 23 of the 90 vegetable farms in and around Philippi was 48 litres a month. Half the parents of the children in the survey had no higher than a Std 1 level of education and only 19% were legally married.
City's poor queueing for food

"tremendously" on these
goals, Dr Coogan said.

"They are lining up from
early in the morning for an
issue in the afternoon.

Contributions to the Food
Campaign include R1 000 from
the Western Cape division of
the Freemasons and a fourth
installment of R250 from the
Somerset West business, Stepehn
Holdings

Service Dining Rooms, the
welfare organisation which
provides cheap meals for the
poor of Cape Town, reports a
large increase in the number of
people depending on it for
meals.

At the organisation's annual
meeting yesterday, chairman
Mr Colin Michelsen said an
appeal for aid would be sent to
financial houses and organisa-
tions.

The organisation had shown
a loss of R33 260 during the
past financial year.

"The past year has been a
difficult one from a financial
point of view and also because
there were many more hungry
people to feed," he said.

"Income from trusts and
bequests has fallen by 17.7 per-
cent and the cost of food has
increased.

Mr Michelsen said the total
number of meals provided dur-
ing the year had increased to
90 937 3c meals and 277 734 1c
tickets for soup or coffee,
bread and margarine or bread
and jam.

The Spar supermarket
chain is to launch a three-
month food price freeze from
July 6.

Citing concern about infla-
tion as the motivation, Spar
Cape managing director Mr
Ray Whitmore said the chain
would freezing prices of all
proprietary brands of food.

Proprietary brands are those
which bear the manufacturer's
name as opposed to "no-name"
house brands.

* Fast-rising food prices —

Page 6.
Desperate people queue in the rain for food handouts in Guguletu

Tears of happiness

Staff Reporters

TEARS of appreciation streamed down the cheeks of wheelchair-bound pensioner Mr John Masombe of Guguletu as he was given a ration of sheep trotters, butternut and stamp mealies.

The 69-year-old stroke victim queued in the rain for more than two hours with several hundred desperate people at the Guguletu polyclinic yesterday for weekly food handouts from the Cape Town city health department.

The food is part of the three tons given to hungry citizens each working day and provided or paid for by readers who have contributed to The Argus Food Campaign.

Sister Beatrice Msengana, who runs the polyclinic, said more and more people were needing food.

Supplies for 600 people were delivered each Thursday and to the section 3 satellite clinic each Monday. But there were always many people still waiting after the food had run out, she said.

Many people in the queue said the food they were given each Thursday was all they had for the week.

One man who asked not to be named said he made the rations last by having one meal a day.

A mother of two said she had to stand in the rain for the food because her husband, a gardener, could not find steady employment.

The city health department is helping 8,000 families - between 70,000 and 80,000 people - every month.

The Argus Food Campaign stands at R2,569,87 but heavy demands are being made on it because of cold weather and the spiralling price of food.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15399, Vlakfontein 8918 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 medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan at 210-2100.

The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme which it is running in association with the South African National Tuberculosis Association (Sata).

Cheques, made out to Sata, may be sent to Santa, Mezzanine Floor, Monte Carlo Building, Foreshore, 8001.

Latest contributions to the The Argus Food Campaign:

District committee of Benevolence Masonic Order R1,000

L. Clarke R10

R. M. O’Regan R50

Mr and Mrs N. L. Adams R50

J. Paterson (in lieu of cakes) R20

Jeanette Abel R50

W. Wayteh R20

Stephan Holdings R25

Alan and Gill Gray Trust R2,000

Argus editorial R25

Cheshire Home for the Disabled R25

J. Gelb Jan R15

Food is unloaded from a city council truck for Guguletu’s needy
A nurse at the King Edward VII Hospital with one of the victims.
A DARK cloud yesterday hung over an Um- 
lazi, Durban, family whose 10 members died 
of mushroom poisoning this week.

The latest victim, two-year-old Boniswa Kheswa, 
died at noon yesterday in the King Edward VIII 
Hospital.

Yet another person, also a victim of the killer mushrooms, was 
admitted to hospital, but his condition was described as fair by a 
hospital spokesman.

Among those who died, in what is described as Natal’s worst 
mushroom poisoning, is a 59-year-old grandmother and her seven 
grandchildren, aged between two and 13.

According to the King Edward VIII Hospital PR, KZ Wolf, seven 
people were admitted from Prince Mshiyeni Hospital. Six died on 
Wednesday and yesterday morning and one was certified dead on 
arrival.

Another two had died at Prince Mshiyeni after their admission last 
Friday.

It is common practice by poorer families in Natal to pick mush- 
rooms, a practice which almost wiped out the entire Umzazi family of 
six. The survivor Enoch Cebisa, 60.

City Press was told that Winnie Zulu, 28, together with three 
teens, went to pick mushrooms at the nearby Umzazi golf course. 
Little did she know that the mushrooms were poisonous.

Zulu and the children are among those who died.

Cebisa’s family had no breadwinner; it survived on doing odd jobs.

Doctors who treated them suspect that they ate 
the most poisonous family 
of mushrooms – the Aman- 
mintum.

This mushroom is said to 
cause corrosion of the liver 
and eventual death.

King Edward VIII Hos- 
		
ten’s chief medical super-

intendant, Dr Justin Mor-
SBU MNGASI

Flashback: How City Press broke the bad news last week.

A special size. A special kind of pleasure.
Op Hunger gets set for Goldrush III

By SIMON ANDREW

A second lucky donor to Operation Hunger will be a millionaire before the year is out.

In another competition later this year, the charity organisation is offering cash prizes totalling R1 250 000.

Said Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger: "It seems paradoxical for a charity organisation to give cash away. But we have not been able to find a more effective means of coaxing donations out of the public."

The lottery is codenamed Goldrush III.

Goldrush II, which will see someone become a millionaire at the end of the month, netted more than R4 million.

This is enough to see Operation Hunger through for only three-and-a-half months.

"This is the first time our organisation has had any financial leeway. Up to now we have been existing from hand to mouth — a very big mouth," said Mrs Perlman.

"The number of people we have to feed is on the increase and we need every cent we can get."

Tickets for Goldrush III will be on sale at all branches of First National Bank from August 6.

The closing date for sales is October 24.

Draw

The final draw will take place on November 23 at the First National Bank Handicap at Turffontein racecourse, to coincide with the course's centenary.

The Goldrush II draw will take place in two parts.

Twenty-one finalists will be drawn on July 30 and the final competition will be televised live from Sandton City fountain court at 6:15pm on July 31.

Nearly one-and-a-half million people all over South Africa depend on Operation Hunger for their survival, and it, in turn, depends on the public.
Hearts, hands reach out to help the hungry

ARGUS readers have again opened their hearts and pockets to hungry fellow citizens. Cheques for R5 000 and R1 000 from two anonymous people, five for R100 each and dozens of smaller gifts are included in a new flood of contributions to the Argus Food Campaign.

The Argus Food Campaign, in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund, was launched in October to help needy families going hungry because of the recession and unemployment.

The fund provides money for city medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan to buy supplies to supplement gifts in kind from readers and businesses.

And while the jump in food prices makes increased demands on the kitty, Dr Coogan reports an increase in desperate hunger, aggravated by the cold and wet of winter.

The city health department distributes three tons of food each working day, helping between 70 000 and 80 000 people a month.

Only nourishment

For many people who queue in all weather for the council food lorries, a weekly food parcel is the only nourishment they can offer their families.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P.O. Box 13399, Vlieberg 9018 or to P.O. Box 296, Cape Town 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

Offers of food may be made to Dr Coogan at 210-2100.

The Divisional Council also has a feeding scheme which it runs 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.
Amira Steenkamp, Norma Arendse, Charlie Coert, Vera Lucas and factory manager Keith Kyte of Copperfield Knitwear are among Cape clothing workers who support the Community Chest, which raises money to help local welfare organizations.
Relief for the hungry

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The controversy surrounding the sale of Operation Hunger food by a Northern Transvaal Catholic church nun has finally come to an end with the establishment of a new distribution agency.

The new agency is being run by the Minister Association of Mothapo and Molepo and consists of committees elected by the food recipients themselves, according to spokesman, Rev. Efrain Liphulu.

Supplies which were cut four and a half months ago were resumed late last month with no charges being levied on the recipients. The long and hungry wait was over.

Earlier, when Sister Walburga Schone of the Subanco Mission was in charge, recipients in the drought ravaged areas of Mothapo and Molepo were charged R2.40 per month for family and 10c per school child.

Stopped

The supply was stopped in February when the Soweto Star reported Sister Walburga’s action. Supplies were only resumed in the middle of June.

Rev Liphulu said the association was presently feeding 350 families through three distribution points: "We plan to open other points at Soefontein and Sethabe clinics so as to be able to serve more people, and also cut down on distances that people have to travel to get the food," he said.

He said Operation Hunger had so far only sent pockets of maize meal but hoped that other items such as soup and cooking fat would also be added.

"We have also started a small agricultural project at one distribution point. Every recipient has a small plot to plant vegetables near the clinic. This way they will be able to get fresh vegetables. We intend to introduce the system at all distribution points," Rev Liphulu said.
Enormous goodwill generated

— Coogan

Municipal Reporter

THE Argus Food Campaign, organised in conjunction with the Mayor's Relief Fund and the city health department, is a "unique exercise" in community health, says city medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan.

In his annual report, released today, Dr Coogan said a new and "harrowing" aspect of community health had emerged from problems brought on by the recession and unemployment. These effects had become marked in Cape Town in late 1985 and early 1986.

"There was mass unemployment, indebtedness and hopelessness in many areas," he said.

SOCIAL ILLS

"Our health visitors reported a marked increase in all the concomitant social ills — overcrowding, alcoholism, wife-beating, baby battering, incest and despair," Dr Coogan said.

In June last year the city health department started a comprehensive effort to alleviate this urgent community health problem and this was supported by The Argus Food Campaign introduced in October.

Between June and December last year, 146,7 tons of food were distributed through 27 centres to 37,733 families. Each food issue was capable of sustaining a household for "quite a few days".

HEARTWARMING

Dr Coogan said "The generosity of the good people of Cape Town has been heart-warming and the genuine gratitude and goodwill generated in our poverty-stricken areas has been enormous."

The department's policy was to buy basic foodstuffs as economically as possible and to the maximum extent that could be handled logistically.

The exercise would continue "indefinitely", Dr Coogan added.
Another R50 000 for Cape Town's hungry

Staff Reporter

THE Argus Food campaign was today boosted by one of the biggest contributions since its launch in October—a cheque for R50 000 from the Western Cape division of Checkers and its suppliers.

The gift pushes the fund to nearly R300 000.

At the same time, divisional director Mr Ram Hari-sunker launched the Checkers R100 000 Challenge to customers of 18 Checkers stores to match the sum in 50c contributions.

The company is placing 500 bottles in Western Cape branches from today for customers to match the R50 000 gift.

Mr Harisunker said glass collection bottles would be placed in Checkers stores from Vredenburg to Fish Hoek.

"If each store collects R2 500 we will reach R50 000 in no time," he said.

"Thousands of people out there need our help," said Mr Harisunker. "If every customer gave 50c in the next week we would raise not R50 000 but R50 000 by next Wednesday."

The Argus Food Campaign, in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund, is administered by the City Health Department which distributes 3kg food parcels weekly to each of about 8 000 desperate-ly-need Cape Town families.

The food is handed out at 27 distribution points by 80 inspectors and 300 nursing staff who do the work voluntarily.

"This way, there are no ad-ministration costs and every cent is used to feed the hungry," Medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan said.

"We could make 50c stretch to milk powder, a quarter loaf of bread, a little meat, a cupful of rice and a cup of fortified soup. This would give a small, hungry child two meals one day and one the next morning."

He said each jAven to the fund was converted into food from any source prepared to supply the department at an average of R1 a kilogram.

Most parcels contain samp and beans, vegetables if possible, and meat.
Operation Hunger doubles profit

The Argus Correspondent

The final profit would be known only after expenses — including travel costs for Gold Rush finalists to get to Johannesburg for Friday night’s R1 million quiz — had been tallied, Mrs Perlman said.

Operation Hunger was now feeding 1.1 million people, including 3 000 families in semi-rural areas round Pretoria.

“We are processing appeals for help from another 300 000 people, including 27 000 on the Reef,” Mrs Perlman said.

JOHANNESBURG — Operation Hunger expected a R4.5 million profit on this year’s Gold Rush, the executive director, Mrs Ina Perlman, said today.

This was R2 million up on last year’s figure but would finance Operation Hunger’s activities for little more than three months, she said.

 monthly expenditure of R1.2 million, R4.5 million will give me only 3½ months of life,” Mrs Perlman said.

“My biggest concern is that people will think we are now wallowing in money, but I can’t emphasise enough that with a
Poverty and starvation in rich valley of plenty

IN THE heart of Lebowa lies a drought-stricken wasteland that is home to nearly 57,000 people.

Water is the most important commodity in the rural "city" of Moletlane, where impoverished residents pay R1.50 to draw five litres of the life-giving liquid from a privately owned borehole.

For the people who inhabit this desolate area, which has not seen rain in nearly three years, hope lies with Sister Rosa Madisha — the superwoman who runs the local clinic.

Sister Rosa is Operation Hunger's representative in the area. She visits the sick, supplies food to the starving, and hands out blankets to those who would otherwise die in the bitter winter freeze.

This week was special for the enormous village — made up of thousands of displaced people, moved by the authorities to the area from neighboring districts.

The Operation Hunger distribution trucks arrived in Moletlane, bringing with them rice donated by the government. Food, rice, and clothing to feed the destitute population.

Sister Rosa says the situation is desperate.

"The ground is rocky, infertile and useless for vegetable or other crop planting. Besides which there is no water. Unemployment is rife. These people are pitifully poor."

The rice — Tastie gave Operation Hunger 20 tons worth R15,000 for distribution around the country — would stave off hunger for the next few weeks.

Operation Hunger food supplies are distributed to nearly 6,000 families in Moletlane.

"A bigger worry is that the local clinic enrolls about 60 newly-pregnant women every week, and the clinic delivers about 40 babies every month."

Said Sister Rosa: "The problem is that birth control is frowned upon by the community, and although we're trying to educate people, it's a slow process."

"Nursing staff at the local clinic spoke of the pregnancy complications they have to deal with because of the nutritionally inadequate diet of mums-to-be."

One of the saddest cases that Sister Rosa visits regularly is a blind old woman who spends her days in the dung-strewn home of her elderly ailing husband.

"The year-old child — whose shaved head is the size of a normal four-month-old baby — was born in 1980. Now, the old woman's daughter is pregnant again."

"I don't know what we'd be without Ma Perlman," Sister Rosa said, using the affectionate nickname Operation Hunger's Mrs Ian Perlman has earned in poverty-stricken areas.

"There is the tale of the grandmother of 22, Mrs Francina Maseke.

On the walls of her mud home hung old sepia pictures of a white farmer on whose farm she and her family lived for 30 years."

Said Sister Rosa: "We lived on a farm near Nkhuspruit belonging to a white man called Mr Graham. He was very hard to us."

"But he died and his son inherited the land."

"Then, when my husband died, my son kicked us off the farm."

"We gave us four days to pack up and leave. It was hard to leave."

"But we now have nothing."

"She hung the framed photographs of the farmer and his family on the walls. Mrs Maseke said: "We liked the old man. He was good to us. When he died, it was my family that buried him.""

"In the Moletlane suburb of Thabo Kone there is no running water at all. Water bought from a man who owns a borehole comes from the distance."

"It has to be carried to the dwellings."

"Irony"

The irony is that just across the valley from Thabo Kone lies the green Zebedeli citrus estate.

"Said Mrs Perlman: "They pay their labourers R10 a month."

"And not 1km from Moletlane sticks his thumb up with the ministers live in all their splendour, but the farmers are starving."

"So we're sending them back to Operation Hunger."

"Mrs Perlman summed up the field trip into Lebowa. "There's so much to do."

Tuesday is pregnancy day at the Moletlane clinic with 40 new enrolments every week.
Manenberg rent-rise talks

By SHOAUNA WESTCOIT

RESIDENTS of Manenberg — one of the poorest communities on the Cape Flats — have invited City Council representatives to a meeting tonight after deciding that people in the community cannot afford to pay higher rent.

A rent increase, effective from this month, was announced by the council on June 11. However, press liaison officer Mr Ted Doman said the size of the increase had not been worked out.

The next day the council announced that the increase would be "limited to R10 a month" and in many cases would be "as low as R2 a month".

The council has already put up rents this year — by an average 6% in March.

Hanover Park residents have launched a petition aimed at convincing the council that they cannot afford to pay more rent.

The Manenberg Action Committee has said the increase would have an unacceptable effect on the community.

"Force children out of school"

Among points made at a recent meeting in Manenberg were that few residents were earning the basic living wage of R600 and higher rent would force hungry children out of school.

Another was that about 2,500 families in the area were behind on rent payments and this figure would double if rent increased.

Residents also said they refused to pay the salaries of the Labour Party and to finance the RSCs. They said they had paid for their houses "over and over again" during the past 22 years.

Tonight's meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm at the NG Sendingkark in Manenberg.

Council housing committee chairman Mrs Eulalie Stott said yesterday that she was trying to arrange that "knowledgeable" representatives would attend the meeting.

"The City Council makes no profit on housing. There's a limit to what one can expect ratepayers to pay, consequently one regrets that the balance must be borne by the people using the service."
Operation Hunger launches another year of fundraising

By Janine Simon

There are 90 Venda toddlers who are depending on the success of Operation Hunger’s Gold Rush 3 which was officially launched yesterday.

If it fails and Operation Hunger has no funds, these little ones may have to forfeit their only good daily meal of mealie meal and fortified soup which is prepared and handed out at their pre-school care group in the Muraga village.

The toddlers were only some of the impoverished residents journalists met yesterday on an Operation Hunger tour of its Gazankulu and Venda feeding and development projects, which are among the most poverty-stricken of the 15 areas in which Operation Hunger works.

The aim of the tour was to launch Gold Rush 3 and to illustrate the broad spectrum of Operation Hunger’s feeding and development work, which includes pre-school and school feeding schemes, installing water pumps and setting up sewing groups and fence-making groups.

Executive director Mrs Ina Perlman said Operation Hunger estimated that for this financial year it needed to spend more than R230 000 on feeding in Venda and Gazankulu alone.

About 32 000 people were being fed at present, but the need for food had recently increased by 40 percent, Mrs Perlman said. The number of 25 kg bags of mealie meal supplied had increased from 250 to 420 a month.

Projects visited were:

- The Isansi school in Venda which has more than 1 270 pupils from Grade 1 to Standard 7 and 32 teachers. The children, small for their age and listless, are crammed into the dark classrooms or are taught under the seven trees in the school yard. Yesterday was the first day Operation Hunger food was distributed at the school.

- The Matsile village, which has only five economically active men from 400 families. Operation Hunger plans to provide a borehole so that the community can organise vegetable patches.

- The Murago village preschool care group. This was initiated by the health workers of the local hospital and has been supplied with Operation Hunger food since May. The numbers receiving food here have grown from 40 to more than 150.

- The Kugamani vegetable garden in Gazankulu. Each person at this project has a 22 m by 22 m plot, which is too large to be watered single-handed. Operation Hunger has been asked to install a water pump and started surveying yesterday.

The last timestep has not been specified.
Bank steps in to sponsor Gold Rush 3

Johannesburg — Operation Hunger's Gold Rush 3 is to be sponsored and supported by First National Bank — even though the prize money for Gold Rush 2 is surrounded by controversy, the bank said today.

Mr Jimmy McKenzie, senior general manager, said: "To First National Bank the awarding of prize money from Gold Rush 2 — with which we were not involved — is a matter to be settled separately.

"Our major consideration is the continued support of a worthy organisation which is playing a vital part in keeping thousands of people in this country alive."

"We have therefore decided to throw the full weight of First National Bank behind Gold Rush 3 to ensure that it is a success for all competitors and those who rely on its support."

BANK GUARANTEE

The bank will guarantee the sale of 10,000 books of tickets through its branches from today — ensuring the first R1-million sales.

The draw for 30 consolation prizes of R1,000 and 16 finalists for the R1-million first prize is set to take place in public on November 24 and only entrants who have correctly answered the questions on the tickets will be eligible.

The competition ends on November 28, coinciding with the feature race on the First National race day at Turffontein. Mr McKenzie said each of the 16 finalists would win a cash prize.

Each finalist would be represented by an athlete — to be drawn with the public draw — who would run the 1,600-metre course just before the main race.

HORSES NAME

"The order in which the athletes finish will determine the order in which the finalists will select one of 16 unmarked envelopes," Mr McKenzie said.

"The envelope will contain the name of a horse running in the feature event and will be opened by contacts immediately before the race begins."

"A winner will not be declared, however, until the last horse has crossed the post and the "all clear" has been sounded and the placings officially confirmed."

"The winning horse would secure the R1-million for the finalist who was "paired" with it. The second would win R100,000 for its partner, the third R50,000 and the fourth R10,000. The rest would net R5,000 for each finalist. — Sapa"
SOS call to business

OPERATION Hunger has mounted a large-scale appeal to the business community for funds to feed about 1.3 million people a day nationwide.

The organisation needs about R18m for its next financial year to keep up its feeding programme.

A media tour to the Venda and Gazankulu homelands last week showed these areas to be affected by a tidal wave of hunger and poverty that far outstripped all projections of need.

An assessment of new applications for food relief received by Operation Hunger has shown an increase in tuberculosis and malnutrition cases in most rural areas of the Transvaal, Cape and Natal.

The organisation's executive director, Ina Perlman, said 900 women earned a living on its marketing facility.

Rations

About 40 new sewing groups had been established this year in a number of areas, and at Ngoabe in Lebowa the women this year even built their own community hall to house the sewing group.

To try and overcome the desperate national crisis, Gold Rush III — sponsored by First National Bank — was launched last week to augment Operation Hunger to continue its response to all communities, especially in the black rural areas where hunger and want are the norm.

Perlman said "In the urban areas the need is increasing in every population group, as more and more people drop below the breadline.

"Operation Hunger is responding to appeals for help from every section of the population.""The same yardstick is applied to all applications — rations are the same for all groups.

"We are therefore mounting a large-scale new appeal to the business community.

"We need massive assistance both in cash and in kind. We also need ideas and, above all, we need the compassion and commitment of everyone who has supported us in the past."
Soweto

12/1/87

2.41

Ration could mean difference between life and death

HUNGER

THE Collins English Dictionary defines hunger as a feeling of pain, emptiness or weakness induced by lack of food.

A group of about 40 women, children and men we saw at St Joseph's Catholic Mission in Lebowa about 80 km north of Louis Trichardt fitted that definition.

They sat patiently outside the mission early in the morning waiting for their bi-monthly ration of mealie-meal and fortified soup provided by Operation Hunger.

The ration could quite literally mean the difference between life and death.

Most of the children show the signs of malnourishment and in some cases look clearly sick. They do not smile, play or cry like other toddlers would. They are always wrapped in a certain inertia and seem enfeebled.

One's eye takes in the vacant eyes, the cracked lips, receding hairlines and in some cases swollen faces.

The parents do not look any better.

Crisis

Lebowa is but one of the areas in the Northern Transvaal where Operation Hunger is desperately trying to keep pace with the need for food.

The organisation sees itself as involved in "crisis intervention" only. The long-term solution is that of helping people to help themselves.

Towards this end Operation Hunger has been instrumental in starting or encouraging self-help projects. The organisation is presently involved in 102 projects.

Scourge of the rural areas

which include vegetable growing, beadwork, sewing and fence making.

Thousands of people in the rural areas are suffering from the effects of unemployment, a prolonged drought and a very cold winter.

Mrs Ina Perlman, Operation Hunger's executive director, said the situation in these areas was desperate and that her organisation had been approached for more help.

"We are doing all we can to feed those in need because it is not good enough just to sit on your backside and pontificate about the situation," Mrs Perlman said.

According to Operation Hunger, these are the facts about the position in South Africa:

- Only eight percent of rural people are subsistence farmers in the real sense of the word.
- The average rural family of five needs R95 in hard cash to maintain survival level.

The average rural family income in 1981/82 was R49.60 a month.

- In 1980, nine million South Africans living in the black rural areas had incomes below the poverty line.
- There are 2.9 million children under 15 years old in South Africa who are below the international height-weight-age standard and suffer from malnourishment, and
- Of all the deaths in the African community, 55 percent are of children under five.

The comparable figure in the coloured community is 45 percent and seven percent in the white population.

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Cooking demonstration of quick and easy meal by PHILLIS DALUSA

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Tackling hunger on the doorstep of the affluent

By DIANE CASSERE

As Operation Hunger extends its feelers into the black townships, it becomes clear that poverty plagues not only the homelands and rural areas—it is across the road from Pinelands in places like Langa, a few bus stops from Rondebosch.

Hunger and poverty are on whites' doorsteps, existing side-by-side with affluent white suburbs and rubbing shoulders with us every day in the city streets.

And when the pink balloons come down over the Kenilworth Centre today and the crowds are entertained by singer Alvon Collison at the launch of the third R1 million Goldrush competition, the real spirit of Operation Hunger will be just across the railway tracks.

Operation Hunger has only been in the Western Cape for a few months and already its presence is making itself felt in the townships. When the Cape Times visited Langa and Guguletu with the organization yesterday, the name on the bakkie was immediately recognized by residents. "Come back again," called an elderly man taking advantage of the weak winter sunshine.

The children are the immediate focus of Operation Hunger. It feeds over one million people in South Africa every day, at an average cost of 6c a person.

In the Western Cape, regional director Mrs Roselle Frasca and assistant manager Mr Stefan Snel are working with the Western Cape Hostel Dwellers' Association to reach children in overcrowded hostels and shacks.

Many of these children live in tiny "homes" into which more than 40 people crowd every night. They are left with volunteer day-care mothers while their own mothers, often the breadwinners of the family in a climate of rising unemployment, are away.

"Their basic diet is pap, but they need protein to grow and for their young brains to develop," said Mr Frasca.

"We give them a soup which gives them their basic daily nutritional requirement and staves off malnutrition."

The aim of Operation Hunger is not to intrude or patronize. It is not in the hand-out business. Its operatives work through existing infrastructures and set up self-help schemes using ethnic crafts as an existing small industries. Operation Hunger uses mothers and grandmothers to prepare and distribute their food.

The operation is still young here, but already it is reaching out to the crowded communities of the hostel and the shanty-dwellers where industries like firewood-collecting, fish shops, vegetable vending, flower-selling, beer-brewing and sheep heads sold from steaming barrels keep body and soul together.

The Goldrush competition, with its enormous state of R1 million for the winner, raises several million rand for Operation Hunger every year.

The real point is not to create an "instant millionaire", but to keep the ills of malnutrition at bay to give one more small child a chance to grow up sound and healthy.
Hunger finalists settle

**OPERATION HUNGER** will not go ahead with a proposed court action to determine the winner of the $1 million Gold Rush II competition following an agreement between two of the contestants; "Family Ties" and the guardian of minor Rian Grunwald, to share the prize.

Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, said in a statement at the weekend that the prize money would be held in trust until September 23 to enable any other contestants to exercise any legal rights they believe they might have.

At least one contestant is understood to be planning a court battle to claim the money.

Mr Alan Curtin, husband of Mrs Anna Curtin, believes his wife has "the strongest case of all" because her "correct" answers to the quiz questions were ruled incorrect by the judges.

He said at the weekend that he was going "to fight to the bitter end".

In her statement Mrs Perlman said that prior to the holding of the Gold Rush II Fund Competition on July 31, each contestant (save R Grunwald who could not, at that stage, be traced) signed a written acknowledgment and waiver agreement to abide by the rules of the competition and accept the ruling of the judges.

All contestants (other than Grunwald), together with their celebrity partners (in the case of Grunwald, Pat Kerr), were advised both before and during the competition that it was an elimination contest, that they had 10 seconds in which to furnish three answers of a general knowledge nature and that the judges' decision was final.
Lifting the lid on
Operation Hunger

By RAYMOND HILL

OPERATION HUNGER has lifted the lid on its activities after coming under fire for the way its Eastern Cape feeding operations are run.

The organisation's executive director, Mrs Ina Perlman, responded to criticisms from a Port Elizabeth community leader, the Rev M E Maquina, social workers and city councillor Mr Harold Davidson.

Operation Hunger was criticised this week for its "failure" to issue annual financial reports to donors, the distribution of "non-nutritional" third grade mealie meal and "failure" to hand out milk given to it and "wrong" distribution methods.

However, spokesmen for most welfare organisations praised the organisation's work.

Speaking from Johannesburg, Mrs Perlman outlined the Eastern Cape operations and made a copy of its financial report available.

Mr Maquina, director of the Black Cross Centre, said he and his workers had seen nothing but mealie meal given to people although it was claimed that soup and milk powder were also distributed.

"The organisation has enough money to do more than just hand out bags of what seems to be third grade mealie meal. They should give peanut butter, soya beans and whole meal bread instead," he said.

Operation Hunger should also start self-help schemes, he said.

He claimed the distribution was badly supervised and that members of "radical" organisations had been appointed to do it.

In addition, some shopkeepers used "tough guys" to collect food for resale.

He proposed that a committee comprising representatives of welfare agencies and churchmen be formed to monitor distributions.

Mr Davidson said he had tried unsuccessfully to get a copy of the financial report.

"Organisations came to me for help before because they could not be helped from Operation Hunger although they now tell me the position has improved," he said.

Mrs Perlman said the annual report was sent to every member, donor and interested party and that Mr Davidson had never requested one.

According to the report, the organisation's income for the year was R12 666 181.

General administration expenses amounted to R7 727 466 and fund-raising expenses to R51 193.

The donors received the annual and a mid-year report and auditors checked the books every month.

The organisation would be "delighted" to show its critics the 200 000 people fed daily in the Eastern Cape.

Nine organisations in PE and Uitenhage received regular supplies from Operation Hunger to feed people at more than 23 soup kitchens.

In addition, the organisation's field workers distributed soup and mealie meal at more than 25 soup kitchens in 28 Eastern Cape towns.

Each family got one 12,5kg bag of mealie meal and 2,5kg of soup powder a week. Individuals were fed at soup kitchens daily.

The "very expensive" powdered milk referred to by Mr Maquina had been given only to pre-school children, Mrs Perlman said.

"This is the best that we can do and we must avoid the danger of dependences," she said.

The following rules applied when organisations applied for food:

- No money was handed out by the organisation.
- Organisations seeking assistance had to be community-based.
- Operation Hunger's work should not be duplicated in an area where it operated.
- "Mr Maquina applied to us for food for his feeding scheme last year. He was refused because he was distributing from the city centre. We felt that it was ridiculous for destitute township people to collect the food in town."

Mrs Perlman denied food was given to "radicals" to distribute and said there was no proof it was being sold.
Out of Africa's poverty comes a glimpse of hope

The future for Africa, a continent that evokes images of starving people, need not be as bleak as it seems, says an author who has studied 20 successful development projects.

"We have come across spreading signs of hope, areas of advance in a line of general retreat, victories pulled out of defeat," wrote Paul Harrison in "The Greening of Africa," a study commissioned by the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development.

David Reynolds, director of the institute's North American operations, said one purpose of the book was to present a "not inaccurate but slightly more hopeful" picture of Africa's future at a time when news coverage of the continent tends to focus on famine and disease.

"There are substantial examples of success," he said.

Irrigation

Harrison, whose book was the topic of a recent discussion by US development specialists, studied 20 successful projects in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Ethiopia in 1985 and 1986.

With the proper approach to development, better farm prices and lower exchange rates, Harrison believes that Africa's prospects could be transformed in the next several years.

One project cited by Harrison involved a cheap, simple irrigation technique in Burkina Faso, a country where land has been hurt by poor rainfall coupled with population pressures.

To conserve water, the villagers were taught to build a line of stones that hold back rainwater, making it pool uphill so the soil can be infiltrated.

Another successful project is under way in Niger, an arid country affected by wind erosion. To combat the problem, trees from Asia were planted to serve as a break.

Tree-planting, an aid to curbing erosion, also has been a success in many parts of Kenya, where it has been promoted by voluntary organizations such as the National Council of Women of Kenya, which set up its "Green Belt Movement" a decade ago.

Kenya is also the home of another successful project that has helped reduce the amount of firewood needed by villages. Deforestation, prompted by a need for firewood, has led to an increase in soil erosion.

In Kenya, entrepreneurs have developed a ceramic-lined stove that increases efficiency over a metal stove and can burn fuel such as maize cobs, stalks and other refuse. The stoves proved popular before any advertising campaign, Harrison said.

Although the book talks about government policies that tend to worsen the problems of drought, food shortages and poor soil conditions, it does not deal with civil strife, which is one of the major reasons for famine in countries like Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

"The implicit assumption is that you need some sort of political stability to achieve long-term development," Reynolds said.

The success stories cited by Harrison had the following characteristics:

- Low costs with profit margins of up to 100 percent
- Invulnerability to unpredictable climate changes
- Ability to function without imported goods
- Responsibility for the programs handled by local communities rather than government officials.

The projects range in their scope, but characteristically they involved improving or preserving the land to allow for an increase in food production.

Challenges

Most African nations have seen their ability to feed their populations decline in the past two decades, although there are exceptions such as Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Reynolds said that one of the challenges for the future involves training Africans to manage development projects so they become self-sustaining and are not dependent on foreign technical know-how.

Still, Africa needs foreign capital and aid to pursue its development, he said. It was "profoundly depressing" that the United States has done little to increase aid money for Africa, he said.

And he criticized Congress' priorities in providing Egypt and Israel each with twice as much aid as the rest of the African continent.

- Sapa
Pick 'n Pay to give over R1 million to Operation Hunger
SOUTH AFRICA
THE POSITION IN MALNUTRITION

Many people, both here and elsewhere, have experienced economic changes that have led to food shortages. More than 3,000,000 children under the age of five are malnourished in the black community. These children are evaluated and marked on a nutritional scale. The results are alarming. Only a few thousand children are fat but more than 70% are considered to be thin. The poor health of these children is crucial. Malnutrition, a condition that affects children's health, is often overlooked in the community. The real need is that very few children are fat. The health of the children is crucial. The need for nutrition is crucial. The survival of the children is crucial. The survival of the children is crucial.
Six cents. The cost of one cup of specially formulated high protein soup, with all the basic nutritional requirements a child needs each day. All the protein needed to stave off malnourishment.

Operation Hunger's ultimate objective is to ensure that every child - and adult - in South Africa has one fully nutritious meal a day. Not much to ask when one considers the vast natural reserves in this country.

Yet some 3 million children suffer from clinically diagnosable malnutrition: 45% of all black children and 45% of adults display the symptoms of malnourishment. Patches on the skin, ginger hair, swollen knees and ankles due to muscular wasting.

But it is the relationship between malnourishment and education which is one for concern. Statistics show that the maximum dropout rate in rural areas takes place before the Standard Two level. I'm convinced that a large part of this is due to brain damage caused by malnourishment", says Ina Perlman, Executive Director of Operation Hunger.

There is ample evidence to prove this. For example, the first batch of two-year-olds who were part of a malnourishment prevention programme started by nuns in Venda, are now at school. Not only is their physical size starting they are bigger than children five or six years older - but their mental performance is dramatically better.

In the rural areas, 20% of the children have nothing to eat before they go to school. On top of that, they usually have to walk 5 kms to get there. So they sit through five hours of school on an empty stomach and then have to walk another 3 kms to get home. At best they may get a bowl of mealie meal, or a thin soup made from the dregs in the pot, in the evening.

A hungry child cannot concentrate. In fact, he is likely to be asleep by 10 am. To illustrate this, Ina Perlman recounts the case of a letter she received from the headmaster of a school where the children were being fed. He said he'd had a complaint from the teachers. They were actually having to teach the children. They were no longer dealing with lifeless, listless little creatures.

"Inevitably after we've started a school feeding programme," Ina continues, "we're confronted some three months later by a request for sports equipment!"

"Our children are our future. Surely we should be trying to create educable people who are capable of responding to whatever education is brought to them?" asks Ina.

At only six cents, one nutritious meal a day is something that every child - and adult - in South Africa should enjoy.
The country's leading chain of retail supermarkets has announced a plan to provide desperately needed relief to the poor and hungry.

Describing the scheme, Mr. Gordon Hoult, National Promotions Co-ordinator for Pick 'n Pay (Supermarkets) said that it had always been Pick 'n Pay's policy to meet the needs of the community.

"Operation Low Prices will do just that. Over the next month, we will be giving a percentage of our sales in all Pick 'n Pay Supermarkets to Operation Hunger. The total donation will be over a million rand.

Relief for the consumer too

Mr Hoult said that Operation Low Prices would also benefit the consumer, hard-hit in recent times by the soaring cost of living. "The drastically reduced prices will enable Pick 'n Pay customers to enjoy substantial savings over the next month.

Committed to helping others

Outlining the reason for Operation Low Prices, Mr. Hoult said that consumerism and social responsibility had always been intricately linked at Pick 'n Pay.

"As a company, Pick 'n Pay has always been committed to playing a strong role in South African society, striving to create a better future for all its people. So when we see the poverty and hardship facing millions of fellow South Africans, we cannot just sit back and say 'it's none of our business'. We cannot turn our backs and walk away."

Mr Hoult said that Pick 'n Pay firmly supported the way in which Operation Hunger were tackling the problems. "They're enjoying a marvellous success through a combination of feeding and self-help schemes. And Pick 'n Pay is putting over R1 million towards helping South Africans to help themselves.

Funded by South Africans, for South Africans

Welcoming Pick 'n Pay's donation, Operation Hunger's Executive Director Ina Perlman said that the organisation relied entirely on this type of support.

"Operation Hunger receives no state assistance," explained Mrs Perlman, "so we depend entirely on the generosity of the private business sector and the public for our funds.

This year, Operation Hunger needs an estimated R18 million to fulfill its obligations. "For many, Operation Hunger is the only hope they have of breaking out of the vicious cycle of poverty," said Mrs Perlman, "so we just dare not let them down."
Operation Hunger's estimated budget for the current financial year is a massive R18 million. The growth from R12 million last year (and R6 million the year before) reflects the gravity of the situation, the fact that every day, thousands more people are facing starvation.

While the drought has broken in some parts of the country, vast areas north of Johannesburg have not received rain for eight years now. Escalating unemployment has rapidly pushed the number of people receiving assistance from Operation Hunger to over a million each day.

The vast proportion of the budget - approximately 85% or some R15.5 million - goes on crisis intervention or feeding. This will undoubtedly continue for the foreseeable future.

The loyalty and dedication of the staff and volunteer workers enables the administrative costs of this vast organisation to remain at a mere R464 000. The remaining R2 million is set aside for self-help development.

18/4/87
Operation Hunger is currently committed to feeding 1 000 027 people daily
- Where does Operation Hunger’s money go?
  To assist people in South Africa – as it was in 1910, that is, therefore including Transkei, Ciskei, Venda, Lebowa and Bophuthatswana
- Does Operation Hunger feed blacks only?
  Operation Hunger deals with needy people, irrespective of colour or creed. The greatest area of need is in the black community, but since 1985, appeals from the white groups have increased steadily
- Does Operation Hunger do anything except feed people?
  Operation Hunger sees feeding as ‘crisis intervention’ only. The long term solution is that of helping people to help themselves
- How much development does Operation Hunger do?
  Operation Hunger is involved with 102 established projects, with a further 100 being developed
- How do we know that the food is getting to the people who really need it?
  Operation Hunger works through community committees – because if the community themselves are involved in the feeding and distribution of food, there is no corruption. This is why Operation Hunger does not establish projects in its own name but always works through the ‘group on the spot’ that has the trust of the grassroots people

- How does Operation Hunger find areas to work in?
  Operation Hunger responds to community request. It only goes into an area when invited – this is important, because if the community is not sufficiently organised to know that it has a problem, it is useless going in and ‘handing out’. The community has to accept responsibility for the work that has to be done

- Why is it necessary to feed people at all? Wouldn’t they be better off, with self-help straight away?
  Hungry people cannot do anything. When people have the energy to work, they do not sit around and wait for ‘hand-outs’

- Isn’t Operation Hunger simply a “hand-out”?
  No. Even with the feeding projects, the community has to accept responsibility for the firewood, water and utensils. Furthermore, nobody may be employed to do the work. The cooking and serving of the food has to be done on a roster basis as part of the community’s responsibility

- What kind of food is distributed?
  Maize meal, fortified high protein soup powder/stew and milk powder (for the very young)

- What about birth control?
  Operation Hunger does not actively promote birth control. When a man knows that the only hope of financial security for his old age is vested in one of his children living long enough to support him, he tends to have a large family. Unfortunately, this is the pattern of poverty throughout the world

- Isn’t a “hand up” better than a “hand out”?
  It depends on how you look at it. Initial feeding is essential, but Operation Hunger thinks that the “hand stretched out” so that people can walk together up the development path is better than the “hand up”, which could be paternalistic
Ina Perlman, Executive Director of Operation Hunger
(Photograph Rebecca Hearfield, The Star)

THE LONG TERM SOLUTION:
HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP
THEMSELVES

"Operation Hunger is essentially a self-help project" Executive Director Ina Perlman stresses "Our primary aim is to help rural communities to develop viable, revenue-earning communal enterprises which will enable them to earn sufficient income to feed themselves."

The Agricultural programme, set up in August 1985, has been one of the most successful. It has been responsible for setting up 17 projects, advising and assisting with numerous others and has over 50 new applications awaiting consideration.

The groups are taught basic costing and provided with initial equipment, materials and training. Operation Hunger also assists in finding markets for their crafts where necessary. However within a couple of years, the groups generally reach the stage where they are self-supporting and can function independently of Operation Hunger. This, of course, is the ultimate objective.

Self-help projects mean real income to individual families and there are entire areas where Operation Hunger has been able to substantially reduce or even discontinue family feeding.

One such example is kwanebele. In 1982, Operation Hunger was feeding 10,000 people per day. Today, that figure has been reduced to 1,800, thanks to the community's beadwork programme which Operation Hunger initiated and helped market successfully both locally and overseas.

Wherever possible, the projects are based on - or have the potential to develop into - the three hectare model. This unit costs approximately R20,000 to set up and provide with a borehole for irrigation. But using intensive dry farming techniques, which do not depend on rain and which use maximum water conservation methods, this three hectare plot can not only feed 250 families, but yield enough to provide each family with R50 in cash each month.

In addition to the agricultural and gardening projects include sewing, knitting, crafts, bead-work, basketry, tribal artefacts, brick and fence making.

At present, there are 102 self-help projects in operation, a further 100 being developed and applications for scores more under consideration. These schemes account for some 15% - R2 million - of the budget.

"We dare not break into these funds to meet additional requests for feeding though" comments Ina Perlman. "We must spend the money ear-marked for community development on assisting with self-help projects. It's the only way to help indigent communities to become self-sufficient so they can break out of the cycle of poverty and starvation."
JOHANNESBURG — Operation Hunger yesterday undertook not to pay out the R1m Goldrush II prize pending the final outcome of a court application by the Curtin family who claim they, and not the Family Ties syndicate, were the winners of the competition.

The undertaking was ordered by Mr Justice D S Levy in the Rand Supreme Court and the application postponed to November 3.

The order provided that Operation Hunger, the Family Ties syndicate and finalists Hendrik du Plessis and Riaan Grunewald, 12 — represented by his mother— have till September 20 to file answering affidavits and any counter-applications which they may wish to bring.

Mrs Anna Curtin, her husband Alan and father-in-law Harold claimed they, and not Family Ties, were entitled to the prize money because they were eliminated after giving a correct answer.
Pick 'n Pay to give over R1 million to Operation Hunger

The country's leading chain of retail supermarkets, Pick 'n Pay, has announced a plan to provide temporarily essential food to the poor and hungry.

"Operation Hunger is a response to the growing problem of hunger in our country," said Mr. George H. National Primes, the CEO of Pick 'n Pay. "We feel that it is our responsibility as a leading retailer to do our part in alleviating this pressing issue."

The company has allocated R1 million to Operation Hunger, which will be distributed through its network of stores nationwide.

"We want to ensure that every person who needs it gets access to essential food," said Mr. H. National Primes. "We believe that everyone has a right to a decent life, and that includes having access to food."

The funds will be used to purchase and distribute food to those in need, with a focus on vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and those living in poverty.

"We encourage all South Africans to support Operation Hunger," said Mr. H. National Primes. "Every little bit helps, and together we can make a difference in the fight against hunger."

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MALNUTRITION: THE POSITION IN SOUTH AFRICA

The problem of malnutrition is a pressing one in South Africa, with many affected by a lack of access to nutritious food. The situation is especially dire in rural areas and among low-income families.

"The lack of adequate nutrition can have long-term effects on individuals and the country as a whole," said Dr. Jane M. Nutritionist. "It can lead to stunted growth, reduced cognitive abilities, and weakened immune systems."

The government has implemented various initiatives to address malnutrition, including school feeding programs and food aid. However, there is still a need for more widespread and targeted efforts.

"We need to ensure that everyone has access to a nutritious diet," said Dr. M. Nutritionist. "This requires a coordinated effort between the government, businesses, and individuals."

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THE LONG TERM SOLUTION: HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

Instead of merely providing emergency food assistance, Operation Hunger aims to empower individuals to take control of their own nutrition.

"We want to help people help themselves," said Mr. H. National Primes. "We believe that education and support are crucial in the fight against hunger."

The company will work with local communities to develop sustainable solutions, including nutrition education programs and access to healthy food options.

"Our goal is to ensure that people are equipped to make healthy choices and take care of themselves," said Mr. H. National Primes. "We want to create a lasting impact, not just a temporary fix."

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SIX CENTS A DAY... THAT'S ALL IT COSTS TO FEED A CHILD

The cost of feeding a child is only six cents a day. This includes not only food, but also education, health care, and other necessities.

"Feeding a child is not just about providing them with food," said Dr. M. Nutritionist. "It's about ensuring they have access to the resources they need to thrive."

With the support of Operation Hunger, we can ensure that every child has the chance to reach their full potential.

"We believe that every child deserves a chance," said Mr. H. National Primes. "We will continue to work towards a future where every child is healthy and well-nourished."
Operation Hunger seeks U.S. help for starving

By GWEN GILL

OPERATION HUNGER'S INA Perlman will attend the first meeting of the Operation Hunger Foundation in New York City this week, where she hopes to raise millions to help feed South Africa's starving millions.

The foundation trustees include the former US ambassador to South Africa, Mr. Herman Nuckel, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs under President John Kennedy, Wayne Fredericks, and Cyrus Vance, former US Secretary of State.

"We need R18-million for the year ending March 1969. So far we've raised R6-million," Mrs. Perlman said.

Results of a shock survey published by Operation Hunger this week shows that rural South Africa has more malnutrition than neighboring Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Swaziland — up to 58 percent more in some cases.

Disaster

The survey, carried out in 20 rural villages in May and June, in the Transvaal, and the Eastern and Northern Cape, showed that 56.3 percent of the 401 children aged two to five were malnourished. In the Northern Cape, 27 percent of the people surveyed had no income at all.

Just this week Operation Hunger received agonizing appeals from 1,000 white families in the Pretoria area and 25,000 people in the Kuruman area where there's been little rain for 18 years.

"We put up our feeding allowance in the Northern Cape by 60 percent last week and I really ought to have doubled it. The situation is a disaster," Mrs. Perlman said.

The newly formed US foundation will be asked to provide for specific projects - such as one month's feeding for starving areas.
Action call on TB epidemic

By PETER DENNEHY
Municipal Reporter

COUNCILLORS of the Regional Services Council yesterday sent back a report by the Medical Officer of Health and called for joint action by all MoH's in the Peninsula region to tackle the "excessively high" incidence of tuberculosis.

Dr Reg Coogan, Cape Town's MoH, described the situation as "extremely bad" and said "We are not even able to control the current epidemic because of insufficient treatment resources." His report was one of several which revealed a huge incidence of the disease in the Peninsula area.

The monthly RSC meeting referred back Dr Len Tibbott's annual health report after expressing serious concern at the high TB figures.

Councillor Mr E M Kramer said he believed it was insufficient "to just note" such excessively high figures. "We should ask the MoH to see what he can do to reduce the incidence of TB," he said.

The common problem

"I would like to know what steps are being taken by our health personnel and what can be done to assist them," Mr Louis Krener said a high incidence of TB was prevalent in the City Council areas too, and he suggested that MoH's should liaise with each other on the common problem.

Mr Noel Joubert, the RSC chairman, suggested that all the MoH's in the area should become involved, and the report they draw up should include factors mentioned by Dr Ebrahim — such as low incomes and poor housing.

"One of the worst hit areas is Elsies River which has a population of 25,270. In the period to June 1987, 5,716 attendances at TB clinics were recorded in that suburb."

A nurse at the Elsies River South African National Tuberculosis Association (Santa) clinic explained that a single patient attends the clinic daily for medicines for a period of between three and six months. She added that there had never been as many TB cases there as there are at present.

The number of new notifications of TB in Elsies River between July last year and June this year was 725, according to the report.

In Matroosfontein, which has a population of only 2,910, the number of attendances at the TB clinic in the year was 567. Yet new notifications of TB cases there numbered only 19.

Bishop Lavis, population 25,130, had 183 new clinic attendances and 217 new TB cases. Similarly Atlantic

30% default rate on taking medicines, with a resultant high relapse rate and many cases of drug-resistant organisms.

The Minister of National Health and Population Development, Dr Willie van Niekerk, promised the city 600 new beds when patients in Stals Hospital at Westlake are moved to the new mental hospital at Lentegeur.

The transfer has not been completed, though the target date had been August this year. Dr Coogan said

TB epidemic

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To page 3
Little Willem, 5, is a TB veteran

Municipal Reporter

WHEN Mrs Margaret Broomberg visits the Santa Sunshine Creche in Elsie's River, she keeps a special lookout for her favourite — little Willem, one of 75 children under six who are suffering from tuberculosis or are classified as being “at risk”.

At the age of five, Willem is a two-year veteran of the creche — and a life-time veteran of hard times whose only childhood home consisted of a shelter made from sheets of black plastic.

When he came to the creche he was unable to walk or talk, his legs were as thin as matchsticks and as far as he was concerned, orange peels and dried-out melon kernels were food just like any other.

Nowadays Willem has filled out. He has become a sturdy little boy — although the shadows of his deprivation seem to linger on his face.

Mrs Broomberg, secretary and treasurer of the Cape Province TB Council, told Willem's life-story yesterday to illustrate her point. Proper nutrition, especially for the very young, was vital in the struggle against the tuberculosis epidemic.

The food bill at the Santa Sunshine Creche would not be cut back, vowed Mrs Broomberg.

Willem has very little — but even so he is one of the luckier children at the creche, because at least he knows where his parents are. And they are still together.

Abandonment by one parent is an experience common to most of the children at the creche. Staffers tell a poignant story of how one little boy aged five stopped one of them from teaching his little sister the song: “Clap handsies, clap handies, tell Daddy comes, home.”

“Don't make her sing that,” the boy said. “He's not coming home, and he never brings us any sweeties.”

A girl at the creche, also aged five, was involuntarily abandoned by her father when he was sent to prison. She was found with her destitute mother, crouched in a rainy church-yard, and taken into foster care.

That was years ago. Now her father visits regularly, with chips and sweets, but she has not forgotten their parting, and her face goes blank when she sees him.

Overcrowded housing plays a major contributory role in the spreading of tuberculosis. The creche supervisor, Mrs Thomas Maureen van Riebeeck, tells of how 29 people were living in one TB-ridden house, “and that was before the twins were born.”

“I don't think the problem is bad parenting, it's mainly circumstances,” she said. The housing shortage was so bad that the parent of one child at the creche, a sub-tenant, paid R80 “rent” a month just for a place to sleep on the floor of a council house.

Mrs Broomberg says the TB statistics are getting worse, but she hopes her work and that of the other staff members will bear fruit in the next generation, at least.

“Children do sometimes demand toothbrushes at home, and make their parents wash their hands before they eat,” she says. “But they go back to the same old environment, and many will end up like their parents.”

She believes education is particularly important in combating TB, and says it would bring down the default rate in treatment.

“People also don't like to admit they have it,” she says. “They say they have ‘just a touch’ of it. There is no such thing as just a touch of TB. Either you have it or you don't.”
Relief workers help malnourished children

By PETER DENNEHY

OPERATION HUNGER and the Department of Health have come to the rescue of thousands of malnourished children in Colesberg's black township.

Now the municipal nurse who initiated the effort, Sister Lettie Nel, is hoping to expand the operation to the smaller coloured township as well.

"At the clinic I run, I found that nearly all the children were underweight, and from urine tests I could see that their bodies were breaking down," she said.

About a month ago the Department of Health responded to her request by sending 125 cartons of soya product.

"On the first day 300 children arrived, on the second there were 400 and on the third day there were 1,500 children waiting to be fed," she said.

The total population of the township is about 20,000.

When it became clear the food supplies were running out, she phoned Operation Hunger in Port Elizabeth. Within days, an organizer had been sent to Colesberg.

The soup kitchen intended for children and the destitute elderly had to be expanded to feed entire families. On some days more than 3,000 people had been fed at the soup kitchen, she said.

The Department of Manpower also has a job creation scheme in the township.

Sister Nel said she and the Operation Hunger officials were keen to establish knitting and sewing self-help groups to generate income for the destitute.

The mayor of Colesberg, Mrs Stephanie van den Berg, said she had met a delegation from Operation Hunger this week.

They had invited her to see the relief operation and requested funds from the municipality. She said she would have to refer the request to her council.

She praised the efforts of the relief workers. Conditions were worse in the township than in previous years because there was so much unemployment and so many people had settled in the town, she said.
TB biggest killer in the townships

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — Tuberculosis is the most fatal infectious disease in the city's townships, according to the Medical Officer of Health here, Dr E F du Plessis.

It was viewed as a serious problem by the city health department and was an indicator of socio-economic conditions in the African and coloured communities, he said.

But figures till the end of August indicate a drop in the number of deaths and incidents reported to municipal health authorities last year.

Last week it was reported that 9 000 new cases of TB are reported annually in the Peninsula — and that Cape Town's TB rate is among the highest in the world.

Pulmonary tuberculosis has claimed 175 lives so far this year in the Port Elizabeth area with the African and coloured communities being the hardest hit. Of the 175, 139 were from the African community and 36 from the coloured community. Bone tuberculosis had claimed 11 lives and tubercular meningitis nine people.

While there were 2 769 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis reported to the authorities last year, claiming 277 lives, there had been a significant, if slight, drop, with 1 606 cases reported this year.

"Inadequate housing, poor living conditions, malnutrition and overcrowding were the major social causes of the disease and he had frequently taken the matter up with the authorities," Dr Du Plessis said.

Tuberculosis was a serious national health problem, according to a spokesman for the SA National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA). SANTA estimated recently that 15 people died every day of the disease.

A report in the SA Medical Journal said that 7% of the population of the African and coloured communities over 15 years old died of the disease.
Are you sure it can't happen here?

South Africa?

Disaster be avoided?

Can a South African
sound tambourine
hungry and angry?
Even more will be homeless and

Look at the facts.

Ethiopia,

Bangladesh.

The People Project

sure. It doesn't happen here.
who can

You are the last
must work towards
This is what we

What does an improved
food grower mean?
shows the benefits and
don't reduce the birth rate
before it is too late. It won't be easy.
Yes, but we must act together.

You do?
What can

Get involved! You can

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You do?
Feeding the children
his work
for 26 years

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN, Staff Reporter

A LETTER from a grateful school principal
wishing him well in his retirement is one of
the most-treasured possessions of Mr Norman
Freeman, former organiser of the Peninsula
School Feeding Association.

Mr Freeman, 61, a former Spitfire pilot and
banker, retired last week after 26 years with the
association, which was formed in 1958.

Learning that Mr Freeman was about to retire,
Mr J A Abrahams, principal of Berg River Primai-
ary School in Wellington, wrote: “When I came to
this school 20 years ago, the children stood against
the wall every playtime

“When I discovered that they could not play be-
cause they were hungry, I stood with my hands in
my hair;

“It was then that you and your association came
to our rescue. Since then they are happy, they
smile, laugh and enjoy playtime.”

Mr Freeman was a banker in Rhodesia, but was
becoming disillusioned with his work.

15000 a day

“I began to wonder if there was more to life
than making money,” he said.

He broke his ties with the commercial world in
1961 and joined the association.

“At that stage, we were feeding 40 000 children a
day. Today, we feed in excess of 150 000 children a
day at 375 schools Cape Town and some rural ar-
areas.”

He said malnutrition, caused by rising unem-
ployment, was rife in places like Atlantis and
Mitchell’s Plain.

However, feeding the children became more dif-
ficult each year.

Last year, the association had a deficit of
R315 800. This year, it has a budget of more than
R1-million, but is running at a loss of R440 000,

The government does not support the association
— “We depend on the goodwill of the public to sur-
vive,” said Mr Freeman.

He said it costs the state at least R100 a day to
keep a child with malnutrition in hospital

“Yet, we could prevent this if the state gave us
R5 a child a year to buy supplementary food.”

Egg supply stopped

Children are given milk and fortified brown
bread or fortified brown bread with spread and
skimmed milk daily.

The association buys 6 500 loaves of bread a day.
At one stage, they got a hard-boiled egg as well,
but this was discontinued when “our supply of eggs
stopped.”

Unrest also disrupts the association’s work.

“The 1976 unrest knocked us hard. Our funds
were down to almost zero as the public refused to
send contributions. It took us a long time to recov-
er.”

The association does not believe in making chil-
dren dependent on handouts. They are encouraged
to bring vegetables to school and the association
has built soup kitchens in Langa, Guguletu and
Khayelitsha.

Mr Freeman has plenty of anecdotes.

Sad day in his life

“We got a letter one day from a dear old lady
who said she should, in view of the population ex-
losion, put the pig in soup handed out to chil-
dren,” said Mr Freeman.

The day he visited a farm in Wellington a few
years ago was one of the saddest of his life.

“I weighed 22 children — 19 of them had third-
degree malnutrition. The farmer called me a com-
munist when I complained.”

Mr Freeman said working for the association
had been a tremendous experience. “At least you
can go bed at night knowing you have done some-
ting to alleviate the hardship of others.”
Court decides on R1-m winners

OWN CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG — After three months of "sheer hell", the legal battle over the R1-million Operation Hunger Goldrush II prize ended yesterday when the Family Ties syndicate was declared the winner by an order granted in the Rand Supreme Court.

In a surprise move, the order was granted with the consent of all parties.

In terms of the order granted by Justice Coetzee, finalist Mrs Anna Curtin's application against Operation Hunger; the Family Ties syndicate; and finalists Mr Hendrik du Plessis and Mr Rian Grunewald was dismissed.

Counsel for Operation Hunger, Mr CZ Cohen SC, told the court the order was being handed in with the consent of all the parties.

He said Mr Grunewald's guardian, Ms Louise Elizabeth du Toit, abided by the court's decision.

A separate application by Mr Du Plessis was also dismissed and Operation Hunger was ordered to pay the R1 million to Family Ties.

No order as to costs was asked for.

Mrs Curtin, her husband Alan and father-in-law Harold launched an urgent application in September claiming she, and not Family Ties, was the winner of the R1 million.
SA could free region of hunger, says PW

Political Correspondent
SOUTH Africa could bring the ideal of a hunger-free Southern Africa nearer reality with the help of its highly developed agricultural technology and marketing experience, President Botha said today.

He was speaking at a farmers' day at the Bien Donne experimental farm at Groot Drakenstein to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Fruit and Fruit Technology Research Institute.

Mr Botha paid tribute to the Western Cape's multi-million fruit industry, saying the development of fruit exports into an industry earning hundreds of millions of rand was something to be proud of.

BIG EMPLOYER

Cape fruit was marketed around the world. More than two-thirds of the production was exported.

The industry was also one of the biggest employers in the Western Cape.

The well-being of about a million people depended on the industry and the many secondary industries it supported.

In spite of significant savings resulting from mechanisation, the industry was still fulfilling its social responsibilities.
Operation Hunger Gold Rush

Police prob

By CHRIS STEYN

OPERATION HUNGER was plunged into fresh controversy yesterday when police disclosed that the Gold Rush II and III competitions were the subject of an investigation into possible contraventions of the Lottery Act.

On the eve of the draw for the 16 finalists of the First National Bank Operation Hunger $1 million Gold Rush III, it also emerged that only 14 of the finalists actually stood a chance of winning the first prize.

This follows the shock scratching of Model Man— the favourite horse in the main feature race at Turffontein scheduled to determine the winner of Gold Rush III. With only 15 horses accepted for the race on Saturday, 14 horses are now left to run.

A spokesperson for Operation Hunger, Mr. Scott, insisted yesterday that the race was not in jeopardy.

Mr. Scott said Model Man's scratching was disappointing because "that was the big lure" but she added that the rules of the competition had made provision for scratchings.

The problems dogging Operation Hunger's third Gold Rush have emerged just weeks after a three month legal wrangle over the $1-million prize money for the Gold Rush II competition.

A police spokesman confirmed yesterday that the SA narcotics bureau had launched a formal investigation into Operation Hunger's Gold Rush II and III competitions.

He said detectives were probing possible contraventions of the Lottery Act. "The dockets concerning the current competition and the previous one will be forwarded to the Attorney-General for his decision as soon as the investigation has been completed," the police spokesman said.

Asked to comment on the new development, Mr. Scott said the organization was aware of the police investigation "It came as a surprise. But there is nothing we can do — we are just waiting for the police to present their cases."

Referring to today's draw, Mr. Scott said the names of horses that had been scratched will be included but added that confirmed that finalists who drew those horses would not be in line for the first prize.

"The finalist who draws the name of a scratched horse will be entitled to a $50,000 consolation prize," she said.

Today's public draw for the 16 finalists, the top athletes with whom they will be paired, and the 30 consolation prize winners will take place at 1:15pm in the Sandton City shopping centre.

Hard times for punters.

THE South African horse-racing dealt three major setbacks yesterday:

1. Most of the Transvaal trainers found horses from Saturday's First 2 meeting at Turffontein.

2. The feature race was withdrawn because of a scratch.

3. The police confirmed that they were probing "racing" cases.

The First National $120,000 over feature race at the Transvaal is now run on.

Off these 10 horses were sold for $12,000 in total, and the Racing Club of South Africa is offering a $10,000 guaranteed minimum for the highest price.

This could mean the end of the racing season, which will hit local punters.

A spokesman for the W. of R. Racing Club confirmed yesterday that they could not run between trainers and the Racing Club.

Another blow was the scratching of the hot-pot, who had a burst tendon and will not be able to run.

Mr. Scott said the organization was aware of the police investigation "It came as a surprise. But there is nothing we can do — we are just waiting for the police to present their cases."

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Police investigate Gold Rush

JOHANNESBURG. — Police are investigating Operation Hunger’s Gold Rush as part of a national probe of competitions involving cash prizes.

Detectives from the John Vorster Square Narcotics Bureau were investigating whether the competitions contravened the Lotteries Act, a spokesman said.

This follows the battle in the Rand Supreme Court between the finalists in the Operation Hunger competition for the R1-million prize money.

Police opened a docket in terms of the Lotteries Act after detectives spoke to the legal representatives of Operation Hunger.

When completed the docket will be handed to the chief public prosecutor for a decision, said the spokesman.

Police were also investigating smaller competitions — mainly run by schools — where cars and cash were offered as prizes, he added.
Africa's poverty is a 'no-win' 

EXCEPTING African countries to balance their payments by traditional economic methods is like asking an already under-nourished person to balance household spending by missing a meal, according to a United Nations report.

Prepared by the international labour organisation for a conference on the social effects of economic stabilisation, the report says that Africa is a classic example of a "no-win" situation.

"Efforts to adjust to recession, inflation and foreign indebtedness have led to public expenditure cuts and other austerity measures, against the backdrop of high population growth," it states.

But such "traditional cures" for industrial stagnation, recession and high levels of inflation and unemployment "do not work on low-income patients who have neither the economic stamina nor the resilient industrial base to withstand the rigours of such adjustment."

Adjustment measures in the low-income countries of Africa, the report continues, "Have indeed reduced balance of payments deficits but there are yet no signs of an economic recovery."

"On the contrary, per capita incomes in Africa in 1987 are seven per cent lower than in 1978 and real wages in non-agricultural sectors have declined while job opportunities have failed to keep pace with the growth in population."

Without adequate financing, it is noted, African adjustment policies can even be counter-effective.

**Unrealistic**

"What the African economies need is more time, more savings and more new investment which these stabilisation programmes have not been able to provide."

Cutting public spending simply means an overall decline in public activities in Africa, the report points out.

"Rather than desperately trying to cut budget deficits in a very short period of time, it seems more appropriate to remove their underlying causes on both the expenditure and income sides and to spread out fiscal reforms over a longer period of time whenever possible," it continues.

It is "unrealistic to expect these low-income countries with their less developed administrative structures to reduce budgets at a pace which none of the industrialised countries has been able to do."

Devaluation also doesn't work, because although it makes exports cheaper abroad, "The infrastructure to support higher levels of exports has deteriorated badly."

There is also the risk that increased export revenue from devaluation will only push up demand for goods which are not available because of the pitiful state of domestic production."

All in all, the report concludes, there are devastating social consequences in Africa as a result of traditional economic adjustment policies.

"Poverty in Africa is increasing in the urban areas as the gap between rural and urban narrows," the report states. "In urban Africa, real wages have already declined, and continuous devaluation and increases in food prices will continue to worsen urban living standards."

"There is spreading poverty in a continent which has already seen the number of people living below the poverty line rise by 68-million in five years (1980-1985) to a level repeat to a total of 278-million or more than half of the total population."
NEARLY 90 percent of farmworkers in the Grabouw area earn less than a subsistence wage, according to a study by the University of the Western Cape.

The university's Institute for Social Development studied the municipal coloured township of Pinewiew in Grabouw and 33 farms in the surrounding districts of Elgin, Vyeboom and Grabouw.

"Local agricultural economists found this farming area was probably the most profitable in the whole country during 1966. The average net yield a hectare in 1966 was R12,000," said the report.

It showed 89 percent of household heads in the study area received less than R350 a month in cash. Five percent earned between R40 and R100 a month.

If the value of free housing, water, electricity and other in natura benefits was included, calculated at R100 a month, 84 percent of the households were earning below the minimum subsistence level.

Average income was R219 a month, which "must still be seen as totally inadequate to support an average farmworker’s family of seven," said the report.

However, only a few farm workers (eight percent) indicated that they received food rations on a regular basis. Most respondents (62 percent) did not receive in natura remuneration (apart from housing).

About 40 percent of farmworkers covered basic household expenses on their present pay, but almost three-quarters were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their wages.

About 55 percent could not make ends meet on their cash wages.

Most workers were paid for overtime (81 percent) but "some of the respondents pointed out that their normal work day was so long that they worked overtime every day."

The average working day was about 11 hours in summer and 9½ in winter.

In the urban area of Pinewiew the monthly income of 44 percent of household heads was between R201 and R499. Nearly 36 percent earned between R431 and R499.

Seven percent earned less than R200 and six percent more than R1,000.

About 48 percent earned below the minimum subsistence level, but with the incomes of other household members this fell to 18 percent.

Weekend Argus Reporter

FARMERS in Elgin and Grabouw have reacted with anger and indignation at a university researcher's finding that 84 percent of farm labourers in the area were paid less than the minimum subsistence level.

Mr Derrick Cunningham, chairman of the 240-member Groenland Farmers' Union in Grabouw, attacked the survey as "one-sided."

He said it had been carried out among a relatively small sampling.

Many farmers were aghast at the researcher's report that some labourers earned as little as R40 a month.

"This must be a comment by a disgruntled labourer, as none of our farmers ever pay less than R35 a week in cash, even to the most unskilled, inexperienced labourer," said Mr Cunningham.

Mr Danie Beukes, chairman of the Groenland 20 Study Group for young farmers, said, "We don’t deny that problems exist and that workers' housing needs upgrading. All of us are working hard towards this goal. But it isn’t right to break down all our other considerable efforts this way."

Mr Beukes said he paid a weekly R35 to R45 in cash for labourers — depending on whether they were seasonal workers or full-time employees.

"I also try to keep the women employed throughout the year. A family could bring in about R700 cash weekly at any time. If the wife was a fast packer she could earn extra weekly bonuses of up to another R70 in cash," he said. "During packing season a family's weekly combined income could be as much as R140 in cash."

Farmers debated the report during a special meeting on Wednesday night at the local co-operative, where it aroused a great deal of debate.

The report said monthly "in kind" payments to labourers amounted to about R100, but farmers Mr Daniel Joubert and Mr Christopher Watermeyer said this figure was far below what they contributed.

"Extra costs to care for each family are on average R200 to R350 a month, including housing, medical costs, transport, pension funds, electricity and water," said Mr Joubert.

"And these costs are still going up, especially since everyone has launched a concerted campaign to upgrade labourers' housing. Each new home, with all the mod cons, costs at least R35,000," he said.
PICK 'N PAY

Hungry operation

Operation Hunger is certainly the source of much controversy. Hot on the heels of the unseemly squabble over the R1m prize from the last Gold Rush comes confusion over Pick 'n Pay's new promotion in favour of the charity.

Until October 17, the chain will be donating 1% of the value of till slips handed over by customers to cashiers. The four-week promotion should, according to supermarkets promotions co-ordinator and OM for southern Transvaal supermarkets Gordon Hoult, raise about R1m.

But suppliers have complained that Pick 'n Pay buyers are squeezing the money out of them in the form of mandatory additional discounts (Business September 11).

Eight suppliers, who refused to be identified for fear of "victimisation" and possible loss of business, say they have been given an ultimatum: play along with the promotion or take your products elsewhere.

Says one: "The buyer hit me with the news before I'd even sat down in his office. It was made perfectly clear to me that if I wanted to continue supplying Pick 'n Pay, I had to provide additional discounts to make up for the shortfall that would be caused by the Operation Hunger campaign."

"That means the money supposedly being donated by Pick 'n Pay is actually being blackmailed out of its suppliers.

"The rebate system is bad enough, especially for smaller guys like me. But this sort of thing is making it worse. I don't know how much longer we can carry on being bullied like this."

Senior buyer for Pick 'n Pay supermarkets Richard Cohen says he is concerned over the suppliers' attitude. "We do not victimise people, and we certainly don't blackmail them. These are very hard words to use when we actually try to cultivate good relationships with our suppliers.

"We are in an intensely competitive industry, and the money referred to by those suppliers is the normal rebate negotiated during a normal trade relationship.

"If they feel hard done by, they can always come and discuss it with me. We have an open door policy with our suppliers. If they feel really bad, then I will refund all the money to them."

Hoult maintains the whole thing is a "misunderstanding."

"The promotion has two very clear and distinct phases. The first, the 1% of till slips, will hopefully be funded from extra turnover generated by extra customers. The second phase, which we are calling Operation Low Prices, is what we are hoping will bring the additional customers into the shops.

"In order to attract those people we have to offer lower prices, and in order to get the deals and lower prices we have to fight very hard. That is obviously what the buyers are doing, but perhaps their motives or methods are being misinterpreted.

"We always have an Operation Low Prices at this time of year, but I can understand suppliers misunderstanding its link to the Operation Hunger promotion."

It is still too early to estimate any possible growth in turnover (the promotion began on September 21), but Hoult says there should also be a positive rub-off for Pick 'n Pay itself from the campaign.

"If we attract sufficient new traffic it will improve our margins. We normally have a net profit of about 2.5% before tax, but if we go perhaps R100 000 over budget then around R10 000 of that would be clear profit because it is over budget."

Notwithstanding Hoult's explanations, suppliers are clearly rankled by the increasing rebate pressure — and becoming increasingly vocal as a result.
THOUSANDS of primary school children in Mitchell’s Plain go to school hungry — and many go without food for days at a time, school principals say.

Surveys by teachers and principals found the situation the same at almost all schools. One primary school principal estimated that three-quarters of his nearly 1 000 pupils “desperately need feeding”.

“Parents cannot pay the rent or clothe their children and they are struggling to feed them.”

Another said: “It’s a very serious problem indeed. We have asked better-off pupils and teachers to bring extra food to school and we hand it out to those who haven’t eaten.”

Unemployment

A third principal said a teacher who reprimanded children for not paying attention in class later found they had not had anything to eat the previous day, a Sunday.

The principals did not want to be named.

The chairman of community welfare organisation Plan Aid, Mr Joe Maart, said he knew many children came to school without breakfast or a meal the night before.

“With unemployment as it is, it is inevitable that some families will be suffering, but our children cannot learn on empty stomachs,” he said.

The city council has agreed to provide Plan Aid, which has members from five primary and two senior secondary schools, with premises for a soup kitchen.

Communities

A pharmaceutical company has agreed to equip the unit and the Red Cross is to administer the project.

Mr Maart said they were waiting for a fund-raising number for Plan Aid.

“But it’s not just about soup kitchens. We have to do something about the communities in which these children are growing up,” he said.

“We have ideas for home industries which would benefit the community. We want to make Mitchell’s Plain a wholesome environment for our children.”
Our pantry feeds many thousands...

Staff Reporter
THE Western Cape's chilly, wet winter sent thousands more people to already crowded aid centres and the demand on the Argus Food Campaign has increased by more than 70 percent.

"In May we distributed 27 tons of food to 7 500 families," said Cape Town City Council's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan. The council is co-ordinating the campaign.

"By August the demand had increased so much that we distributed 46.3 tons to 12 000 families," Dr Coogan said.

In all, 46 300 families received 153.4 tons of food distributed from 24 centres during winter.

"Many families said that had it not been for these parcels they would not have made it through."

Food will continue to be distributed at the winter rate of 46 tons a week for the foreseeable future, he said.

So far R347 643 has been collected for the campaign.

This includes R24 459 from the Checkers Challenge, which has a R50 000 target.

To pledge a contribution to the challenge, telephone 72 1093. You could win free groceries in a two-minute "trolley-dash" around Checkers in the Blue Route.

Contributions to the Argus Food Campaign can also be sent to PO Box 13990 Vlamberg 9016 or to Box 298, Cape Town 8000. Cheques should be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.
Mfesane project spreads its wings

By HENRI DU PLESSIS
Staff Reporter

MFESANE, an ecumenical Christian project among black people in the Eastern Cape, has spread a fledgling wing to the Western Cape this year and Khayelitsha has become the launching pad of their actions.

The main purpose of Mfesane is to spread the Word, not only by word, but especially by deed. Or, as a founder, the Rev Almero Cloete says, "there is no use in preaching to people if they are so hungry that they cannot feel or experience the love of God."

"We want to help people to help themselves," said the Rev Johan Els, manager of Mfesane in the Western Cape.

"So far we have mostly been investigating if there was space for us here and we have launched a number of pilot projects to test this.

Projects included are an educare centre, a sewing club and a senior citizens' club.

Envisaged are a school for the deaf, a proper old-age home and an industrial training centre where certain crafts would be taught.

The Zonzele sewing club has white and black members.

"As part of our attempt to initiate contact, we have invited white women who have certain sewing skills to become members and teach the black women. We also have a number of very capable black instructors," Mr. Els said.

Sewing classes

Mrs. Isabeau van Nierop of Oranjezicht gives classes every Wednesday morning.

"I started off with the idea of teaching the members patchwork, but I found some first needed to learn other basic skills," she said.

According to Mrs. van Nierop, her classes only started in May and already every member has already made at least one packet.

"They can sell what they make themselves or, if the work is up to standard, we'd like to arrange for it to be sold commercially," Mrs. van Nierop said.

The Bavumeleni Educare Centre, founded at the request of the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa, is being run in partnership with the Grassroots Education Trust who provide basic equipment and in-service training to staff and management.

Principal Mrs. Doris Lugalo is rightly proud of the fact that her charge is not merely a childcare centre.

"We have a full educational programme for our 80 pupils," she said.

The school is operated on a sponsorship basis. People can contribute R15 a month to sponsor a certain child.

Senior citizens

Mfesane Cape Project Development Worker Mr. Theo Zwenni keeps an eagle eye on the Noncoba Senior Citizens' Club members.

"Our senior citizens had nothing to do here and this club has given them an opportunity to feel useful again," he said.

"They pay fifty cents a day when they come here and we give them food and keep them busy.

Mfesane projects are run by local people. A management committee has been created for the educare centre, chaired by evangelist Mr. Z. Vun.

"We only enter an area when we are requested to do so by the people and we do not make decisions on their behalf," Mr. Els said.

"Project budgets are also openly presented to the management committee and members of the clubs and they have to come forward with solutions to money problems."

BUSY HANDS Men of the Noncoba Senior Citizens' Club doing macrame, above from left, Mr. J. Feni, Mr. A. Ramotodi, seated, Mr. Theo Zwenni and Mr. S. Xibi. Top Zonzele Sewing Club members show their work.
Karoon nomads: Peo on their way to nov

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Education Reporter

UNEMPLOYED rural nomads who roam the Karroo from town to town and camp with their families in meagre possessions laced on a donkey cart, searching for work, have become victims of hard financial hit for farmers.

These nomadic workers, a familiar sight on dusty Karroo farm roads and the national road,

They are former farm labourers who left the farms they had been working on for reasons of their own to start nomadic life.

At night they unlash the donkeys at temporary sites provided by some local authorities and turn to their own devices for protection against the elements.

Technically, the roving farmhands are supposed to spend 48 hours at these sites.

SAP can't store guns for public

PRETORIA — The South African Police do not have the facilities to store firearms for members of the public, says the SAP public relations division.

"Every year, at the start of the school holidays, members of the public approach police station commanders in increasing numbers and ask that their private firearms be kept in safe custody during their absence," said an SAP statement.

"Although the SAP would like to assist, facilities do not exist for the storage of these weapons.

"There are private firms, possibly also banks, which do have such facilities. Members of the public are asked to make alternative arrangements for the safekeeping of their weapons." — Sapa

ON THE MOVE AGAIN: This family gets ready to start a journey to another town and, hopefully, work.

SPARSE SHELTER: When night falls an unhitched donkey cart, covered with blanke is the only home this family of nomads has.
DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
L.A. Correspondent

INEMPLOYED rural nomads who roam the Karoo town to town and overnight sites which they call "outspanplaces" (outspots)

However, some of them have lost their mobility because they have been forced to sell the only possessions they have, their donkeys.

Today they have turned overnight sites near Beaufort West, Victoria West and Britstown into semi-permanent settlements. Some of them sleep out in the open.

Dr. Aubrey Redelinghuys, a University of the Western Cape academic, says in a research paper that problems in the agriculture sector led to the appearance of the nomads.

He researched the nomads in November 1986 and in March this year and interviewed 72 families.

He said organised agriculture should address this problem.

Unfair dismissals

He recommended that farm workers be given a minimum wage, the right to form a trade union, receive adequate housing and some protection against unfair dismissal.

Dr. Redelinghuys said "The appearance of this phenomenon entrenches the view that farm workers are the most unprotected labour source in one of the most protected economic sectors in South Africa."

He said that the future looks bleak for the nomads, especially the more mobile ones.

He said they often cried "God will have to help us."

Sickness like chronic bronchitis and diarrhoea were rife among the roammers.

Tuberculosis and crime were responsible for the majority of adult deaths in these communities.

He said these uneducated, though highly experienced workers, provided labour on Karoo farms.

Factors such as poor remuneration, long hours, no holidays, limited access to education and medical services, ill-health, old age, and poor relations with their employers normally drove labourers from Karoo farms.

WAITING IN HOPE: Unemployed, lost and hungry, this nomad waits for a passing farmer to give him work.

On the farms they lived in a "relatively-protected" environment, but their standard of living dropped sharply when they changed their lifestyle.

"In the process of wandering from place to place they have become marginal people, or as one community leader said, "people on their way to nowhere."

Dr. Redelinghuys said he found that nomads looking for work were moving away from the national road and concentrating on gravel roads, railway stations or locations on the fringes of Karoo towns where they hoped to catch the attention of farmers.

They took care to camp near a windmill, a water reservoir or near the shade.

Found begging

Dust kicked up by cars made their existence uncomfortable, but there was always a possibility that a car would run down a hare or buck, providing the nomads with a meal.

The nomads also raided dustbins or begged for food.

The basic diet consisted of bread, coffee, sugar and flour.

"No wonder that cases of scurvy have been recorded," Dr. Redelinghuys said.

At the time of the interviews only 24 percent of the nomads had consumed meat.

Drinking water was often obtained from a single tap at the overnight sites. These taps are broken most of the time.

Dr. Redelinghuys said cases were recorded where the nomads used water from pools along the road-side as drinking water.

Asked why they had become nomads, one replied: "I can't understand why farm labourers have helped to make the country rich, but now the whites are rejecting us."

Most married

Another said: "I am tired of this existence. My children and I may as well die. My husband prefers going to jail than to struggle to feed us."

Another said: "The farmer said I am too old and had to leave."

Forty-eight percent of the couples were married and 31 percent were living together, while 43 percent of the heads of families were old-age pensioners.

Dr. Redelinghuys wrote that the absence of adequate housing prevented the wandering labourers from fitting into settled communities.

They want to be close to hospitals, towns which offer employment, post offices where they can collect their pensions, and schools.

"People migrating to nowhere - a study of nomadic workers in the Karoo" by Dr. Aubrey Redelinghuys of the Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape, was completed earlier this year.
School feeding: 'Barely staving off the hunger pangs'

More than 13,000 primary school children in the Mitchell's Plain area go to school each day suffering from hunger pains. Many have had nothing to eat since the one "meal" they had the day before, provided by the Peninsula School Feeding Fund — a fund, itself fed only by public donation, now in dire need of contributions to keep those hungry mouths full. MAUREEN PITHEY reports.

Full, in fact, is overly ambitious. The little they are provided with keeps them barely tucking over. It's as much as the fund can give, and even that means stretching their resources to the limit.

But it staves off the urgent hunger pangs, fools the stomach into thinking it's been properly fed, and allows the mental faculties to function, if somewhat dully, for a short while. It makes no allowance for optimum growth, for building strong bodies and alert brains.

Monday is often the worst day of the week, for then these children may have spent almost the entire weekend without a proper meal, or even a snack. They arrive at school nutritionally spent — hungry, tired, with poor reflexes and memory not.

Red Cross Children's Hospital. It seems like madness not to supply children at risk with supplementary vitamins," says Mr Freeman. "Only R5 worth of supplementary vitamins a year each would keep many of these kids out of hospital. But the emphasis seems to be on curative medicine, rather than preventive."

A "guestimate" by Mr Freeman suggests that about 30 percent of the children fed by the scheme are "totally malnourished."

Mr Joe Maarten, chairman of the recently formed plain Aid, maintains that the solution goes deeper than simply trying to feed the children on a daily basis.

"There are thousands of families in the sub-economic areas whose incomes are simply too low for them to care for their children properly."
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The scenario is duplicated in the Atlantis area, with a similar number of primary school children being fed there daily.

A spokesman for the Department of National Health and Population Development said the minimum daily requirement for a child in the five-to-11 age group would be 60ml of milk, 2 portions of a protein dish (fish, meat, eggs, beans) and, according to their activity level, about four portions of starch (bread or cereals), four portions of fruit or vegetables and around three teaspoons of fat.

Less than that, over an extended period, will result in insufficient height and weight growth, lack of energy, lethargy and an inability to concentrate. Such children have difficulty at school and are much slower in their responses to a learning situation.

Mr Norman Freeman, of the Peninsula School Feeding Fund, says the problem of undernourished children has increased by 20 percent a year in the last three years.

"For some of these children, the cup of soup and slice of bread provided at the school is the nearest they get to a hot meal for days on end. For many, it's the only food of the day." It's never enough, and there's little chance of it getting any better.

"We're running seriously short of funds," Mr Freeman said. "Although we're committed to spending R1,259,000 this year, we're far short of our target."

Price rises also cause nightmares. "The recent bread increase has tacked on an extra R23,000 to our bill for this year," says Mr Freeman, "and we estimate that we will fall short by around R100,000 in funds."

It costs only an incredible R15 a year for this very basic feeding of a child in need. And free supplementary vitamins would improve their lot even more.

"It costs R96 to R100 a day to keep a child, suffering from serious malnutrition or kwashiorkor, in the Red Cross Children's Hospital. It seems like madness not to supply children at risk with supplementary vitamins," says Mr Freeman. "Only R5 worth of supplementary vitamins a year each would keep many of those kids out of hospital. But the emphasis seems to be on curative medicine, rather than preventive."

A "guestimate" by Mr Freeman suggests that about 30 percent of the children fed by the scheme are "totally malnourished."

Mr Joe Maari, chairman of the recently formed Plain Aid, maintains that the solution goes deeper than simply trying to feed the children on a daily basis.

"There are thousands of families in the sub-economic areas whose incomes are simply too low for them to care for their children properly. Often the husband and wife are out of work and by the time they've paid the rent, there's just not enough money left over for food."

"Some of these people are existing on a diet of bread and coffee."

Plain Aid has pledged to get to the root of the problem by trying to promote informal home industries to help supplement their income.

Destitute families.

"We've drawn up a list of unemployed people in the area," he said. "And found many are skilled people who have something to offer, something that will help themselves and the whole community."

" Qualified machinists, for instance, could make school shoes and other clothing at home which could be sold cheaper than through normal suppliers and bring in extra money for these destitute families."

"If they made only R50 a week, it would make an enormous difference to them."

"The biggest problem is finding the machinery for them to work on."

More help comes from other children. Pupils at Plumstead High School and Bergvlei Primary and High, for instance, bring extra sandwiches and fruit to school one day a week, which is then collected and delivered to primary schools in the Mitchell's Plain area. Some regularly hand over their pocket money, so less-privileged children won't go hungry.

The problem belongs to everyone in the Cape. And it's a sobering thought that for the price of a few drinks in the pub, a child could be assured of at least subsistence feeding for a year."

These children are part of our future—and part of our today. It's up to us to help them and to help their parents help themselves.

The contact address for Peninsula School Feeding is P.O. Box 4055, Cape Town.

Plate Aid, which is looking for help with industrial machines and finance can be contacted through Alan Martin at 334-2371.
70% living below poverty line in Transkei — survey

Medical Reporter

ALMOST 70 percent of families in rural areas of the Transkei are living below the poverty datum line, a shock survey has found.

An article by Dr T J Bembridge in the latest Medical Journal analysed a survey of 378 households in 49 villages.

He found that between 50 and 60 percent of respondents did not eat meat, milk, eggs or fish. Legumes were added to only 32 percent of meals and vegetables to 23 percent.

About a third of families had below minimum energy intake and most had a diet deficient in quality of protein and intake of certain minerals and vitamins.

The areas surveyed were producing considerably less than their subsistence requirements.

Dr Bembridge found that the major source of water supplies was dams, canals and streams. These were often mere pools in winter and subject to faecal contamination. No precautions were taken against any kind of pollution and even underground water stored in open reservoirs could easily be polluted.

Drinking water was often not boiled due to ignorance as well as to shortage of fuel. He found that there was little doubt that present water supplies posed a considerable health hazard. Per capita use of water was well below the hygiene norm of 20 to 50 litres a day.

He found that expenditure on food was five and a half times that of net farming income.

Sixty-nine percent of families appeared to be living below the poverty datum line set by the Institute of Planning Research in 1979 at R1 585 for a family of six in Umtata.

Although communal obligations cushioned the effect of poverty, at least 40 percent of rural households lived in a state of poverty.

Dr Bembridge concluded that the situation could only be satisfactorily remedied by agricultural and rural development, clean village water supplies, production of more vegetable and animal protein, fruit and vegetables, as well as adequate maize for the household.

It was clear that an improvement in diet and incomes was one of the most important means of improving general living conditions, he said.
Help needed to keep the poor fed

By BRUCE HEILBUTH

FOR 52 years, in good and bad times, the Service Dining Rooms at 82 Canterbury Street, on the edge of the old District Six, have provided hot lunches to Cape Town’s poor.

The fact that the price has been pegged at three cents for all those years – during which the cost of living has risen more than 1,000 percent – has been aptly described as “the miracle of Canterbury Street.”

But even miracles are subject to wheel-wobbles with the passage of time and the inexorable pressure of inflation. And the latest annual report shows that, for the first time in many years, expenditure has overtaken income and The Rooms, lifeblood of the poorest of the poor, is in the red.

Expenditure exceeded income by R33,280, mainly because income from bequests and trusts dropped dramatically from R44,000 to R19,000, and desperately-needed repairs to the crumbling building cost R20,137.

With food prices and running costs climbing steeply, the Service Dining Rooms have had to dip into their vital invested capital and appeal for help, by way of a circular, to the business community, or in fact, to anyone who has the ear – and the heart – to hear.

The Rooms enjoy no direct subsidy from the State and only a token direct grant from the City Council. They, and the pathetic thousands they feed throughout the year, are entirely dependent on the generosity of the Mother City. With unemployment high, people of all races have come to depend on the nourishing hot lunch for 3c or the bowl of soup and slice of bread for one cent. The Rooms provide every weekday.

They also serve hot soup and bread for a cent in the poorest township areas in the Cape Flats.

Without the lifetime, tens of thousands would undoubtedly have starved since their service started in 1938.

With the help of a number of magnificently loyal firms and individual friends, The Rooms have somehow defied the law of economic gravity. They do this by providing that life-sustaining cooked meal for 3c – approximately the cost of a slice of dry bread.

To produce the meal itself costs 25 times what the customer pays. And last year more than a quarter of a million of the city’s poor were served at the Canterbury Street headquarters.

It cost The Rooms R162,769 last year to keep rowing against the economic tide, reflecting an increase of 107 percent in six years. Yet their running costs are kept at rock bottom, with only a small paid staff and voluntary workers serving the meals.

Crises have come and been overcome down the embattled years. But now at last a red light begins to wink for one of Cape Town’s noblest institutions. Without aid the poor must suffer.
POVERTY — IT'S REAL. OWN IT.

SPECTRUM

The New York Times, October 1999
Weekend Argus Reporter

The Argus Food Campaign is a year old today — and if somebody baked a cake it would need 140,952 candles!

That's the number of free food parcels city health department officials have distributed to the city's poorest — and hungriest — families during the year.

Thanks to the generosity of Argus readers, an incredible R384,975 was raised in the first year.

A major cash contribution was R100,000 raised in the Checkers Challenge — R50,000 from the chain and its suppliers and R50,000 from customers.

The target was reached this week on the eve of the campaign's birthday.

Other big cash gifts included R50,000 from Mr Raymond Ackerman and the board of Pick'n Pay, R25,000 from Mobil Oil, R10,000 from the Seardel clothing company; R8,000 from City Council staff and R5,000 from Wooltru.

But the bulk of the fund has come from generous individuals, clubs, schools, institutions and small businesses.

The campaign was launched on October 17 last year with R5,000 from the Mayor's Relief Fund and R1,000 from The Argus, in response to a report by city medical officer of health Dr Reg Coogan.
Shocks facts on hunger in SA

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

WIDESPREAD destitution and "exceptionally high" rates of malnutrition are haunting rural black communities in South Africa, the first Operation Hunger field survey has found.

The survey concluded that the malnutrition rates in black rural children in South Africa were "far higher" than in comparable areas in other Southern African countries.

The pilot study, which was released this week, examined conditions in 28 rural villages in three regions of South Africa, including five homelands, between May 11 and July 23 this year.

The study warns that "both destitution and vulnerability will increase in future due to a declining job market and recession in key industrial centres" and emphasizes that there is an "urgent need" for substantial and sustained development assistance for what it calls this "vulnerable sector" and for increased relief to the destitute.

Researchers found that the overall rates of stunting or evidence of chronic malnutrition were "exceptionally high" in the three areas studied (Transvaal 48.5%, Eastern Cape 57.8%, Northern Cape 80.4%).

This is higher than Botswana (40.7%), Swaziland (30.8%), Zambia (34.8%) and Zimbabwe (13.9%).

The percentage of children in the South African sample having low weight-for-age readings (33.5%) was higher than in Mauritius (20.9%), Swaziland (8.7%) and Zambia (19.4%)

"Wasting rates", or evidence of current acute malnutrition, were also higher in South Africa than in the rural areas of Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Zambia.

Of the total population sampled, only 10.8% were found to be in a state of "relative wealth", defined as having three or more stable income sources together with agricultural and other assets.

The breakdown for the regions was Transvaal 9.7%, E Cape 14.6% and N Cape 3.8%

Far more prevalent was "severe poverty or destitution", defined as those who depend on occasional income or who have no visible income and few, if any, assets.

This category represents 21% of the total population (Transvaal 21.6%, E Cape 16.6% and N Cape 38.4%).

The study notes "A policy which ensures, over a long period of time, that people become wholly dependent on a cash income and have very limited access to land, and then removes people to remote land where they are effectively denied access to jobs and cash, is a recipe for disaster."

The authors conclude that the study "underlines the almost ineradicable poverty and destitution which follows when communities are removed to areas in which they cannot farm adequately or have even reasonable access to employment"
LOW POINT FOR INFLATION?

Hitting its lowest rate of increase since March 1985, the September inflation rate dropped to 15.5% from August's 16.3%. The consumer price index (CPI) for all income groups now stands at 236.7, a monthly increase of 1.3% compared to August's 1.4%.

The main reason for the fall is statistical, given that last September's increase was a steep 1.9%.

However, this was the last of 1986's large monthly price rises, so again for statistical reasons this month could see a reversal of the downward trend.

October 1986, for instance, saw a 1.1% rise, which is likely to be exceeded this October, thanks largely to a 10% rise in meat prices — which alone will add almost 1% to the inflation rate. Certain rail tariff increases and higher bread prices could add to renewed upward pressure.

Last November and December saw rises of 1.3% and 1% which will not be easy to beat this year. So inflation could well exceed 16% again by year-end.

Again, food is the major contributor to the monthly jump. The 13.4% vegetable price increase contributed 0.5% towards the 1.3% overall rise. Tomatoes (49.1%), potatoes (19.5%), and onions (16.7%) were the main causes. Milk, milk products and eggs; fruit; clothing; housing; and personal care, all contributed 0.1% to the overall increase and furniture 0.2%

Overall, food rose 2.2% over September, which means it has risen by 22.8% over the past year with the food only index hitting 286.9

More disturbingly, the rising cost of food shows little sign of abating. Central Statistical Service notes that this 2.2% monthly rate of increase in food is the highest since April and the third time this year that it has exceeded 2%.

![Spiral slowdown: Consumer prices](chart)

Monthly change seasonally adjusted

SA in "vicious circle of fertility and poverty"

The South African population was already caught in the "vicious circle" of high fertility and abject poverty, the Deputy-Minister of Population Development, Mr. Luwellyn Landers, said yesterday.

Speaking at the biennial congress of the Institute of Housing for Southern Africa in Cape Town, Mr. Landers said the task of improving the quality of life of a fast-growing population like SA was as complex as repairing an airplane in flight.

A recent University of Pretoria study had shown that if a population was growing at 2.4% a year, at least 10% of the GNP had to be spent on the provision of infrastructure such as schools and factories "just to prevent the situation from getting worse."

SA had grown at an annual rate of 2.3% between 1980 and 1985, and if this pattern was maintained the population would jump from 28 million to 47 million in the next 14 years.

"It is absolutely imperative that population growth does not outstrip the potential growth of supporting systems like educational and health services, housing and job creation, as well as depleting our natural resources like water."

"If this happens, the quality of life of all South Africans will deteriorate rapidly with consequences too ghastly to contemplate," he said.

Mr. Landers said that overcrowded housing in SA had a negative impact on the infant mortality rate but "experience has shown that overcrowding certainly has an impact on the total fertility and teenage pregnancy."
Brave woman deals with the heartache of Mitchell’s Plain

By LINDA GALLOWAY
Mitchell’s Plain Bureau

EVERY night in Mitchell’s Plain residents open their doors to children who plead “Mommy says you have got something she can put in the pot?”

There are many who have nothing to give.

Most nights someone knocks on the door of Ms Shahieda Issel, co-ordinator of the Mitchell’s Plain Advice Office, a non-political community organisation which attempts to help people to protect their rights.

“I always take their names and address and see if I can follow it up,” she said.

Advice office workers often have to deal with grown men who cry because they have been out of work for six months, cannot pay the rent and cannot provide food for their families.

“A man who has been unemployed for six months loses his dignity and his pride,” said Ms Issel.

“He becomes depressed and it affects the whole family. He takes his frustrations out on his wife.”

Wife battering is a common problem. Advice office staff counsel the couples, but many cases there is nothing they can do.

People take all kinds of problems to the office — at one stage three staff were seeing 500 people a month.

Unemployment is the most common.

Ms Issel calculates that 60 percent of the workforce of Mitchell’s Plain are unemployed and 50 percent of breadwinners are out of work.

“We see about 10 eviction cases a week — last week it was 15,” she said.

These and the night to 10 cases of water and electricity disconnections a week are indications of the economic circumstances in which many in Mitchell’s Plain live.

“Another heartbreaking problem is the mother who comes in and says there is no food in the house.”

Advice office workers man a soup kitchen and office in a mobile lorry once a week. People buy cups of soup at 5c each to feed entire households.

Others come for legal advice when they fail to get their hire-purchase payments on agreements signed while they were still employed and a breadwinner is threatened with prison or repossession.

“There is no council for the water and electricity and they are evicted.”

The advice office dealt with a case last year of two children, one six and one 16 months, dying of malnutrition. Both parents had been unemployed for six months.

“Sometimes, to avoid being evicted, people go to the council and make arrangements to pay their rent arrears, knowing they can’t pay,” Ms Issel said.

All the office can do in these cases is contact the housing authority and ask for leniency.

Children

Most of all, it is the children who suffer.

“They cannot learn or empty stomachs and they are embarrassed to tell their teachers there is no food at home.”

Rape, divorce, teenage pregnancies and petty thieving are all problems born of the socio-economic conditions of the sprawling town.

“The crimes are those of desperation, not criminal deviance, and I think often the crimes are committed because imprisonment guarantees food and a warm place to sleep. State handouts and food parcels are not the answer,” Ms Issel maintains.

“The State has got to do something, on a large scale, to avoid disaster.”

The advice office is in the Mitchell’s Plain Town Centre, at Shopp 15, Plain Building, Allegro Lane 02 2707.
Keeping the wolf away

HOW does a woman handle the challenge of being an unemployed breadwinner while her prospects of getting a job get bleaker by the day? With the high rate of unemployment and overbearing poverty, many find an easy way out through theft, begging and petty crimes.

In Kliptown, outside Soweto, a group of women have got together to fight off the proverbial wolf from the door by staging a flea market. They sell second-hand clothes and edibles like fruits and vegetables. Yet, their way of fighting for survival is the most difficult one.

These women, most of whom have lost their jobs because of retrenchments, or are widowed or divorced, have had to make a living in the open. Every day they display their garments in the open void in the hope of attracting buyers.

"It is almost nine years now since I started selling goods here. When my husband deserted me, I was without a job and faced with six mouths to feed. I could not just sit back and watch my kids starve. "Somehow I have managed, although some days I have to go back home without having made a cent," said Sarah Baloyi, mother of two boys.

It is a long and strenuous process for these women who exchange crafts like pot plants and baskets for clothes. Sometimes they travel as far as Cape Town, Bloemfontein, as well as to the suburbs around Johannesburg. The way they have endured their hardships is remarkable and it has not dawned on them that they are in a competitive business.

They all sell the same kind of wares, but are always ready to share the ground where they display their goods. "This is a very slow and costly business. Some people do not want to buy second-hand clothes. "The weather is also not kind to us. While we rejoice when there is no rain, we still have to contend with too much sun and dust - which usually damage the clothes," lamented Elizabeth Mashimbye, mother of six, whose husband is unemployed.

While they have tried to earn a living in a decent way, believing it would not come into conflict with the law, from time to time police pay them visits to check on their activities.

Elizabeth Mashimbye said that most of them had hawkers' licenses but they had been told they were not valid. "This is an honest business. It does nobody harm. It is not like gambling. While we are trying to earn a living, we're also helping the community. Things are expensive nowadays and nobody can afford to buy new clothes from the shops," added Mashimbye.
POVERTY - GENERAL

1988
Grinding poverty of Botshabelo

Near the entrance to the industrial park with its rows of bright, metal-roofed factories a government billboard proclaims: Together We'll Build a Brighter Future.

The British Union Jack flies alongside the flags of Taiwan, Israel and South Africa, signalling investment by these nations in the industrial area outside this township of about 300,000 people in the windswept, dusty flats of the Orange Free State.

But the factories, the slogans and the investment have done little to alleviate the grinding poverty of the residents of Botshabelo, South Africa's second biggest and fastest growing black township.

Pretoria, implementing its apartheid policies, set up Botshabelo eight years ago when it bought the former farm of Overwacht (which means Unexpected) to resettle "surplus" blacks not permitted to live in white-designated South Africa.

Many of the residents — victims of the government's policy of forced removals — were moved from homes in the Orange Free State, Southern Transvaal and the Western Cape, separated from their livestock and dumped on tiny plots of barren land.

Since then, Pretoria has poured millions of rand into Botshabelo, mainly in generous allowances to foreign industrialists setting up business in the area.

About 50 companies, mostly from Taiwan, Israel and Hong Kong, have opened factories in Botshabelo. A few are South African, one Italian and two are British textile firms.

"There are some factories here that pay R60 a month," said Isaac Koko, 21, a high-school dropout who has been scouring Botshabelo for 18 months looking for work.

"I don't think they (the industrialists) are doing the right thing for the people," added MacDonald Makhos, Koko's daily companion in the search for work.

"If they don't pay enough, they should close their factories and go," he added. Unemployment in Botshabelo is unofficially estimated at 80 per cent.

Officials urge residents to build shacks of corrugated iron but many still live in tents, refusing to accept their new domicile and using toilets planted on top of holes in the ground.

Last month the government dissolved Botshabelo and overrode residents' protests by declaring it part of Qwa Qwa, the poorest of 10 tribal homelands, which is about 200 km away.

There are few schools, no running water and a bucket system for sewage. Some residents compete for jobs in the Orange Free State gold mines 100 km away.

Church and community workers say the apartheid ideology has overwhelmed economic logic in Botshabelo.

"On a scale of human misery, these people are among the most vulnerable in the country," said Laureen Platzy, a social worker from the National Committee Against Removals.

To try and solve the problem, Pretoria subsidises residents to get jobs in Botshabelo with lucrative incentives. The government pays for the construction of the factories, subsidises rents for 10 years, grants low-interest loans and provides a 20 per cent rebate on monthly wages up to a maximum of R100 for seven years.

As a further sweetener, Pretoria also pays a 40 per cent subsidy on rail transport, gives training grants of 125 per cent and 40 per cent housing subsidies for white managers living in Bloemfontein 50 km away.

Labour researchers charge that some of the wage subsidies are pocketed by profiteering factory owners.

Factory workers say there are no trade unions to shield them from exploitation and a vast pool of unemployed in the shantytown eager to replace them if they are fired.

Anna Matladi, a 41-year-old widow with six children, is one of 3,000 women who dig holes for the latrines and clean away plastic buckets of night soil three times a week. She works for the town council and earns R200 a month.

"I have no choice," she said as she emptied a bucket of sewage onto a truck. "But I am better off in this job. If I worked in the factories I would earn R140." — Sapa-RNS
Anonymous letter a crude forgery, says race institute

JOHANNESBURG — A four-and-a-half page anonymous letter sent to newspaper editors on the letterhead of the South African Institute of Race Relations is a crude forgery, the institute’s executive director, Mr John Kane-Berman, said today.

The letter appears on a “confidential briefing” letterhead used by the institute for specialist reports written for members.

The anonymous author, who signs himself “disgusted”, claims to be an employee of the institute involved in “sensitive” issues, including Operation Hunger.

The writer further claims to have access to confidential papers regarding Operation Hunger projects.

Mr Kane-Berman said, “The allegations in the letter are pure nonsense. Operation Hunger ceased to be an institute project on October 1 1984. All the alleged ‘backdoor’ activities of Operation Hunger supposedly run at the institute’s offices are claimed by the anonymous author to have occurred after this date.”

Mr Kane-Berman said the letter was a mischievous forgery and the institute would lay a complaint with the police. — Sapa
JOHANNESBURG — The South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) is to lay a complaint with the South African Police over an anonymous letter on an SAIRR letterhead, in which the writer alleges Operation Hunger (OH) has been supporting communist causes.

The SAIRR director, Mr John Kane-Berman, said the letter sent to various newspaper editors was a mischievous forgery.

The anonymous author, who signed himself or herself “Disgusted”, claimed to be an SAIRR employee, with access to confidential documentation regarding non-profit organizations run at the institute’s office and said the letter was “pure nonsense.” Mr Kane-Berman said.

“OH ceased to be an institute project in October, 1984. All the alleged ‘back-door’ activities of OH, supposedly run at the institute’s office, are claimed to have occurred after this date.”

The anonymous writer accused OH of promoting the aims of the ANC “in their move to destabilize the economy” by feeding workers on strike. He/she named employees of three parastatal, or former parastatal corporations as recipients of this aid.

OH’s director, Mrs Ina Perlman, said the organization did not feed strikers as claimed. She said OH was concerned with effects, not causes.

— DDC
By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

You can almost feel the depressed spirit of Sekhukhuneland, the forgotten corner of Lebowa, where reports of a national economic upswing ring hollow to the hungry and unemployed.

In this destitute homeland region:
- Many children are driven to school by hunger — 80,000 primary school children are being fed daily by Operation Hunger.
- About three quarters of the men are thought to be unemployed.
- In many families, the only income earners are the elderly, who receive state pensions.
- Many thousands of eligible people are without pensions because the Lebowa government has not had funds for these pens since 1984.
- With no industry, and no nearby towns to provide jobs, the impoverished people of Sekhukhuneland face a bleak future.

The Lebowa House of Representatives MP for the Schoonoord area, Mr. Joe Seopela, said hunger was a part of everyday life for many people in his area. "And where there is hunger, there is death."

The infant mortality rate is known to be shockingly high in Sekhukhuneland, but The Star was unable to get official figures.

Mr. Seopela said, "Without the assistance of Operation Hunger at our clinics and schools, we would be in a crisis."

Also part of everyday life is unemployment — many deserted Sekhukhuneland men have got used to being out of work, and some have given up hope of ever being employed again.

There is no work to be had in the area, and no money — often no energy — to travel to urban areas in search of employment.

Despite the so-called improvement in South Africa's economy, unemployment is increasing, not lessening," said Mr. Seopela.

LABOUR NEEDS

According to him, another 6000 retrenched men have returned to Sekhukhuneland in the past year from the industries on the Reef and the mines.

And many more are expected. Large numbers of the region's men have traditionally worked at the Witbank coalfields.

However, the coal industry is in a downward spiral and already an estimated 3000 miners have been paid off. A recent report said one in ten coal plant workers would lose his job before the end of the year.

A long-deserted Teba (Chamber of Mines recruiting organisation) office near Schoonoord is mute testimony to current mining labour needs.

Anglo American's Sekhukhuneland colliery recruiting office is still open, but no unskilled men have been taken on there since August.

A new platinum mine being developed just outside Lebowa in the Steelport area has crowds of workers waiting at its gates, almost round the clock.

Leading local businessman, Mr. Isaac Sekhukhune, says that until recently white farmers used to drive into the homeland in large trucks to recruit temporary labourers. Although they paid appallingly low wages, at least it was work for large numbers.

Those days are gone, says Mr. Sekhukhune. 'He can't remember when he last saw anyone recruiting.'

Mr. Sekhukhune said many local shops had closed, and those left had almost no stock.

He himself has closed his once-thriving building supplies business because of lack of demand.

As executive member of the Sekhukhuneland Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sekhukhune estimated that trade in the area had dropped by 65 percent in the past two years.

WIDE MISHERRY

"With so many people out of work, there is just no money around anymore," he said.

It is easy to be misled about the true extent of the misery. The smiling, welcoming faces of children at Sekhukhuneland schools mask hunger and despair.

However, as Mr. Sekhukhune put it, "If these children were to sing for you, their sad voices would surely tell the tale."

A headmaster at one of the region's most successful schools, Semashego Higher Primary, said a recent check of his register showed that three-quarters of his 800 pupils came from homes where no one worked.

According to Mr. Seopela, many Sekhukhuneland children do not attend school at all because there is no money for fees or uniforms.

For those who are lucky enough to get to primary school, there are not only lessons to look forward to, but a cup of Operation Hunger soup.

Apart from school feeding schemes, Operation Hunger is providing family feeding — mealie meal and soup — for 7000 people in the region.

The answer to all this hopelessness, says Mr. Seopela, is the creation of industries and factories in the area.

DISASTER

"Something has to be done because the situation is getting worse. We have had little rain since Christmas, and people have not been able to plough.

"Sekhukhuneland is facing disaster."

Hungry for food as well as education, these two pupils mirror the plight of Sekhukhuneland's 80,000 children fed by Operation Hunger.
Mr Philemon Mashegoane, father of seven children, passes a long, empty day under a tree.
He has been unemployed since 1982.
Red Cross to tour Border

Daily Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — A prominent figure in the international Red Cross Society will tour the poverty-stricken rural areas of the Border region next week as a guest of the local branch of the organisation.

The head of the African desk of the British Red Cross Society, Mr Oscar Davis, will report to his government on the funding of aid programmes in South Africa.

He is scheduled to spend three days inspecting existing Red Cross schemes in the area, as well as meeting community leaders and voluntary workers.

The regional director of the Border Red Cross Society, Mr Algy Johnson, said Mr Davis would be introduced to groups of people "living in abject poverty," and shown examples of what had been done to alleviate their plight.

He said more than 220,000 was needed to fund 11 projects that had been started in the Border region, but would not survive without financial assistance.

"On Thursday we will visit the Duncan Village community centre, which is under construction at the moment using funds provided through the British Red Cross Society, and later the Needs Camp on the Mount Coke road, where Mr Davis will meet the people who are staying there."

Mr Johnson said the group would tour the Mooiplaas and Kwelera districts over the following two days, and an "in-daba" would be held so that Mr Davis could hear the grievances of the people.
Op Hunger probes bogus fund-raisers

Operation Hunger has appointed community development workers to investigate reports that bogus collectors are going around Soweto purportedly raising funds for the organisation.

"We regard this matter in a serious light and are very grateful to township residents for reporting it to us. Apparently the bogus collectors were using a letter and not Operation Hunger's letterhead with a fund-raising number on it," said an Operation Hunger spokesman.

Residents reported that there were bogus collectors in Kumalo Street, Orlando West last Thursday and Friday.

Members of the public were asked to be careful when making donations.

Any collector from Operation Hunger must possess an Operation Hunger tin and a fund-raising certificate issued by Operation Hunger."
A crime
against
humanity

Political Staff

THE Group Areas Act was a crime against humanity but National Party MPs had not even defended it during this week's No-Confidence Debate. Mr Jan van Gend, the PFP MP for Groote Schuur, said yesterday.

"What is remarkable during this debate is that the National Party has deliberately chosen not to respond to our very specific citation of the crimes they have committed over maintaining white domination.

"If anyone tells me the Group Areas Act is not a crime, he must explain it to me," Mr Van Gend said.

Challenged on a point of order, he explained that he was not talking about criminal offences but crimes against humanity.

Average South Africans were today poorer, unhappier, less secure and were certainly more hated by the rest of the world as a result of 40 years of Nationalist Party rule.

The NP had promoted white privilege at the expense of other groups.

"Human nature being what it is the majority of white voters took the short term view of supporting the party that offered them the largest slice of the cake."
Boost for Operation Hunger

By HAPPY ZONDI

ONE of South Africa's youngest food companies, Fedfood, recently donated about 70 tons of food worth more than R50 000 to Operation Hunger.

This is the third successive year the company has donated such a large amount of its products to Operation Hunger.

The feeding organisation fears the Natal floods could add 150 000 people to its feeding list.

The co-ordinator of the group's Business' Action Committee, Ted Ollee, said Fedfood had contributed immeasurably to Operation Hunger's feeding scheme.

Managing Director of Fedfood, JC du Toit, said the company would, through its expertise, endeavour to assist in fighting starvation in Southern Africa.

The broad smiles of Precious Siphiwe (left) and Innocentia Gamelele reflect their delight as Fedfood's Willie Mayeza hands over a sample of his company's large donation of food to Operation Hunger.
SOUP'S UP! ... Feeding time at the Vukakanye Creche at Mbekweni. Mrs Emily Cwati (centre) ladles out the soup to eager, young hands while Mrs Roselle Frasca, Operation Hunger's regional director, brings in the bread. Mrs Nellie Johnsson is in the background on the right

Starving among the vineyards

By DIANE CASSERE

IN the middle of the lush Paarl Valley and surrounded by vineyards and affluence is a township where children are starving and many have had kwashiorkor.

This is Mbekweni, adjoining the historic, pretty town where the houses are painted gleaming white, the "Pearl" mountain silhouette after a winter rain and a towering monument has been raised to a language.

Of Mbekweni, the regional director of Operation Hunger for the Western Cape, Mrs Roselle Frasca, says "It is the worst township situation I have seen in terms of the children"

Reduced to tears

When she went there for the first time last year with her assistant, Mr Stéphane Naude, they were both virtually reduced to tears. The children had sores, stick legs, deformed limbs, runny noses, all the symptoms of undernourishment and underdevelopment.

When a press party visited there yesterday, the children still looked thin and bedraggled, but they were no longer seriously undernourished and are now receiving their minimum quota of protein to enable them to at least try to reach their maximum potential as adults.

The plight of the people of Mbekweni was recognized in 1982 by a German woman, Mrs Katze Schneider, who had settled with her husband in Paarl.

Without the support or assistance of anyone, she went into Mbekweni and met an equally remarkable woman there, Mrs Nellie Johnsson, a cross between a children's Florence Nightingale and the Red Cross.

Both women are members of the Methodist Church and have a strong faith and conviction in what they are doing for the children. Katze found what food donations and help she could (many contributions coming from her native Germany) and Nellie established the creche and distributed the food.

Operation Hunger responds to community request and does not go into an area unless invited. As Roselle says: "We are reversing out of the old hand-out system and teaching people self-help." Only the soup is provided, and in other parts of the country where conditions are even worse, "pap" is then used up by the community to prepare and distribute the food.

Last year, Katze and Nellie appealed to Operation Hunger and feeding schemes were set up at the creche and among the mothers. Because the organization now provides the life-giving barley and soya soup (made specially for Operation Hunger), Katze is able to — literally — put jam on the children's bread.

Weaving workshop

The embryo of a self-help scheme for the women, a weaving workshop under the auspices of the pastor of the Lutheran Church, Pastor M. Lohde, has been established. When the pastor returns to Germany in a year or so, the ideal will be for the project to move into Mbekweni, and Operation Hunger will help find a market for their crafts.

Operation Hunger feeds 1,000-2,000 people daily at a cost of about $5 each. When the public sees the "glitz" and the broo-haa of its Goldrush Competition, very little is understood about where the millions of rands raised by "giving away" R1 million goes.

In the Western Cape, an apparently affluent area, 30,000 people are receiving soup daily. Operation Hunger needs to raise R23 million this year to meet its obligations. R10 million of which should come from the Goldrush competitions. Without that money, townships like Mbekweni would sink back into despair and total starvation.

IT'S HERE! ... When the mothers responsible for the cooking bring out the bucket of Operation Hunger soup, word spreads fast and the kids come from everywhere with their mugs and cups, or tins and yoghurt containers.
No-hope township

Where the battle to feed the children is being fought

By REHANA ROSSOUW, Staff Reporter

"TOWNSHIP of no hope" is how the workers of Operation Hunger describe Mbekweni township near Paarl, where malnutrition is rife and unemployment endemic.

Mrs Roselle Frasca, regional director of Operation Hunger, said: "Mbekweni is one of the worst areas in the Western Cape as far as the condition of children is concerned.

"There is virtually no work in the area and what there is is mostly seasonal and generally pays atrocious wages.

"I've worked in townships throughout the Western Cape and have never seen poverty as bad as it is here."

Operation Hunger started supporting feeding schemes in Mbekweni in August 1987, after an appeal from a Methodist church worker, Mrs Katie Schneider, who had been running soup kitchens there since 1982.

"The first time I saw Mbekweni I realised it was a township in extreme need," said Mrs Schneider.

"I met a wonderful woman, Mrs Nelie Johnson, who supervised a creche in the area. One day she said they needed a soup kitchen and within a few days we had one operating.

"We managed to get money from the church and vegetables and bread from shopkeepers.

"Initially the soup kitchen was meant only for the children, but with spiralling unemployment, everybody started coming."

"Soup kombi"

Mrs Schneider bought soup from the Peninsula School Feeding Association but when the price rose to R40 a bag, she approached Operation Hunger.

Since then, Operation Hunger has been supplying large quantities of soup powder every week.

Mrs Schneider uses her blue kombi to deliver the soup and bread. It has been nicknamed the "soup kombi" by the township children.

The first stop for the morning is Mrs Johnson's Vukukanye Creche, where soup and bread are unloaded. Mrs Johnson feeds more than 100 children daily.

She said: "The numbers vary every day. Sometimes we only have 80 children and sometimes as many as 140. The mothers know the children get fed here, so they keep sending them."

Only 40 of the parents can afford to pay the creche fees of R2.50 a week. The rest attend free of charge.

Mrs Johnson said: "If it wasn't for Operation Hunger and their soup, we would have had to close down long ago. The fees were R5 a week before we got the soup from them."

The kombi moved to a section of the township named Silvertown - iron shacks which gleam in the midday sun.

A group of mothers in Silvertown started a soup kitchen which operates three times a week.

The kombi turned into the middle of Silvertown and hundreds of children suddenly emerged from the dismal shacks and sprinted towards the vehicle waving enamel cups in the air.

Mrs Schneider said: "Rain or shine the children come. They know when they see the kombi that they'll soon get soup."

Mrs Frasca said: "The political situation in Mbekweni complicates our work. There is strong Azapo and United Democratic Front support in the township with the majority of the residents caught in the middle."

FEEDING THE POOR: Children at the Vukukanye creche in Mbekweni gather around the soup bucket while Mrs Emily Cwati ladies Mrs Roselle Frasca, centre, regional director of Operation Hunger, is determined to eradicate malnutrition in the township.

EAGER HELPERS: Youngsters stagger under the load of 25kg bags of soup powder.

DAILY BREAD: Children line up patiently.

SOUP'S UP: Toddlers from Silvertown, Mbekweni, race along the street to be first in line for the soup. Operation Hunger started supporting feeding schemes in Mbekweni in August 1987."
Grassroots

"If it is a case of us trying to do our work in spite of it all:

"We are trying to persuade people that the need of the children overrides the political problems."

Operation Hunger works within existing grass-roots structures. Workers wait until they are invited into an area before assessing the problem and ascertaining whether they can help.

Mrs Frasca said Operation Hunger's work in Paarl did not consist only of feeding children.

"We have been a ray of light in an area of no hope. The mothers running the soup kitchen have gained stature in the community. They have learnt not to relate everything to money or handouts.

"What they are doing is for the good of the children, a very difficult concept for them to grasp when all their lives they have had to struggle for money."

Operation Hunger is plagued with financial problems. The organisation is committed to feeding more than one million people daily, at a cost of six cents a child to provide minimum nutritional requirements.

"This year we will need R22 million if we intend to keep up with the work we do. The Gold Rush is our major fundraiser, with the last two raising a total of R3 million," said Mrs Frasca.
A Place of Poverty Survived

The Right for Survived

by Eriana Rosnow

...and Suffering...
Between the two major political forces — supporters of the UDF and of Azapo.

**Necklace murders**

Official police unrest statistics recount several necklace murders in the township since 1985, when retaliatory attacks occurred between the warring groups. Several houses were petrol bombed and hundreds of residents were detained.

Today, a lone Casspir stands guard at the entrance of the township where the tarred road becomes a gravel dustbowl.

The first few houses in the township are reasonably attractive, with a few upgraded with extra rooms.

Further in, the attractiveness wanes. Dirty children play in the streets, many of them naked.

Mothers huddle round the taps, washing clothing or collecting water in buckets to carry home.

The original single-sex quarters these cramped quarters for 15 years.”

Residents of Mbekweni have refused to pay rent for more than two years.

“There are some who pay rent, but the majority don’t,” said Mr Moeshoeshoe. “We feel we can’t pay the Administration for living in houses which are only slightly better than dog kennels.”

Mr Moeshoeshoe said most of the men worked on vineyards during grape harvesting.

“Every morning more than 20 lorries from nearby farms park on the road to pick up casual workers. Sometimes more than 300 men are waiting, but the farmers only need 50 to work on that day.”

“The men are paid between R6 and R12 a week.”

On the border of the township, on the way out, stands an advertising board erected by a construction company with the legend “Build your dream home in Mbekweni.”
Focus on food and famine

Leading protagonists of the international controversy over agricultural surpluses and food shortages, will attend a pioneering World Food Conference in Brussels in April.

The two-day conference is a private initiative of the European Parliament president, Lord Plumb. It will be the first attempt at high level to address the man in the streets' unanswered question how can there be, at the same time, food mountains in Europe and America and famines in Africa?

The aim is to produce a communiqué which will offer practical ideas on curbing unwanted food surpluses in the northern hemisphere and fostering increased agricultural output in the Third World. The 150 invited delegates will also examine the link between the two how to prevent food surpluses in the developed world from being dumped in international and Third World markets, so discouraging local producers.

In an interview, Lord Plumb stressed that his conference would not be a negotiating session. The idea was to enable senior politicians and officials from international organisations to examine the agricultural and food crises away from the pressure of the negotiating table. He hoped the communiqué would offer a "clear lead" to governments on how the twin crises could be resolved.

The Brussels meeting will also formally announce the creation of a "world food policy unit" of about 30 experts from the Third World and Western and Eastern blocs, to continue the work of the conference.

Lord Plumb, former president of Britain's National Farmers' Union, said he had organised the meeting because "I was growing increasingly frustrated with public criticisms of European farm policy and our response to food shortages."

"I suppose I got the idea when Bob Geldof came to Strasbourg, pointed at the members, and at me in particular, and said, 'Is that all that you politicians can do — talk?'" — Independent News Service
Food tax to return in form of VAT

FOOD would be fully taxed again when the new invoice-based Value Added Tax system was implemented, the Director General of the Department of Finance, Dr Chris Stals, confirmed yesterday.

Speaking at a press briefing on the Margo Commission recommendations that have been accepted by the government, Dr Stals said the re-introduction of tax on food was expected to increase the tax base by "up to R17 or R18 billion".

However, the government accepted the condition that low-income earners should be compensated, and had commissioned the Bureau for Market Research to report on the implications of subsidisation within the next four months.

He ruled out a system of food stamps because of the huge administrative burden and said although the government's bread subsidy system was one of the most effective, the problem was that it benefited everybody, and not specifically those with low incomes. — Sapa
Hungry line up for food

Soup relief for Cathcart’s poor

by DAVE MARRS

EAST LONDON — More than 850 residents of the Cathcart township were fed on the first day of a soup kitchen sponsored by Operation Hunger this week.

The Operation Hunger regional director, Mrs Linda Murray, said the Cathcart Residents Association (Cara) had approached her to provide soup as a result of the high level of unemployment in the area.

She said she had been “appalled to see the state of some of the children due to malnutrition”.

“I just hope that the soup that is being provided will make a difference. Some of the children were showing typical symptoms of malnourishment, including reddish-coloured and thinning hair.”

A Cara spokesman, Mr Kenneth Sigidi, said although many of the 10,000 residents of the poorly-serviced township were qualified in a profession, there were no jobs available in Cathcart and people were desperately poor.

Old and disabled people had no source of income and were forced to wear tattered clothing and borrow blankets to keep warm at night.

“Only 300 people living in Cathcart have work, while experienced teachers, nurses and mechanics are unemployed,” he said.

Many of them had been waiting for over a year for their unemployment insurance cards in order to receive compensation, while others had given up in despair.

Mr Sigidi added that residents had requested that Operation Hunger introduce its self-help schemes and provide seed for home gardens.

The schemes include beadwork, knitting, brick making, fence making and sewing, and products are sold to provide a limited income.

Mrs Murray said her organisation hoped to work closely with the Cathcart community, as well as continuing its feeding schemes in Cathcart schools, where more than 1,000 children were fed daily.

Mr Sigidi appealed to businesses and authorities in Cathcart to make available any covered premises that could be used in the self-help schemes.

Allegations of indirect pressure being applied on Cathcart’s “Old Township” residents to move to the new Katikati village further out of town, have been renewed after several families, whose homes were damaged during recent heavy rains, were housed in tents by the local authority.

Residents say they were promised homes in the new township if they left their leaking mud houses, but have not had any response from the town committee to requests for new housing.

A spokesman for the Katikati town committee could not be contacted for comment yesterday, although the committee has consistently denied that residents are being forced to move.

The Supreme Court in Grahamstown recently ordered the Katikati town committee to re-erect the home of an elderly woman who was left homeless when her house was demolished.

The order came after an urgent application, brought by Mrs Dance Nomakula Pupa against the committee, was upheld by the judge.

Other residents have accused the town committee of withdrawing virtually all services to the old township and preventing any further development there, in an attempt to force people to move without having to evict them.

They say despite the superficial attraction of Katikati, there are good reasons why people do not wish to move.

These include the close and supportive spirit within the old community that would be destroyed if they had to move, the price of houses in Katikati being higher than they can afford, the distance of the new township from the commercial centre and the lack of churches or other facilities in the new town.

Mr Sigidi said Cara did not bar the way of those residents who wanted to go to the new township, but was against people being “forced to destroy what they built years ago and having to start afresh at a cost they cannot afford.”
It's God's will I work in SA, says Mother Teresa

NEWS

The Star Saturday April 2 1988
R809-a-month ‘living wage’ deduced after survey

UNION demands for a “living wage” aren’t going to disappear simply because the Government has its own ideas about how the economy should be restructured and is urging pay restraints.

But the question of just what is a living wage is one with profound economic and moral dimensions. It’s also riddled with variables, not the least of which is that perceptions of a good wage depend a lot on how much a worker is getting paid at present.

For someone earning R200 a month, a wage of R600 sounds like something worthwhile. For another earning R50 it doesn’t sound so wonderful, but R900 wouldn’t sound altogether unattainable, while for the first worker it would seem like the promised land—something to dream about, but hardly worth contemplating seriously.

Given these differing perceptions, it’s little wonder that there is some floundering round the “living wage” concept when it comes to negotiations.

But, with all the debate, one industrial relations consultancy has taken the bull firmly by the horns and put a figure of R809 a month to it.

“This,” says Steuart Pennington, a partner in IR Information Surveys, “is what’s needed to support a modestly low standard of living for a black family of five.”

The estimate is based on a recent survey of township living conditions undertaken by the consultancy in 1987 and published in South African Township Manual.

It allows for food, cleaning materials, personal hygiene, fuel, medical expenses, clothes, rent, schooling, transport, hire purchase instalments and discretionary expenditure.

According to Pennington, much of the confusion attendant upon wage negotiations happens because many employers have no real idea (as opposed to far-fetched misconceptions) of what conditions are like in the areas where their employees live.

And, lacking this, few are able to make informed decisions about their employees' circumstances and find themselves at a disadvantage at the bargaining table.

He stresses that “while the survey arrives at a suggested wage level of R809, it in no way attempts to moralise and tell employers what they should pay. It merely sets out what is required to sustain a modestly low level standard of living.”

Importantly, though, it does make allowance for discretionary expenditure. He says this benefits society as a whole because disposable income enables people to participate in improving their standard of living.

It also benefits employers.

“Many who are paying more than R800 a month are experiencing greater productivity, less absenteeism, greater commitment to company objectives and greater co-operation when overtime and weekend work is called for,” said Pennington.

The survey from which the R809 figure was derived covered 20 townships serving major industrial areas and included four Western Cape areas—Guguletu, Khayelitsha, Mitchell’s Plain and Atlantis.

“For the first time employers have, in a readily available form, information on the number of houses and the number of people per household, facts and figures on schools, an idea on the amenities and medical services available as well as the number of shops, post offices and police stations in each area,” Pennington said.

“The aim of Town- ship Manual is to provide a document which will assist employers at wage negotiations and in other situations to make sensitive and appropriate decisions—based on a fuller understanding of the circumstances facing workers outside the workplace.”
Prisoners of Poverty

The population here is trapped.

Ronald Cochrane, seen from the window, is in a cell tiny too small for a bed.

There is no transport.

There is no access to cars or motor bikes.

There are no bicycle lanes.

There is no money to buy clothes.

There is no food to eat.

There is no freedom.

There is no hope.

There is no future.

There is no escape.

There is no way out.

There is no way back.

There is no way out of the prison of poverty.
A University of the Western Cape academic’s survey in 1986 found that 85 percent of Bergsig’s residents did not have any transport. This family are lucky and form part of the estimated one percent who have donkey carts.
More people going hungry'

Malnutrition in South Africa has reached alarming proportions, according to the 1987 report of the Department of National Health tabled in Parliament yesterday... And the World Vision organisation says tens of thousands of homeless people are swelling the numbers of the starving.

The report appears to contradict a statement last year by President Botha that there were no starving people in South Africa.

It says surveys have shown that there are no large-scale cases of acute physical hunger, but that there are alarming number of malnutrition cases.

A survey carried out in April and May last year among pre-school black children in Botshabelo in the Orange Free State found about 15.1 percent were underweight and 36.5 percent showed significant growth retardation.

Among children younger than three years, 16.8 percent were underweight and 40.5 percent showed retarded growth.

QUESTIONS

Executive director of World Vision, Mr John Allwood, said it was not good enough simply to feed people by handing over responsibility to other bodies. The question of why there are hungry or malnourished people had to be asked.

"This has come about because of the economic depression, forced removals and not giving the parents of the children the means to provide for their own families," he said.

While there are few deaths as a result of acute starvation in South Africa, hundreds of thousands of children have their lives potential---dented through the effects of malnutrition, he says.

Funds are provided annually by local authorities for subsidising the buying of skimmed milk powder or a protein/vitamin/mineral mixture, says the report.

Local authorities are, however, finding it difficult to meet costs because of the rise in the number of children at risk.

Referring to the emergency food scheme which originated in 1985; the report says it was not meant to be permanent.

About 95 000 black people were provided with emergency rations each month... Sapa.
A NUTRITIONAL survey has found that more than a third of rural black children under the age of five were wasted, stunted or had low weight-for-age. The Department of National Health and Population Development reported yesterday in the Cape Times that 15% of all rural black children were stunted and 24% had low weight-for-age.

Most wasted children were found in the Free State and Southern Transvaal, while in the OFS, Southern Transvaal and the Cape at least 28% were stunted. The survey was conducted under the auspices of the Regional Health Organization for Southern Africa (Rhosa). The department also said a survey of preschool children in Botshabelo in the Free State found that 15.1% were underweight and 35.5% showed significant growth retardation.

"Among children younger than 3 years, 16.5% were underweight and 40.5% showed retarded growth, which indicated that the nutritional status of this age group was lower than that of the older children."
Food thought

"Every day a stream of individuals asking for food streams into the Operation Hunger office," says director of the East London branch of the organisation, Linda Murray.

Since Operation Hunger feeds communities on a self-help basis rather than individual people, Linda is devising an alternative plan to help hungry individuals.

What she has in mind is a "food bank", whereby surplus food from supermarkets, is, with the help of service organisations, collected and conveyed to a central point for distribution to the needy.

People who are interested in participating in such a scheme are invited to a meeting at the East London library at 8.30 pm tonight.

D.R.
Gold Rush extended

The deadline for the Sun International Operation Hunger Gold Rush IV ticket sales has been extended to Saturday June 11 by public demand, executive director Mrs Ina Perlman announced yesterday.

She stressed sales had covered the total R116,000 prize money — with an estimated R3,5 million profit — and that the extension was to maximise the fund-raising opportunity.

"This year we foresee an absolute disaster in terms of hunger and need. The economy may have improved but it has not filtered down to the unskilled people with minimal education whose jobs, tragically, are first to go in a recession," Mrs Perlman said.

Operation Hunger initially estimated R22 million would be needed to fund its 284 self-help projects, feeding needs and administrative costs this year.

It was already clear these estimates were substantially less than the real need.

The draw to determine Gold Rush finalists will now take place at 1 pm on Tuesday July 5 at Sandton City and the finalists competition on Saturday July 9 at Sun City. Tickets will now be available from all Sun International hotel resorts.
Plan to establish food bank for needy

EAST LONDON — A meeting here to try to establish a “food bank” for Operation Hunger was attended by 20 people interested in finding out more about the scheme.

The East London director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Linda Murray, said it had been decided to hold another meeting in about two weeks time with concerned members of the public, interested service organisations and churches, to decide when the scheme should operate.

The “food bank” entails surplus food being collected at supermarkets and taken by service organisations to a central point for distribution to the needy. — DDR
Operation Hunger is looking for people to help with its annual street collection on May 27 and 28 on the Rand.

Help is needed the day before to distribute boxes and on the two collection days people are needed to stand on street corners and to fetch boxes from depots.

Operation Hunger needs to feed 1.3 million people in the next year and to help establish 274 self-help projects.
R22-m needed for self-help plans and food

Staff Reporter

OPERATION Hunger needs R22-million to meet its feeding and self-help scheme commitments this year and most of the money will have to be found in South Africa, according to executive director Mrs Ina Perlman.

At the first annual meeting of the Western Cape branch of Operation Hunger in Wynberg last night, Mrs Perlman said 5 000 children died of malnutrition in South Africa every year and this winter would be "the cruellest yet".

According to a Government survey last year a third of black children were protein-deficient.

Swept away

Mrs Perlman questioned the accuracy of national statistics, saying high clinic fees in homelands prevented many from seeking help.

Tuberculosis, the cause of which was "firmly rooted in hunger and poverty", was increasing.

She said unemployment was high "across the colour line", farm labourers had been laid off, the drought in Lebowa continued and in Natal and KwaZulu homes and possessions had been swept away by floods and community projects had been destroyed.

She said: "We've been told the economy has turned the corner, inflation is down and we're on the way up, but in the Operation Hunger constituency, everyone is at the bottom and they are the last to feel any upswing."

Feeding schemes

Western Cape director Mrs Roselle Frasca said 35 000 children were being fed through 110 feeding schemes in the region and the organisation ran 10 development projects.

Applications for feeding 5 000 more children awaited assessment.

A major development project in Namaqualand, funded by the Anglo American-De Beers Chairman's Fund, involved working with farmers in the Steinkopf reserve, which was dry land, to improve skills, find water and help them to become financially viable.

Work was at an early stage but there was already encouraging community commitment and initiative, she said...
R22 million is needed to feed the starving.

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Where is the Winterveld?

This is a question curious South Africans have been asking since the world's most famous missionary, Mother Teresa, announced she was coming to this country to work among the poor in the giant squatter settlement.

Not many know where the Winterveld is — and few accept that the situation there is so bad that a woman of Mother Teresa's stature is needed to improve the conditions. Surely the slums of Calcutta are infinitely worse than anything she is likely to find in South Africa?

The Winterveld, “home” to an estimated 500,000 people and just over an hour's drive from Johannesburg, is virtually in the backyard of Pretoria. With tens of thousands of squatters' shacks dotted across the flat veld, it is not a place people have reason to visit.

It is not a place black people would stay if they had a choice. Unlike Calcutta, where Mother Teresa has worked most of her life, the slums of the Winterveld are fairly new, having grown with surprising rapidity in the past 20 to 30 years. The people there are not only homeless, but dispossessed.

Like the poor of Calcutta, they, too, face a daily struggle to maintain life, to keep what little shelter they have, to provide basic education for their children, to stay reasonably healthy. Unemployment, hunger and deprivation are facts of life.

The Good Shepherd sisters, based at Pretoria North, and the Sisters of Mercy at De Wildt, are already at work in the area, waging a ceaseless struggle to help the poor. They have established clinics and a few creches.

The Holy Cross sisters run a small old age home in the Winterveld.

These nuns, better than most, know what Mother Teresa will find when she arrives with four sisters to start a convent for the Daughters of Charity.

"Many of the people in the Winterveld are there illegally," Sister Immaculata, a Mercy sister, said. "Some of the first squatters were people from Lady Selborne, Pretoria. Others built shacks here when they came in search of work in Pretoria and Johannesburg. At first, this was one place they could stay without permits. No one bothered with them, so the area mushroomed."

Poverty is a way of life, but the Mercy sisters have found people are always ready to help each other. They are training women in first aid and home nursing.

Sister Joan, the nun behind the project, said about 50 women, who would work voluntarily for their community, were doing the six-month course.

Most Winterveld houses are of corrugated iron, mud bricks or packing cases obtained from factories. Because of the uncertainty of tenure, they are built in such a way that they can be dismantled and moved elsewhere.

There is no running water, electricity or sewage system in the Winterveld. Water for (the luckier ones) can be fetched from a pump or bought from a vendor at R2 a drum.

The sale of water is a lucrative business for the owners of boreholes. They live well off the profits.

Before independence, the South African Government drilled 13 boreholes and fitted them with pumps. The homeland government added a few more, installing chlorinators on the pumps to combat the spread of cholera. But water remains a major problem.

Sister Irene, a Good Shepherd sister, added: “Tests show that much of the water is contaminated.”

The history of the Winterveld makes interesting reading. After the passing of the 1936 Native Trust and Land Act, certain areas were released for purchase and settlement by Africans. Among these were the farms Winterveld and Klippan, which were divided into stands and sold as freehold agricultural holdings.

The only stipulation was that the land be available to “Bantu” only. In this way the former grazing grounds of cattle herds moved from the highveld in the summer became African agricultural land.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s the Group Areas Act forced Africans to move from their dwellings in Lady Selbourne, Eastwood, Eersterus and Riverside (all “locations” near Pretoria). They were supposed to go to the new townships of Mafopane and Garankuwa, but there were not enough houses, so they were unloaded on the Winterveld farming land with the stand-owners agreeing to lease them temporary housing lots.

As more “black spots” were cleared, people from the Witwatersrand joined those already settled as tenants.

When Mother Teresa comes to South Africa, she will find the Winterveld a place for people with nowhere else to go.
Govt side-steps pension estimates

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE government yesterday side-stepped estimating what it cost pensioners to maintain a healthy and reasonable standard of living — the very issue that landed it in trouble in the 1981 general election when a cabinet minister estimated pensioners needed R20 a month.

The Minister of Health Services and Welfare in the House of Assembly, Mr Piet Badenhorst, said his department had not estimated the amount required by a person over the age of 65 years for food and accommodation and other expenses to be able to maintain a healthy and reasonable standard of living.

Mr Badenhorst, who was replying to a question from Mr Ken Andrew (FFP, Gardens), said his department had a scientifically determined ration scale for people over the age of 65.

"But due to the fact that food prices vary between the different metropolitans and other areas it is not possible to determine an average amount that is applicable to all the areas."

Mr Andrew said Mr Badenhorst's refusal to divulge the amount pensioners needed was not surprising.

"The Nationalists have become a law unto themselves and no longer believe that they are accountable to the public."

"Clearly, the minister is afraid of giving a laughably unrealistic amount, similar to the R20 per month nonsense of a few years ago."

"At the same time, a realistic estimate would show up social old-age pensions as being totally inadequate."

"Maximum amounts, ranging from R218 per month for whites down to R117 per month for black pensioners, are impossible for many to live on."

"The government should be ashamed of how this country's pensioners are treated."

"Mr Badenhorst should devote his energies to getting these pensions increased rather than equivocating and trying to keep secret information to which the public is entitled," Mr Andrew said.
Working these days and new garment fit to "compact" in today's style. A woman de-

Dorcas Helps

Tight Poverty

SOWETAN, Friday, May 13, 1999 Page 15

Soup

Kroonstad

Eminumini Food

The Power of Children

Clothes

needed

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We want to design a house. We would like it to go into action quickly. We want it to be finished as soon as possible.

We have to consider the materials and labor needed for the project. The labor cost is also a factor. We would like to have the house completed as soon as possible.

Handchair

Chairman of the club, Mr. Smith, had his idea. He said, "I think this idea is good." After that, we started to plan the project. We will work hard to complete it as soon as possible.
A small price to pay

GILLE WEINTROUB probes the ethos of
high-state fundraising projects and comes
up with gold.

GILLES WEINTROUB

The marketing of products and ser-
ties is left to the self-help groups them-
selves, although Operation Hunger
seeks the best of the traditional
beadwork and sells it overseas, particu-
larly in America where it is in great
demand, nationally.

So, at the end of the
day — grande charitas or million buck white
cadet? — for all.

"It's a rare fire way
of getting people to
terrested on a local ba-
se — " says Linda.

A lifestyle with a price

...
True story of the R1-m Gold Rush

By Winnie Graham

Behind the glitter of the Gold Rush, a tragic battle is being waged; the survival of 2,9 million starving people who rely on Operation Hunger for their daily meal.

Mrs InaPerlman, the executive director of Operation Hunger, is anxious that people should not lose sight of the reason for the Gold Rush.

"We must not let the glamour and the prize mask the tragic reality that we raise funds because we have 1,2 million people to feed in 1988," she said. "Operation Hunger spends more than R1 million a month in its fight against hunger." She said a video showing the work done by the organisation in rural areas would be shown at various shopping centres in the coming weeks.

To touch all hearts

The 15-minute film, a realistic documentary of what is happening in rural South Africa, will touch the hearts of anyone affected by the tear-stained face of a suffering child.

It highlights statistics most South Africans would rather not hear.

"More than 2,9 million people in our country are under-nourished," she said. "About 35 000 children under the age of 15 die of malnutrition or malnutrition-related diseases every year."

"Malnourished children, stunted in growth, often suffer irreparable brain damage."

"Malnourished children who go to school without breakfast lack concentration and are so tired they sleep at any opportunity."

A teacher tells viewers that children often vomit up water at school because there is no food in their stomachs.

Mrs Perlman says on video that land shortages which made subsistence farming difficult for many blacks had been aggravated by the worst drought in living memory. The agricultural industry had laid off thousands of workers. At the same time the recession had affected three million people, many of whom had been retrenched.

"The average income of rural people is R49 a month — well below the headline," she added.

But the video is not all gloom. It shows how communities are recovering with the aid of self-help projects. Many have been helped to find water. Home industries have been started.

Women are making — and selling — clothes. Beadwork is being exported. Even wire fencing is being made by rural communities.

Mrs Perlman said Operation Hunger had reduced its volume of feeding in many areas since 1984. In areas where good rains had fallen, many people were launched on the road to self-help.

But drought and flood were not the main causes of hunger and want. Vast unemployment and under-employment were still the reality of rural life.

"In the cities jobs for the unskilled and under-qualified are few and far between," she said. "The coal industry has already given warning of major lay-offs as the bite of international action against South African imports makes itself felt."

The Operation Hunger of the Gold Rush may be glitz — but the true face of the organisation is revealed in the faces of the children caught on film hungrily drinking high-protein soup.
Keeping afloat in a sea of poverty

By ANTHONY DOMAN
Municipal Reporter

IT has been called a "unique exercise in community health", but to thousands drowning in a sea of poverty and unemployment the Argus Food Campaign is a lifeline. And now it is about to turn a million.

The campaign's one-millionth kilogram of food will be handed over today at one of the Cape Town City Council's 27 distribution depots throughout the Peninsula.

"The situation in the townships continues to be as bad as it was," said Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan. "It is obvious from the eagerness and the crush on distribution days that these are vital supplies.

All chipped in

About half of the more than R400,000 collected had been spent, he said.

"We can continue along the same lines for about two more years although we are running at maximum capacity."

Perhaps the most heartening feature of this campaign had been the way in which the people of Cape Town — from the biggest of businesses to the most hard-pressed of pensioners — realised that others needed their help and chipped in to swell the coffers, Dr Coogan said.

Even cold hard statistics give some indication of the campaign's gigantic scope since its launch on October 17, 1986, the Argus Food Campaign has fed 156,926 families with food parcels capable of sustaining a household for several days.

The campaign's origins lay in late 1985. With the recession beginning to bite deeply, it became clear that spiralling unemployment and poverty needed drastic action.

Two welcome issues of government food parcels were distributed.

"But by June no further supplies were in sight and the reports from our various health districts were becoming increasingly distressing," Dr Coogan wrote in his annual report, released this week.

Health workers were encountering worsening social ills such as overcrowding, alcoholics, wife-beating, baby battering, incest and despair.

"The contributory effect to the waxing epidemic of pulmonary tuberculosis needs no emphasis," he added.

Excellent response

Through independent action the City Council collected and distributed 42 tons of food in mid-1986. But nobody needed telling that more was needed.

Enter The Argus. An initial contribution of R1,000 was supplemented by R6,000 from the Mayor's Relief Fund and readers were urged to help.

"The response from business and from individuals — some of whom were pensioners — was excellent," said Dr Coogan. "An added bonus was further Government food parcels in February, September and November.

The Argus had been of "enormous benefit to the fund, particularly reminding readers of the existence of the campaign," he added.

"A tremendous boost to our efforts was the immediate loan of a large freezing chamber which enabled us to handle perishables," he said. The freezer holds large quantities of basic foodstuffs which are bought as economically as possible.

By now, it is a finely-tuned operation which has become part of the lives of thousands. From what Dr Coogan says it is evident that this is the way things are going to be for some time to come.

And he is confident that the campaign will continue for as long as it is needed.

"No one will starve"

"Our many generous contributors can take comfort from the fact that, during this recession, no needy family in the city will starve while we can prevent it."

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P.O. Box 1389, Vlakte, 8018 or to P.O. Box 286, Cape Town 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

Offers of food may be made to Dr Coogan at 210 2100.

Recent contributions to The Argus Food Campaign:
St Abe's play group, Deep River, R78,89.
Lobster Club of Constantiaberg, R200.
F.W. Moore, R100.
Flame Candles, R120.
Mornes and Mornes von der Berg, R12.
A.K. Lockhart, R20.
N. D.Kleinsmith, R100.
In memory of Gina and Samantha Ackerman who died in the Heldenberg disaster from Roy, Hatty, Sandra and Chris Jeffery, R25.
Bergvlei Ladies Club, R134.45.
I.O. Samuels, R25.
Argus Women's Pantry, Shelf demo, R349.50.
Meeting told of increase in region’s hungry

"We have to take the attitude that drops in the ocean eventually become puddles and the puddles become ponds which form an oasis in the vast ocean that is South Africa."

Mrs Perlman praised the committee in this area for the "wonderful job" they had done in developing the traditional Xhosa beadwork shop as a commercially viable entity.

The regional director, Mrs Linda Murray, said that this region remained depressed and the unemployment rate was high and as there did not seem to be any short term solution, the number of hungry people continued to increase.

Mrs Murray reported that the craftwork sales in the showroom had been R29 650.76 over the last year.

She said she had been approached by various representatives of communities here to supply soup for community-based soup kitchens.

"Operation Hunger soup is being donated to five soup kitchens, which cater for the unemployed, the elderly and the children and the community provides their own pots, cooks, fuel and venue where possible."

The East London regional office presently feeds 227 024 people in Ciskei, Transkei and the Border area and this figure shows every sign of increasing over the next year, Mrs Murray said.
American pop singer Laura Branigan, who is currently appearing at Sun City, carries one of the many babies she saw during a visit yesterday to an Operation Hunger feeding scheme in Bophuthatswana.

Branigan breaks down after visit

By Duncan Guy

American singer Laura Branigan, who has been performing at Sun City, broke down when she was asked to speak after visiting Operation Hunger projects near Sun City this weekend.

She donated R100 000 to the organisation and said she would appeal to artists abroad to become actively involved in supporting organisations like Operation Hunger.

Executive director of Operation Hunger Mrs Ina Perlman said: "Laura is a sensitive person and this reaction to what she saw was genuine."

Among the places Branigan visited was a school with a feeding scheme where a survey had shown that half the pupils were likely malnutrition victims.

Mrs Perlman said villagers in the Khayalala area told the visiting party that unemployment in the area was between 50 and 70 percent.

"There is not enough land for people to survive as subsistence farmers and the economy has still not recovered sufficiently to provide jobs although the drought is over," she said.

She added that Branigan was told that villagers she met were removed from their previous home near Lichtenburg where the women supplemented their incomes with money earned as seasonal labour on nearby white farms.

"Now they are far away from anywhere. And this is the case in many parts of South Africa and the homelands," Mrs Perlman said.
City Press readers help farmers

Good harvests allow Operation Hunger to stop feeding scheme

By SOPHIE YEMA

ALTHOUGH the winter of 1987 was very harsh, black farmers in Luckau Village near Groblersdal are expecting a 90-ton surplus in their grain harvest. To assist them, Operation Hunger is to put up two silos in the village where grain and fertilizers will be stored.

The silos were sponsored by City Press readers who entered a crossword competition run by the newspaper last year. The R120 000 donated by City Press will cover the cost of the silos.

Two silos have already been erected in another project in Glen Cowie, near Middleburg.

Luckau's 500 black farmers are mostly women, who have registered as a union.

Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, said: "Because of the new seed and fertilizers the farmers are expecting a 90-ton surplus in their harvest.

"The farming community has done so well with their harvest that they have asked Operation Hunger to suspend family feeding."

Perlman said this year the organisation was feeding a staggering one-million hungry people, of which 310 377 are in Limpopo.

Because only eight percent of rural people are subsistence farmers, the organisation encourages people to get involved in community projects.

According to Perlman, the black rural areas are on a point of disaster, and permanent and seasonal jobs on farms are fewer than in 1981 and 1982.

Urban reincarceration has also aggravated the problem because the rural economy is dependent on outside sources. Another distressing factor of poverty is the high rate of infant mortality. More than half of all deaths are children under five.

Perlman said the organisation's total budget for this year was R22-million. Of this, R17-million was for feeding, R4-million for self-help and one-million for administration.
STARVATION

SAVED FROM

[Image of the page with the text cut off and unclear]
Social worker criticised for suicide remarks

CP Correspondent

A MUZENBURG resident has reacted strongly to comments by a social worker that a black woman killed herself as a result of unemployment in Grahamstown.

In a letter to the Eastern Province Herald, Mercia Waring wrote that the problem facing black people here was not "unemployment," but low wages.

Jesse Tamboer, 36, committed suicide after having tried desperately to clothe, feed and send her two children to school.

Her problems started when her husband was killed while resisting arrest in Port Elizabeth early last year.

Waring was reacting to a comment in numerous newspapers by a social worker, Rosemary van Wyk Smith, of a local charity organisation, that "a lot of people in the township are emotionally disabled."

She said her 1979 study, Strategies for survival, provided facts about the situation of blacks in Grahamstown.

"The problem is not unemployment, but low wages," she wrote.

"To diminish the implications of Jesse Tamboer's death by passing her off as a depressive and using unemployment as a scapegoat, is a cowardly evasion," she said.

She noted that families had to rely on multiple breadwinners and other resources including charity handouts, in order to survive, adding that they hated handouts.

Smith said Gadra was busy organising psychiatric counselling for Jesse's two children, as they had witnessed their mother's death.

"Jesse's 13-year-old daughter, Grace, receives food parcels and clothing from Gadra," she said.

Ani
Banned South is back on streets - for now

THE Cape Town-based weekly newspaper *South* appeared this week after being banned for a month on May 9 by the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, following several warnings from him.

The newspaper, with the logo

"You have the right to know", appeared a day earlier than usual to allow staff to commemorate June 16.

Botha told *South* that he would decide whether or not to suspend the paper after he saw the contents of today's edition.

The government promulgated a provision in the latest emergency regulations allowing Botha to ban *South* for a further period not exceeding two months. — Sapa
Three tons a day brightens up the lives of poverty-stricken

Staff Reporter

MID-WINTER may have brought cold and rain, but it has not dampened the enthusiastic spirit of the Argus Food Campaign, now distributing three tons of food a day to the Peninsula's poverty-stricken thousands.

At last count 1 000 443kg of food had been distributed from centres throughout the Peninsula.

"The campaign is going flat out," said Cape Town's outgoing Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan.

"We worked up to a peak of 56 tons a month and we have maintained a good pace," he said.

Dr Coogan, who retired this week, said, "I have been tremendously pleased with the way the citizens of Cape Town have responded to the campaign. It came at a time when many of our fellow citizens were actually on the verge of dying of hunger.

"It started so small but it has really mushroomed. It is a standby without which many of our citizens could not survive."

Describing the campaign as a first for a health department in this country, he said he hoped that others would follow Cape Town's example. The campaign would have to continue until the recession eased, he said.

Contributions welcome

The fund had been virtually self-sufficient for a while but contributions were always welcome, Dr Coogan said. About half of the more than R400 000 collected has been spent.

"When funds start running low we will have to return to the people of Cape Town to ask for their help," he said.

- Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P O Box 15399, Vlakberg 8018 or to P O Box 265, Cape Town 8000.

- Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund.

- Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOL at 210 210.

Recent contributions to The Argus Food Campaign:

W M Politzer... R30
W T Fairhead... R100
"The unemployed"... R20
H C Horn... R100
M H H... R100
C Glick... R10
Edith Miehe... R250
In memory of Shirley Arendse... R20
SA's next instant millionaire to be named next week

By Helen Grange

Well over the target of R3 million has been collected for Operation Hunger's "Gold Rush 4" competition.

The final draw will take place on Tuesday at Sandton Civic Centre at 1:15 p.m.

The financial director of Operation Hunger, Mr Borne Cohen, said ticket sales had ended on June 11 and there were many books of counterfoils which had not yet been returned with the money taken from ticket sales.

"It is impossible to determine how much money will continue to trickle in over the next few weeks," he said.

Sixteen potential millionaires will be drawn on Tuesday and there will be 36 consolation prizes of R1,000 each.

The 16 finalists will attend a rowing regatta at Sun City on July 6, when four finalists will be named.

Sixteen remote-controlled boats will race to determine the order in which finalists choose their rowing crews. Twenty crews will be available in an effort to eliminate chances of inequality.

The runners-up will receive R50,000, R10,000, and R5,000, and the other 14 finalists will receive R1,000 each.

Last year's winner of Operation Hunger's Gold Rush, Mr Dick Daly, is on holiday in America with his wife, Georgina, and will return in time for the announcement of this year's winner, according to his son, Mr Theo Daly.
Operation Hunger needs ‘miracle’ to feed hungry

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. - The latest Gold Rush competition, which was R1-million under target, has left a financially emaciated Operation Hunger desperately praying for a miracle to feed the hungry in South Africa next month.

"Unless we have a miracle within the next three weeks we will have to start cutting back on protein in our feeding schemes," Mrs Ima Perlman, Operation Hunger's executive director, said yesterday.

The community feeding and self-help project was hoping to raise R4-million in their fourth R1-million contest to tide them over the critical winter period, but tickets sold in Gold Rush IV brought in little more than R3-million, according to Mrs Perlman.

The money was crucial to this year's annual budget - the highest yet - of R22-million. The budget for last year was R17-million.

"When I talk about budget I am talking about pie-in-the-sky stuff," Mrs Perlman said. "We have no guaranteed cash flow and live from hand to mouth."

It is hoped that funds raised in another Gold Rush competition in the latter half of this financial year will boost funds from competitions to between R6- and R7-million - about one third of the annual budget.

The organisation is banking on raising another R6-million overseas and the balance from big business and private donations.

But for the moment their bank account is dangerously low and a massive fund raising drive targeted at local business is to be launched along with appeals for funds from South Africans abroad.

Mrs Perlman attributed the failure to raise the extra R1-million to the large demands placed on South Africans for flood relief and other R1-million competitions also in progress.

"My biggest worry is that we can supply more than 900 000 children with soup this winter," she said.

The organisation's offices throughout the country are inundated daily by appeals for feeding, in spite of already supplying food to 1.3-million people throughout South Africa.

Of the R22-million annual budget, approximately R17.2-million will be spent on feeding, about R3.8-million on self-help schemes and R1-million (less than 10 percent) on administration and fund raising.

A new fund raising project underway is aimed at expatriate South Africans in the United States and Canada. A scheme has been devised whereby donors in those countries are eligible for tax concessions.
Poverty rises in the Third World

WASHINGTON — Prosperity is continuing in industrial countries but poverty is on the rise in the Third World, said an annual World Bank report released this week.

"A healthy growth is now expected this year in the industrial countries," said bank chief economist and vice-president Stanley Fischer, presenting the report.

It said the right policies include "credible action" to reduce the US budget deficit.

It wanted the creation of more demand for goods in Japan, West Germany and industrialising countries such as South Korea and Taiwan.

But it calculated that even if all that is done, countries in sub-Saharan Africa would see their incomes grow much more slowly — by only 0.7 of 1% annually, or less than 8% during the eight years.

The report made an unusual attack on government defence budgets.— Sapa-AP.
Mother Teresa Coming to City

II Page on Stars Story Tusnu

ITS INSIDE TODAY

Behind the scenes, Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, is coming to the city through a program called "A Mother's Call to Action." The program is designed to raise awareness about the plight of the poor and to inspire action to help those in need. The event is expected to bring together hundreds of people from various walks of life to discuss strategies for making a difference in the world.

Mother Teresa was born in 1910 and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her tireless work on behalf of the poor and sick. She founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Catholic religious order dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor. The organization has grown to over 4,000 centers worldwide, providing care for the elderly, the sick, and the homeless.

In addition to her work with the poor, Mother Teresa is known for her humility and compassion. She once said, "If I can do a little thing it is because I love. If I love, I can do a great thing." Her message of love and compassion continues to inspire people around the world.

The event will feature speeches, music, and a concert by some of the most renowned musicians and performers. The aim is to raise funds for the work of the Missionaries of Charity and to create a platform for discussing the pressing issues facing the world today.

By Brownson Davis

Note: This is a fictional text and does not represent any real event or person.
Old bones and scraps — and people are living there.

The Star Today May 15, 1968

Eating

still top tax
Nestlé lands in the hot drink over ‘dumping’

By MARK TRAN,
Washington

NESTLÉ faces the prospect of a renewed consumer boycott after being accused of breaking a pledge not to "dump" infant formula in hospitals and maternity wards in developing countries.

The giant food company recently bought the British chocolate manufacturer, Rowntree.

Action for Corporate Accountability, which led a boycott lasting several years, has threatened to unleash a new offensive unless Nestlé and another aggressive infant formula producer in the Third World, American Home Products, respond by October 4 — the fourth anniversary of the end of the last campaign.

According to Douglas Johnson, national chairman of Action, Nestlé broke a 1984 agreement with the boycott organisation when it promised to follow future clarifications by the World Health Organisation and Unicef on the restriction of free infant formula supplies in maternity wards.

Nestlé, whose Beechut unit was recently indicted for selling fake apple juice for consumption by babies, maintains it has complied fully both in its agreement with the International Boycott Committee, which included Action, and with the WHO.

"We are allowed under the WHO code to provide free and low-cost supplies, and this is what we have been doing. We make sure the supplies are used properly," a Nestlé official said.

Action admits that the WHO code did not ban the free supply of infant formula. But it argues that subsequent reports from the WHO and Unicef unequivocally called for a halt to the practice.

Action objects to the use of infant formula in the Third World as the frequent absence of clean water for rinsing baby bottles and mixing with the powder can lead to severe complications.

"The distribution of free supplies to hospitals is the industry’s most damaging entry into the lucrative market," Johnson said. "It is the promotional tactic which most effectively undermines breast feeding, leading to infant malnutrition, illness and death.

"And of course once bottle feeding starts, breast milk begins to dry up. When mother and baby leave the hospital there is a physical need to buy more formula — both mother and baby are 'hooked.'"

Nestlé, AHP, Abbott/Ross and Meiji of Japan are among the leading competitors in the $6-billion infant formula market. An Action survey of 23 Pakistani hospitals found that 20 received large quantities of free formula, with Nestlé supplying 65 percent of the hospitals.

Nestlé's losses from the last boycott vary from its own estimate of $20-million to Johnson’s figure of $3-billion. — The Guardian, London
SATURDAY STAR CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — A huge mercy mission starts today as more than 30 tons of food, medicines and blankets are loaded into aircraft and flown to the estimated 30,000 Basuto who have been cut off from the outside world for a week by killer snowfalls.

The remote ice-bound country, still isolated in most parts by the worst snow in years, was declared a disaster area yesterday.

And, as the plight of the people trapped worsened last night and fears increased for the lives of many of the young and the aged, scores of callers in the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas telephoned the Saturday Star offering help in the form of cash, provisions and warm clothing.

One caller, Mrs. Val Hepp, of Pretoria said: "These poor kids, their feet must be like blocks of ice."

She wanted to set up a collection joint immediately in Pretoria to launch a relief operation. She suggested that this newspaper extend its yearly winter collection, Operation Snowball, for the needy to include the trapped people of the remote Lesotho valleys.

It has been announced in Maseru, meanwhile, that two Lesotho Defence Force helicopters will be flying into the Makholong district today after a preliminary report from the Lesotho National Disaster Relief Committee, which toured the area yesterday.

The Municipal Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Vincent Malebo, said last night that he had spent the entire day leading the committee through the area to assess the situation.

They visited more than 20 villages and in most of them food was running very low.

In many cases, the villagers were unable to get through to their local trading stores to buy supplies. This was why the committee had decided to act immediately.

Mr. Malebo said the committee had been able to get only a superficial picture of the extent of the disaster and would be returning to the area over the weekend.

District Secretary for Makholong, Mr. M. Malebo said: "Part of the road to Natal has been opened on the Lesotho side, but only four-wheel-drive vehicles can use it at present."

Because of impassable roads and broken communications, it was difficult to assess the situation.

The committee had requested reports from village chiefs on the number of people isolated, crop and animal losses, and supplies needed. However, because of deep snow, few reports had been received.

The main means of transport was horse or donkey and, in the deep snow, few were able to carry people or supplies.

Vast mercy mission
Refugees find food and comfort at Phalalani

By Clyde Johnson,
Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — Cold, tired and hungry after their six-day walk from Maputo, a group of Mozambicans arrived at the Phalalani camp in Gazankulu recently.

The group, comprising a man, four women — one of them elderly — and five children, entered South Africa via the Kruger National Park.

On their way to Gazankulu, which adjoins the reserve, they braved wild animals, slept in the veld, ate wild berries and drank river water.

But all agreed the risks were well worth it to get away from war-torn Mozambique.

"In Mozambique we lived in constant danger of being killed, there is no work, no food, no money and people are dying like flies from disease. Please God, I hope we never have to return," group leader Mr Armando Ndlovu said.

For tens of thousands of refugees the Phalalani relief camp is their only home.

Since permission was granted for the establishment of a squatters' area at Lilydale during 1985, more than 25,000 fleeing Mozambicans have "legally" settled there.

Many, however, have not registered and the number of squatters may well exceed

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40,000

Heartbroken by the plight of illegal Mozambican immigrants who, having risked their lives to reach South Africa, were immediately repatriated — the Phalalani Relief Committee was started by 54-year-old businessman, Mr Sam Nama.

After negotiating with a number of churches and welfare organisations such as World Vision and Operation Hunger for food and other supplies, Mr Nama gained permission from Gazankulu chiefs to allow the refugees to settle at Phalalani.

The Gazankulu Government also gave the project their blessing provided permits — renewable every six months — were issued to the refugees.

News of Phalalani (which means "come to aid" in Shangaan) soon spread and in the beginning as many as 200 refugees a day poured into the camp.

On arrival, the refugees are first taken to the transit camp, where after registration, they are issued with a card.

The card entitles them to a plate of hot soup, blankets, some clothing and a supply of maize meal.

Once settled the newcomers set about building their own primitive huts.
Nobel Peace Prize-winner Mother Teresa to visit Durban poorest

DURBAN — Mother Teresa (77), Nobel Peace Prize winner and head of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, is expected in Durban next month.

During her few days' stay, she is likely to pay a visit to the city's street children.

"The first thing that she will want to do is to see the poorest of the poor," said Mrs Margaret Cullis of Durban.

Mrs Cullis and her husband, David, are international links for the Co-workers of Mother Teresa.

She said the famous nun would also visit the city's cold and lonely people.

"She always says that the poorest of the poor are not necessarily the destitute. They can have money, but there is no cure for being lonely and unwanted."

Mrs Cullis said Mother Teresa was coming to South Africa for a week.

She is also expected to visit Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth.

She says she is definitely coming to South Africa, but one must remember that in the past she has had to cancel her trips to do urgent relief elsewhere.

"However, she says she hopes and prays she will be here before August 15."

Mrs Cullis said there were 10,000 co-workers of Mother Teresa in this country. The South African branch was started in Durban seven years ago.

Mother Teresa would be in Durban for only a few days.

During this time, she would also meet Roman Catholic Church leaders, as well as heads of other religions.

Members of the Co-workers of Mother Teresa work with refugees, alcoholics and drug addicts.
Winter cheer for the hungry

By Sue Olswang

The poverty-stricken area of Burgershoop in Krugersdorp is a pathetic sight, with its low-cost council housing and high percentage of unemployment.

Many children in the area wear summer clothes — some are lucky enough to own a jersey or two — and most run around barefoot in freezing winter temperatures.

But there's some hope for Burgershoop residents. A soup kitchen, run by a team of volunteers from the Lions Club of Krugersdorp, feeds up to 100 children each weekday during the school holidays.

Long queues of little bodies wait outside the back entrance of the Portuguese market gardens in Commissioner Street between 11 am and noon. Little hands stretch to have their cups filled with nutritious soup, and their faces shine as they munch on thick slices of bread.

The soup kitchen was started by Mrs Hannetjie Bunyan of Krugersdorp North about eight years ago.

She initially funded the kitchen from her own pocket but later approached the Lions Club for assistance.

"The children in this area are fed at their schools every day but we run the kitchen every weekday during the school holidays so that they can still get one hot, nutritious meal daily," she says.

The Lions Club also provides food parcels to the more desperate families in the area.

• Please send donations to Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.

• See Page 7.
By Sally Sealey

What started as well-meant hand-outs has led to the launch of a feeding scheme for underprivileged children in Bertrams by two Johannesburg women.

Mrs Tienie Richardson and Mrs Ruth Shimoni became aware of the plight of children in Bertrams after an article in The Star highlighted the desperate need for a feeding scheme in the area.

Originally, the two women collected food and money and made up parcels for families.

But this did not work out as the families were selling the food to buy liquor, Mrs Shimoni said.

A few months ago, the city council gave the women the use of the Maurice Freeman Recreation Hall in Bertrams. It was here that they set up their feeding scheme.

"We originally fed about three dozen children but we now get as many as 65 a day," Mrs Richardson said.

Mrs Richardson said that about a month ago, old age pensioners came to the hall for food.

"We started feeding them as well on a weekly basis.

"Ideally, if we could raise more money we would be able to feed the old people on a daily basis as well."

Each day, the children are offered a variety of dishes.

Mrs Shimoni said, "We have come a long way since we started. We have managed to get some of the older people involved in the scheme and we are always on the look-out for volunteers.

"Just recently, a man donated a fridge which has come in handy for storing dairy products."

Mrs Richardson said they had been approached by people to start a similar scheme in Mahengwville.

People interested in helping the children can telephone Mrs Shimoni on 616-4663 or Mrs Richardson on 616-2110."
WORLD Vision of Southern Africa wants to raise R700,000 through a 40-hour famine programme, when a projected 60,000 South Africans will be asked to go for 40 hours without food on the weekend of September 9 to 11. Fanners will begin fasting on Friday at 8pm and conclude at noon on Sunday September 11. At a function in Parktown, Johannesburg on Monday World Vision representatives were photographed holding plates to symbolise the famine. From left are Mr George Pappas, Mr Muss Gumbi, Ms Revere Greenburg and radio personality Mr John Berks.
SHOCK and despair followed the announcement yesterday of steep increases in the price of bread, with many feeding schemes saying the extra burden could cripple their operations.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greylng Wentzel, announced in Pretoria yesterday that the price of white bread would rise by 4c to 65c, and that of brown bread by 6c to 69c. The new prices represent increases of 4.9% and 9.5% respectively.

Mr Wentzel said the new prices would come into effect on Monday.

The Consumer Council, Housewives League and the Peninsula School Feeding Association have all reacted angrily to the increase, saying it would seriously affect poor people.

Meanwhile the Cape Town Medical Officer of Health, Dr M.E. Popkes, said last night the increase would have a dramatic effect on the TB problem in the Cape Flats.

"There has been a 24% increase in TB for the first six months of this year and the bread increase can only make things worse," he said.
At the central Karoo town of Fraserburg, we watched dozens of Sub A children at Malherbe-Human Junior Secondary School line up for bowls of soup, prepared by staff and parents after being railed there in powder form.

The spartan brick houses in Fraserburg’s coloured township, where hardly a blade of grass can be seen, sum up the overall poverty.

“Times are tough here. This is the only meal of the day for many of the children,” says headmaster Mr Johannes Klaazen.

“A lot of the children are brought into town from the farms at a very young age and have to fend for themselves.

“We are badly in need of boarding house facilities.”

According to Mr Klaazen, failing during classes is not an unusual phenomenon at the school, although Operation Hunger’s intervention has helped alleviate the problem considerably.

“Employment is a big problem in Fraserburg. Labourers on the sheep farms earn an average of R60 a month, while the only work that can be secured in town is at the municipality or the few shops.”

At Beaufort West’s John D Crawford primary school, 500 to 700 of the 825 pupils are fed the protein-rich soup regularly.

“We try to make it a community project by getting parents involved as much as possible,” says deputy principal Mr Henry Sawat. “Teachers have also responded positively to the scheme.”

“Before the Operation Hunger aid started, teachers sometimes used to have to bring food from their own cupboards to help children in particularly dire need.”

“Poverty is very widespread in the area and a lot of the kids come from frighteningly poor households.”

“Many families cannot afford to pay rent and have an unhealthy set-up with about eight people occupying a single room.”

Mr Sawat says the provision of soup has helped lift academic performance at the school — previously on the slide because of the damaging effect of hunger on concentration.

The overall picture is no less bleak in the northern regions of the Karoo, where we visited the Orange River town of Prieska.

Here, the imminent closure of a now uneconomical mine at Copperon, 40km away, is a topic of some concern.

In an already depressed economic environment, the copper mine served as a valuable source of employment for almost 2 000 members of the potential workforce of Prieska.

Now there are fears that the unemployment level in Prieska — already estimated to be in the region of 40 percent — will rise further.

Three coloured primary schools in the town, with a combined total of 2 000 pupils, are providing soup five times a week. Cooking and distribution of the soup is supervised by Ned Gereif Sendingkerk minister the Rev T C Phillips.

Mr Phillips says a limited amount of soup is set aside for elderly people in the vicinity, some of whom are destitute. More fortunate ones have been accommodated in an old-age home, opened in 1985, of which Mr Phillips is director. Already the home has a long waiting list.

“We had a relief aid programme before Operation Hunger got involved. But it simply wasn’t enough; we could not cope with the need.

“Wages here are no better than elsewhere and, of course, there is an alcoholism problem.”

Are whites in the town aware of the situation on their doorstep? “We get odd assistance from whites. On the whole, however, there is enormous apathy towards what is happening.”

On a more positive note, Mr Phillips has been at the forefront of self-help projects in the region. These include co-operative agricultural schemes, affected to some extent by the terrible Northern Cape floods, a youth training centre and thriving upholstery business.

Operation Hunger helps market goods produced through the shop at its Wynberg premises.

“We provide an arm for them; there is a limited market in Prieska,” Mrs Frasea says.

“We back self-help projects as much as we can. Wherever possible, people must generate their own income; they cannot rely on the economy. Again, though, we are limited by the problem of money.”

The organisation also issues soup to a creche and primary school in Prieska’s black Ethembeni township.

Primary school headmistress Mrs L Ngamana says, “We are all grateful. It used to be terrible when little children cried ‘I want to go home’ simply because their tummies were empty.”
accompanied the organisation's Western Cape director, Mrs Roselle Frasca, to some of the stricken areas.

THE Malherbe-Human school's headmaster, Mr Johannes Klazen... "There is great poverty in this district."

THE soup queue at Malherbe-Human Junior Secondary School, Fraserburg. Mr Piet April dispenses the nourishing fare to Sub A pupils.

8/8/8

skend argus
Bombing destroyed people's means to do something useful

From ROSELLA FRASCA, Cape Regional Director, Operation Hunger (Wynberg):

I READ with real sadness your report (Cape Times, August 8) of the bombing of the Western Cape Hostel Dwellers' Association's building in Nyanga. This association has been running a successful and much-needed creche for which we have been supplying soup. Most of the parents of these children are unemployed. Furthermore, we supplied sewing machines and materials for some of the mothers to start a sewing group so that they could earn some income. All of this has been destroyed.

Violence is never positive, but in this case it is particularly counter-productive as these are people who are simply trying to do something useful with their lives. We will endeavour to do all we can to give them another start.
Rush on for R1m contest

Staff Reporter

OPERATION HUNGER — the organization that feeds 1.5 million hungry people in South Africa every day — has just launched its fifth Gold Rush competition.

This gives anyone who buys a R10 ticket the chance of winning a million rand. Ticket sales opened yesterday at all major shopping centres and will close on Christmas Eve.

At the launch, held at the Cafe Royal in Cape Town yesterday, the regional director, Mrs Roselle Frasca, said that because Operation Hunger was a high-profile organization, people thought that it had a lot of money. “But two months ago we ran out of money — with over a million people to feed and 264 self-help projects still dependent on us,” she said.

“The organization needs to raise R22m for its next budget if it is not going to let starving people down.”
R22-m target for Operation Hunger

Staff Reporter

OPERATION Hunger needs to raise R22-million this year to help the needy to help themselves.

The organisation is feeding 1.3 million people in South Africa, mainly children.

In the Western Cape the organisation has about 200 feeding schemes for 40 000 children.

A video shown at the launch of the fifth annual Operation Hunger Gold Rush competition in Cape Town yesterday focused on South Africa as a rich country with 2.9 million malnourished people, mainly in the rural areas.

According to Operation Hunger about 35 000 children die each year of malnutrition or related diseases such as tuberculosis and many more are stunted mentally and physically.

"Forgotten people"

Mrs Rosette Frasca, regional director in the Western Cape, said the organisation specialised in rural areas helping "forgotten people".

In these areas there was no work, no money and a rural family income could be about R49 a month, well below the breadline.

Operation Hunger also revitalised communities through self-help projects ranging from traditional crafts and sewing groups to brickmaking and small-scale farming.

It also helped The Haven night shelter, the Service Dining Rooms, Child Welfare, the Red Cross and Operation Outreach, a group who feed vagrants, and an ambitious agricultural project in Namaqualand backed by the Anglo/De Beers Chairman's Fund, Mrs Frasca said.

Upgrading skills

"It is in the Steenkopf Reserve where 56 farmers are upgrading their farming skills. Eight boreholes were drilled and an artesian well was found. It took a month to cap the well."

A training centre had been built and this would become a registered technikon.

Gold Rush ticket sales close on December 24 and the draw takes place on January 31. The R1-million winner will be decided by a cycling competition at Kyalami racetrack on February 4.

Tickets are available at Shoprite, Grand Bazaars, Pick 'n Pay, Russells, Makro, First National Bank and Operation Hunger offices.
KAROO POVERTY: REACHING CRISIS SITUATION, SAY RURAL EXPERTS

by ROBERT HOUWING
Weekend Argus Reporter

AN already "desperate" state of poverty and hunger in Karoo communities is worsening as wages increasingly slip below the cost of living, analysts on rural areas have warned.

Unemployment of up to 50 percent has been reported in some regions and job opportunities are decreasing, rather than improving.

The Administrator of the Cape, Mr. Gene Louw, acknowledged recently that 40 percent of coloured people in rural areas were jobless.

Diminishing demand for labour has resulted in some farmers and employers in country towns reducing workers' wages.

The depressed economic situation has driven people to antisocial behaviour like alcohol abuse — widespread in the Karoo — and had an adverse effect on children's development.

Tuberculosis and other diseases have been described as "rife," and illiteracy is common.

Last week, Weekend Argus reported that children in underprivileged communities throughout the territory were increasingly dependent on food provided by Operation Hunger for survival.

Mrs Rosselle Frasca, the organisation's Western Cape director, said the Karoo had become "the biggest crisis area" in terms of hunger.

**Health conditions bad**

"While the cost of living soars, there are no increases in salaries or job opportunities in the Karoo."

Professor Aubrey Reddinghoss, of the University of the Western Cape's Institute for Social Development, who has done much research into Karoo communities, said unemployment was "extremely widespread."

This had been aggravated lately by a significant influx of farm workers into rural towns.

"Another serious problem is the low wages. These wages are often much lower than welfare payments received by pensioners, unmarried mothers and the disabled."

Health conditions, he warned, were deteriorating to "a very disconcerting level" and tuberculosis was rife.

"Housing is extremely bad and basic necessities are not available. The energy needs of the rural poor also require urgent attention."

Health authorities have acknowledged economic hardship in the Karoo, but denied that the situation was worsening.

The director-general of the Department of National Health and Population Development, Dr C.F. Slabber, said they were "aware of economic difficulties that exist countrywide and that certain families or groups are more affected than others."

"Inadequate economic growth as a result of the worldwide recession of the past years, aggravated by years of drought and the recent floods, has all contributed to these difficulties."

"The situation is not expected to worsen unless new contributing factors occur."

Dr Slabber said the most serious threat would come from "the introduction of new measures to apply economic sanctions against this country."

"Our approach to the problem is to co-operate actively with other state departments and the private sector on a total population development programme."

"We do subsidise a milk-powder scheme for undernourished children, run by local authorities, and also fund these authorities to provide health services combating illnesses which often threaten impoverished communities."

The media liaison officer for the Department of Health and Welfare in the House of Representatives, Mrs Ann Strydom, said Beaufort West had been identified as particularly in need of assistance.

Various schemes had been introduced there and in other areas to help families whose breadwinners were unemployed, in prison or unable to work for health reasons. Assistance was also provided in cases where people could not pay rent.

The Rev. James Buys, rector of the NG Sondelkark in Calitzdorp's Bergland township and an executive member of the South African Council of Churches, said it was a "fallacy" for the government to partly ascribe rural poverty to the sanctions threat.

"The crisis in the Karoo is not something that happened overnight — it goes back several generations, long before sanctions even became an issue."

"The State must shoulder the blame for not educating farmers in appreciating the value of labour."
Tuberculosis patients face food cutback as fund falls

By KAREN STANDER
Medical Reporter

THOUSANDS of Cape Town tuberculosis patients and their families will go hungry unless the South African National Tuberculosis Association (Santa) crisis fund is boosted.

More than 10,000 people in greater Cape Town contract TB every year.

The crisis fund is running dangerously low and Santa is facing the difficult decision of whether to cut back on the size or the number of grants made each month.

About 600 TB patients are fed every day at soup kitchens and thousands of needy families of patients have received monthly grants or food parcels from the fund since it was started less than two years ago.

Dr Len Tibbit, chairman of Santa Cape Town, has made an urgent appeal for contributions.

He said R32,000 was spent during the 1986/87 financial year and this increased to R44,000 last year.

Deputy chairman Dr Stuart Fisher said the number of cases diagnosed in the old Divisional Council of the Cape area — now controlled by the Regional Services Council — rose slightly to 2,321 in the first six months of this year. During the same period last year there were 2,264 new cases.

Disability grants

Dr Fisher, who is chairman of Santa’s grants committee, said the crisis fund provided small grants for patients until they were fit to go back to work or they received state disability grants.

The economic squeeze and increasing urbanisation meant that the unemployment rate was rising and more patients were becoming dependent on the grants.

“We would like to give more money to more people, but unless we find the funds urgently we have to reduce the size of the grants, which are already barely sufficient, or the number of grants.

“At the moment we can afford about 80 grants of between R40 and R90, depending on the number of dependants, and the soup kitchens and food parcels.”
Urban hunger, now worse than in rural areas
Winnowing threshed sorghum grown at Moresele Garden, Sekhukhuneland.
*Picture by Struan Robertson.
KALEIDOSCOPE

the lens of others.

THe LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE WORLD, AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF OTHERS.

Diane Casser

Thedora gives the needy their dignity back.

...there is a man in Phnom Penh (near Siem Reap)...
We are out from the peace that time to do some work. Because we are helping to keep the community clean and tidy, we are helping to keep the town and our neighbors clean and tidy.

MRS. HAMILTON KNOS OF BERRYSBURN

Helping the Poor

NTKABANING MORESELE pago to the Bwestern Woman OF THE

WOMAN

MRS. HELENETTA
Galloping poverty on the way for SA?

CAPE TOWN — A former key architect of government’s economic policy — Professor Sampe Terreblanche — yesterday said that as long as the Nationalist government remained in power “galloping poverty” was a real danger.

Terreblanche, now a Stellenbosch University economist, was a member of government’s Economic Advisory Board for six years and a confidante of Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis for about 15 years.

He told the Independent Party’s (IP) national congress “As long as this government remains in power, creeping poverty will continue.

“Indeed, the danger is rather the situation will degenerate into galloping poverty.”

Terreblanche said as long as the NP remained the government, South Africans would, in all probability, never again see a rise in real per capita income.

The only way this could come about was in the case of a “foreign windfall”.

The reason why “creeping poverty” was continuing was because government had never committed itself to real reform.

Terreblanche said, “Apartheid cannot be reformed. It can only be scrapped.

“A political policy of neo-apartheid, emergency regulations and a defiant stance towards the outside world (‘do your damnedest’) could never create circumstances of confidence which could generate a resumption of sustained economic growth.”
A former architect of government economic policy, Professor Sampie Terreblanche, declared yesterday that as long as the Nationalist government remained in power, "galloping poverty" was a very real danger.

Professor Terreblanche, an economist at the University of Stellenbosch, was a member of the government's economic advisory board for six years and a confidant of the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, for almost 15 years.

Speaking at the Independent Party's national congress, where he received a standing ovation, Professor Terreblanche said: "As long as this government remains in power, creeping poverty will continue. "Indeed, the danger is rather that the situation will degenerate into galloping poverty."

Professor Terreblanche told delegates that as long as the NP remained in government, South Africans would in all probability never again see a rise in the real per capita income.

The only way this could come about, he submitted, was in the case of a "foreign windfall", such as the rise of the gold price to $1,000.

The reason why "creeping poverty" was continuing was because the government had never committed itself to real reform.
The daily miracle of Canterbury Street

Doyen and longest-serving of the "soup round" stalwarts is Mrs Nena Leahy (her age is secret), whose indomitable spirit and dedication are already a legend on the Cape Flats.

However, tough of all, The Rooms' women is secretary Mrs Bunty Martin, who once disarmed a thug who was threatening other people in the dining room with a large knife. She has often brusquely ordered out belligerent men twice her size.

Mrs Martin is seldom at a loss in an emergency. Recently a well-wisher from a farm presented The Rooms with a huge forequarter of beef.

It was too big for any deep-freeze and none of the kitchen staff could cope with it.

She butchered the forequarter herself, instructing the caretaker where to cut the bones with a hacksaw.

Some of Mrs Martin's friends suggest she has "a hot line to upstairs."

It is almost uncanny. On three separate occasions when she has reluctantly decided to ask the bank for an overdraft, almost the exact amount has come in from an unexpected quarter.

However, the Service Dining Rooms can't depend solely on heavenly help.

An appeal for aid to thousands of business houses will be in the post shortly.

RIGHT: Customers start to queue at the Service Dining Rooms' soup van.
WOMAN-POWER at its most selfless is shown by the 15 who work, most of them voluntarily, at Cape Town's unique hostel, the Service Dining Rooms, and on its "Soup Run" to the Cape Flats.

They serve about 1,400 people with hot meals and soup every weekday — for which the total takings average R34.

Work at "The Rooms" in Canterbury Street starts at 5 am, when the two great urns for the day's soup are switched on. The soup is only part of the fare provided. Hot, nourishing plates of food are also served for 8c and soup and bread for one cent.

The prices at the dining rooms (which get no State subsidy and are almost entirely self-supporting) have remained unchanged since starting 53 years ago.

In that time, the cost of living has risen more than 1,000 percent. That the dining rooms have survived in these circumstances has been described as "The Miracle of Canterbury Street."

A roster of 10 voluntary white women from comfortable homes take turns to operate in pairs on the "soup run" to the humblest corners of the Cape Flats.

"We go to those places where no one else ventures," says Mrs Rose Wilson, who has been active in this work for more than 20 years (she is also the chairman of the Save the Children Fund).

"The need there is often desperate and the hot soup and bread (at a cent a large mug, 5c a bigger container and a few cents more for a potful) is a lifeline to many."

I went with Mrs Wilson to a depressed part of Manenberg with Mrs Pattie Pehrsen, who drove "The Rooms" big van, loaded with 18 cansisters of piping soup.

As we approached, Pattie hooted and, at the familiar sound, people old and young, fit and feeble, hurried out to meet us, utensils in hand. For many it was the only warm food of the day.

The volunteer women operate in all weathers, too, and often are more drenched than those they serve.
De Beer blames poverty on NP

Political Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICANS were growing steadily poorer each year as a direct result of National Party rule, PFP leader Dr Zach de Beer said last night.

It was "literally true" that a vote for President PW Botha was a vote for poverty, he told a meeting at Fish Hoek Civic Centre.

The average South African was, in terms of his buying power, becoming nearly 1% poorer every year.

Dr de Beer said this growing impoverishment was not simply due to the incompetence of the government — "though there is enough of that" — but because of apartheid.

"As long as we have apartheid, we shall have poverty."

If voters chose to stay with an apartheid government, either in its Nationalist or Conservative Party form, "you will have conflict with no end in sight."

Dr de Beer said the National Party, which had been in power for 40 years, had to accept responsibility for the state of affairs in the country.

However, the Nationalists were "past masters" at creating a mess and then blaming others for it.

While the country had for a long time managed to get away with an apartheid policy and prosperity along with it, after 1974 progress had been shaky and since 1981 things had become disastrous.

SA's high inflation rate had a lot to do with high, unproductive government spending and a lot of that spending had to do with apartheid.
Staff Reporter

THE City Council's planning department is to investigate possible sites for providing accommodation for the "very poor" as part of a solution to the problem of fast-growing numbers of vagrants.

The executive committee of the council approved a recommendation yesterday from the ad hoc committee on vagrancy in Cape Town that the city planner be asked to investigate potentially suitable sites to provide accommodation for the very poor.

The ad hoc committee's recommendation followed consideration of a report from the city planner's office which said 19 possible sites for accommodation for vagrants had been identified in a council report in 1985.

"Measured in bricks and mortar or in accommodation available, there has been little success in the past three years," the report said. "While most statistics on vagrant populations are, at best, estimates, one thing is clear, and that is that the numbers are growing fast," the report said, recommending that the term vagrant was "dehumanizing" and the terms "street people" and "street children" should be used instead.

Council to act on housing for poor
Not a blanket sent for 9000 refugees

By CARMEL RICKARD, Durban

DESPITE icy weather in Natal this week, little public interest seemed to have been spared for an estimated 9000 refugees from the Molweni and Riverview areas near Hillcrest.

The refugees fled their homes in Molweni and Ngcolosi during the last two weeks because of tension and violence in the region. At least 40 people have died this year.

While some people have taken refuge with white families in the vicinity, many more are living in the bush, in sugar cane fields or anywhere else they feel safer than their homes.

A committee of 10 made up of people of all races has been set up in the Molweni/Ngcolosi area to help with the crisis.

Hans Hofhuys, who is chairing the Thousand Hills Partnership, said he was particularly concerned about "the untold hardship" being experienced by the refugees living in the open.

"We have appealed for help from the public but so far we have had no response at all.

"We badly need clothes, blankets and food for the refugees and, particularly in this weather, we are concerned about the circumstances under which the people are living."

Hofhuys, a businessman, said they were also appealing to employers whose workers had not been coming to work, to be patient and not dismiss their staff.

"We know of many cases where it has not been possible for people to leave the valleys. Either they cannot leave their homes and fear for their lives, or they are afraid of being shot outside."

"If workers had to face dismissal on top of all their other troubles at this time, it would be very cruel."

A shopkeeper in the area said, "A shopkeeper in the area said the presence of a new army camp was eating the tension but only "a trickle" of people were returning home."

"People have been counting the empty houses and we estimate 9000 people have run away. Many of them are now too petrified to come back."

A cucumber farmer has allowed some of his workers and their children who live in the valley to sleep in
Major measles epidemic in SA  
‘due to poor living conditions’

The Argus Correspondent
DURBAN. — Inadequate housing and poor living conditions have tossed South Africa into the throes of a major measles epidemic, says Professor H.M. Coovadia, professor of pediatrics at the University of Natal.

Professor Coovadia was addressing a session of the four-day symposium on "Infections in Developing Countries" organised by the Medical Research Council of SA in Johannesburg.

He said the epidemic mostly affected children under the age of five.

Thirteen out of every 100 children who contracted the disease died, more than 92 percent of them black, Professor Coovadia said.

Research proved that children living in areas with low standards of housing and health services were worst affected.

"It is scandalous that a preventable epidemic is a killer in South Africa," he said.

"We have some of the most sophisticated medical technology in the world and plenty of vaccine to counteract the disease. The fragmentation of health services and the shocking housing conditions of certain sectors of the population make them worthless."

"We need one national cohesive health structure that encompasses all race groups and includes the homelands."
Leaders to combat poverty in SA

Professor calls for new breed of

Lester Venter at the Cape National Party Congress
Poverty is the key ‘people’ factor

By Clare Harper

The root of the population problem of developing countries was the pervasiveness of absolute poverty and low levels of living. This led to large families.

This was said by Mr A.H. Botha of the Department of National Health and Population Development at the international conference on population development.

The conference, which aimed to find possible solutions to the rapid population growth in southern Africa, was attended by more than 500 people, including representatives from the homelands.

Mr Botha said it was not just numbers, nor parental irrationality, which was the root problem. Countries in which there were imbalances between trends in population growth, resources and environmental requirements, were urged to adopt and implement specific population policies that would contribute to redressing such imbalances.

At the heart of the demographic problems in developing countries, from an economic point of view, were that quantities were not matched by appropriate qualities. There was an inverse correlation between the rate of creating life and the ability to sustain life.

The rationale for a population development programme was that most developing countries were experiencing multidimensional development problems which manifested themselves in the vicious cycle of poverty and high fertility.

Mr Botha said such programmes were aimed, among others things, at eliminating absolute poverty, lessening income inequalities, expanding educational opportunities — especially for women — and providing increased job opportunities for men and women.

The South African Population Development Programmes (PDP) was established in 1984 after an in-depth inquiry done on demographic trends in South Africa by the Science Committee of the President’s Council.

The main aim of the PDP was to ensure a balance between resources and population size, setting a maximum population for South Africa of 80 million people.
Indian areas 'face poverty'

By Shirley Woodgate
Municipal Reporter

Coloured and Indian townships faced a future of poverty just as Soweto had been forced to wait for handouts from "Big Brother Johannesburg," said Mr. Mohammed Dan
gor, secretary of Acetop.
Slating the lacklustre campaigns being run by the 23 Indian municipal candidates opposing seven wards in Lenasia and 41 candidates standing for 13 coloured wards, he said: "Not one had highlighted the dangers of separate municipal status or the financial hardships they would have to suffer through enforced autonomy."

"The rot first set in when these management committees accepted seats on the Central Wit-
waterrand Regional Services Council which effectively excised Lenasia, Bosmont, Westbur
ey, Newclare and Eldorado Park from Johannesburg."

"This political decision forced them to give up all their rights to Johannesburg's massive rates and taxes income, 51 per cent of the total being generated in the CBD where these residents are employed."

"In future the coloureds and Indians will pay higher taxes and cap in hand to Johannesburg because they will not be able to pay their way. What chance do these other areas have of real autonomy," Mr. Dan
gor asked.
Bridging the poverty gap

Soweto squatters now cross Shift River without fear of drowning

By CONNIE MOLUSI

The days are over when Mshenguville residents jumped to cross a stream that runs through the squatter village in Soweto – thanks to the donation of a steel bridge erected by the Five Freedoms Forum.

The notorious stream, dubbed “Shift River” because of its slippery mud, has been a hazard, especially for children, and has already claimed five young lives.

The construction of the bridge is one of several projects of the forum’s business group and the Mazizikhe Shack Committee.

The forum plans to erect four more bridges and will provide ash for mud roads, rubbish bins, and taps.

According to Alex Anderson, chairman of the forum’s business group and managing director of Mills and Industrial Services, the bridges cost R20,000.

Mshenguville bustled with excitement recently as children celebrated the safe crossing of the stream by climbing onto the bridge to test its strength.

John Gumedé, a shack committee member, said the projects would bring great relief to Mshenguville’s 3,000 residents who live in unhygienic conditions with no water, sanitation, drainage, or adequate rubbish collection.

Roads in the squatter camp turn into quagmires in the rainy season and the stream becomes a raging torrent.

Gumedé said: “The people of Mshenguville are very grateful for the efforts of the forum in trying to alleviate their suffering.”

Mshenguville was established with the blessings of the Sofasoanke Party leader, then mayor of Soweto ET Tshabalala, who became the centre of controversy when it was alleged that he collected R35 per household rent from Mshenguville residents.

Despite Mshenguville’s poverty and slum status, the squatter camp has become part of the daily reality of Soweto.
'Involve poor in growth'

THE challenge facing SA was to get millions of poor people individually involved in the economic development and prosperity of the country, Transport Minister Ell Louw said in Kimberley yesterday.

Speaking at the 105th annual conference of the Law Society of the Cape of Good Hope, Louw said deregulation would be essential in achieving the stability upon which a fair and just society could be built.

The legislation governing de-regulation, said Louw, gave the President the power to change any legislation provided it complied with one of the three provisions, namely, the expansion of the economy, competition and the creation of jobs.

Louw said the preparation for de-regulation was critical and that he had held private talks with the legal profession, commerce and industry, the media and trade unions.

"With the exception of the trade unions, I have had 100% support for the idea," said Louw.

He pointed out that there were 500 000 people in the informal sector, which gave a livelihood to three- to four-million people. Beginning three years ago, 800 000 jobless had been trained, and 30% now had jobs.

There were 100 000 black taxi operators in the informal sector giving a further 200 000 people jobs. Their contribution to the national growth of the SA economy had been 30% to 40%.

Louw said it was imperative for the informal sector to be incorporated into the formal sector soon, and with minimum legal constraint.
FEEDING THE MULTITUDES... Bishopscourt staff serve tea and biscuits to the 200 Old Crossroads squatters who arrived to discuss problems of poverty, unemployment and hunger yesterday.

Squatters call on Tutu

By CHRISS BATEMAN

NEIGHBOURS in Bishopscourt were intrigued yesterday as at least 200 Old Crossroads squatters queued for tea and biscuits in the courtyard of the official residence of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The crowd, which spokesmen said gathered to "ask for relief from poverty, hunger and unemployment from our father, the Bishop", grew slowly over an hour as taxis and buses arrived. At least five police vehicles monitored them in stages from discreet distances.

Archbishop Tutu was in Nairobi to preside over a six-monthly All-Africa Conference of Churches meeting and the Vicar-General of Cape Town, Dean Colin Jones, invited the unexpected guests in.

After some confusion as to whom the leadership was, several women volunteered to hold discussions with Dean Jones, the three Bishops Suffragan (Charles Albertyn, Geoffrey Quinlan and Ed McKenzie) and Canon W Duggan.

Before the closed-door discussions, which lasted over an hour, Dean Jones and Mrs Elsie Nkumbuzi had a brief debate over sanctions and whose responsibility it was for squatters.

Mrs Nkumbuzi asked that Archbishop Tutu return from overseas trips, "take bread and give piece for piece for all the people who are poor, sick and hungry." Dean Jones said that while the archbishop could do this, "the sickness is apartheid."

"You have not just been poor since Tutu supported sanctions. You've been poor long before that," he added.

Crowd gathers to ask relief from poverty and hunger

Asked whom he discerned as the leadership, Dean Jones said spokesman claimed they were not an organised group, "but obviously they are."

In a joint statement read by Dean Jones to assembled media afterwards, participants said they had agreed that the fundamental cause of black suffering in South Africa was apartheid.

A further meeting was planned after agreement was reached that black people "suffer together and must work in unity to end apartheid."

Asked who had paid their fares, taxi drivers said they were Old Crossroads residents and had volunteered their services.

A Bishopscourt resident walking his doberman, Mr Herman Cools, commented: "Tutu's crowd are not spontaneous and this crowd are probably not either. Who speaks for them? Who knows what they really want?"

He thought that if the "whole story" came out, Archbishop Tutu would probably lose more followers than "those behind these people."

Picture ALAN TAYLOR
Fish in the blood; bitterness in the heart

By CHIARA CARTER
Pics: YUNUS MOHAMED

THE sea is in Clara Rabe's blood. Both her father and grandfather were fishermen and when she and her sister, Johanna, were children they would rush down to Woodstock beach to help haul in the day's catch.

At the age of 14, Clara joined her sister working in a fish factory in Woodstock.

"We weren't people to hop around from job to job. We started work at that factory and that's where we stayed for the next 20 odd years," she says.

Boss begged

"You'd have to go far to find people who know fish like we do. I mean really know fish — snaek, kabeljou, stock, each one has to be treated differently.

The sisters' expertise did not go unnoticed. When a new factory opened at Saldanha 24 years ago, they were asked to go along to help train the workers.

"At first we didn't want to go. Saldanha seemed so far. But the bosses begged us and we agreed. We knew a lot about business but we knew about fish.

Johanna gave up work a few years back when she found she was too old to carry on. Clara soldiered on at the fish factory. Her earnings and the sole income in the household apart from the disability grants for her sister and brother.

Just over a year ago, workers at Sea Harvest went on strike. Clara Rabe was one of those workers.

"I supported the strike because I felt I had to stand together with the others," she recalls.

"I joined the Food and Allied Workers' Union because I could see that all those years of hard work counted for nothing. The bosses were happy as long as we worked hard and didn't complain about money. We did the work and they got rich.

Clara paid a heavy price for worker solidarity.

Together with about 500 other workers she was fired on September 7 last year.

"They gave me my wages for the week and some leave money and told me to go. That was the last money I earned. Since then I have lived on loans and handouts.

Constant anxiety

"I used to pride myself on the fact that I paid my own way and was a burden to no one. Losing one's job means you soon learn to swallow your pride.

It also means constant anxiety.

"I wake at night worrying about money. My rent is almost R600 in arrears. If it wasn't for my sister's grant we wouldn't have food on the table. Even with the grant we often go hungry. It doesn't seem right that after so many years one is treated worse than one would treat an animal.

"But tonight we have food. They were selling pap stocked at 10c each."

She adds with a wry smile: "I would never have believed that one day I would be grateful for old fish.

Still jobless

Clara Rabe's case is not unique. Some 500 workers were dismissed last year. While many found jobs elsewhere in the country and Sea Harvest re-employed some this year, about 50 workers are still without work.

One such worker is Gerritina van Roonen, who was employed as a packer at Sea Harvest before the strike. Without the 85c an hour she earned the family has been unable to keep up payments on the house. And last month the municipality cut off their water supply because they were R150 in arrears.

"With four children, there is no way we can make up the backlog. My husband's wages are just enough to keep us in food and clothes. Our only other income is the odd R10 1 ear from repairing," she says.

Joelina de Bruyn has also had her water cut off. He owes more than R1 000 in arrears for water and rent.

"I will never be able to pay that much money," he says. "As it is I struggle to feed my wife and children.

His eldest son is a second-year social work student at the University of the Western Cape. De Bruyn tries to send his son money for board and books but often even a few rand is impossible.

"It is very hard that you can't help your own son who is studying to learn skills that will help the whole community. He has to take odd jobs to be able to live. I would much rather he could devote all his time to his studies.

"As it is I have to be grateful for any money he manages to send us. When you are reduced to begging for water you are grateful for anything. Grateful and bitter.

Bitterness is not only felt by those who have no jobs.

According to a Fawu spokesperson workers employed at the factory are also unhappy.

"Management has set up a workers' committee composed of nominees, largely foremen, supervisors and the like. This committee is not representing the interests of workers who are afraid to challenge the committee."

"Management has manoeuvred the union into a position where we have lost our majority at the factory. This means the bosses can refuse to sign a recognition agreement. They want to weaken us still further by changing the stop-order facilities.

"Workers come to us with complaints about disciplinary procedures and victimisation. And there is nothing we can do."

Repeated attempts to contact Sea Harvest management were unsuccessful.

Fawu organiser Gert Koonan talks to Sea Harvest workers.
People

By CARINA LE GRANGE, Religion Reporter

Mother Teresa on mission to SA

Nobel prizewinner Mother Teresa is small and frail — but has a reputation as great as the head of the Roman Catholic Church — the Pope himself.

Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Albania (now part of Yugoslavia), 78 years ago, this frail woman has become known as the Saint of Calcutta for her work among the poor and destitute in that city's streets.

Since she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, she has often left the backstreets of poverty in Calcutta to pay visits to countries she feels she has a vocation to visit.

In this way she has visited, among others, Ireland, Lebanon and Ethiopia.

Now she is expected in South Africa, to start officially her worldwide work here.

When she won the Nobel Prize, she said "I am nothing. But I am glad that it has been given to me because that is to acknowledge the poor of the world."

A year later, she was awarded India's highest decoration, the Bharat Ratna (Jewel of India) which she accepted "in the name of the poor", and was voted 1990's most admired woman in the United States. She has since been awarded honorary doctorates and Britain's Order of Merit.

Mother Teresa belongs to the Missionaries of Charity, which she founded in 1950, taking a vow of poverty.

She lives in the institution she founded, feeding hundreds of people a daily meal - which may be their only meal for the day. She also runs a nursery for abandoned babies, and disabled or brain-damaged children.

She is an avid anti-abortionist and believes peace will come with the eradication of abortion. She has been quoted as saying "The cause of the greatest disturbances in the world is abortion."

She has an answer for the problem of unplanned babies, and preaches a form of "natural family planning" in which women are taught to read body signals to determine when ovulation takes place.

Despite being the best-known nun in the world, she does not believe women should be allowed to become priests.
Vlok apologises for editor's interrogation

JOHANNESBURG. — The Ministry of Law and Order has apologised to the editor of the Sowetan newspaper for his late-night interrogation last Thursday by two junior security policemen.

The editor, Mr Aggrey Klaaste, said Brigadier Leon Mellie, press secretary of the Ministry of Law and Order, "called and apologised on behalf of himself and the minister for the incident".

Mr Klaaste said he accepted the apologies.

The policemen woke Mr Klaaste on Thursday night at his Diepkloof home and questioned him for 40 minutes on his much-publicised initiative of Nation Building, which was launched about two weeks ago. — Sapa
MOTHER TERESA ARRIVES

MOTHER Teresa arrived in South Africa amid a warm reception from Catholic children who sang hymns and choruses for her at the Jan Smuts Airport yesterday.

Accompanied by four Missionary of Charity nuns, Mother Teresa looked touched as she watched the young ones who had also prepared bouquets for her and her entourage.

By ALI MPHAKI

The frail-looking Mother Teresa, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, earlier told a Press conference that she was in South Africa to find the children of God and give them love and tender care.

She declined to be dragged into politics, adding that her visit to South Africa was in line with Jesus Christ's message "to love one another" (24:1).

Mother Teresa will visit Khayelitsha in Cape Town today to have a first-hand experience of the conditions in the area. It is envisaged that she will set up a home to help the poor in the area. She will also be visiting the Winterveldt slum in Bophuthatswana after a mass at Christ the King Cathedral in Johannesburg on November 14.
Teresa pours out
love for
the poor

By PETER DENNEHY

MOTHER TERESA of Calcutta yester-
day told a Khayelitsha congrega-
tion: “We must do something beautiful for
God together.”

The tiny, wrinced and slightly
stooped 77-year-old nun clutched her
rosary at a press conference and said
she had “come to give general love and
care to the poorest of the poor and to
help the sick and dying.”

Mother Teresa said she had brought
four sisters with her who will stay to
start a mission in Khayelitsha.

One of them, Sister Bethany, said she
had spent the first nine years of her
life in Rondebosch. “Others are
from India and Rwanda.”

More than 100 well-wishers gathered
behind the security gates at the VIP
lounge at the airport where she was met by Archbishop Stephen Naidoo,
Cardinal Owen McCann and the Mayor
of Cape Town, Mr Peter Muller.

This is her first visit to South Africa,
though she was first invited here 16
years ago. Her order, the Missionaries
of Charity, operates in 85 countries,
she said.

Mother Teresa, the 1979 Nobel Peace
Prize laureate, brushed aside political
questions and said she did not even
know if the people she was coming to
serve were black or white, as they
were “all children of God.”

Asked whether the exis-
tence of apartheid had
affected her decision to
come to South Africa,
she said she “did not
know that apartheid or
something like that ex-
ists”. “I have never
mixed up in politics. We
are a religious congrega-
tion. An invitation was
sent to me and I an-
swered back ‘yes’.”

After the press confer-
ence, she went into the
curch next door where a
service was in progress
and preached about lov-
ing and sharing.

With a surprisingly
strong voice, she said
“Hunger is not only for
bread, it is for love. Na-
kedness is not only lack
of clothes, but of human
dignity. Homelessness
is not only lacking a brick
house, but being unwant-
ed and unloved, in a big
city full of riches.”

What counted was not
how much we gave, but
how much we loved, she
said.

Mother Teresa will stay in Cape Town until
Friday, when she leaves
for Port Elizabeth and
Tibet.
Mother Teresa shuns politics

India’s ‘saint of the slums’ spreads word

Owen Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Mother Teresa, Calcutta’s softly-spoken saint of the slums, cast a small shadow before the altar of St Raphael’s in Khayelitsha last night.

Three candles and a gas lamp glowed behind her. Now and then her slight frame lit up brilliantly as flashlights popped, and the clicking of cameras punctuated her appeal.

“The hunger is not only for food, it is also for love,” she said. “Homelessness is not only not having a home, it is also being unwanted and unloved. Many cities, big, rich cities are filled with people who have nothing. Nobody wants them.”

Two hours earlier, a cheer went up from the crowd lining the windows of the airport terminal as Mother Teresa stepped from the plane, small and stooping slightly, with a bag in each hand.

Favourite refrain

A crowd of followers in the rain outside pressed against the gates chanting “We want Mother, we want Mother!” Many wore lapel badges bearing the Nobel Peace Prize winner’s favourite refrain “Do something beautiful for God.”

A marimba band welcomed Mother Teresa to St Raphael’s Church, but as she emerged from the car she was almost instantly lost to view as photographers and cameramen packed around her.

“How does Khayelitsha compare with the slums of Calcutta?” one reporter asked.

She said “I will have to go around for a week to meet the people, be close to them and to look at what’s happening to them and then probably I’ll be able to answer.”

Was it not so that apartheid had caused the problems of Khayelitsha, another asked.

‘Never mix politics’

“I did not know that apartheid or something like that existed,” she replied “I never mix up in politics because I do not know.”

Asked if it was significant that she had chosen to establish her mission in a black township, she said “I was once asked in China. What do you make of a communist?” And I said a communist is a child of God. So it is the same here — white, black, green, yellow, whatever, you are all children of God.”

The four sisters who will start the Missionary of Charity Convent in Khayelitsha are Sisters Audrey and Kulupsha from India, Sister Bethany from Britain, who spent her first nine years in Rondebosch, and Sister Consega from Rwanda.

“We have come to give tender love and care to the poorest of the poor. We will work with the children, the destitute, the ill, the elderly, — whatever the need is,” Mother Teresa said.

The Star Wednesday November 9 1988

Mother Teresa surrounded by well-wishers on her arrival at Jan Smuts Airport.

Picture by Sean Woods.
A message of love for the city's poor and destitute

By REBECCA DAVIES

Mother Teresa
Something beautiful for God

MICHAEL MORRIS, Staff Reporter

MOTHER Teresa, Calcutta's soft-spoken saint of the slums, cast a small shadow before the altar of St Raphael's in Khayelitsha last night.

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"Homelessness is not only not having a home, it is also being unwanted and unloved. Many cities, big, rich cities are filled with people who have nothing, nobody wants them.

CHEER

"But this is a beautiful city and no man, no woman and no child is unwanted — together we are going to do something beautiful for God.

The world's most famous sister of charity had come to Cape Town.

A cheer went up from the crowd lining the windows of the airport terminal as Mother Teresa stepped from the plane two hours earlier, small and stooping slightly, with a bag in each hand.

Declining help from Archbishop Stephen Naidoo, she made her way across the puddled tarmac.

Reporters and television crews shuffled anxiously beyond the entrance to the VIP lounge where Mother Teresa and her entourage met the Mayor, Mr Peter Mallor, and Deputy-Mayor Mr Gordon Oliver.

A crowd of followers in the rain pressed against the gates chanting: "We want Mother ... we want Mother..."

Many wore lapel badges bearing the Nobel Peace Prize winner's favourite refrain: "Do something beautiful for God."

Then she appeared, to cheers and applause from the crowd.

As the procession of cars passed through the gates, the crowd of about 200 surged forward, surrounding Mother Teresa's car. People reached out to touch her or pass her flowers.

A marimba band welcomed Mother Teresa to Khayelitsha's St Raphael's Church, and minutes later, exuding calm as she toyed with her Rosary in her lap, Mother Teresa faced the spotlights and lenses and questions.

"How does Khayelitsha compare with the slums of Calcutta?" one reporter asked.

She said: "I will have to go around for a week to meet the people, be close to them and to look at what's happening to them and then probably I'll be able to answer. Being my first visit, I cannot give an adequate answer at this time..."

What about apartheid?

She would not be drawn.

"I was once asked in China, 'What do you make of a communist?' and I said a communist is a child of God. So it is the same here — white, black, green, yellow, whatever. You are all children of God created for greater things, to love and be loved.'"

She added: "It is not how much you give, it is how much you love."

Finally, she was asked how fit she was.

Her eyes sparkled and her wrinkles deepened. "I'm running about the place," she said.
MOTHER Teresa, Calcutta's softly-spoken saint of the slums, cast a small shadow before the altar of St Raphael's in Khayelitsha on Tuesday night.

Three candles and a gas lamp glowed behind her. Now and then her slight frame lit up brilliantly as flashlights popped, and the clicking of cameras punctuated her appeal.

"Her hunger is not only for food, it is also for love.

"Homelessness is not only not having a home, it is also being unwanted and unloved. Many cities, big, rich cities are filled with people who have nothing, nobody wants them.

"But this is a beautiful city and no man, no woman, and no child is unwanted — together we are going to do something beautiful for God."

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A crowd of followers in the rain outside pressed against the gates chanting “We want Mother, We want Mother.” Many more lapel badges bearing the Nobel Peace Prize winner’s favourite refrain “Do something beautiful for God.”

Then she appeared, to cheers and applause from the crowd.

Wheelchair-bound Miss Beverley Evans of Pinelands was one of the first people to meet Mother Teresa.

She said afterwards “It was wonderful. She is so sincere. She said ‘God bless you, may the Lord be with you’.”

As the procession of cars passed through the gates, the crowd of about 200 surged forward, surrounding Mother Teresa’s car. People reached out to touch her, or pass her flowers.

A marimba band welcomed Mother Teresa to Khayelitsha’s St Raphael’s Church, but as she emerged from the car she was almost instantly lost to view as photographers and cameramen packed around her.

Minutes later, exuding calm as she toyed with her rosary in her lan

She said “I will have to go around for a week to meet the people, be close to them and to look at what’s happening to problems of Khayelitsha?

She said “I cannot give that answer until I meet and see”
China

"I was once asked in China, 'What do you make of a community and I said, 'communists are children of God.' I'm not black, green, yellow - white. Whatever, you are all children of God created for greater things to love and be loved.' She added, 'It is not how much you give, it is how much you love.'"
It's crayfish time again. But for the men who bring this sought-after and expensive seafood delicacy to restaurant tables around the world, there are few, if any, rewards.

They live in poverty in little whitewashed cottages described by tourists as "quaint" and "picturesque". But this facade belies the suffering of Paternoster fishermen in Kraalfontein and Vaalplaas. HENRY LUDSKI reports

KATRINA Williams is deep in thought as she stands at the oyster door tapping her black coffee.

"Where am I going to get 70c to buy bread before my children come home from school," she says, almost homagey.

Inside the two-roomed cottage her mother, 66-year-old Mrs Christina Kuiders, has warned of her own.

She has to make a meanie helping of "veetkoek" last the whole day and still feed a family of eight.

"We first see to it that the children get food before we worry about ourselves," she says, locking the "veetkoek" in the kitchen dresser - her way of ensuring that at least.

Many other families in Paternoster endure the same suffering.

For the Kuiders the battle for food takes precedence over other needs. However, many nights they have gone to bed hungry.

Shortrived

Says Braak Williams, her bright-eyed and smiling three-year-old daughter Cecilia sitting on her lap.

"If I don't have food I'll ask somebody else for a piece of bread."

In the small fishing village of Paternoster on the West Coast, the Kuiders are accustomed to sharing and helping people more needy than themselves.

But even that help is not enough, and many people still have to go hungry.

Says Williams: "Cecilia doesn't come to complain when we don't have any food, she just quietly goes to bed."

The picturesque facade of "quaint" whitewashed cottages hides the true suffering of these poor fishermen and their families.

About 600 people live in the small settlement but only a few are fortunate to have full-time jobs, the others depending on the annual crayfish season to make a living.

The relief that it brings is often shortlived.

The season got underway last week, but at Paternoster it has not generated the same excitement that is

from the fishery boards to see them through.

Says another fishermen: "When you get your first pay they take off the money they advanced you and you are lucky if there is any over."

His bitterness is shared by other fishermen.

Mr Piet Jordaan, an executive member of the Paternoster community committee, describes the area as "the most backward fishing village" on the West Coast.

"Elsewhere people earn money. Here you are next to the sea you can hear the sea even on your bed at night, but you can't do anything about it," he says.

Paternoster fishermen are allowed to catch four crayfish a day for themselves, but they may not be sold.

"People have crayfish to eat, but they don't have enough money to buy food," says Jordaan.

"It's unfair," says a young fisherman asking not to be named for fear of being victimized by the fishery boards.

"Take a skipper who has been working for 20 years. He gets 70% of the money for about R55 in restaurants. He has made millions of rand for the board, but he has nothing to show for it.

"On the other hand, the crayfish owner or quota holder can choose to which port of the world they want to go on holiday."

"They can choose whether to ride on the Blue Train or any other train of their choice, but we have to suffer to make them rich."

In Paternoster people are lucky if there is work a few months a year.

For the rest of the year they struggle to make a living and to feed their families.

The fishermen's cottages are owned by the three fishing companies operating in Paternoster.

Many people live in constant fear of losing their homes.

"We are fighting a losing battle," says Piet Jordaan, one of only three local fishermen fortunate to have their own small crayfish quota.

Many people break the law by selling their crayfish illegally. "How else are they supposed to survive," says Jordaan.

Earlier that year several fishermen were caught doing this and had to pay heavy fines.

Retired 67-year-old fisherman Mr Piet Kuiders has seen it all. The good times - and now the bad.

He recalls catching crayfish throughout the year.

"Now it takes only a few weeks to fill the quotas," he says sadly.

Crayfish used to provide more than 100 jobs for local fishermen.

Before it was 20 men to a boat, but modern fishing methods have reduced this number to five.

Kreef to eat, but no bread

Pic: YUNUS MOHAMED

KATRINA Williams, 66, has grown weary years.

Says Mr Christian Jordaan: "The money we make in the few weeks that we work filling the crayfish quotas is hardly enough to last us until next season."

This year the community has been lucky that snook was plentiful.

But money for bread next year they may not be that fortunate.

For many months at a time we don't have work and we have to be careful to put money away for bad times," he says.

When the money runs out, they depend on a weekly R10 advance from the fishery boards to see them through.

Jacobus Jordaan mending nets in preparation for the following day's fishing

Pic: YUNUS MOHAMED

FILE

SOUTH, November 10 to 16 1988 7

Pic: YUNUS MOHAMED
India’s ‘living saint’ asks
South Africans to pray

Owen Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — More than 10 000 people gathered at the Good Hope Centre to hear Mother Teresa proclaim her “message of love and peace” yesterday.

All available seats in the huge hall were taken and people packed the aisles to hear the 78-year-old nun.

Mother Teresa asked people to pray for her missionaries of charity so that they could continue to do their work.

She has spent the past two nights in the three-roomed peach-painted house in Zone Z, Khayelitsha, which will be a temporary convent for the four sisters of charity who will stay behind to minister to the poor.

Mr Peter Templeton, co-ordinator of the Catholic Welfare Bureau, said Mother Teresa chose one of the bureau’s “neighbourhood old age homes” as a temporary home for the sisters.

The mayor of Cape Town, Mr Peter Muller, hosted a lunch for Mother Teresa and the city’s clergy at the Old Townhouse yesterday.

Among the guests were fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Cardinal Owen McCann.

During the function, in the open courtyard of the historic house, crowds of people gathered in Burg and Longmarket streets and leaned out of office windows to catch a glimpse of the “living saint of Calcutta.”
R5-m is relief for 'Hunger'

By Dawn Barkhuizen

Donations totalling R4-million from the United States and Germany, and an additional R1 million donated locally, have provided 11th hour relief for Operation Hunger.

And prize money for the Gold Rush V contest will be held in trust until the competition closes on December 24.

For the past two months, Operation Hunger has had to reduce rations by R200 000 a month and delay re-implementation of school feeding in KwaZulu.

Despite the recent donations, however, Mrs Mia Periman, the executive director, predicts an even more gloomy scenario for 1989, particularly if total sanctions are applied.

Total sanctions in the first six months of next year could result in more than 90 000 people losing their jobs which will give us almost 2 million people to feed," she warned.

The organisation is feeding 1.3 million people and is faced with 310 000 immediate appeals for food.
MOTHER Teresa prayed to St Joseph on Wednesday that she would find "a convent for her nuns" in Khayelitsha by luncheon time that day — and by luncheon time her prayer was answered.

That afternoon she had made up her mind and chosen the site — an old-age home owned by the Catholic Welfare Bureau in Z Block.

She and her nuns immediately moved into the new premises in Z block and spent the night there.

Asked whether she had ever been as quick to find a place, she said it had been "quicker in Washington."

Archbishop Stephen Nando's press secretary, Mr Sydney Duval, said the nuns would possibly set up a mission closer to St Raphael's Church eventually, but the present premises were sufficient for their needs now.

Mother Teresa had also said she would like more land in Khayelitsha to put up a place for the frail elderly and the sick.

Mother Teresa, who is a Nobel Peace Prize winner, met Cape Town's own Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday at a lunch hosted by the Mayor Mr Peter Muller. But she ate nothing.

The two prizewinners chatted briefly in the garden, where Mother Teresa was introduced to many other dignitaries including church leaders of various denominations and religions, the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Gene Louw, the Western Cape BSC chairman, Mr Piet Loubscher, and virtually all Cape Town's city councillors.

Mother Teresa told Mr Louw that the major need in Khayelitsha was for jobs. He replied that it took money to create jobs, and his administration was doing what it could.

When she told him she wanted to work among the sick and the dying, he told her that his administration would soon be spending another R50 million on welfare institutions.

After she was welcomed by the mayor, Mother Teresa urged anyone who found a man, woman or child who felt unwanted and unloved to "please get in touch with my sisters."

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BEL PRIZE-WINNERS. Two Nobel peace prize winners, Mother Teresa and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, met at the Mayor's function at the Old Townhouse yesterday. She won her prize in 1979, he won his in 1984.

Picture ALAN TAYLOR
The brother, who was a missionary in a foreign country, arrived back home after a long stay abroad. He had brought many gifts and presents from his time in the foreign land. The brother visited several churches and gave talks about his experiences. He also met with various community leaders and shared his insights on the local culture and customs.

The brother's return was met with great excitement and joy. The church members were thrilled to hear about the brother's mission work and the impact it had on the local community. The brother's stories inspired many, and his dedication to serving others was a testament to his commitment to the church.

As the brother continued his travels, he encountered many challenges and obstacles. However, his faith remained strong, and he continued to work tirelessly to bring hope and change to those in need. His story serves as an inspiration to all who seek to serve others and make a difference in the world.

The brother's return was a reminder of the importance of community and the power of faith. His story is a testament to the impact that a single individual can have on the lives of others. As we reflect on the brother's journey, we are reminded of the importance of serving others and making a difference in the world.
Help the poor — you may win R1-million

You could be a millionaire in the New Year, but — more important — fellow South Africans living in rural communities may receive a new lease on life as a result of your purchase of an Operation Hunger Gold Rush 5 ticket.

The sale of 10 tickets will provide 1 000 meals.

The sale of 10 tickets could also provide sufficient revenue to establish a home garden that will keep a family in vegetables and provide surplus produce.

“The commitment of old people in Lebowa where fetching a bucket of water entails a 5 km round-trip is astounding,” said Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger.

VEGETABLE GARDENS

The more than 60 families who lived in one area there were all cultivating vegetable gardens, despite the difficulties of watering their plants.

The draw for the 16 finalists and the 30 consolation prize winners will take place at Sandton City on January 31 1989 and the finalists’ competition will be held at Kyamlami race track on February 4.

It is being organised by the Veteran Cyclists Association.

Ticket sales close on December 24. Sellers are situated at the Spar in Doornfontein, Hyperama stores in Eastgate, Sandton, Roodepoort and Germiston, the OK Bazaars in Eloff Street, Alberton, Carlton Centre, Cresta and Randburg and at Checkers stores in South Hills, Ridgeway, Westgate, Eastgate and Sandton.

Tickets are also available at the Oriental Plaza, the Killarney Mail, the Firs and The Mall in Rosebank.
MOTHER TEREZA

Heart-Rending Scenes as Mother Teresa Visits Shantytown

Southam 11/11/1978

The people were gathered outside the poverty-stricken slums. They were a mixture of love, hunger, and the poverty-stricken slums. They were a mixture of love, hunger, and

The people were gathered outside the poverty-stricken slums. They were a mixture of love, hunger, and the poverty-stricken slums. They were a mixture of love, hunger, and
One more convent

MOTHER Teresa said in a brief interview at the weekend that she wanted to open at least one more convent house for the poor, and destitute in South Africa.

She said it was “quite possible” she would return to South Africa as she had been asked in two or three places to set up more homes.

The purpose of her recent visit was to set up a foundation on the Cape Peninsula’s wastelands of Khayelitsha.
GOLDRUSH TO HELP 300 000

OVER 300 000 people are waiting for help from Operation Hunger and their fate will be decided by the outcome of the Gold Rush V, according to the organisation executive director, Mrs Ina Periman.

She told a press conference in Johannesburg that they have secured the R1.5 million prize money for the competition whose closing date is December 24.

"All the money that is being raised now will be for the destitute families," she said. "Our target for this year is R3 million and if all goes well, we may secure a further R4 million from overseas donors."

"Operation Hunger is presently spending R200 000 less a month and its current budget will last for only three months," she said.

A draw for Gold Rush V will be on January 31 in the Sandton City Fountain Court and the final organised by Veterans Cycling Association, will be at Kyalami on February 4. There are 16 prizes to be won: R1 million rand as first prize, followed by R100 000 for second, R50 000 for third, R10 000 for fourth and 12 consolation prizes of R5 000 each.

Mrs INA Periman... appeal for community support.
Mother Teresa prays for peace in SA

By Deborah Smith
Fetura Bureau

Mother Teresa of Calcutta yesterday asked people in Pretoria to ensure that no one in their beautiful city felt unloved or unwanted.

“I will pray for you that through your love for one another peace and joy will come to this beautiful country,” she said.

Mother Teresa drew an applauding crowd of about 5000 to their feet as she walked to the rostrum, shaking hands and blessing people as she went.

During an earlier visit to the rural area of Waterveld, Mother Teresa said she would send her sisters to work among the needy.

“I hope when my sisters come here and you find a child that is unwanted you will take it to my sisters, because I want that child,” she said.

The hunger in society today, she said, was not only for bread but also for the word of God and love — because there were so many people who felt lonely and unloved.

“Let us keep purity in the family and help the young to stay pure,” she said.

Holding her ever-present rosary, Mother Teresa said love began at home in the family, through prayer.

Suffering was a gift from God and she urged people to learn from the saying in her workers’ constitution, which was to “accept whatever Jesus gives you and to give whatever Jesus takes — with a big smile.”

Mother Teresa holds nine-week-old Faith Mvutha during her tour of Waterveld. She has urged Pretoria people to ensure that nobody in the city feels unwanted.
MOTHER Teresa makes promise

"beautiful thing for God"

MOTHER Teresa of Calcutta, the saint who served the poorest of the poor, yesterday promised to send her sisters to Winterveldt outside Pretoria as soon as possible so that they could do something beautiful for God.

The tiny, sandal-clad figure who constantly fingered her well-worn rosary, said "I have no gold or silver to give, but I give you my sisters."

Mother Teresa was greeted by singing and cheering during her three-stop visit to the poor rural area of Winterveldt.

At the St John the Baptist Old Age home, she called on people to make a "strong resolution to ensure that no one was unloved or unwanted no matter what colour or religion they belonged to."

"What I can do for you, you can’t do — and what you can do, I can’t do so together let us do something beautiful for God."

November 16, 1988
Mother Teresa's Loving Apostles

The Word of the Lord is lived to its fullness in the apostolic mission of St. Faustina Kowalska and Sister Mary Dominicek, who, under the Inspiring Word of God, have brought the Good News to the poorest of the poor in the hospice of St. Mary's House in Warsaw. They have been instrumental in fostering a culture of love and compassion among the destitute. Their work, characterized by the dedication and selflessness, has been a model for others to follow in their quest to bring hope and healing to those in need. The legacy of their ministry continues to inspire and challenge us all to extend a helping hand in the face of poverty and despair.
Vegetables change lives

— Perlman

By Dawn Barkhuizen

 MOHLALETSE — Rows and rows of spinach, carrots and beetroot are the lifeline of 7350 people living in a tiny section of drought-stricken southern Lebowa, thanks to Operation Hunger.

Rich harvests — in an area where landowners have had no crops this year — are being reaped four times annually, earning money and food for isolated and otherwise unemployed rural dwellers, according to Mrs Ina Perlman, Operation Hunger's executive director.

The success of 21 community gardens established at Mohlaletse this year is illustrated when the percentage increase in applications for feeding in the area — about 15 percent since February — is compared to the 100 percent increase in neighbouring Nwaebe — an area with only three community gardens.

EVERGREENS

This is even more remarkable in view of the fact that unemployment has increased dramatically as a result of the closure of nearby chrome mines, Mrs Perlman said.

The gardens, nicknamed "evergreens", are central to Operation Hunger's self-help drive, but are only established at the request of and with the participation of the community.

There are plans to establish a further 17 gardens, at a cost of R2 300 with boreholes and handpumps, in the area.

The effect of each garden is multiple:

● Employment for about 50 people is provided. Gardeners reap vegetables for their families worth about R50 a month and earn an additional R30 to R50 in cash sales.

● Providing clean water.

● Providing fresh vegetables otherwise not available in the area, virtually stamping out kwashiorkor.
FEED HUNGRY KIDS FIRST SAYS CITY FIREMAN

by VIVIEN HORLER
Weekend Argus Reporter

HORRIFIED at the financial predicament of charities which feed children, city fireman Lawrence Fabré has declared a ban on Christmas presents.

Instead he will give the money to charity.

And he has challenged others to do the same.

Mr Fabré, a fire inspector with Cape Town City Council, called Weekend Argus after reading last week that the Peninsula School Feeding Association, which provides a protein-enriched meal to 150,000 children every school day, may be forced to close if it does not receive a major cash injection.

No presents

"Malnutrition leads to physical stunting and mental retardation," he said. "If we don't do something about these children now, we're going to end up supporting them forever."

"It's terrible that in a country where there is enough food, people should be starving. Children don't eat that much. I think it's because not enough people care. Now I've decided to do something about it."

Mr Fabré has told his family he will not give presents this year but will give what he would have spent to the Peninsula School Feeding Association.

"It'll be about R200. That's not much in terms of what they need, and you won't be able to get much for it, but it's about what I would have spent.

"And I've told my family not to give me presents either - they must also give the money to a good cause."

Mr Fabré's pledge and challenge were welcomed by Beryl Pinswah of the association.

"Isn't that wonderful," she said. "I hope it catches on. We're in a crisis. Our annual operating budget is R1-million and we're R500,000 down. If we don't get a huge cash injection in the next two years we'll have to close down - and who will feed the children then?"

"Operation Hunger has made it quite clear they couldn't take over our schools. They have enough commitments of their own - so the end of our feeding scheme would be the beginning of the end for thousands and thousands of young South Africans."

"These children face the prospect of severely stunted physical growth and retarded brain development. Later in life they will have difficulty holding down jobs and their underdevelopment will probably be passed on to their children."

Miss Pinswah quoted some sobering facts and statistics. According to Dr Aziz Seidat of the School of Tropical Medicine at the University of London, malnutrition is the single biggest killer of black children in South Africa.

Professor Ali Moeza, head of paediatrics at the University of Natal, said in 1983 that 30,000 South Africans died of malnutrition every year, or three to four an hour. Most were children.
Tutu speaks of ‘unbelievable’ poverty in India

Staff Reporter

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu told the boys of Diocesan College at their prize-giving ceremony yesterday of his harrowing experience during a recent trip with Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta.

"The squalor in the slums was unbelievable," he said. "There were swarms of flies everywhere and even on the faces of the pot-bellied children."

"Much of this you can see in slums and ghettos here in Cape Town, yet the poverty in India has a peculiar quality about it," he said.

It was all so sombre and depressing. People were living and dying as if they were just animals. He had to step across homeless people lying like corpses in white shrouds on the streets.

"One person (Mother Teresa) did not shrug her shoulders at the magnitude of the problem," he said. "She has made a difference. We can each make a difference."

"The world has been changed by individuals who inspired many blacks to oppose apartheid."

"You should not be daunted by the enormity of the task before you," he said. "Stand up for human rights in this land where they are being disregarded with impunity."

• Archbishop Tutu handed out an impressive array of prizes to scores of high achievers at the school including seven maths Olympiad finalists.

In rugby, Bishop’s has also achieved successes, the first team losing only one match in the past three years.
Tutu speaks of ‘unbelievable’ poverty in India

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Pangs of modern

By DALE LAUTENBACH
Staff Reporter

THE rural West Coast town of Mamre is experiencing the pangs of rapid urbanisation in a process rather like those stories about "the good news and the bad news which would you like first?"

The trouble is, Mamre, like everywhere else, has little choice in this inexorable process.

Both types of news tend to arrive at once - like findings that in this small place high blood pressure is less likely to strike you down than it is in a big city - but violent deaths are higher than the national average for the coloured people.

The community of just under 5 000 has been monitored by a team of medical and epidemiological researchers from the University of Cape Town community health department and the Centre for Epidemiological Research in Southern Africa.

Health project

The South African Medical Journal recently published the first findings of the Mamre Community Health Project, un-
living hit Mamre
old Mamre ... rapidly changing.

Community was heaviest among men between 25 and 44 — 76.2 percent.

- Hypertension among Mamre women was 25.9 percent compared with 38 percent in the urban areas of the Peninsula.

- Nine percent of the 75 children at the creche were underweight and 11 percent were below height for their ages.

- Of 430 primary school children under 11, 10.2 percent were underweight and 10.9 percent below average height.

Dental investigation showed an alarmingly high degree of decay in milk teeth but little decay for permanent teeth, but decay tended to increase with age.

The researchers began their project at an important time in the history of Mamre.

Before 1966 the community had no access to modern bulk services but "major environmental and infrastructural changes" were being introduced which could have significant effects on the lifestyle and health of the community.

Phase Two of the project will continue monitoring just how this urbanisation affects the community.

A schoolboy receives a typhoid inoculation.
kaNgwane battles to assist war refugees

By Dawn Barkhuizen

The number of Mozambicans crossing the South African border and seeking refuge in kaNgwane increased by more than 100 percent last month, according to Operation Hunger executive director, Mrs Ina Perlman.

She attributed the increase to heavy fighting in the southern Mozambique and said the situation seemed worse than in July when hundreds of people fled Mozambique where they said rampaging bands of MNR rebels were "running amok".

The number of new refugees receiving rations in camps in kaNgwane normally increased at an average of 600 people a month. In November, however, the number had surged above 800.

Mrs Perlman said a day when we don't get flooded with appeals for feeding and self-help from that area. The situation is chronic.

Since July the number of refugees being fed at Shongwe in kaNgwane has increased from 5,000 to 7,000 — an increase of 40 percent.

Mrs Perlman said the number of refugees receiving rations in Gazankulu had increased steadily from 20,623 in April to more than 22,000 last month.

Operation Hunger raises money to feed Mozambican refugees outside South Africa.
Drought, floods wreak havoc on food supply

ROME — Drought, floods and hurricanes wreaked havoc on world food supplies in 1988 and experts are worried about the outlook for next year, UN Food and Agriculture Organization director-general Mr Edouard Saouma said this week.

"The outcome of next year's harvest will be crucial," Mr Saouma said in his year-end statement. "In 1988, global cereal output must increase by an unprecedented 228 million tons, or 13 percent, to meet food needs and rebuild stocks to acceptable levels."

During 1988 he said the world drew heavily from once abundant food reserves, depleting stocks to the lowest levels since the food crisis of the early 1970s.

Losses

"For the first time since World War 2, global cereal production has declined in two successive years," said Mr Saouma.

Better harvests in Asia, Africa and Western Europe were unable to offset crop losses in the Americas, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, he said.

Mr Saouma also noted that a severe drought in North America, the traditional breadbasket of the world, reduced cereal output by almost a third.

Two successive hurricanes took a toll on harvests in some Central American and Caribbean countries and floods battered crops in a number of countries, particularly in Bangladesh and Sudan, he said.

He called the locust invasion in Africa and the Middle East the most extensive in history. However, he said concerted action has limited the potentially enormous damage from the invasion.

Food production, he said, has not kept pace with population growth in two-thirds of the countries in Africa, about half in Latin America, the Caribbean and Near East, and a third of those in the Far East.

"Fifteen countries are facing unusual food shortages and require exceptional food aid," he said. The countries are Angola, Benin, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Laos, Lebanon, Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Vietnam and Ethiopia.

"Our main multilateral food supply for use in times of disasters, the International Emergency Food Reserve, is exhausted," he said.

He repeated his proposal to make the voluntary reserve a legally binding convention and to augment the 500,000-ton a year reserve with a stand-by pledge of 1.5 million tons for emergencies.

Debts

Mr Saouma said a number of low-income, food-deficit countries could have trouble meeting food needs next year because the low stocks have pushed up cereal prices. He also identified foreign indebtedness and agricultural trade barriers as major obstacles for the Third World.

Mr Saouma also characterized 1988 as the worst financial year in FAO's 43-year history. He said 80 countries owed the agency $222 million. The largest debtor, at $136 million, is the United States, he added. — Sapa-AP.
Emergency stocks used to feed hungry children

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN — Operation Hunger’s dipping into emergency stocks to feed thousands of hungry children over the festive season.

However, thousands will still go hungry as they are cut off from their food supply because of the closure of many Operation Hunger distribution points for the holidays.

Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director, said that, with emergency supplies being used, the organisation would face the prospect of feeding 900,000 children from depleted stocks in the New Year.

She said Christmas was only a time of celebration and happiness for a minority of South Africans.

“These people will be sitting down to a huge Christmas dinner and exchanging gifts while, for the majority, it will be no different to any other day when they consider themselves fortunate to have a filling meal.”

Mrs Perlman said the greatest tragedy over the festive season was that creches, schools and the service organisations which normally handled the distribution of food to the hungry would be closed.

“We can see the physical deterioration in these children when we reach them again,” she said.

Mrs Perlman said that charity funds in Johannesburg had cut down on the number of food hampers for the needy because of a slump in donations.

While she criticised the many who seemed to be too wrapped up in their own needs to spare a thought for the less privileged, she said the number of people who had donated their Christmas bonus cheques to Operation Hunger was very heartening.

“Some have been enormous cheques by any standard, while others are large considering the income of the people giving them.”

Sales of tickets for Gold Rush 5 have closed, but people who missed the opportunity to buy a ticket should contact their local Operation Hunger office.

“We are not extending the deadline, but workers in our offices may be able to help a few people out,” said Mrs Perlman.
Mr J H Viljoen of National Beverage Services (right) hands out a R50 000 cheque to Operation Hunger staffs, from left, Mr Mpho Mashinini, Mrs Barbara Abraham, the Rev Mbuyiswewe Thabala and Mrs Eunice Sibya.

R50 000 TO HELP HUNGRY PEOPLE

SOWETAN Reporter

A R50 000 donation from National Beverage Services has come to the rescue of the Operation Hunger's feeding scheme, said a member of the organisation, Mr Mpho Mashinini.

Mr Mashinini said they had stopped their feeding schemes nationally for the past month because of the shortage of money.

"The donation has come at the right time for us and we appreciate it," he said. "It will allow us to continue with our scheme for some time."

We are at present feeding 590 families and have another 1 000 on our waiting list."

Mr J H Viljoen of National Beverage Services said his company discovered the high starvation rate in Soweto while conducting a marketing survey.

"It is the first time that we are involved with Operation Hunger and we welcome the opportunity to extend a helping hand in welfare matters," he said.

The presentation was done at the Methodist Church in Meadowlands which acts as one of the feeding scheme centres.

How to run the battle against AIDS

FOR South Africa to implement effective programmes against AIDS an understanding of cultural and sexual patterns of blacks and whites was necessary, a social worker told a symposium.

Mrs Dawn Mokhobo, a social worker, said when talking with people about AIDS one had to be sensitive to their tradition.

She was delivering a paper on the control of HIV in the black community.

"This year in particular, because of the threat of AIDS we must..."
More Mozambicans flee civil war to SA

Refugees often women and starving kids

By SOPHIE TEMB

ABOUT 800 refugees are fleeing to KwaNdebele every month, according to the Phalaborwa Relief Committee that operates in the area.

Members of the committee in KwaNdebele said up till October this year they had registered 21,614 refugees in their area.

Large groups of women and children arrive at the Shongwe refugee settlement in KwaNdebele and the Lydenburg settlement in KwaZulu every day saying their husbands and fathers are being held captive by Renamo troops who demand that they join the rebels or be killed.

The women — who left their men and their possessions behind — claim that civilians are not only attacked at night but during the day by Renamo troops.

They say many Mozambique villages are deserted after residents fled from the border town of Renamaland due to the threat of attack by the Renamo forces.

Children of refugees who arrived at these settlements this week showed signs of gross under-nourishment and malnutrition.

Those with skills move on to urban areas where they can find themselves jobs while the unskilled remain in the homelands.

Food relief comes from Operation Hunger, while other organisations such as the International Red Cross provide clothing and other necessities.

Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, said funds to buy food for refugees came from the United Kingdom and Germany.

Operation Hunger in turn purchases and distributes the food.

Once in South Africa, the refugees feel safe but become disillusioned by the harsh conditions they are often subjected to by the homeland authorities.

They are granted provisional permits which they have to carry at all times and are restricted to the areas in which they have been resettled.

The permits do not allow them to take up employment in the areas and are valid for six months.

Once their permits have expired, they are required to have them renewed by a magistrate.

If arrested, the refugees are taken across the border again and warned not to return to South Africa.

Many refugees have reported their relatives missing and suspect they had been taken captive or forced to return to Mozambique.
Hungry for cash? Help the hungry

Aspirant millionaires have five days in which to buy a ticket that will put them in line to win R1 million.

Operation Hunger's fifth Gold Rush competition closes on Saturday. Tickets sold so far total R2 million — 1 million short of the target.

Executive director Mrs Ina Periman says, "We need every penny we can raise. We are being deluged for appeals for food."

She appeals to all those celebrating Christmas to share their joy and blessings with others by buying a R10 ticket.

"You could be giving somebody a R1 million present," she says.

Cash raised will go towards feeding the hungry and to self-help schemes.

- See Page 6
POVERTY - GENERAL

1989
no easy road to freedom
Sister Colette and Sister Kathleen, the nuns who run the Badplaas Clinic — another project started with the sale of old clothes.
The old clothing arrives. Father Charles Kupfelwieser of Carolina with some of the bales.

2/1/89 The Star

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Measles: Parents urged to immunise

Stoff Reporter

STEPS should be taken to ensure all children aged nine months or more are immunised against measles as soon as possible, city Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss has warned.

Commenting on the recent rash of cases – 40 last November as opposed to 14 in November 1966 – Dr Popkiss said while there was not necessarily cause for panic it showed a "steady increase" in the incidence of the disease in the greater Cape-Town area.

"Measles occurs in two cycles, one being over an annual period and another in a 12- to 18-month cycle."

It was therefore misleading to compare last November's figures with those of the year before.

"But the seasonal decline we were expecting hasn't started yet. We hope we'll soon see this year's peak tailing off."

BE ON LOOK-OUT

Dr Popkiss said the past five years had seen a marked rise in the incidence of measles in Cape Town.

"This is partly due to increased migration to the city and partly a result of parents neglecting to have their children immunised."

He urged parents to be on the look-out for tell-tale signs of measles – such as irritability, constant crying, being off-colour and the development of fever and rashes.

"With some children complications can occur so it's best to catch the disease in the early stages – or better still, take steps to prevent it."

The age recommended by the World Health Organisation for immunisation against measles in a country like South Africa was nine months.

The weather

Cloudy and mild
Mother Teresa to send four sisters to Winterveld

By Paula Fray

Four sisters sent by Mother Teresa of Calcutta to establish a home north of Pretoria in Winterveld, will arrive in South Africa in the near future, the president of the Co-workers of Mother Teresa said yesterday.

"They can arrive any day now — as soon as their visas come through," Mrs Margaret Cullis said.

She was in Johannesburg to present the "Peace Prayer" at a World Religion Day programme presented by the Johannesburg Baha'i community yesterday.

Mother Teresa paid a brief visit to South Africa in November last year when she established a home in Khayelitsha near Cape Town and visited Winterveld.

Her message of peace and love and her firm stance against abortion was heard by thousands of people who packed places she visited.

Four sisters arrived with Mother Teresa (78) to establish the Khayelitsha home. A medical sister had now joined them, Mrs Cullis said.

Mrs Cullis, who is also the international president, will leave for a tour of the United Kingdom tomorrow and will meet with millions of co-workers. She will also tour Spain and Portugal.

"Our aim is to encourage family life and to be shining lights in our places of work. The co-workers are non-denominational," she said.

Mrs Cullis appealed to people to say the peace prayer daily at noon: "When you say the peace prayer you are joining millions of people from all walks of life," she said.

The peace prayer was read at the Baha'i meeting by co-worker Mrs Denise de Jongh. It says: "Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe . . . peace, peace, peace."
Old clothes provide new way of life for impoverished rural community

Unusual European aid helps SA's poor

Father Charles Kuppelweser, a Catholic priest in the eastern Transvaal is charging the lives of his people with his practical, out unconventional approach. WINNIE GRIEAM visited him recently and found out about his projects and his plans of income.

The village church at the priest has built at a source of joy because the construction of each has meant the building up of church leaders. "There are always two or three people in every community who are able to take the lead," he added.

Four years ago he built the old age home in Guggelthu. A local magistrate had asked if the church would help in one of several projects a home, a reha- bilitation centre for convicts or a home for disabled.

He opted to build the old age home — but it also accommodates a number of disabled people.

When the home was finished, there was still but a visiting Benedictine abbot from Vyhlid met- tioned sisters who might be prepared to help," he told reporters. "Today five persons are doing wonderful work there.

But all did not run smoothly. A rumour started that the priest had built the home so he could sell the bones and bodies of the aged to medicine men.

He had accommodation for 67 and he knew the desperate need in his parish, but the aged were afraid to go there.

"It was a trying time," he recalled. "Then one day the chiefs summoned me to a meeting and asked me if it was true I was using old people for medicine. They accepted my word and overlooked, the group stopped and the home was filled to capacity."

The need for accommodation is so great — particularly among the destitute black aged — that Father Charles is now raising money to build a second old age home. The new project will cost an estimated R 1 million.

Recently a man called at the Carolina Mission and asked the priest if he could help his brother, an alcoholic, who had been unconscious for a week. Father Charles took him to the Guggelthu old age home where he was fed, clothed and put to bed.

"It took a week for him to realize where he was," Father Charles said. "He lived in a wheel chair for a month. One day I found him up and dressed, restored to health."

Father Charles' ways of showing his love for people are not always appreciated in Conservative Party-controlled Carolina. The older whites, he said, accept his work and cheerfully offer him a cup of coffee when they meet. But the younger, the windows of his house have been broken so often he had been forced to have protective covers made.

Two years ago, when the rent boycott was a major issue, Father Charles' house was ransacked and he was arrested and accused of "preaching politics" and of being an ANC-supporter.

The community centre built in the township was damaged when "police searched the property with sniffer dogs, and local Catholic schoolboys were rounded up and accused of making petrol bombs."

Father Charles wrote to the Minister of Law and Order asking for a full-scale investigation.

"I have done nothing wrong, and I wanted this proof," he said. "Shortly after I received a letter of apology."

The priest has no complaint in appealing to the Government when he feels he has been unjustly treat- ed. A few years ago he asked for a vacant stand to build a house for his cook, a woman with three chil- dren and a blind mother to support. Turned down by the local authority, he wrote to the State President Mr PW Botha — and was immediately offered two sites by the council.

"They were very angry with me but that was the only way I could get the ground I needed to provide the woman with a house," he said.

Father Charles is used to trouble — both from the left and the right. He has been accused of "working with the Zan" because he ministers to blacks in the homelands.

With the help of the Save the Children Fund, Father Charles feeds 100,000 children milk and provides porridge soup. The women who help with the distribu- tion of the food get vegetables and their yards fenced. He is full of praise for his community who, working side by side with him, are totally involved in the work. Nearly all his black Catholics contribute R 1 a month.

"They haven't got much themselves but they are willing to share what they have," he says. "They know that there is always enough when God helps. The more you give the more you get."

When the containers of old clothes arrived at the Carolina Mission recently, Father Charles Kuppelweser was there to oversee their unloading. It was a careful operation, and the collection of old clothes and the bagging of them took four days. A magnificent number of devoted men, women and children who had come to buy second-hand clothes. Here and there a box had split, revealing colourful garments.

The clothes, collected in villages and towns in Aus- tria, Germany and Italy, have become an indispens- able part of Father Charles missionary efforts in the Transvaal.

Not only did they help clothe the poor of his parish, but the money from the sale of the cast-off garments has built an old age home for destitute black people, or orphanage for homeless children, a clinic, a home for the disabled, a community centre for black resi- dents of Carolina, a creche and 14 churches in various villages. The massive fund-raising operation, carried out by his priest and his loyal team, has made an enormous impact on the community who not only now have clothes to wear, but have found a way of earning a livelihood through the resale of the garments.

Father Kuppelweser is one of 17 children who grew up in an impoverished home in Austria Tyrol. He readily admits his frugal upbringing — still re- ferred to in his lifestyle — was the right preparation or his missionary efforts. He recalls that he never saw jam or butter as a boy. His mother sold all their butter and eggs to the city and what little profit she made was used to pay for his studies.

In those days his family had no electricity in their own home and no bathroom or running water. A few years later, he spent his early years mending sheep and fishing in the mountains.

Father Kuppelweser was just nine years old when he decided he would be a priest. Here it was a decision he has never regretted for it has given him an oppor- tunity to serve others.

His old clothing operation dates back 12 years to the time he first arrived in Carolina. When he decided if he was to improve the quality of his people's lives he needed help. So, when he visited Rup- es, he called on parishioners in his native Austria, Ger- many and Italy, told them what it was he needed and asked for old clothes.

The response was overwhelming and container after container arrived.
Unemployment, hunger, disease rife

The yawning gulf between the haves and the have-nots in South Africa
Poverty doubled, fell by 30 percent or remained the same, depending on the method of measurement used. But, whatever methodology is used in South Africa, poverty is an undeniable fact, and perhaps the distinguishing mark of the political economy.

Nearly two-thirds of black people live below the minimum living level.

The MLL, fixed in 1985 at R359 a month, is determined by the cost of a list of items needed for a household to survive.

Pioneered by the University of South Africa, it includes the following items: food, clothing, fuel/lighting, washing/cleaning, rent, transport, tax, medical expenses, education and replacement of household equipment.

Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele quote the findings of Dr Charles Simkins, a University of Cape Town economist whose studies of poverty and unemployment have won wide recognition.

According to Dr Simkins, more than 80 percent of blacks in the reserves or homelands live in dire poverty. Within the reserves or "national states" there is a high degree of inequality.

In the Lower Rezina administration area in Transkei, the income ratio between the richest 10 percent of households and the poorest is 15:1.

HIGH INFANT MORTALITY

Similar disparities exist elsewhere in the black community in Transkei's sister "national state(s)" and, more particularly, between rural and black urban communities, with urban blacks enjoying (according to 1975 figures) more than twice the annual income of their rural kinsmen.

All the important indicators of poverty are present in the black community: large-scale unemployment, widespread hunger and disease, and high rates of infant mortality.

Services he classifies a person who is able to get work for only 10 hours in a 40-hour working week as three-quarters unemployed (or one-quarter employed). Officially, the same person will be rated as employed.

Unemployment ravages the black community, a former researcher and Dr Ramphele say. They dismiss the view of the "market clearers", economic theoreticians who contend that there is little or no permanent unemployment in the sense of people who are unable to find work. The "market clearers", as summarised by the authors, speak of "functional unemployment" and "voluntary unemployment".

In Port Elizabeth's townships, it was calculated to fluctuate between 45 and 55 percent in the mid-1980s. In Johannesburg it has been reckoned to vary from between 20 and 30 percent.

Despair sets in on people who are retrenched and cannot find work. It wraps itself around them, sucking them and destroying their self-respect. Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele speak to individual people and allow them to talk back. Their words are poignant.

"My children are not living," says one man. "It is just like these hands of mine have been cut off. I am useless."

In 1980, the income and population distribution was as follows:

- Income: 24.9% for Black, 64.9% for White, 73% for Coloured, 3% for Asian.
- Population distribution: 15.4% White, 8.9% Coloured, 7.2% Asian, 73% Black.
On unemployment Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele quote Dr Simkins in 1976 he found that the level of unemployment was extremely high — 2 million people or 20 percent of the economically active population — and that it had risen dramatically since the 1960s.

Faced with criticism from various quarters, Dr Simkins revised his estimates, but — write the authors of the report — his broad conclusions remain intact.

Summarising his revised findings on unemployment, they say: "From a level of 12 percent in 1970, it had risen to 21 percent in 1981."

Dr Simkins applies a different, wider definition of unemployment from that used by the official Central Statistical unemployers, asserting that if people do not work it is because they choose not to.

Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele write of a man retrenched from the iron mines at Sashen in north-western Cape who had to return to his remote village where "there was simply no work at all."

Noting that he had to leave Sashen — he had no money for the rent — and that, once he had returned home, "he could not afford to leave again to look for work," they conclude "Involuntary unemployment is a reality."

Even in the relatively wealthy cities, there is unemployment in the black community in townships around Grahamstown. Unemployment in the black community has been estimated to be between 60 and 70 percent.

"I feel like a dead person," says another.

WANTED TO POISON CHILDREN

A fellow unemployed man echoes his statement: "It is a death sentence. The countrywide is pushing you into the cities to survive, the cities are pushing you into the countrywide to die."

"Unemployment brings three difficulties," comments a woman. "Sickness, starvation and staying without clothes."

The wife of an unemployed man confesses to wanting to poison her children. She cannot stand the anguish of listening to them cry from hunger. "I feel like feeding them Rattex."

South Africa, write the authors, is a country where hunger and malnutrition underpin the mortality of children in rural areas and markedly higher than it is in the white community.

Expressed as deaths per 1,000 live births, the infant mortality rate for black people is between 94 and 124 (incomplete data accounts for what the authors refer to as the "range of uncertainty"). For whites, Asians and coloureds the rate is 12, 18 and 32.

Black children are eight to 10 times more likely than white children to die before their first birthday. For coloured infants the risk is four times as great.

The way out is obviously a complicated process, involving, certainly, the total dismantling of apartheid, which is identified by the authors as a major but not the only cause of poverty.

There are no easy answers, no panaceas, but, as Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele point out, a successful solution must embrace several factors.

There must be "empowerment" of blacks, a strengthening of their independent organisations so that they can fight on behalf of their constituents. Co-option must be rejected, as it renders the poor "even more dependent and powerless."

The second essential element is contained in the authors' conclusion: "What counts today, the question which is looming on the horizon, is the need for redistribution of wealth. Humanity must reply to this question or be shaken to pieces by it.

"That surely is the fundamental question facing SA today Have we the courage to face and answer it?"
Healthy rise in Rusplat’s profits

Rustenburg Platinum Holdings’ improved sales revenue and higher sundry income resulted in operating profit improving by 26 percent to R689.4 million and the distributable profit by 20.7 percent to R239.0 million for the six months ended December 31, 1988.

Profit before taxation increased to R533.0 million (R494.9 million), while profit after taxation rose to R241.5 million (R200.2 million).

Earnings a share were accordingly higher at 19.0 cents (15.8 cents) and an interim dividend of 15.0 cents (10.9 cents) was declared.

Capital expenditure for the six months amounted to R102.0 million (R14.9 million) of which R56.4 million (R5.4 million) was for replacements.

Lebowa Plats sales revenue of R28.4 million reflects lower sales volumes than in the comparable period of the previous year because of the need to build up adequate working stocks. Sales volumes are expected to rise in the second half of the financial year.

However, substantial other income and a lower tax provision contributed to the increase of R5.4 million in after tax profits to R9.6 million.

Earnings a share were higher at 0.9 cents (4.9 cents) and an interim dividend of 2.5 cents (2.0 cents) was declared.

Capital expenditure of R33.5 million (R3.5 million) for the six months period includes R32.4 million spent on the expansion programme.
The concentration of wealth among whites has led to the majority of blacks dying younger and, consequently, has led to a lower life expectancy.

This finding is contained in the report for the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in South Africa by Professor Francis Wilson and Dr Mamphela Ramphele.

The life expectancy of South Africans is markedly less than that of citizens of the People’s Republic of China — 54 years against 69.

South Africa’s per capita gross national product (GNP) is nearly 15 times higher than China’s, which would normally mean South Africans could expect to live longer than the mainland Chinese.

But the inequality of wealth in South Africa — the concentration of wealth among whites at the expense of the majority of blacks — means that the majority of blacks die younger and, consequently, that the overall life expectancy falls below that of China, Sri Lanka, Brazil and Mexico.

In their report, entitled “Uprooting Poverty” (published by David Philip), Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele focus on another astounding fact: infant mortality among blacks in South Africa — who are citizens of the richest country in the subcontinent — is higher than the national average of several neighbouring countries, including Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Again, the explanation is inequality, an inequality which concudes largely with divisions based on colour or what the authors prefer to call “colour-caste”.

Professor Wilson is a distinguished professor of economics at the University of Cape Town, and Dr Ramphele, now a senior research officer at UCT, was a close friend of Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader who died in detention.

© See Page 9
**‘Democracy needed to remove poverty’**

By HUGH ROBERTON

THE poverty which afflicts at least 15-million South Africans, almost all of them black, cannot be removed without first granting “one vote to each adult person” in a democratic system, the report of the second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa has concluded.

The report, which is the distillation of more than 300 research projects undertaken over the past six years at 22 universities in the region, was published today.

It warns that the African experience has shown political liberation is not necessarily accompanied by significant improvement in the quality of life of the poor, and that hard-won gains in a long struggle can be lost in a few months by a revolutionary counter-coup, or by the subversion of the interests of the poor to the selfishness of a new ruling elite.

“It is precisely this latter danger that makes it vital to insist upon the necessity of the democratic process as part and parcel of any long-term struggle against poverty,” the report says.

It adds that the form which the democratic process should take is open to further discussion,” but there can be no evasion of the fact that in South Africa on component of that process must be the subjection of those who control the state (including fiscal policy, the budget, the police and the army) to the wishes of all the people expressed through regular free and fair elections (including referenda on some key issues) on the basis of one vote for each adult person.

“In the last resort nobody is better able to assess the interests of the poor than the poor themselves, and the process of democracy is above all else a means of empowering them to do something about the situation in which they find themselves.”

A review of the report and some of its findings appears on Page 18 today.
Briefing

Roots of poverty reach into pre-Natal times

By PATRICK LAURENCE

The post-1948 apartheid policies of the National Party have contributed hugely to the impoverishment of millions of South Africans, Professor Francis Wilson and Dr Mamphela Ramphele conclude in a seminal report on poverty.

But their report for the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in Southern Africa — "Uprooting Poverty", published by David Philip — acknowledges that the roots of poverty reach far back into the pre-1948 era.

They write: "Much of the least attractive part of the present South African political economy stems directly from its earlier history as part of the British and, before that, Dutch empires."

"The historical origins of poverty today, which is experienced predominantly but not exclusively by black people, include slavery, the wars of conquest, the land laws and the colour bar."

POLICY OF DISPOSSESSION

But the position of black people has been exacerbated by what the authors call "apartheid's assault on the poor", which they say aimed at entrenching and defending white political and economic privilege.

Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele identify six "major lines of attack" launched on the poor by apartheid ideologues, one of the most important being the policy of dispossession or exclusion.

At its core, dispossession involved lopping off parts of South Africa from the "archipelago of labour reserves" and turning them into nominally independent states.

The emergence of four of these quasi-states — Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei between 1976 and 1981 — had dire consequences for their designated citizens, their South African nationality was revoked and, as "aliens" they were excluded from the "industrial economy where the jobs and the wealth of the country are generated."

IMMIGRATION LAWS

Even today, after the abolition of the pass laws in mid-1986, nearly seven million black people — about a quarter of the black population — are still deemed to be aliens in the land of their birth and are subject to immigration laws that give them no automatic right of entry to most of the mines, factories and farms of the South African economy.

Coupled with exclusion was the policy of trying to prevent the urbanisation of black people. The chief instrument was the network of pass laws, designed to corral blacks in the reserves.

Between 1918, when prosecutions under the pass laws were first recorded, and 1986, when the pass laws were abolished, 17 million people were charged in court, one every two minutes, day and night, for two generations.

To the disruption of people's lives caused by the pass laws, must be added the policy of forced removals.

BANTU EDUCATION

Whole communities were uprooted and relocated, and the social fabric that had sustained them was destroyed in the process.

Quoting veteran civil rights campaigner Oscar Wollheim, Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele compare the process to a man with a stick breaking spiderwebs in the forest.

"The spider may survive the fall, but he can't survive without a web. The anchors are gone. The fabric of generations is lost."

Bantu Education must be included in any reckoning of the impact on apartheid on the poor.

"One cost that must be calculated is Bantu Education's attempt to reconcile black people to the system of subordination in the white-controlled state while preparing them for grandiloquent roles in their "own areas.""

"Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele refer to a specific facet of Bantu Education the crushing and straitjacketing of famous centres of black education such as Lovedale, Fort Hare, Healdtown, St Peter's and Adams College. They label it "one of the most shameful blot on the conscience of white South Africa.""

The organisations of the poor were a direct, indeed prime target for attack by apartheid forces. The organisations embodied the hopes of the poor, their yearning for a share of political power and thus a say in the decisions which affected their lives.
Carnegie papers on SA poverty now in book form

Political Staff

CAPITALISM had a curiouslyollowing when used by those who had themselves benefited from massive interventions by the state, two University of Cape Town academicians, Professor Francis Wilson and Dr Mamphele Ramphele, said in a book which was released yesterday.

"Poor people who for generations have been actively dispossessed or excluded from the purchase of land by the racist machinations of the state are unlikely to be that impressed when those who have enjoyed the fruits of such exclusion start talking about the value of the free market in allocating resources.

"Similarly, discussion about the benefits of 'privatization' when applied to medical care sound sometimes suspiciously like an attempt to rationalize the abdication of state responsibility, or at least the withdrawal of financial support," they said.

The book, "Uprooting Poverty, the South African Challenge", is an overview of the papers prepared for the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa.

Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele said they had tried to provide a coherent analysis of the nature and causes of poverty in South Africa and had drawn together the main ideas regarding strategies for action that emerged during the course of the inquiry.

They said there also was "a curious kind of double-think manifested by some proponents of minimal state interference in the market in their ability to ignore, if not actively support, forceful state action (whether by the police or the army) in support of the status quo.

"At the same time the dangers, seen sometimes more clearly by those on the right of the political spectrum than those on the left, of too much economic power in the hands of the state leading to greater inefficiency, corruption, and authoritarianism than would otherwise be the case, need to be taken seriously."

The question about sanctions was not so much a matter of debating whether it would cause unemployment, although this was certainly an important consideration, but rather a question about whether it would be effective as one of the pressures towards political change, and a question of how it compared in both effectiveness and cost with other possible pressures.
GOVERNMENT should halve the defence budget and set aside 10% of public funds for poverty relief, including food stamps and public works programmes, UCT academics Francis Wilson and Mamphela Ramphele say in a book, Uprooting Poverty.

Their book analyses the amount of research done for the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty in SA which began in 1980. The inquiry, a follow-up to the Carnegie study on SA's poor white problem in the depression years of the 1930s, resulted in hundreds of research papers being presented at a conference in 1984.

Wilson and Ramphele said the major thrust of a strategy against poverty must be a combination of economic growth and redistribution by means of state policies.

Suggested strategies include a public works programme backed by a title on public funds.

They estimated this 10% would provide R5.3bn from the 1988/9 Budget. Half of that could be made available as food stamps for the estimated 50% of poor households who lived below the minimum living level. The other half could be used for public works programme guaranteeing employment to one member of each of these households.

They said "There would be enough money to guarantee two days' work a week at R7.50 a day."

"None of this is startling but it would make a significant difference to the lives of the very poor whilst, at the same time, it would also lead to substantial productive investment in roads, dams and afforestation as well as generate further employment through the multiplier effect."

Other public expenditure would have to be cut to provide this 10% Wilson and Ramphele said a major target should be the defence budget, now accounting for 15% of the Budget.

"War, including military adventures across international frontiers, is a luxury which SA simply cannot afford in current circumstances."

See Comment — Page 6
The Carnegie challenge

The highly significant Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa has completed its investigations. The publication this week of the book Uprooting Poverty, The South African challenge, by the Inquiry's director, Professor Francis Wilson, and Dr Mamphela Ramphele underlines just what the project has been able to achieve.

Based on nine pre-conference research papers, more than 300 papers delivered at the Carnegie conference in 1984 from 22 universities and 17 post-conference research projects, the Inquiry has demonstrated just how extensive and pervasive poverty is in South Africa. Its broad findings can leave no South African comfortable.

The inquiry found a division in South Africa between rich and poor greater than in any other country in the world from which statistics are available. It established that there are about 15 million 'poor' people in South Africa, some of them very poor indeed. Some two million children are growing up stunted for lack of sufficient calories — in one of the few countries of the world that exports food.

Those shocking facts, and they are shocking whichever way one looks at them, should jolt us all into action. From any perspective, such poverty has the inherent potential for instability, particularly when contrasted with the lifestyles of the wealthy. It also has severe economic consequences, limiting growth and development.

Fortunately, Professor Wilson and Dr Ramphele have concentrated not only on exposing the nature of this poverty, but also on strategies for doing something about it now, although they argue that "underlying all strategies against poverty must be clear recognition of the necessity for a fundamental redistribution of power".

For what has been achieved so far, those behind the Second Carnegie Inquiry, particularly the University of Cape Town and its Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), should be congratulated. The challenge now is to do something about this disturbing situation.

The real challenge

The monumental management challenges facing a city like Cape Town as we approach the year 2 000 overshadow the debates on racial compartmentalisation which tend to dominate our political discourse. Perhaps understandably, apartheid — and strategies to eradicate its diverse manifestations — continue to occupy the intellectual and physical energies of many concerned with achieving just dispensation in our country.

But, as various speakers at the UCT's Summer School have noted this week, questions relating to the provision of jobs and adequate services to our rapidly urbanising community will become paramount in the years ahead. This is not to dismiss the pivotal, and destructive, role apartheid continues to play in our society. Rather, it amounts to a pragmatic acceptance of the demographic realities of our rapidly changing situation.

In the view of the Urban Foundation's planning director, Ms Ann Bernstein: "To spend time debating whether a black South African can live next to a white South African is precious time wasted on the wrong issue."

South African society is moving inexorably towards integration, in both the economic and the residential sphere. Those still trying to resist this tide should recognise that they have been overtaken by history and by the awesome and overriding challenges of the next decade. The country will have to devote every effort to cope with the demands thrown up by a younger, poorer and proliferating African population that will double in size by the turn of the century.
Cape Times
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1989

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POVERTY

WANTED: A SOLUTION TO DEFUSING THE TIME-BOMB TICKING AWAY IN SA...

By Brian Pottinger

A VITAL report on poverty in South Africa has again fuelled the debate between socialists and free-marketers on how to deal with a slowing ticking national time bomb.


The inquiry took seven years to complete, involved 52 universities and resulted in the publication of 411 pages of the final Carnegie Conference.

Chilling

The incidence and scale of poverty in the country, even according to best estimates, can arouse some concern about the methodology of the inquiry.

Examples:

- More than 60 per cent of the blacks live below the subsistence level.
- The death rate for SA is measure of inequality within a society was the highest of the 27 countries for which statistics were available.
- The number of people living in poverty has increased to 11 million this year, while the number of destitute people has risen drastically in the last 10 years.
- Population pressure is unbearable in some areas that make it hard to make a living. "The country is a land of inflation, where credit is almost nonexistent." Racial tensions and urban poverty.
- The diet of most blacks today is worse than it was in the days of their grandparents.
- The health of most blacks today is worse than it was in the days of their grandparents.
- "Black children are eight to 10 times more likely to die before their first birthday than white children.

In the second part of the book, the authors sketch the underlying causes for the huge number of poverty in SA — from the nation's history.

Part three of the book contains the analysis of the issues of poverty and development. The authors argue that poverty is a major determinant of the social, economic and political future of South Africa.

Inequality

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Obstacle

"They save "White predictions about the future are based on the assumption that the greatest obstacle is economic growth in the region. In the current political climate in the region, there are few who can afford to ignore this.""

Authors Mamphela Ramphele and Francis Wilson

The report's cover
TICKING AWAY IN SA...
DEFENDING THE TIME-BOMB
WANTING TO PEACE.

by Marina Potonero

Sunday Times
HAVING spent my earliest years very happily in a congested iron shack and as much of my teens as happily in a mud-and-dung hut, I don't have quite the same view of poverty as the pampered children of the middle classes. I face poverty seriously.

Lake George Bernard Shaw. But sometimes I think impatiently that poverty should be declared a criminal offense, and punished, if only because it causes so much trouble. In any event, it is not a moral question, but a damnably difficult problem of correct social organization.

As we approach the end of this century we know that, provided we avoid centralized socialist systems (like the Soviet Union, or Labour-governed Britain) we can eradicate mass poverty in a generation. The main obstacle is usually a powerful and centred bureaucracy.

These things are in advance, among the prejudices I bring to a reading of the ubiquitous and plausible book 'Uprooting Poverty', written by Professor Frances Wilson and Dr. Mamphela Ramphele from the data gathered by the second Carnegie study of poverty in South Africa. This is a worthy example of the current conventional wisdom on the subject.

The first law of welfare, I venture to say, is that welfare programmers of those who run them. The poor get small handouts at high cost, but are seldom trusted to be independent, robbed of dignity, and patronised by the bureaucrats who man the front desks.

Big Daddy waits on the Left to make us moral

KEN OWEN

The message of the Wilson-Ramphele book is, as I understand it, that we have not yet reached the point of historical change that will make our present system of social welfare services tolerable. The answer, it seems, is not through greater efficiency, but through ownership.

The key thing is to make sure that the people themselves run the programme, so that they can make it work for themselves. This is not just a matter of efficiency, but of empowerment.

If we choose to ignore these lessons, it is likely that we will continue to have poverty in our society. The only way to avoid this is to take ownership of our welfare programmes and make them work for the people who need them.
Study avoids successes to sustain old argument

HAVING spent my earliest years very happily in a corrugated-iron shack, and much of my teens as happily in a mud-and-dung hut, I don’t have quite the same view of poverty as the pampered children of the middle classes. I take poverty seriously.

Like George Bernard Shaw, I sometimes think impatiently that poverty should be declared a criminal offence, and punished, if only because it causes so much trouble. In any event, it is not a moral question, but a damnably difficult problem of correct social organization.

As we approach the end of this century we know that, provided we avoid centralised socialist systems (like the Soviet Union, or Labour-governed Britain), we can eradicate mass poverty in a generation. The main obstacle is usually a powerful and centralised bureaucracy.

These, I must confess, in advance, are among the prejudices I bring to a reading of the lugubrious and picturesque book “Uprooting Poverty”, written by Professor Francis Wilson and Dr. Mamphela. I quote from the data gathered by the second Carnegie study of poverty in South Africa. It is a worthy example of the recent conventional wisdom on the subject.

Professor Wilson, I recall, was living in Virginia in the mid-Sixties when an American socialist, Michael Harrington, published a similarly moving study of poverty called “The Other America.” It became for a time the rage among American intellectuals, contributing greatly to the passage of Lyndon Johnson’s “Great Society” welfare legislation.

Bigger bureaucracy

Of that legislation, I need only recall the comments of Saul Alinsky, a life-long radical (whose book, “Rules for Radicals”, was used a couple of years ago in the townships as a text for budding revolutionaries). Alinsky predicted that the Congress would appropriate $11,000 for the relief of poverty in his district, and appoint a social worker to run the programme at a salary of $1,100.

“It’s the finest thing that has ever happened to the social workers’ industry,” he said.

And so it turned out. Poverty thrives in America to this day, and the health-and-welfare officials constitute an immense bureaucracy, bigger than the Pentagon, which consumes such a burden of the country’s resources that the fiscal deficit has become a threat to American prosperity.

The first law of welfare, I venture to say, is that welfare programmes work to the benefit of those who run them. The poor get small handouts at high cost. They are humiliated, trained to be dependent, robbed of dignity, and patronised by the bureaucrats who man the front desks.

South African experience is no different. The rehabilitation of poor whites, pioneered by the first Carnegie study of poverty in this country, succeeded because it gathered the poor whites into the bureaucracies to be fattened, while poor blacks were left outside to starve.

Today, after 50 years, the bureaucracy is immense, corrupt, overweening, and consumes in salaries no less than one-third of the revenue which the state squeezes so harshly from the over-taxed economy that university lecturers are emigrating in droves.

The message of the Wilson-Mamphela book, as I understand it, is that we must now repeat that experiment for the black population. One of the methods employed is simply moral blackmail: To cite harrowing examples of the suffering of the poor, and to put the blame for their condition on the (white) rich.

This is more or less standard practice. The New Zealand-born Fabian, Percy Pemniner Reeves, writing at the turn of the century (“Round About a Pound a Week”), Virago told astonishingly similar stories of the working poor in London. Indeed, though it is hard to compare, I think suffering of the British workers was far more harrowing than the present condition of the South African poor.

Similarly, the accounts of the suffering of migrants are matched by the stories of the workers who tramped Britain in the last century when “it was a hard matter to get enough to eat” (“Weezy Toil”, by John Burnett, Penguin), and couples had to sleep in barns and ditches. As a result they, like our poor, tended to be a boozey lot.

Viewed from this perspective — that crushing poverty is a fairly normal condition of any society as it enters the process of industrialisation — the account given by Wilson-Mamphela is not without hope. The abnormal feature of South African poverty is apartheid, and the authors dwell at length — I am tempted to say “lengthily” — on the state interventions that aggravate the lot of the poor. The pass laws and accompanying police raids, forced removals, the banning of unions and the jungle of red tape and accompanying harassment of people (like hawkers or drug smugglers) who are trying to make a living.

The pass laws, of course, no longer exist, forced removals, though wicked, have been reduced to economically insignificant proportions. Red tape is, indeed, being cut, and people like Professor Louise Tucker are working assiduously to eliminate the red tape and harassment that afflicts black businessmen, hawkers, and others.

All we need now is to get rid of the bureaucracy so that we can cut taxes.

That’s the good news. The bad news is that the book is a catalogue of every old, discredited idea that has been passed around for 30 years. The land is devastated by overpopulation, the resources have been consumed, millions of people have no access to water, malnutrition among blacks is much higher than among whites, especially in rural areas, and so forth.

All of this is blamed not on the historical lack of education, nor on the normal rise in population growth as mortality rates fall, nor on lack of capital and investment, but on “apartheid” — the whites grabbed all the goodness and they should give it back. Meanwhile, all progress is brushed aside.

The book takes its arguments at times to bizarre lengths, bringing even the people of Malawi and Mozambique (where there is not a single white) into the equations as victims, but it carefully sidesteps the question of what moral obligations British investors, from Alfred Beit to Rudolph Agnew, who took most profit from the gold mines for a century.

That would not fit the book’s thesis that guilty white South Africans, bearing the burden of the country’s misfortune, must allow their wealth to be confiscated and used to keep black people busy on make-work projects.

This is not the place to examine that thesis in detail, the debate will continue for years. For the moment, I simply find it deeply depressing that the Carnegie study seems to be so unattractive to looking at models of success in eliminating poverty, in order to sustain the discredited arguments used by such creatures as Mussolini and Verwoerd as well as by the socialists — for massive state intervention to redistribute wealth — at the cost of creating it.

It’s a kind of upper-class death wish, rooted in guilt, and it would condemn South Africans to another century of tin shacks and mud huts.
Mixed reaction to poverty report

THE reaction of the Government-supporting Press to the Carnegie Report on black poverty was mixed. In an editorial headed "Learned nonsense", Transvaal said the prima facie impression created by the report was of overhasty conclusions based on political predilections. It argued that if apartheid was dismantled black poverty would give way to prosperity was "so absurd as not even to deserve comment."

The report was dangerous, Transvaal said, because it tried to lend scientific credibility to radical propaganda.

Beeld, in contrast, covered the report extensively under sympathetic headlines and said in its editorial that while not everything in the report should be swallowed whole, it was "a searing attack on the consciences of privileged South Africans who refuse to reduce their living standards so that others will be able to lead an existence that accords with human dignity."

Die Burger criticised some aspects of the report but agreed that present disparities were intolerable.
The poverty of economics

Make your way through Uprooting Poverty's mind-numbing prose and questionable statistics. Ignore the Marxist terminology and the socialist cliches. What you'll find is this: the Left is retreating from blind faith in government.

The retreat is tentative, with many battles to go. But free-market thought is unmistakably changing the way academics, institutes and bureaucrats approach poverty.

This can only be good news for the poor. Authors Frances Wilson and Mamphele Ramphele of UCT write: "The dangers, seen sometimes more clearly by those on the right than those on the left, of too much economic power in the hands of the State, leading to greater inefficiency, corruption and authoritarianism, need to be taken seriously. The history of many African countries since political independence is too serious to be ignored."

And "it is all too easy to have abetted the people or the State or the 'vanguard of the people' or a number of other collective human beings expected to act for the common good with no thought of individual self-interest. Corruption can take many forms, including the abuse of power to manipulate, control, and diminish other people."

Slowly, the truth is dawning that collectivism — whether it's apartheid, socialism, or fascism — requires State power. And State power leads to abuses of State power.

You can try to put a happy face on collectivism. Kaunda's humanism, Nyerere's ujamaa, SA's separate development. And you can sloganise about "the masses." But, in the end, socialism or national socialism boils down not to people power but to government power. The authors' concern about placing economic and political power in the same hands, and its emphasis on the potential energy available to be released through individual initiative free from the restrictions of rigid, often corrupt, bureaucratic control. These are crucial insights for any society, as both the USSR and China have been discovering in recent years.

"Individual initiative free from rigid bureaucratic control." Nice to see the Left discovering the stultifying role of the State and the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals.

But there's economic growth. Free-marketers have been saying this for years. And even if wealth redistribution were wise, there just isn't enough wealth to go around. There are too many poor and too few rich people. Taking from whites to give to blacks will impoverish whites but do little to help blacks. A redistribution of poverty, not wealth.

Socialists, on the other hand, always (a) take a stagnant economic pie as given and (b) delude themselves it's large. But these authors favour an expanding pie. "The importance of pushing macro-economic policies that encourage increased production has been stressed with regard to Africa in the light of the disastrous economic track record of certain economies in the years following political independence."

Unfortunately, having made these insights, the authors ignore them. After warning against a "bureaucratic jungle," they propose plans that would make the jungle denser, lead to more abusive State power and, through high taxes and big government, sabotage the ability to grow.

On their laundry-list of projects government should undertake to "help the poor":
- Public programmes (and "massive public investment."
- A new Rural Works Department.
- Food stamps.
- Busing black children into white schools (they also support a nonracial society, so it's not clear whether the Population Registration Act will be maintained or the nonracial government will just guess which children are black and which white).
- Solar energy research.
- Agricultural land reform and farm subsidies (advisory services, marketing, breaking up large farms).
- Pensions (including the trebling of black and doubling of coloured and Indian pensions immediately, and increasing the number of pensioners).
- Water and sewage.
- Road building.
- Electricity projects, and
- Afforestation projects.

For the sake of argument, pretend these things could indeed be done by government efficiently (no bureaucrats, no corruption, competitive contracts) and that the money would actually reach poor people (not politically favoured people in the politically correct towns). A reasonable question where will the money come from?

Throughout most of the book, the authors don't mention the word "tax," implying that houses and hospitals can appear out of thin air. When they finally get around to the question of funding, they say the answer is to cut the defence budget. In half, to R5bn.

The book also asserts there are 17m poor people (those below some "minimum living level.") Dividing R5bn equally would give them each R25 a month for one year. (This assumes no money is needed to determine who's really poor, to write cheques, and to run the redistribution bureaucracy — a ridiculous assumption.)

Will the poor be able to build museums, houses, hospitals, schools, and school buses on R25 a month? Will they be able to provide for pensions and eliminate poverty? Or will government, for the equivalent of R25 a head, be able to do those things?

If R5bn is not enough, how much do Wilson and Ramphele suggest R10bn, R30bn? Where will that come from and how will it be distributed? The last thing SA needs is higher taxes and more government.

What's clearly needed is more wealth and more opportunity in a low-tax, deregulated economy, so that the poor can grow out of poverty free from the shackles of apartheid or any other kind of socialism. A commonsense prescription? Yes. But one Uprooting Poverty remains remarkably silent on

FINANCIAL MAIL, FEBRUARY 3 1989
Facing the twilight years in poverty

What happens to Johannesburg's old black people when they can no longer work for a living? WINNIE GRAHAM discovered that the majority end their days destitute and alone.

Mrs Sophie Malotsi (70) was living in a cardboard box under a tree in Mayfair, Johannesburg, when she was found a few months ago. A kindly housewife in the suburb kept the homeless — and penniless — old woman supplied with bread and milk until she was finally "rescued."

Today she is being temporarily accommodated at the Naledi transit "camp" in Soweto. The camp, in fact, is simply an enlarged council house where destitute old people wait for their documents to be sorted out so that they can be rehoused.

If Mrs Malotsi is lucky, her papers will qualify her for an old-age pension which, in turn, will enable her to apply for accommodation at the newly-built Soweto Old Age Home. The home is not in a financial position to provide accommodation for the destitute.

In the meantime, Mrs Malotsi survives on food supplied by a church's meals on wheels programme and the Soweto Black Housewives League.

Another resident at the Naledi transit camp is Mrs Miriam Mbono, both now over 80. She was a domestic helper for a white Johannesburg family for 45 years before her aged employers gave up their house to move into an old-age home.

Unfortunately there was no place for Miriam to go. She was left to find her own way destitute and helpless, she too waits in hope of a pension.

Of the eight or 10 people at Block 1726, Naledi, none has any means of support. For 11 months of the year they receive their main meal of the day from a church group, but that service ceases for about a month on December 14 when the old people have to rely on members of the Black Housewives League for food.

The dilemma of Soweto's aged was highlighted by Mr Ben Nteso, a social worker for the Transvaal Provincial Administration's Community Services, who said in an interview this week that thousands of destitute elderly black people had no homes.

"There are old people who sleep in the veld round Soweto, in narrow passages in the city, under toilets, on mune dumps, under the motorway, even in the north-northern suburbs of Johannesburg," he said. "They are our twilight aged — people without shelter, food or hope."

Black housewives, he added, were doing all they could to help but they too were beginning to feel the pinch. They needed support.

Mrs Betty Nene, who has a constant eye on the Naledi transit "camp," said the housewives league provided meals for residents at weekends and again during the Christmas holidays.

"Firms such as Pick 'n Pay and Checkers have helped by providing food for the people so that they can get by until mid-January supplies have run low and I have to buy them provisions for them myself," she added. "They are short of everything."

Mr Nteso said the problem of sorting out documents for the elderly was enormous.

He said there were hundreds of old people who needed help getting their papers in order. Many needed transport to pay out centre to receive their pensions (R294 every two months). Some were blind, others crippled.

Another "transit camp" in Mololo, Soweto, is being converted into an old-age home by the Salvation Army. It was started years ago when the black aged were automatically returned to the homelands.

Problems arose when old folks who had lived in the city all their lives refused to go to a homeland they had never known. Many returned as soon as they could.

Plans to build an old-age home in Soweto started more than 10 years ago. It was opened in September last year and though it can accommodate about 120, it has only about 20 residents.

Mr Nteso said the home — faced with an enormous burden of repaying the building loan — could take only old people with pensions. The destitute aged had to be "helped" to get a pension before they could be accommodated.

"That is why we are appealing for volunteers to help transport these old people," he said. "We simply haven't enough social workers to cope with the problem."

Would-be volunteers should telephone Mrs T Mzazi at the National Council for the Care of the Aged (011) 23-6146.
Ironies of Poverty

The Best in Books
Theories of Poverty

Ironies of Poverty

This book is in homage of the grandchild.

THEORY OF POVERTY

The theory of poverty is a branch of economics that studies the conditions under which individuals and societies lack the resources necessary for a minimally adequate standard of living. It is generally considered to be one of the most important theories in social sciences.

Theories of poverty are often categorized into two main types: absolute poverty and relative poverty. Absolute poverty refers to the situation where an individual or household lacks the resources to meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter. Relative poverty, on the other hand, refers to the situation where an individual or household lacks the resources to meet the standards of living prevalent in their society.

Theories of poverty have been developed over time, and they include a wide range of perspectives, from the classical economists like Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill to contemporary economists like Amartya Sen and Robert Chambers.

Theories of poverty are important because they help us understand the causes of poverty and develop effective policies to address it. They also help us to evaluate the effectiveness of different policies and programs aimed at reducing poverty.

In this book, we will explore the theories of poverty in detail, including their strengths and weaknesses, and we will discuss some of the most important empirical studies that have been conducted in the field. We will also consider the implications of these theories for public policy and social action.
I AM rather reluctant to write more about Nation Building, as even my fans are getting bored. But I am forced to prepare speeches, like a veritable public speaker or party politician, so that I do a bit of reading.

After glancing through the report on the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa by Professor Francis Wilson and Dr. Raphhele Ramphelle, I came across some very interesting observations.

I mention in passing a rather cynical swipe taken at the report by Ken Owen of the Business Day last Monday. He said: “The message of the Wilson/Ramphelle book, as I understand it, is that we must now repeat the experiment (of the first Carnegie Report) for the black population.”

“One of the methods is blackmail to cite harrowing examples of the suffering of the poor, and to put the blame for their condition on the (white) rich.”

You might have to have an idea of Ken Owen’s thinking, or at least have read this article (Business Day, Monday, January 30) to understand from what direction he is coming. Starting the debate in the article, he says:

“Like George Bernard Shaw, I sometimes think impatiently that poverty should be declared a criminal offence, if only because it causes so much trouble.”

I have a faint recollection of Shaw’s tongue-in-cheek cynicism. I am not discoursing on the Wilson Ramphelle report on Owen’s acid reaction to it.

Before I leave the Wilson/Ramphelle study, I pray you to take a look at some interesting quotes from them:

Thus “Genuine development work is that which empowers people, which enables them to build organisations that, like a hydro-electric dam, pool their resources and generates power where previously there was none.”

The last quote I will assail you with is even more intriguing as it touches on that quality I am so enamoured with called ubuntu.

It says “Our central concern is the importance, the worth, of human beings in any society. This value is best expressed by a fundamental African concept, ubuntu. Although not readily translatable into any European language, it shares much common ground with many religious and humanistic movements around the world, and has long been part of the political thinking in this country.”

Indeed many articles of the Freedom Charter affirm this value. A quality of interaction, ubuntu, is a thread which runs through the people’s relationships with family members, neighbours and strangers.

“The African proverb ‘Umunutu ngumuntu ngabantu’ (A person is a person by means of other people) suggests one’s humanness depends upon recognising the humanity of others, and their recognising yours.”

“It is not enough to have a non-racial, non-sexist, and non-exploitative society if the importance of the individual human beings within that society is not fully considered.” (Page 269)

I spent part of my childhood in Sophiatown and I do not recall seeing beggars in that township. I also suspect Afrikaners were fractured deliberately, as an attempt to outwit the System.

Ironically the brotherhood of races in Sophiatown was in a way cemented by the oppressor’s language. I cannot but repeat a most arresting turn of the defiant phrase used in this language before we were forcibly removed from Sophiatown to Meadowlands.

It runs “Ons dak nie ons phola hier nie. (We won’t move. We stay put).”

It was written as slogans on the walls, spoken about by the people and even used as lyrics in a song by one Dorothy Masuku, of the husky voice and captivating body.

Don Mattera’s latest book on his life will tell you in its own swagger and eloquence about that life, that scene.

One blustery morning in 1955 we were surprised by Government vans, accompanied by what seemed like the entire South African army, and moved to Meadowlands in Soweto.

Many things changed, including the language Afrikaans was frowned upon in Soweto and there were actually gang fights between those who spoke “toss-taal” as it was called and the vernacular argot of the streets.

Soweto has many faults. One thing it has restored to me and my family is our vernacular. We speak all sorts of black languages in Soweto— and the undefinable thread of ubuntu is strikingly shown by even the greeting in Zulu, Sotho and Venda.”
Owen ignores depth and extent of poverty

Ken Owen is entitled to augment his income by polemical journalism. But in this article he does little to enhance the credibility of liberalism, which he repeatedly expounds, by his unwillingness to face up to the challenge of how best to achieve a reasonable measure of economic justice and well-being for all South Africans — without which we face chronic social conflict and disorder.

One does not have to agree with all the analyses and recommendations of Wilson-Ramphele — many “leftists” would go for a more stringent class analysis — to acknowledge that they have deprived the insulated white minority of the alibi, “We did not know.”

The second Carnegie Inquiry has placed poverty on the national agenda even for Magnus Malan and the National Security Management System.

We are not responsible for whatever accident of birth made life more comfortable for us than for so many of our fellow South Africans, or helped us to escape from shacks and mud huts (a white skin helps). We grow up with different value systems and traditions.

Whatever the starting point, we are equally responsible for translating into effective politico-economic action whatever value system we profess and teach our children.
Cash crisis in the hunger fight

Staff Reporter

DWINDLING finances have prompted a renewed appeal for contributions to the project dubbed "a unique exercise in community health" The Argus Food Campaign.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkess, said the fund was down to R74 000 from a total (including interest) of R458 000.

However, the R379 000 spent had been stretched to the limit, he said.

"We issued nearly 1.4-million kilograms of food in about 377 000 family parcels. That works out at about a rand an issue," he said.

The campaign was launched in October 1986.

"Earlier the council, in conjunction with the Department of National Health, began distributing food parcels to the needy," Dr Popkess said.

"This worked quite well but it was collecting only food, not money."

The Argus had made an "enormous contribution" in establishing the fund.

However, the R74 000 balance did not generate enough interest to keep the fund going without having to touch the capital.

"Prices of commodities have increased sharply. For instance, rice has doubled in price," Dr Popkess said.

With winter approaching a "substantial injection" of cash was needed to keep the fund going for at least six months.

"We have managed through contributions and purchasing at extremely advantageous prices," he said.

- Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P O Box 15339, Vineberg, 8016, or to P O Box 226, Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MoH at 210 2100.

• Pictures, page 6.
Sisters walk to win trust of poor

By BRONWYN DAVIDS, Staff Reporter

IN Khayelitsha — the Western Cape's largest shackland — Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity are working their way through the area on foot, ministering to thousands of destitute people.

Sister Audrey, head of the Khayelitsha Missionaries of Charity, said the organisation was "slowly gaining the confidence of the people."

"On the building side our work is progressing very slowly. We are still in the process of negotiating suitable building plans," she said.

The sisters have become a familiar sight in the desolate township, where unemployment is high, people are extremely poor, and there is a severe shortage of welfare facilities.

"The sisters are visiting families and finding out what their greatest needs are. In Khayelitsha's Green Point area the sisters have found many desperately poor families and seriously ill people.

"It's really wonderful how the people are beginning to recognise the sisters wherever they go. People invite them into their homes or they stop them in the street just to chat," Sister Audrey said. 

The sisters walk many kilometres a day from their temporary four-roomed convent at 220 to where most of their work is done at Green Point, one of Khayelitsha's poorest shanty areas.

At one stage the sisters considered using a van but decided it would be better for them to walk. But a lack of transport hampers their work with mentally retarded children and terminally ill people.

"I think we will need a van when we move to our own building in Section E, which is quite far from the main areas we work in," Sister Audrey said.
IMPOVERISHED black households spend more each week, per energy unit, on cooking their food and lighting their houses than affluent white suburban households.

The simple reason is that paraffin and candles cost considerably more than electric light.

Rural women spend as much as six hours a day — a lifetime of work — collecting firewood and often destroying the ecology in doing so.

Electricity would give them the time for more gainful employment. It would allow them to establish home industries with electric knitting and sewing machines.

Their menfolk would be able to produce goods for sale or charge for repairs, using electric drills, arc welders and other equipment.

The Second Carnegie Inquiry into poverty in South Africa identified access to electricity as a vital component in any upliftment strategy.

Electricity provides time for gainful employment and leisure. It makes possible the quantum leap from the poverty-stricken despair of the Third World to the relative affluence and confidence of the First.

Power lines sweep across most of the country today, but they mainly connect urban centres and white farmland. It is commonplace to see African women walking beneath high tension cables, bundles of firewood on their heads.

Eskom, the national electricity supply utility, has however embarked on its own version of the slogan “Power to the people”. It plans to bring electricity to more than 200 000 black households this year — roughly a million people will benefit — increasingly making use of methods which are appropriate to the Third World.

Many black townships have already been supplied with electricity, but the results have not always been happy. Expensive installation methods appropriate to the First World have pushed up the cost.

Householders have been charged an “availability” fee, whether they take electricity or not. The official attitude has at times been high-handed and paternalistic.

This has bred resentment. Electrical installations are vandalised and there is little incentive in the local communities to prevent it.

However, Eskom believes it has found the answer in electrification of KwaNobuhle township, near East London, much of which will be connected by mid-year. It has established a pattern which is likely to be followed elsewhere.

At KwaNobuhle an electricity supply company (Kwanolec) has been formed, the shareholders being Volkswagen (a major employer in the area), other members of the Cape Midlands Chamber of Industries and Eskom itself.

Kwanolec works closely with the elected local authority.

Kwanolec has abandoned the expensive installation method of underground cables, instead conveying the current on overhead wires mounted on gum poles.

Whereas it is usually dangerous to connect electricity to anything but brick dwellings, Kwanolec has developed a “ready board” which can be safely mounted inside any home, from a brick dwelling to a rondavel to a tin shack.

Electrical appliances can be plugged in at three 15-amp sockets, there is also a light socket and a switch.

The ready board has on it a meter which is activated by insertion of a card (rather like a bus coupon) which pursues a set quantity of electricity. A gauge shows the rate of consumption, allowing the household to judge which appliances are wasting electricity and costing him money.

No cash is involved as the meter card is purchased at a dispenser elsewhere, so there is no incentive for robbery.

There is no need for accounts.

Nobody in Kwanobuhle is forced to accept electricity and there is no such thing as an availability charge. Connections are easily made if a household should decide at a later stage that he wants it.

Each connection costs Kwanolec R400 but the consumer is charged R60. As electricity coupons worth R50 are thrown in with each new connection, it actually costs the householder only R20.

About 10 000 households in KwaNobuhle are due to receive electricity, the first by mid-year, according to Mr John Bradbery, Eskom’s manager, reticulation market expansion.

“We have already had approaches from 10 other local authorities to investigate the provision of power to 200 000 — other properties on a similar basis.”

Eskom is considering introducing the card meter pay-as-you-go system for installations in new white suburbs as well.
Poverty probe a lot of useless info

From E BOLT (PO Botterkloof):

PROFESSOR Francis Wilson has completed an investigation, with the help of the South African universities, into poverty and its causes which took seven years to complete.

We now know how many people there are per tap in the various settlement areas, including statistics on population density, education availability, income distribution, and so on and so on.

All this investigation may give the participants a nice warm glow but it is all useless information when it comes right down to the real cause of poverty, both today and in the past.

The root cause of poverty is ignorance. If one does not have the knowledge (or access thereto) to produce sufficient goods and services one is poor.

If the establishment, and this includes "professors",

Tramways, let's get some value

From Mrs F KIPPIE (Vlak-berg):

WELL, bus fares have gone up yet again! How about City Tramways improving their service? Firstly, why do they have the no-smoking signs in their buses, I do not know. Every second passen-
Sharing the spoils in the new South Africa

ABOUT 10 or 11 years ago, I sat in an Afrikaners discussion group called “Peil 90” and listened to Professor Sampie Terreblanche plead for a radical redistribution of wealth. He argued that the country’s wealth was unequally distributed with a huge black minority living in extreme poverty. "We have to force the rich to share," he said.

Ironically, the Afrikaners have become the beneficiaries of that redistribution. In the 1994 elections, the ANC, which won 62.6% of the vote, gained 270 of the 400 seats in Parliament. This gave the ANC the majority needed to implement its redistribution plans. The ANC, under the leadership of Nelson Mandela, has implemented a number of programs aimed at reducing inequality, including land reform, affirmative action, and social welfare programs.

In conclusion, the Afrikaners have benefited from the redistribution of wealth in South Africa. While this may seem contradictory, it is important to remember that the ANC was elected by the people of South Africa, and it is their responsibility to ensure that the country’s wealth is distributed fairly.

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Note: The above text is a fictional scenario and not based on actual events. It is designed to illustrate the concept of redistribution of wealth in South Africa.
"Namaskar!" chorus young and innocent voices when you enter the one-roomed prefabricated building housing the Duduzile Ananda Marga Creche in the heart of the Kliptown slum area.

The Indian greeting meaning "I salute the divinity within you with all the divine charm of my mind and the cordiality of my heart!" is not the only unusual thing about these children

They are also among the youngest meditators.

Led by the Ananda Marga yogis, distinguished by their orange attire, the Duduzile children do simplified forms of yoga — exercises and inferences and physical training

"Meditation is associated with stress and problem relief methods and these children living in a slum and poverty-stricken area need all the relief they can get," said Devish, who runs the Ananda Marga social services in Soweto.

"We teach them deep relaxation in the simplest form of meditation. We sing the words 'Baba nam Kevalam' (Only the name of God) over and over again until the tune is buzzing in the children's minds.

"We then keep quiet and it has been proven that for a few minutes, depending on your meditation experience, anybody finds tranquility after singing the words," said Devish

**Positive proof**

Devish said that although the children cannot be expected to understand the concept of meditation, there has been proof in other cases that they do meditate and get positive results.

"We have introduced meditation in a number of other creches in the troubled and poverty-stricken places, and we have got positive results," she said.

"The Duduzile Creche children are now showing more control of themselves and they are calmer than when we first started upgrading the area. These are some of the results of successful meditation."

The creche accommodates 50 children and was started by the Ananda Marga yogis five months ago.

"We had been running a feeding scheme in Kliptown for over a year when we noticed the extent of poverty and lack of facilities," said Devish.

"There is only one tap for over 50 families, no waste disposal and parents are struggling to find childminders. This suffering appealed to our inner feeling to help selflessly. The motto of our religion is self-realisation and service to mankind."

The Duduzile Creche is run by Mrs Ethel Thami of Kliptown who has basic training in child care. She teaches the children basic reading and writing skills with the aid of illustrations and demonstrations.

The building which serves as a classroom, kitchen, playing room and a resting room for children was donated by the South African Council of Churches and the Ananda Marga yogis.

"We are very grateful to the SACC and if we can raise enough money and get co-operation from more societies, we would be able to help upgrade other places faced with poverty," said Devish.
Deep thanks for Argus Food Campaign parcels

Stoff Reporter

"THANK you very much — the food really is a big help."

This sums up the grateful reaction of scores of unemployed people from Cape Town's poverty-stricken suburb of Nettreg to the food parcels provided weekly through the kindness of contributors to The Argus Food Campaign.

Among the many who milled around the Argus team as it inspected the distribution of hungry-quelling kampers at Nettreg cinema yesterday were mother-of-four Mrs Mary Lagunuma, a one-time fish packer who was retrained more than a year ago.

So keen was Mrs Lagunuma to show Argus readers how she and her family live that she invited the team to visit her home in Scoop Street, in the Kalksteenkfontein area of Nettreg, to see at first hand the plight they are in.

Clutching the food parcel and grilling her youngest child, Shaun, 5, in her arms, Mrs Lagunuma led the way to a tiny two-roomed wooden outbuilding with weather-beaten cardboard covering the hole in the walls. The rent is R100 a month.

The bedroom provides enough space for only one sub-size bed which Mrs Lagunuma shares with all four of her children, three of whom are at school. The quarters are so small that her husband has to sleep at his sister's home nearby.

The adjoining living area doubles as a kitchen and lounge. Not that there are any chairs to "lounge" in — just two rickety wooden stools.

Mrs Lagunuma said that although her husband had recently found a job, either his pay or the small pension her mother drew was enough to make the family's ends meet.

There were excited smiles from her sister, Miss Mavis Samuels, from TTB who had friendly neighbour Mrs Francina Goosen who as the parcel was unpacked Shaun became so excited getting stuck into the basin of mayonnaise provided.

Other items included in yesterday's weekly treat were fresh meat, frozen mixed vegetables and rice.

"It may not be much," she said, "but it'll help us get through the weekend."

Another regular is grandmother Mrs Margaret Abraham, who pronounced yesterday's inclusion of mayonnaise as "a real treat," as being "a very good idea."

Mrs Abraham, who looks after her daughter's three young children, said she intended "boiling some potatoes and mixing in some mayonnaise."

As soon as she returned home: "The kids love it," she said.

Mrs Anne Olivier of Kalksteenkfontein sketched out a picture similar to that of Mrs Lagunuma except that in her case her husband cannot work owing to a lame hand.

"He gets a disability pension of R15 a month — but it's not enough to live on."

She described the weekly food parcels as being "just basics," a sentiment echoed by many others who offered their thanks.

Christmas goodies should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, PO Box 15380, Vlaeburg, or PO Box 690, Cape Town 8000.

Cheques should be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Orders of food may be made to the office of the Medical Officer of Health at 2108282.

Shack-burning video wiped out

By LINDA GALLOWAY

Supreme Court Reporter

POLICE were aware that a television crew's film had been illegally tampered with and erased while in their possession during fighting between Witdoe and Comrades in KTC, the Supreme Court, Cape Town, has been told.

Major Charles Roger Brazeil was under cross-examination in the civil hearing in which the Methodist Church in Africa and 20 squatter families are claiming more than R130,000 in damages from the Minister of Law and Order.

The claim arises out of three days of fighting in the squatter camp in which thousands of people lost their homes.

The applicants have charged that the police did not prevent the Witdoe from burning down shacks in KTC.

Replying to questions by Mr Henry Vlijoen SC, for the applicants, Major Brazeil said he was aware that a videotape belonging to Worldvision Television News cameraman Mr Craig Matthew had been tampered with and erased and that this was "irregular and unlawful."

He was also aware the tape contained footage of Witdoe burning shacks. "We were aware the tape contained footage of Witdoe burning shacks."

Major Brazeil said the tape had been seized by Mr Arnold Harri van Eck, a member of the police unit at the time, on the instructions of another policeman at Mannenberg police station.

They were concerned about footage documenting an argument between Mr Matthew and the Cause, in which bad language was used.

"TOO HASTY"

Mr Vlijoen suggested to Major Brazeil that Mr Matthew had recorded the argument so he would have record that he asked the matter to be reported regularly for his name and rank.

He admitted he had no right on the record of Mr Matthew and Mr Matapindwe from the scene as the area was an unrest zone, nor had it been declared a restricted area.
A man can’t be a liberal when he opposes free choice and the increase of personal wealth

WITH a sense of mounting dismay — for once the cliché is apt — I have been reading the recent economics textbook written by Professor Sampé Terreblanche, the Democratic Party’s “liberal” adviser. Published in 1986, it shows that his conversion to the liberal ideas of economic growth — to a “booming economy”, as he has put it — is startlingly recent.

His book — Politeke Ekonomie en Sonale Wetswet — seems to be pitched at first-year students, offering a once-over-lightly survey of the ideas of writers from Adam Smith and Ricardo (they get a page each) through Marx to Samuelson and to an American writer called Harrod, of whom I have never heard.

Keynes gets the obligatory serious treatment, but his great adversary, Friedrich Hayek, is cited only as author of an essay in 1945 putting forward the theory that the market mechanism generates and disperses information in a manner which allows producers and consumers to plan rationally.

This reference draws from Terreblanche the uncompromising criticism that Hayek’s arguments have merit — but then the factors which allow for distortion of information, or deliberate manipulation, must not be lost sight of. That curious view of markets seems to represent the full extent of Terreblanche’s attempts to grapple with this century’s outstanding crisis of socialism.

Terreblanche treats neo-Marxist authors with more deference. His analysis of the relationship between British colonialism, capitalism and apartheid rests heavily on O’Meara’s attempt — in keeping with the dominant trends of neo-Marxist thought at Wits — to blame capitalism for the emergence of apartheid, so that they can both be chucked overboard together.

O’Meara’s theories fit neatly into Terreblanche’s life-long hostility towards what he calls the “English Establishment.” For example, he says (my translation) “The apartheid system first began expression at the beginning of the 20th century and in this the English Establishment was, for the sake of its economic interests, an important partner.”

Again “One of the most important apartheid ‘measures’ ever placed on the statute book was the South Africa Act, which was adopted in 1996 by the British Parliament”

From Galbraith, languidly wondering if America’s great wealth is enough, the question is acceptable, in a country where equal division of income would give every person about R200 a month, I find the same question obscene. But Terreblanche, attacking “the golden calf” of growth, says, “The growth per se is “a good thing”.”

Destabilising

His own view of wealth-creation is on a higher spiritual plane. After quoting one Arthur Walfish as saying “We want growth because it enlarges the opportunities of our children,” and because it “expands our capacity to pursue goals of our own choosing,” Terreblanche carps: “The objection to this argument is that it is not clearly indicated what the greater freedom of choice and opportunity will be used for, or why it is important for us, or our children, to have greater opportunities.”

Will somebody please explain to me how it is possible to call a man a “liberal” who is so suspicious of individual free choice, and so anxious about the use to which the next generation may put its wider opportunities, that he would rather not permit them to create more wealth? The only explanation I can discern in his book is that Terreblanche perceives rapid economic growth to be “destabilising,” and he so fears destabilisation that, on the one hand, he proposes a growth rate to the end of the century of 3% a year, and on the other hand he seeks a transfer of wealth from the “English Establishment” to the poor blacks in order to maintain a stable order.

His thinking is in fact much closer, both in analysis and in policy prescription, to the Wits neo-Marxists than to the South African liberals who
The future

This self-exculpatory distortion of history reaches its apogee in a passage from Paul Johnson, cited approvingly, which observes that Smuts and Botha (whom Terreblanche regards, in old-style Breederbond fashion, not as Afrikaners but as the English Establishment) laid down all the main legislative structures which were later to become known as apartheid.

The past, however dubiously presented, is past. It is when Terreblanche comes to the main question of the future — economic growth under capitalism, or redistribution of wealth under some form of socialism? — that his 1986 ideas become truly alarming.

The liberal argument, in a nutshell, is that South Africa needs rapid growth, both to free its people from the oppressions of government and to create sufficient wealth to eliminate poverty. Liberals argue that large-scale redistribution of limited resources will cripple growth, without substantially changing the lot of the poor.

This argument has gained great force in the past decade as even the Nationalists came to realise that the expansion of the role of the State (in order to redistribute wealth or equalise social benefits) merely brought economic growth to a halt. South Africa has had virtually no growth since the mid-Seventies, while the role of the State expanded monstrously.

Among government's economic advisers during this lamentable period was Sampie Terreblanche who, as late as 1988, still held the view that growth was a questionable public good. Parroting the amusing but fading Galbraith, he asks whether economic adhere generally to the thesis of Michael O'Dowd that rapid economic growth is both a means of destablising apartheid society, and of creating the wealth that will be required to maintain peace in post-apartheid society. The mystery is how Terreblanche can be passed off on us as a "liberal".

It is understandable that the new Democratic Party might not want to appoint as its top economic adviser a free market purist like Brian Kantor of UCT. It is also understandable that fear of seeming to perpetuate the interests of the "English Establishment" might eliminate such men of international stature as Aubrey Dickman of Anglo American or Ronnie Bethlehem of JCI.

However, if the new party was determined to have an Afrikaner, it could have chosen, say, Rudolph Gouws of Rand Merchant Bank. He is not quite young enough to be called a yuppie but young enough to be genuinely reformist, and I did see him among the yuppies at one of Wynand Malan's election meetings.

Besides, he operates competently in the commercial environment of Johannesburg, has free market views, does not harbour malevolent prejudices towards the English Establishment, and understands markets. When such men are available (I have not discussed the idea with him, and there are others), it is incomprehensibly careless of the leaders of a liberal, business-funded, English-supported political party to exhume Sampie Terreblanche.

If I were paranoiac, I would think it a Breederbond plot.
Redistribution of wealth and a booming economy vital for future

From Professor S J TERREBLANCHE
(Stellenbosch):

IN his article “Hark! The first Horseman rides against the rich” (Cape Times, February 20), Ken Owen attacks me on what I have allegedly said 11 years ago. It is of course, anyone’s — and especially an academic’s — privilege and responsibility to change his opinion and to grow in intellectual and ideological insight.

Nonetheless, Mr Owen is wrong in his accusation that I made a plea for a “radical” and/or “massive” redistribution of income. My recollection is that my speech to “Peil 99” 11 years ago contained a strong plea for increased spending on black education. At the end of the 70s I was still optimistic about a resumption of high economic growth with a strong demand for skilled black manpower.

Creeping poverty

Unfortunately we are experiencing a decline in the real per capita income since 1974. Given the political and economic power structures in this country, a large proportion of the “creeping poverty” has been shifted on to the poorer half of the black population.

Yes, we are experiencing a redistribution of income in South Africa — the poor are getting poorer! As long as the NP remains the government of South Africa and maintains the apartheid system (and a political system based on statutory defined race groups), creeping poverty will in all probability be perpetuated. It can even deteriorate into galloping poverty... and an even more unequal distribution of income, wealth and opportunities.

In a letter to Business Day (February 14) I made a strong plea for a new government and political reform as the necessary strategy towards a desperately needed high economic growth rate in South Africa. “To attain a high growth rate we must restore normal economic relations with the rest of the world. The only chance to succeed is a new government with a clear commitment and the necessary credibility to dismantle apartheid and to negotiate the transition to a non-racial democracy.”

In his article Mr Owen warns “that the closer we come to democracy, the greater the inclination of Western capital to flee.”

Must I conclude from this that Mr Owen is not in favour of a process of democratisation? How does he explain the fact that capital is already fleeing the country for at least the last 10 years? Is it not because of the NP government’s unwillingness and inability to dismantle apartheid and to negotiate an orderly transition towards a non-racial democracy in South Africa?

Mr Owen owes his readers a clear explanation of his stand on reform and on the transition towards a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

I was really surprised by the following sentence in Mr Owen’s article “Nobody will quarrel with the assumption that some wealth must be diverted (sic) to charity in order to avert starvation, or that the maintenance of minimum standards of public health is a necessary social expenditure, or that investment in education is a long-term necessity.” This is justification for at least some redistribution! A dogmatic free marketeer can easily label it as an updated version of Verwoerdian social engineering and call it “to compel the economy to perform in disregard of economic law.”

Could it be that the difference between Mr Owen and myself is only a difference in degree and in rhetoric and not in substance? I want a high growth rate as a prerequisite to finance a better distribution of opportunities and to create a more stable and a morally more just system. I am not in favour of radical redistribution that will have a disruptive effect on the growth potential of the economy. I am definitely not in favour of an economic policy that will boil down to the consumption of the seed corn.

Main difference

Perhaps the main difference between Mr Owen and myself is contained in the following sentence “Terreblanche has a choice he can have the booming economy or he can have redistribution, but he cannot have both.”

No, Mr Owen, we can have both and it is of the utmost importance to have both! In the deliberate trade-off between growth and redistribution we will in the short-run have to give some preference to growth but with a perpetuation of the booming economy we will have to spend more and more on human upliftment to create human resources to maintain the high economic growth rate. And with a booming economy it will also be necessary to redistribute to maintain the legitimacy and the social stability of the system.

If Mr Owen really thinks that a booming economy and redistribution is not possible at the same time, he had better acquaint himself with the growth and redistribution experience of all Western countries, Japan and the four Little Dragons of the East for the greater part of the period since the Second World War.
Little experience!

...friends, Wilson's...
Development

The same can be said, even more emphatically, of the consolidation of a trade union movement without whose absent the economy cannot function, as well as of grassroots organisations that channel health, rural development and legal services where they have been absent and try to ensure that children are properly educated (not least in the ideals of ubuntu)

Dr Ramphele, as well as the National Education Crisis Committee's Vusi Khanyile who also spoke at the symposium, evidently believe that by developing institutions, organisations and community groups focused on dealing with day-to-day realities, the disenfranchised can build themselves an "informal" participa-

will the millennium dawn tomorrow but the intervening period is needed if questions such as the distribution of wealth and poverty and, national, culture are to be properly addressed

Third, it recognises that the successor regime, were it to succeed now, would not necessarily be very democratic since nobody in South Africa, white or black, has much experience with democracy. A former Robben Island inmate at the conference told me he would still want street committees (though not street justice, of which he strongly disapproved) to exist under a post-apartheid system to act as a popular brake on what he feared would be the excesses of the new central government working together to apply the full range of political, diplomatic and economic pressure against the South African regime. That is why I support comprehensive sanctions.

‘Party line’

Funny enough, sanctions had scarcely been mentioned until then, except by an exquisitely troubled American union leader who pleaded with Ramphele to give him a "party line" on the subject because he was confused by the ANC's "telling him one thing and Cyril Ramaphosa another (she did not oblige)

Nor, indeed, was there much talk of what the outside world was supposed to do, period, though Ramphele did note, somewhat archly, that "some people think they own the struggle"
Ramphele, Wilson provide stunning indictment

Francis Wilson

have potent political bite.

This makes a lot of sense. After all, the
informed sector in many developing coun-
tries has succeeded in creat-
ing wealth and dealing with inequality in
ways the state can not even begin to manage, why
not apply the same logic to "informal" activity in
the social and political spheres as well?

When Saba replaces Putco as the main pro-
vider of township transport it has a political
significance far greater than the explora-
tion of a limpet mine in a group-
ed supermarket. A chunk of power has
been given new opportunities.

Preparation

The message, the meat of which was
delivered by Ramphele (but which was en-
dorsed by others of a more directly UDF
persuasion), may be sum-
marised: The replace-
ment of the present political monopoly will
not turn Crossroads into Sandy Bay, neither,
automatically, will it re-
result in a more just, par-
ticipatory form of gover-
nance than now obtains. Besides, it is still some
distance off.

In the interim much of a practical nature
can be done in prepara-
tion. This will not only ensure the ultimate
transfer of power is more than a simple ex-
change of elites but—and this should be par-
ticularly stressed—will also hasten the day of
transition.

At the heart of which, if I understood Ram-
phale correctly, is the notion that sexism and
non-political activity, if broadly and deliberate-
ly enough engaged upon, will inevitably

Fourth, and perhaps most significantly, it
puts those inside South Africa, as opposed to
the exile movement and the parties, on a
stage centre (trend also evidenced by the
discussion and allows that the
future political econo-
my is still entirely open to
debate.

Brief speech

All of which, especially if
the last point, is like-
ly to be welcomed in America who make
this their policy. Their
careers on South Africa's back it was clearly lost on Sena-
tor Edward Kennedy, who abandoned his sympo-

sium was limited to a brief speech in
which he made clear he was still prowled black South

African victims in desperate need of the outside
world’s neo-colonial inter-
mensions is in progress.

“Ending poverty, cur-
ning disease, easing suf-
fering are important
and the international community should be
contribution more re-
ources to reach those goals.
But we must never
adopt a limited agenda
aimed at easing the eco-

demic plight of black South Africans without
transforming their po-

ciality. Transcribed

and a ‘party line’

Fanny enough, some-

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except by an acquies-

cent national leader

who insisted that Ramphele was not a
tory democracy within the state

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—and untreatable—
cancer on the existing
order. It will steadily increase its basing
power, all the while

"breaking through,"

Little experience

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strategy on a number of

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Khanplele, Wilson
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ources to reach those goals.
THE great debate in Durban over whether it is right to lash out millions on a cultural centre while much of the region languishes without basic shelter — or, material needs versus the needs of the soul — implies that poor people don't have souls, or that their souls should go into hibernation until their bodies have been fed.

Black migrations that are creating regions like Greater Durban are bringing home to white urbanites realities that were previously dispersed behind distant hills.

That whites are impelled towards radical judgments is understandable. But they should first understand what inspires such urbanisation — the promise of access to resources.

These new concentrations of the country's poor are exposing many needs. Among the most pressing of these is the need for literacy and learning.

If the library component of Durban's cultural centre is a sort of regional information mainframe, and if the museum component is a modern hands-on facility, accessible and dedicated to everyone, then the cultural centre can easily be justified.

What needs to be demonstrated, though, is that it will indeed fulfill these tasks.

Unfortunately, the cultural centre is being portrayed by some as a showpiece that will "put Durban on the cultural map".

This impression is being reinforced by the architectural profession, whose local spokesman has made the irrelevant declaration that the finest architects in the country devoted the equivalent of R35 million worth of fees to producing the excellent entries for the architectural competition that produced the winning design.

With South African architects currently engaged in a desperate bid to retain international recognition, they would do much better showing how this new facility is serving the needs of an emerging Third World.

The answer is essential in establishing whether we have at last left behind that loathsome era that produced monuments like the Johannesburg Hospital, the Pretoria State Theatre and the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam, or whether we have entered a new era of concern.

Thus the essence of the debate in Durban has nothing to do with housing versus culture, but rather with the extent to which resources are accessible.

The author is an architect and urban environment critic.
Coffers hungry for filling meal

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

MORE than 40 000 under-privileged families in Cape Town will be without vital supplies of food this winter unless fellow-citizens come to their aid with contributions to The Argus Food Campaign.

The campaign plunged into a deepening cash crisis this week as reserve funds dropped from R79 771 to R50 540 in a month.

Unless the present downward slide is reversed the relief programme which has fed thousands of needy people will have to be shelved at the end of April, the city's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, said.

"If we do not get a substantial boost in funds soon our relief programme will not be able to carry on at its present rate," Dr Popkiss said.

"We will have to pay outstanding debts and we will afterwards dispense with any remaining money to bring relief to needy families on a much smaller scale.

About 3 000 weekly food parcels are at present distributed at 24 aid centres in the Peninsula.

In winter - "which is when the unemployed will need food most" - food is distributed at the rate of 48 tons a week to 46 300 families.

City Council treasury personnel said fund reserves continued to drop in January and February in spite of cash gifts and 22 cheques, including a contribution of R1 000 from The Argus.

"Any donation, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated," said Dr Popkiss, adding that only R1 was needed to provide a single family in the Cape Town area with a parcel containing "enough food to keep them going for up to a week".

Parcels include packets of samp, beans and rice, tinned fish, fresh vegetables and other basic food.

• Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P O Box 13359, Vlakberg, 8016, or P O Box 236 Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at 210 2902.

• A Brackenfell hypermarket is also asking its customers to give either R1 or canned foods to the fund from this week and the PRO of the Pick'n Pay retail outlet, Alma Schiller, has challenged other hypermarkets to do likewise. She said a money box was at the hypermarket's information desk and a bin for canned food was near the entrance.

This is strictly a customer project.
own wealth
create

poor
option: Let
The Peruvian

BY RON BYERS
Should our nation
be the forty
million

Land Option

 Dane, the
founding


R13 000 comes in — but the costs are biting!

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

MORE than R13 000 was poured into The Argus Food Campaign this week as concerned readers responded to appeals to help the thousands of destitute people in the Peninsula who are dependent on the fund to stay alive.

The contributions included a cheque of R1 000 from the international trading company Cinacoe in Salt River.

While the fund climbed to R79 085 from R66 576 this week, city Treasury officials were quick to point out the latest expenditure had not yet been deducted from the fund.

Funds from the campaign are also used to help hundreds of tuberculous patients.

RETRENCHMENT

Soup is being served to 450 TB patients at clinics in Langa, Guguletu and Valhalla Park from Monday to Friday and the programme will be extended to scores of other patients this winter at clinics in Netreg, Factreton, Maitland, Kensington, Silver-town, Heideveld, Westridge, Eastridge, Parkwood and Bonteheuwel.

Food parcels for many hungry families made destitute by the sudden retrenchment of breadwinners are also helping to curb the high incidence of the disease in the Western Cape.

City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss said nutrition was an important factor in helping TB patients build up resistance to the illness.

Dr Popkiss said “I am grateful for all donations and I am very glad gifts of money are still coming in.”

About 3 000 food parcels were being distributed weekly at 24 aid centres in the Peninsula. In winter food was distributed at the rate of 48 tons a week to a total of 46 300 families.

“Any donation, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated,” said Dr Popkiss, adding that only R1 was needed to provide a single family in the Cape Town area with a parcel containing “enough food to keep them going for up to a week.”

LOW COST

Parcels include packets of samp, beans, rice, frozen fish and meat, fresh vegetables and other basic foodstuffs.

Dr Popkiss explained the low cost of a parcel was attributable to the efficiency of the dedicated team of City Health Department officials responsible for food distribution, as well as the charitable attitude of many local food-related businesses — some of whom provide perishables at well below cost.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P O Box 15399, Vlaeberg, 8018, or P O Box 288 Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at 210 2862.
Balloons launch Gold Rush

OPERATION Hunger's Gold Rush IV was yesterday launched in grand style with 2000 balloons, each with a gift tag, being sent over the downtown area of Johannesburg.

Gold Rush VI aims to raise R3 million by the time of its end on Saturday, July 1, 1989. It is sponsored by Holiday Inns. The prizes found inside the balloons, range from meals and weekends at Holiday Inns hotels to Gold Rush tickets.

"This year promises to be the bleakest year yet for many people in our country," observed the executive director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Ina Perlman.

"The need for child feeding and the establishment of income-generating projects has never been more urgent and pressing. Your R10 is not just a Gold Rush ticket and a licence to dream; it is a hundred meals, or 20 packets of seed — a gateway to hope."
Operation Hunger's 'tragic budget'

Feeding scheme lowers its aims

By Dawn Barkhuizen

Operation Hunger has lowered its 1989 budget by R2 million after a shortfall last year forced the organisation to reduce feeding activities during the last quarter.

Instead of increasing feeding to meet the demands of 1.6 million people this year, the organisation has reduced the number of those being fed by about 27 000.

More than 200 000 applicants for food have been put on a waiting list while family feeding has almost stopped.

And the organisation estimates a further 800 000 people will be left destitute should total sanctions be effected.

Executive director Mrs Ina Perlman on Friday presented a "realistic but tragic budget" totalling R29 113 651 as opposed to the R22 199 313 target for 1988.

No reserves

She said "We were strained to the hilt last year. We are approaching the new financial year with almost non-existent reserves."

Operation Hunger — mandated by desperate appeals for aid — was facing one of its toughest battles ever.

"We are confronted with a massive and terrifying urban and peri-urban escalation in unemployment as South Africa moves into a capital intensive siege economy," Mrs Perlman said.

Hundreds were jobless on the Reef.

Northern Lebowa had experienced yet another year of 90 percent crop failure, refugees were streaming into Natal and Gazankulu, and in the drought-stricken eastern Cape 51 000 people urgently needed food.

Feeding was now limited mostly to soup kitchens — the most cost effective method.

This had enabled Operation Hunger to reduce the number of people being fed this year only slightly — from 1 560 797 to 1 322 265. Many of these had been removed from the feeding list after becoming self sufficient through the self-help schemes.

The 1989 budget provides R15.3 million for feeding, R2.8 million for self-help, R1.5 million for administration and R457 200 for fund raising.

The largest portion — R21.078 — has been allocated to Lebowa. Natal receives R165 264, Transkei, Ciskei and Border R154 624, Gazankulu R143 280, and the PWV area R114 796.
Operation Hunger feels the pangs of lower budget

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Operation Hunger has lowered its 1989 budget by R2-million after a shortfall last year forced the organisation to reduce feeding in the last quarter.

Instead of increasing feeding to meet the demands of 16 million people this year, the organisation has reduced the number of those being fed by about 27 000.

830 000 DESTITUTE

More than 200 000 applicants for food have been put on the waiting list and the organisation estimates that a further 830 000 people will be left destitute.

Executive director Mrs Ina Perlman presented a “realistic but tragic budget” last week totalling R20 113 051 as opposed to the R22 199 313 target for 1989.

Operation Hunger, which was being inundated by desperate and pitiful appeals for aid, was now facing one of its toughest battles.

“We are confronted with a massive and terrifying urban and peri-urban escalation in unemployment as South Africa moves into a capital-intensive siege economy.”

Feeding was now limited mostly to soup kitchens — the most cost-effective feeding method.
Budget to feed hungry is cut

OPERATION Hunger has lowered its 1989 budget by R2 million after a shortfall last year forced the organisation to reduce feeding in the last quarter.

Instead of increasing feeding to meet the demands of 16 million people this year, the organisation has in fact reduced the number of those being fed by about 27,000.

More than 200,000 applicants for food have been wait-listed while family feeding has stopped almost altogether.

And the organisation estimates that a further 830,000 people will be left destitute should total sanctions be effected.

Tragic

Executive director, Mrs Ina Perlman on Friday presented a "realistic but tragic budget" totaling R20,113,051 as opposed to the R22,199,313 target for 1988.

She said "We were strained to the hilt last year. We are approaching the new financial year with almost non-existent reserves."

Operation Hunger — which was being undermined by desperate and pitiful appeals for aid — was now facing one of its toughest battles to date.

"We are confronted with a massive and terrifying urban and peri-urban escalation in unemployment as South Africa moves into a capital-intensive siege economy."

Refugees

Hundreds were jobless on the Reef after factories opened under capacity in January. Northern Lebowa had experienced yet another year of 90 percent crop failure, refugees were streaming into Natal and Gazankulu, and in the drought-stricken Eastern Cape 51,000 people were in urgent need of feeding.

Feeding was now limited mostly to soup kitchens — the most cost effective feeding method. This had enabled Operation Hunger to reduce the number of people being fed this year, only slightly — from 1,350,797 to 1,322,355.

Many of these had in fact been removed from the feeding lists after becoming self sufficient through the self-help schemes.

The 1989 budget provides for R15.3 million for feeding, R2.9 million for self-help, R1.2 million for administration and R4.572 million for fundraising costs.
R7,916 boost as readers dig deep

By HARNEY ISAACS, Staff Reporter

RE:DEAR have boosted The Argus Food Campaign Fund to more than R39,000 with record contributions of R7,916 in March.

While the fund climbed this week to R38,242 from R5,167, city treasury officials pointed out the thinnest deductions of money spent on food has not yet been made.

Among the latest contributions were R200 from WJ van Niekerk, Deep River, and R100 from GJ King of Rezukev and Nielsen. Two readers, G K Richardson of Kenilworth and N Parke of Somerset West, each gave R500.

A cheque for R2,000 from Peninsula Time-sharers, a luxury Sea Point beachfront holiday apartment building complex, was also received and contributions of up to R100 have also helped swell the coffers.

City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkis said: "I am grateful for all donations and I am very glad gifts of money are still coming in."

With subsidised supplies provided by food companies, only R1 was needed to provide a single family in the Cape Town area with a parcel containing "enough food to keep them going for up to a week", he said.

About 3,000 food parcels are distributed weekly at 24 aid centres in the Peninsula.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, Box 15390, Vlakberg 8018, or P O Box 298, Cape Town 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at 210 2052.
Donations to fund are now down to a trickle

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

Gifts continued to trickle into the Argus Food Campaign this week as concerned readers responded to appeals to help thousands of destitute people who are dependent on the fund to stay alive.

Money spent on last month’s food invoices reduced the fund from R68 242 to R60 670 this week.

City treasury officials said while cheques for small amounts of either R10 or R20 were still filtering in, no recent “substantial” gift had been received.

Gifts of groceries, including 500 tins of canned food from Good Hope Ship Chandlers and about 30 to 40 items of monthly groceries from congregants at the St Thomas Church, Campground Road, Rondebosch, were also received.

Applications for food parcels were meanwhile continuously being reviewed and were under a constant policy of reduction, according to City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss.

He said food parcels had been reduced by 43 percent since December to slow down expenditure.

“At present only the most deserving cases are receiving food parcels,” he said.

The distribution of food parcels was reduced from 11 654 in February to 10 899 parcels in March. The total monthly amount of food was also trimmed from an average of 46 metric tons in the winter peak last year to 34 metric tons in February and 27.9 metric tons in March.

The number of aid distribution centres has also been reduced from 24 to 22.

Dr Popkiss said: “I am grateful for all donations and I am very glad gifts of money are still trickling in.

With subsidised supplies provided by food companies and wholesale merchants, only R2 was needed to provide a single family in the Cape Town area with a parcel containing “enough food to keep them going for up to a week”.

Funds from the campaign are also being used to provide under-privileged families with vital supplies of food.

The charitable attitude of many local food-related businesses — some of whom provide perishables at well below cost — has helped city health department personnel to keep the costs of food parcels to a minimum.

It also helped launch a supervised soup feeding treatment programme for hundreds of tuberculosis patients to boost their daily nutritional intake.

Food parcels for many hungry families, made destitute through the sudden retrenchment of a breadwinner, are also fighting the high incidence of the disease in the Western Cape.

In winter “which is when the unemployed will need food most” food is distributed at the rate of up to 48 tons a week to a total of 46 380 families.

Parcels include packets of sampil, beans, rice, tinned and frozen fish and meat, fresh vegetables and other basic foodstuffs.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P O Box 15396, Vlaeburg, 8018, or P O Box 298 Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at 210 2882.
Four of Mother Teresa's nuns arrived in South Africa yesterday to set up a shelter for the destitute in Winterveldt near Pretoria. The nuns promised during her visit to South Africa last year that a shelter would be found in Winterveldt.

One shelter has already been established at Khayalitsha, near Cape Town. The four nuns are headed by Sister Lyse from India. On her arrival on a flight from London, she and Sisters Aurora (from Poland), Amrita (from India) and Juliana (from Rwanda) were met at Jan Smuts by Mrs Margaret Cullis and other Catholic church workers.

Mrs Cullis is the international link (head) for the Co-workers of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. There are four million co-workers around the world and 20,000 in South Africa.

NO SUITCASES

The nuns' arrival was marked by the scanty luggage for four people — consisting of about five cardboard boxes tied with string.

Mrs Cullis explained that Mother Teresa's nuns did not own suitcases and always used cardboard boxes. She said they also slept on the floor and when they asked for transport to be provided in Winterveldt, they specified that it must be bicycles.

Sister Lyse said as the head of the latest South African mission, she will be in South Africa for about three weeks. The other sisters will stay indefinitely.

As they were coming to do in South Africa, the soft-spoken and retentive Sister Lyse said "We are coming to share the love of God with the people here."
'Power sharing will end poverty'

CP Correspondent

PROFESSOR Francis Wilson, director of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa, told a seminar in Cape Town that "poverty in South Africa is a profoundly political issue."

"And without a fundamental redistribution of political power it will remain a central feature of our economy," he said.

The seminar, held last Sunday, focused on the latest publication by the Second Carnegie Inquiry. It was organised by the Muslim Youth Movement of South Africa as part of its special Ramadhaan programme.

Prof Wilson said that the redistribution of political power, however, was "a necessary but not a sufficient condition for fighting poverty in South Africa."

Prof Wilson and Dr Mampela Ramphele are co-authors of "Uprooting Poverty: the South African Challenge." The book was the culmination of the Carnegie Commission of Inquiry into poverty and development in Southern Africa and was published a few weeks ago.

Outlining the key findings in the book, Prof Wilson noted that in South Africa, the division between rich and poor was "greater than in any other country in the world" for which statistics were available.

Said Prof Wilson: "Basic things such as clean drinking water and electricity cost the poor more than what they cost the rich in real money terms."

Prof Wilson explained how historical factors such as conquest, slavery, pass laws and influx control had a devastating effect on present conditions of poverty.
School feeding scheme needs dough after bread price rise

By SHARON SOROUR
Staff Reporter

THE bread price increase has dealt a crippling blow to the Peninsula School Feeding Association.

The organisation that for 31 years has provided a mug of soup and a slice of brown bread to needy schoolchildren is so short of money that it only has sufficient funds to continue operating for two more years.

The association desperately needs contributions, especially from large corporations.

Hot meal

Operating on the philosophy that “you cannot teach a hungry child”, the Peninsula School Feeding Association provides 27 750 000 meals during the school year and feeds 150 000 under-privileged primary school children every school day.

For many children it is their only hot meal.

The statistics are staggering — almost 675 kilograms of jam accompany the daily distribution of 7 500 loaves of bread while the 22 500 litres of soup would fill a swimming pool.

One loaf of bread feeds 20 children. Before the recent increase it cost R14.50 a month to supply a loaf daily. The cost will now rise sharply because of the increase.

Said association spokesperson Mrs Beryl Pinslawa: “The price of brown bread has increased nine times — from 8 cents to 75 cents — in the past 30 years. The latest increase has made our task very difficult.”

Schools apply to the association for assistance. If, after assessment, severe cases of malnutrition are discovered the school is taken on by the association.

If funding can be found, a small soup kitchen is built on the school premises. The association is short of three kitchens.

“Some schools have their own cooking facilities and not every school needs a kitchen — which costs about R15 000. But the schools that don’t have cooking facilities cannot serve soup,” she said.

The association was established 31 years ago when the government withdrew the supplementary school feeding subsidy.

Caring public

Said Mrs Pinslawa: “The government subsidy has never been re-initiated and the association does not receive a subsidy of any kind. We try to generate money through various projects but we are entirely dependent on the caring public of Cape Town and they have never let us down. Corporations have also paid their part.”

The schools contribute towards a target set within their limited resources and raised R50 000 last year.

“With spiralling inflation, our expenditure far exceeds our income and we’ve had to dip into our reserves,” said Mrs Pinslawa.

Anyone wishing to donate money should contact Mrs Pinslawa at 35 Loop Street, Cape Town or at ☏ 25 3984.

BREAD OF LIFE: Pupils from Bongo Primary School in Langal line up for their daily bread and mug of soup provided by the Peninsula School Feeding Association.
Privatisation and poverty

WHILE the nation’s attention was riveted on the confusion in Namibia, the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Gene Louw, was indulging in one of his favourite pursuits — exercising politics from our health services.

Health services, he told a congress in Cape Town earlier this month, were “by no means excluded from the intensity of the revolutionary onslaught in South Africa today.” He went on to say “We regretted learnt of the fact that the ANC members of the medical profession organise under the banner of ‘Natural Health Systems’ and ‘Health for All’ and are thus launching a strong medico-political health strategy in which extremist politics are indistinguishably bound with medical principles.”

Perhaps unwittingly, he has put his finger on one of the great emerging political conflicts of the South Africa of tomorrow — that between the masses, who receive inadequate and now rapidly degenerating health services, and the privileged beneficiaries of the existing system, some of whom have access to the best medical care.

It is such an obvious, and legitimate, target for revolutionary agitation that it is amusing Mr Louw and the government he represents should be at all surprised by the fact that their political opponents should have taken it up.

Last year Dr H G V Kustner, of the Department of National Health and Population Development, outlined the problem.

Health services in South Africa, he said, face a dilemma because of a very noticeable disparity between the undisputed excellence of the hospital-centred health care offered in this country, versus the basic, yet essentially community-oriented primary health care service.

Translating this into layman’s terms, Dr Kustner explained that over the past five years the infant mortality rate showed that three white infants out of every 1 000 died, while between 94 and 124 black babies per 1 000 died.

A study by the University of the Witwatersrand’s respected Department of Community Health last year, found that per capita expenditure on health care varied from R115 for blacks, to R249 for coloured people and R451 for whites.

Every 1 000 whites can count on the availability of 4.8 hospital beds. But every 1 000 blacks have access to only 2.5 beds.

Heads of teaching hospitals have warned that the present exodus of brains and talent will soon turn into a flood, that standards at teaching hospitals have fallen dramatically because of a lack of funds and because of “privatisation.”

“Privatisation,” indeed, has been dramatic. By 1987, there were 40 409 private hospital beds, as opposed to 81 300 beds for all races in all public hospitals throughout the country. But, sadly, the fees charged for “private” hospital beds are so high as to now exclude an ever-increasing number of medical aid scheme members.

And almost half the “private” beds have been leased to the government because the government’s own hospitals are overcrowded and understaffed and cannot cope.

Entire hospital wards have been closed all over the country because of a lack of staff and equipment. The new Groote Schuur hospital, ramshackle on its hillside, cannot come into full service.

Meanwhile, as the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa reported earlier this year, one out of every seven black children in this country of cornucopian abundance dies before the age of seven because of malnutrition.

All this is not surprising. South Africa, under the radical apartheid ideology which Mr Louw’s government upholds, has 18 separate health administrations and the country’s taxpayers support 14 Ministers of Health.

The 14 Ministers, each with a deputy minister and attendant bureaucracies and entourages, include the Minister of National Health and Population Development, Dr Wilkie van Niekerk, three “own affairs’ Ministers of Health in the three racially separated Chambers of Parliament, six Ministers of Health in non-independent “homelands” and four Ministers in the “independent homelands.”

Professor Walter Loening of Natal University, put it this way: “If the Devil himself had been set the task of evolving a health structure so complex in nature that it would confound the minds of the most skilled health administrators, he would not have come up with anything quite as bizarre as we have managed to create in this country.”

And Mr Louw is surprised, and apparently offended, that the “ANC” has taken up public health as an issue.

At the same time, the medical supremo, Dr Wilkie van Niekerk, waives on eerything about “privatisation”.

Privatisation of any sort cannot survive without profit. And while 13-milion to 15-million South Africans — the latest authoritative estimate — live in conditions of appalling poverty and while the richest 20 percent of the population own 75 percent of the country’s wealth, profit — and therefore “privatisation” — cannot be anything but a sublime insult, response to the public health crisis.
Striving for success can be a costly struggle

By VUYO BAVUMA
Staff Reporter

HE'S studying for a B Comm degree at the University of Cape Town — but he lives many kilometres from the famous campus in a small room in the single men's quarters in Gugulethu.

He shares the room with three other people — his father and two building labourers.

He is forced to share a bed with his father. Because of the noise and other distractions he can start studying only after 10 at night.

His day starts before sunrise, and ends long after midnight.

Despite the difficulties, Mandla Ndwalaza is determined to become an accountant.

Cutback

Now, however, he is faced with a daunting problem: He is one of about 40 "extremely deserving" students whose potential bursaries from the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) are threatened.

He was on their short list.

But a severe cutback in State assistance to universities has placed a huge additional burden on the SAIRR.

To keep its students at university, the organisation has had to cut back on new grants.

And, Mandla is among theocalatives.

He is a typical of the type of student that the SAIRR feels is deserving and that it wants, desperately, to help.

Undeterred

Now 21, he was born in Dordrecht, the second of four children of Sikiile Ndwalaza, a building labourer, and his wife, Elesla, who now works in Johannesburg.

They were above-average students, Mandla applied for several bursaries while at school, but was not successful. Undeterred,

he battled poverty and deprivation for years, before passing matric with an C aggregate at the Sizamile High School.

He was accepted as a B Comm student, majoring in accountancy, at UCT.

But his desire to improve himself only made life harder.

Mandla spoke of the difficulties of studying at the hostel.

"Generally, it is difficult to study at the hostel and I have to use the kitchen which is cold at night.

Saturday study

"During the week, I leave home at 6:45 to attend my first lecture at 8. After my lectures I study at the library until 9pm.

"On Saturday, I normally study at the library in town until 4pm. I rest at home and wait for people to sleep before I can concentrate amid distraction. I normally study from 10pm until after midnight," Mandla said.

On Sundays he studies from 10pm until midnight.

Of his studies, Mandla said: "There is a lot of work, but I have hope that I will make it. I would prefer to be at university residence, but I cannot afford it," he said.

In 1984 Mandla dropped out of school because of financial problems.

Boycotts

"I had to assist my father to support the family. I worked as a packer in a supermarket in Heidelberg, earning R35 a week," he said.

In 1985 he enrolled at Sizamile, but did not sit the examinations because of boycotts.

Another student in a similar predicament is a second-year UWC physiotherapy student, Thenjiwe Siempela, 22, who discontinued her studies last year due to financial problems.

She returned this year, but still struggles.

Borrow books

The former Sizamile High pupil, who comes from a family of 11, said: "At the beginning of the year I had to borrow books from the university's bookshop, she said.

She went to work at a fast food outlet to supplement the family's income.

Mr. Derek Joubert, manager of Western Cape branch of the institute, summed up the grim situation.

"We have to turn away thousands of needy students. Today we had to turn away a student. She was in tears because we were her last resort," he said.

Mr. Joubert can be contacted at 5 Long Street, Mowbray, 1700, or at 665 1625.
DOWN THE AVENUE: Mandla Ndwalaza catches up on some reading while he strolls to lectures at the University of Cape Town.
Corruption, poverty: two lines of DP attack

CAPE TOWN — Corruption and growing poverty would be two key lines of attack by the DP against government in the election, DP co-leader Zach de Beer said last night.

He told a meeting in Brackenfell that the stories of corruption which kept on breaking out were a source of shame. “We are not a nation of cheats or crooks — why is this happening?”

The apartheid policy advocated by the NP and the CP had “failed miserably” and people no longer had confidence in the future. “No one believes in it (apartheid). But the Nats refuse to give it up or to adopt a democratic policy — because they know that under a democratic policy they would lose their jobs.”
FUND HELPERS: Two enterprising Durbanville sisters and their brother beam with pride after holding a garden fete and raising R34,44 for the Argus Food Campaign. From left are Gordon Adam, 5, and his sisters, Claudine, 10, and Michelle, 8.

Jellybeaners' R34 will help feed the hungry

BY SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporters

WHEN two schoolgirl sisters were told about the plight of Cape Town’s hungry people they decided to do something about it.

Claudine Adam, 10, and her sister Michelle, 8, of Durbanville, asked their parents to help them organise a garden fete after learning at Sunday school about the need to help poor people.

Their mother said they also passed on their enthusiasm to their mother, Gordon, 5, who helped deliver their invitations.

The sisters, both keen members of the Junior Argus’ Jellybean Journal club, invited their friends to play games and buy their homemade cookies, popcorn, old doll’s dresses and ornaments.

They set up stall about a fortnight ago and raised R34,44 for the Argus Food Campaign.

Two Argus readers, who wish to remain anonymous, also dipped into their pockets and gave gifts of R200 each to the campaign.

Several other readers also donated smaller amounts bringing the funds total income for the week to R1,652. The latest gifts boosted the fund from R67,361 last week to R68,403 this week.

"Although ever-generous Argus readers have railed to recent appeals for help, plenty more is needed to help get the campaign funds back on its feet,” said city treasury officials.

Drastic action

The campaign, launched 2½ years ago in association with the Mayor’s Relief Fund as a “band-aid” to alleviate the effects of unemployment, has fed more than a million hungry mouths.

The fund was established in October 1986 when it became clear that drastic action was needed after the economic recession late in 1985 began to bite deeply and resulted in spiralling unemployment.

Food parcels for many hungry families made destitute through the refrenchment of a breadwinner are also fighting the high incidence of tuberculosis in the Western Cape.

In winter “which is when the unemployed will need food most” food is distributed at the rate of up to 48 tons a week to a total of 46,300 families.

Parcels include packets of samp, beans, rice, tinned and frozen fish and meat, fresh vegetables and other basic food.

Many recipients of food parcels claim their families would have not made it through the cold and wet weather had it not been for those food parcels.

Applications for food parcels were meanwhile being continuously reviewed and were under a constant policy of reduction according to City Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Pepkiss.

Food parcels have been reduced by 43 percent since December to slow-down expenditure and at present only the most deserving cases were helped.

The distribution of food parcels was reduced from 11,864 in February to 10,839 parcels in March. The number of aid distribution centres had also been reduced from 24 to 22.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P.O. Box 1599, Vlakberg 8018, or P.O. Box 296 Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques should be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at 210 2822.
Plea to public to aid deprived Karoo children in the winter

By LINDA GALLOWAY
Staff Reporter

CHILDREN in the Karoo will suffer this winter without warm clothing and blankets, says the regional director of Operation Hunger, Miss Roselle Frasca.

Miss Frasca said "It's a tragedy for the people living there -- they are trapped".

The cost of living was increasing constantly, but wages had not increased and some farm workers received as little as R12 a week.

"Nobody can live on that, and it's the children who suffer the most."

It was virtually impossible for farm workers to improve their lives, because they could not buy land to farm, and any projects were dependent on the goodwill of the farmers.

CRECHES

Operation Hunger's main concern was for the children, who were particularly vulnerable.

"And Karoo winters are so incredibly cold."

Projects receiving the support of Operation Hunger were creches started by volunteers in Britstown and Deportshoop.

The workers received no salary and the creches did not have mattresses, blankets, toys or equipment.

Miss Frasca said the projects arose from the visits of Operation Hunger to the area.

"Our visits have given people hope, and they are motivated to use their initiative and creativity.

"The creches are an opportunity for us to reach the babies with nutrition, but our budget can only do so much."

Any gifts of clothing in toddler and primary school children's sizes, or items for the creches, will be gratefully received. Anyone who can help should call Andre at 797 3657."
Democracy ‘starting point’ for beating malnutrition

By DALE KNEEN
Staff Reporter

The acceptance of the need for fundamental redistribution of political power is the starting point for dealing adequately with the problem of hunger and its associated diseases in South Africa, according to Professor Francis Wilson.

Addressing the second annual general meeting of Operation Hunger in the Western Cape last night, Professor Wilson, a co-author of the recently published Carnegie Report into Poverty, said a democratic society was a necessary — but not sufficient — condition for dealing adequately with malnutrition and hunger in South Africa.

There were deep historical reasons for the problem of hunger in South Africa, such as conquest and the Land Act of 1913. Since then there had been further political factors such as the anti-black urbanisation policy of the past thirty years. There were also such economic considerations as the birth rate, inflation and lack of economic growth.

“The need now is to see redistribution, not so much in terms of the poor grabbing from the rich, but as the whole society investing some of its surplus productively and justly,” he said.

REALLOCATE FUNDS

A democratic government in South Africa would have to reallocate the money it had available.

“If six percent of the national budget were spent on the very poor it would be possible to give every hungry person 50c a day. This would considerably improve the malnutrition situation in the country.”

Non-governmental organisations, such as Operation Hunger, were “models of hope” and should continue to investigate ways of overcoming hunger by continued research into rural health centres, vegetable clubs, co-ops and credit unions, Professor Wilson said.
Vitamins for 10 000 malnourished children

About 10 000 children between the ages of one and six years, who were suffering from the two major malnutrition diseases — marasmus and kwashiorkor — received subsidised milk and vitamin powder last year, the Minister of National Health, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said yesterday.

However, as only 12% of the clinics throughout South Africa participated in the scheme, “it is clear that the incidence of these diseases is probably substantially higher”.

Marasmus and kwashiorkor were not notifiable diseases, he said.
Readers respond generously to food campaign

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

A GIFT of R1 000 from the Kurt and Joey Strauss Foundation and 14 smaller gifts boosted the Argus Food Campaign to R69 555 this week as readers continued to respond to appeals to help thousands of destitute people who are dependent on the fund to stay alive.

Cheques for R1 000 and R500 were also sent in the past fortnight by readers who want their names withheld.

City treasury officials said Argus readers had contributed R4 601 in the past 14 days to the campaign but were quick to point out that money spent on invoices for bulk food purchases was constantly reducing the fund.

Among the latest contributions received was a gift for R250 sent by A E Lane-Ryan of Deep River on behalf of the Christ Church of Social Responsibility of Constantia.

City Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, said he was “delighted” that gifts were still trickling into the fund.

“All donations, no matter how small, were gratefully received,” he said.

He said the relief programme keeping scores of starving families alive was further trimmed in April in preparation for the coming winter months.

Applications for food parcels were meanwhile being continuously reviewed and were under a constant policy of reduction.

Dr Popkiss said while reserves continued to keep scores of starving families alive, only the most genuine and deserving cases were at present being helped.

PARCELS CUT BACK

The distribution of food parcels was reduced from 11 654 in February to 10 839 parcels in March and had been cut by a further 25 percent in April to 8 079 parcels. The number of aid distribution centres had also been reduced from 24 to 22.

Municipal health department personnel said bulk food purchases had also been reduced by 25 percent.

The campaign, launched 2½ years ago in association with the Mayor’s Relief Fund as a “band-aid” to alleviate the effects of unemployment, has fed more than a million hungry mouths.

The fund was established in October 1986 when it became clear that drastic action was needed after the economic recession late in 1985 began to bite deeply and resulted in spiralling unemployment.

NEED FOOD MOST

Food is distributed at the rate of up 48 tons a week to a total of 46 900 families in winter “which is when the unemployed will need food most”.

Parcels include packets of samp, beans, rice, tinned and frozen fish and meat, fresh vegetables and other basic foodstuffs.

Although generous Argus readers have rallied to recent appeals for help, much more is needed to help the fund.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P O Box 15389, Vlaeburg, 8018, or P O Box 258 Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques should be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund: Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at 210 2882.
Business faces major challenge

Ferry said yesterday that rising unemployment would lead to escalating conflict between the "haves" and "have-nots" - which would not necessarily be across the colour line.

Stressing the need for higher economic growth in order to provide more jobs in the formal sector, Perry said that a political solution must be found in order to achieve this.

He was concerned by a series of sudden moves by the authorities which made business planning difficult, by the clampdown on hire-purchase when consumer spending was already on the decline and by the fact that small businesses would be particularly hard hit by rising interest rates.

Outgoing president Anthony Coombe also stressed the need for political reform before the economy could achieve its full potential:

In his speech at the annual general meeting in the Mount Nelson Hotel Coombe said that the prospects for success in world markets and for reversing the flow of capital so as to unleash the pent-up potential of the SA economy are dependent upon our ability to speed up the process of reform and get the political negotiation process going.

Coombe also stressed that the prospects for generating investment in SA were directly dependent on the elimination of all forms of statutory racial discrimination and the accommodation of all people in a new political dispensation.

He commended the government's commitment to a new industrial strategy based on a forward planning process involving sectors selected for their development potential and ability to compete internationally.

But he pointed out that business confidence and efficiency were undermined by "the increasing tendency on the part of the government to change the business rules with retrospective effect."
Outa teaches Prince Albert to fight 'false prophets'.

By BRONWYN DAVIES
Staff Reporter

CIVIL-rights crusader Mr. Jan Outa Schoeman, who has a Standard 2 education, wants to uplift the people of Prince Albert by starting an education trust.

Mr. Schoeman, 62, is a veteran of many court battles — "fighting injustices meted out to the people by municipalities and the police".

"Education," said Mr. Schoeman, "is what the people need to fight the false prophets in the House of Representatives."

"TOO WEAK"

"These ministers are too weak to look after their people's needs. They should work in the community. Their idle hands create work for the Devil."

Mr. Schoeman was in Cape Town to discuss establishing an educational trust with his attorneys.

He intends using a settlement from the Prince Albert municipality, awarded by the Cape Town Supreme Court in 1982.

PATCHWORK KING

Mr. Schoeman fought eviction from his rented home all the way from Prince Albert Magistrate's Court to the Supreme Court and won.

Besides being famous for his court cases, Mr. Schoeman is the patchwork king of the Klein Karoo.

He introduced simple patchwork to the poor and since then patchwork pants, dresses, shirts and jackets have become what he calls "traditional dress".

PENNIES FOR POOR

It is a small business which provides pennies for the poor.

As part of his education programme, which would be run by Prince Albert advice office, started by him 14 years ago, Mr. Schoeman intends introducing principles propagated by the Small Business Corporation.

"And when the education trust gets off the ground many people will learn to read and write and be able to defend themselves against the false prophets," he said.
Org speaks out on costs

He's out of touch, says bureau

By TOS WENTZEL
Political Correspondent

DR ORG MARAIS, Deputy-Minister of Finance, has conceded that his remarks on white South Africans being better off than they were 20 years ago were poorly timed.

He also conceded that pensioners who did not have fringe benefits had experienced a decline in real income and that they were suffering.

He committed himself to try to better their pensions and to get annual increments in the government's budget.

While defending his remarks in Parliament last week that white South Africans had on average not become poorer in the past 20 years, he said today it was a bad time to make a speech like that because people were not interested in the economy of the situation, which were too complex.

**Economic facts**

People were at present adapting to the circumstances as the government was cooling down the economy because of balance of payments problems. People were sensitive to the cooling-off period and did not want to hear the hard facts from an economist.

It was a miracle that the government was able to keep the country up to standard in

The past 15 years have seen enormous onslaughts. The fact that the income of each member of a household had not collapsed amid the adverse conditions of the past few years and that there had not been an inflation rate of 1,000 percent was the achievement of a good government.

Dr Marais was reacting to criticism of his remarks in Parliament that whites had, on average, not become poorer in the past 20 years.

**Gold price blow**

He said his speech in Parliament had to be seen against the background that the gold price had dropped from a high of $870 dollars a fine ounce to the present $521 dollars.

This was a bad blow as gold represented 40 to 45 percent of South Africa's exports.

It should also be remembered that the country had to contend with two oil crises, that the price of the country's minerals and agricultural products had dropped on the international markets, that sanctions had damaged the economy, that the country for seven years had to struggle against drought conditions and that the government had to help the farmers with subsidies of R2.4 billion.

The subsidies to whites had also been maintained in relation to the gross domestic product. At the same time the government had to ensure that the country remained militarily prepared.

By DAVID YUTAR, Staff Reporter

DR Org Marais, Deputy-Minister of Finance, is out of touch with hard realities if he thinks South Africans are no worse off than they were 20 years ago, according to Dr Ockie Stuart, director of the Bureau for Economic Research at Stellenbosch University.

He said Dr Marais's claim was invalidated by hard facts.

**INFLATION**

One way of showing how much worse off the average South African was today, said Dr Stuart, was to look at the dramatic decline in the disposable income, a process which started in the 1970s and had continued unabated.

Real disposable income (RDI) was total individual income after tax and allowed for inflation. From 1960 to 1969 it increased by 2.2 percent a year. From 1970 to 1979 it increased by only 1.5 percent a year, and from 1980 to 1989 RDI actually decreased by 0.5 percent a year.

This meant that from 1970 to 1988 RDI declined by 6.5 percent a year...
Marais is 'out of touch'

(Cont from page 1)

From 1962 to 1967 per capita GDP decreased by 1.5 percent a year.

Another measurement was the growth in direct taxation of individuals.

In the 1960s the annual growth in taxes was 12.2 percent, in the 1970s this increased to 16.2 percent and in the 1980s swelled to 22.8 percent.

Yet another way of illustrating how much worse off South Africans were today compared to 20 years ago was to compare local trends with what had happened in other countries.

Since 1963 prices in South Africa had risen 100 percent. In New Zealand they had increased by 40 percent, in Great Britain by 27 percent, in West Germany by 6 percent and in Japan by 5 percent.

QUESTIONS

One commentator said that to find price increases comparable to those experienced in this country one would have to go to the banana republics of South America.

"South Africans have grown so accustomed to rapidly rising prices that they have stopped asking why this is happening to them. However, they should ask questions because the high rate of inflation is keeping them poor and, if continued, could possibly bankrupt them," he said.

In contrast to South Africa, Britain was becoming one of the cheapest countries in the world, according to a survey published to guide international companies on cost of living allowances for employees sent overseas.

The survey by Employment Conditions Abroad Ltd showed that between 1960 and 1968 the cost of a shopping basket of essential items had increased by about 69 percent in Britain, opposed to 82 percent in Western Europe as a whole.

In South Africa the cost of food had escalated by 1 000 percent in 17 years. Motoring costs were on a par and property and rent were not far behind. These figures were based on statistics supplied by the government's Department of Statistics.

According to the Automobile Association, in 1972 it cost 7.3c a kilometre to run the smallest car. Today it costs 56c a kilometre.

While in 1972 there were at least half a dozen cars that sold for less than R2 000, today the cheapest car cost a little under R20 000.

BREAD

A few basic statistics supplied by the Central Statistics Services illustrate again how much the cost of living has rocketed.

According to the CSS the basket of essential food that cost R3.81c in 1968 cost R170.90 in 1988, an increase of 222 percent.

White bread cost 29.7c in 1968, 77c in 1967 and now costs 85c, an increase of 186 percent.

Ninety-three octane petrol was 55.6c a litre in February 1984, jumped to 96c by February 1989 and was recently increased again to R1.03c, representing an increase of about 85 percent in five years.

Org concedes poor timing

(Cont from page 1)

1989, but his indirect income, largely through fringe benefits such as company cars, house subsidies and better contributions to pensions and medical aid funds and other benefits, had on average increased by 71.8 percent.

The basic point he wanted to make in his speech was that the average South African had not gone under as a result of the onslaughts against the country, but that he was in fact still keeping his head above water.

He described the way in which his recent remarks about the economy had been quoted in some cases as a transparent stunt aimed at the election.

Dr Marais said there were opposition-minded critics who tried to create the impression that he had said that the average South African had become richer in the past 20 years while this was not what he had said.
Charities battle to feed blacks and whites as donations shrink

Hunger queues are growing

More than a million people rely on feeding schemes every day for what is possibly their only meal.

Operation Hunger, the largest organisation, already feeds 250 000 people a day, nearly twice as many as three years ago.

In the PWV area alone it feeds 46 500 and there is a waiting list of more than 200 000.

Mrs Ina Perlman, who heads Operation Hunger, said that in one area in which 49 000 children needed food, the organisation could afford to feed only the most desperately ill — about 15 000.

"We had to sit down and figure out how many children we could feed, and who they would be. We chose those already ill from hunger."

Mrs Perlman said contributions from the man-in-the-street continued despite the economic crisis.

'It is amazing that the public is still giving, while the corporate sector, which has never supported us well, does even less now."

Indications were that there would be an increase in the demand for aid from Operation Hunger, especially because of retrenchments from mines and other sectors.

Dwindling funds

With hunger having less to give and many more now relying on daily feeding schemes, especially children and the elderly, the outlook is bleak as charity organisations contemplate dwindling funds.

"Mrs Johanna Swansen of Tannie Swannie soup kitchen in the western suburbs of Jan Hofmeyr...

A special treat... children enjoy a meal from Tannie Swannie's soup kitchen in Jan Hofmeyr.
Nourishing fare at the no-star restaurant

By Julienne du Toit

Father Christmas is alive and well and living in Belgravia, Johannesburg.

Everyone knows him simply as Father Crowmans of Boom Street ("It's my street") and he dispenses food and clothing to the poor who often cannot pronounce his name.

Father Crowmans is one of the few private individuals who donate time and effort to feeding the poor. This kindly Dutch father also clothes those who come to his door, but won't tolerate anyone he thinks is a "crook".

In his garden is a sign saying "No-star restaurant Only for hungry people". Another sign says "No discrimination Right of admission reserved".

He raises money through donations and by holding bazaars. The local bakery gives him its leftovers, mostly rolls and buns, and he gets up at 5 am every day to prepare a pot of mung and vegetables to go with a pile of fresh bread.

SCARCE

Father Crowmans feeds, on average, 60 people a day. There are "a lot of whites", he says, and sometimes many children. He can't easily feed more than 60, although he has fed up to 137. He likes to do the work himself and, besides, money is scarce.

The Holy Cross Church in Belgravia feeds 120 to 150 hungry people every day with peanut butter sandwiches and cups of hot coffee.

On Tuesdays and Fridays they all get a cake of soap. The faces are mostly black. As for funds, "we trust in Providence. God has been good to us," says a spokesman.

The City Shelter opposite the Old Fort in Johannesburg works on the principle that man cannot live on bread alone.

The 150 odd destitutes who go there are given a meal, a blanket and a bed for the night, as well as spiritual nourishment.

The shelter would like, ultimately, to make the hoboes functional members of society. Its objective is to change lives.

cause of problems with NP policy and representatives to take action against Mr.
Nourishing fare at the no-star restaurant

By Julienne du Toit

Father Chrystmas is alive and well and living in Belgravia, Johannesburg. Everyone knows him simply as Father Crowmans of Boom Street ("It's my street") and he dispenses food and clothing to the poor who often cannot pronounce his name.

Father Crowmans is one of the few private individuals who donate time and effort to feeding the poor. This feisty Dutch father also clothes those who come to his door, but won't tolerate anyone he thinks is a "crook."

In his garden is a sign saying "No-star restaurant: Only for hungry people." Another sign says "No discrimination. Right of admission reserved."

He raises money through donations and by holding bazaars. The local bakery gives him its leftovers, mostly rolls and buns, and he gets up at 5 a.m. every day to prepare a pot of mince and vegetables to go with a pile of fresh bread.

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A decent

By REHANA ROSSOUW
Staff Reporter

A DECENT plate of food has become a luxury for some South African pensioners battling to survive in the face of rising prices.

Tragic stories of elderly people whose pensions have not kept pace with the rising cost of living have marred many dreams of a leisurely retirement.

One social pensioner was forced to eat dog food when her money ran low at the end of the month.

White social pensioners get R251 a month, coloured people and Indians R200 and blacks R150. For many, this is their only income.

The economic crisis has sent food prices spiralling. And worst hit are the pensioners, whose fixed incomes have not kept pace with the cost of living.

The cost of food has risen a staggering 1,000 percent in 17 years and with increased taxes through GST, the average income would have needed to grow tenfold since 1972 simply to keep pace with inflation.

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Plate of food is a luxury for some ...
We're starving, say Guguletu pensioners

By REHANA ROSSOUW
Staff Reporter

"WE are starving here" was the constant refrain from black pensioners who packed the Guguletu Civic Centre today to collect their R150 monthly pensions.

A 56-year-old woman shook her empty purse to emphasise her plight.

At the bottom of the scale of pensions — white pensioners get R251 a month and coloureds and Indians R200 — starvation is a reality for elderly blacks in the face of the rising cost of living.

Many pensioners were disgruntled this morning because their payments had come a week late. They had expected to be paid on May 17.

FEELING THE PINCH

Mrs Florence Speedman, of Guguletu, said: "My money doesn't belong to me anymore. I'm broke even before I get paid."

"On May 17 I did not even have a grain of rice to eat and had to borrow money from my neighbours."

"Now I have to take this money and give it to the people I owe. I don't know how I'm going to survive until June 17."

Mrs Speedman has been on pension for only three months, but is already feeling the pinch. She has one child still at school and has to pay fees, rent and buy food with her R150 monthly income.

"I can't afford to buy meat, anything. We are living on samp, beans and mealie meal."

"Sometimes I make soup and put only split peas and a few carrots into the pot. Soup bones are too expensive."

Mrs Speedman said that if it had not been for the support of her neighbours she would already have died.

Mrs Josephine Moletswana, 76, lives alone and does not have family or children to support her.

"I don't cook anymore because paraffin has become too expensive."

Mrs Moletswana said she could not understand how officials had decided R150 a month was an adequate pension for blacks. She said she would need at least twice that amount to live comfortably.

"Look at this," she said, opening her purse. "I don't have one cent."

Oldies abused by disinformation — Nat

By MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Staff

A NATIONALIST MP claimed this week's pensioners' protest meeting in Claremont was a "disinformation campaign" orchestrated by government critics to "abuse" the aged.

Mr Brian Edwards, MP for Maritzburg South, debating the Income Tax Bill, was reacting to reports of a meeting arranged by the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners in Claremont, at which many of the 600 elderly spoke about their economic grievances.

However, Mr Edwards said "not much" had been said in the economics debate about the "additional benefits to the needy".

Only the "bad news" was published by our critics and our aged are abused at disinformation meetings" like the one in Claremont.

Mr Jasper Walsh (DP, Pinelands) rejected Mr Edwards' description of the meeting.

He said: "That's actually not a reflection of what is happening."

"What is happening is that there has never been a time when so much attention has been given to the state of the economy and cost of living issues."

"The meeting in Claremont was not a political meeting, but was organized by an organisation representing the views of pensioners."

Mr Victor Helden, director of the ARP & P, said the decision to hold the meeting had been taken independently of any political grouping.

"The object was to bring to the public's attention the plight of pensioners."

"At the meeting the subject of privileges was explained by our critics and our aged are abused at disinformation meetings" like the one in Claremont.

Mr Edwards argued that he thought the meeting had been "provocative and an attempt to blame the government for our plight as they control the economy," he said.

Black pensioners starvin

Mr Veltol Ntsedo, a former Transport and General Workers Union organiser, said if black pensioners organised themselves into a union they might be able to improve their lot.

Mr Ntsedo supports two grandchildren who are still at school but lives with his children and does not need to buy food or pay rent.

"We are all very dissatisfied. Everyone in this hall is hungry. Why do old people have to suffer so much? We are tired. We want to rest now."

Mr Ntsedo's income dropped from R300 a month to R150 when he left his job.

"The cost of living is hit-
Poverty buck stops in Pretoria, says DP adviser

By REHANA ROSSOUW
Staff Reporter

DR Org Marais, Deputy-Minister of Finance, must have used "the gravy train between Pretoria and Johannesburg" for figures to back his controversial remark that white South Africans were not worse off than 20 years ago.

This was said by Professor Sampe Terreblanche, economics adviser to the Democratic Party.

"The buck stops in Pretoria," said Professor Terreblanche, reacting to attempts by Dr Marais to defuse the row that has exploded over his recent statement.

Explaining his remark yesterday, Dr Marais referred to a survey of 5,000 white families whose salaries were lower but whose fringe benefits had increased.

"That sample must have been taken on the gravy train between Pretoria and Johannesburg," Professor Terreblanche said.

Org Marais silent as opposition anger grows

By ALAN DUNN
Political Staff

THE Deputy-Minister of Finance, Dr Org Marais, fell silent today as opposition MPs and economists tore into his assertion that white South Africans were not worse off than 20 years ago.

People were furious at the statement, said the Democratic Party spokesman on finance, Mr Harry Schwartz, "when so many are struggling to maintain reasonable standards."

DP co-leader Dr Zac de Beer said last night at a fund-raising function in Fort Elizabeth that opposition South Africans were growing tired of government excuses and prevarications about the economy.

"We are all getting poorer because of apartheid," he said.

An official at Dr Marais' office said today that he had decided to comment further on the row his comments stirred would not advance matters.

Addressing the plight of pensioners, Mr Mike Ellis (DP Durban North) said Dr Marais' statement again revealed "the government's insensitivity towards the senior citizens of this country."

Qualifying his controversial remarks last week, Dr Marais said this week pensioners who did not have the help of fringe benefits had suffered reductions in real income.

"If the State has any money available," he pledged, "I will fight to improve their pensions and circumstances."
We're far poorer than 20 years ago

By BRUCE WILIAN

The individual is a salary which may have kept up with the official inflation figure but does not show much, if any, real increase. The government has not managed to keep the average taxpayer afloat. Attempts by the government to keep the cost of living suspended by pushing the average taxpayer into the black. It's a problem for all, but the government has done the best it could for the average South African to get as close as possible to poverty.

SA economy: Govt doesn't give a damn?

The government has been on the back foot with its economic policies. The 1970s and 1980s were tough times for the average South African. The government has been accused of not doing enough to help the poor. The political correspondence mentions a lack of accountability on the part of the government. The government has been accused of using propaganda to cover up its failures. The government has been accused of being out of touch with the needs of the people.

Pensions: a national scandal, says CP

CP leader Wally Serote said in Parliament that a national scandal exists with regard to state pensions. He accused the government of not doing enough to help pensioners. The government has been accused of not providing enough support for pensioners.

Schwarz: Reasons for public anger at govt

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Cost of living

The cost of living is up by 20%. The average South African is struggling to make ends meet. The government has been accused of not doing enough to help the poor. The government has been accused of using propaganda to cover up its failures. The government has been accused of being out of touch with the needs of the people.

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Effect of tax cut on personal incomes

The government has been accused of not doing enough to help the poor. The government has been accused of using propaganda to cover up its failures. The government has been accused of being out of touch with the needs of the people.

The table below shows the effect of the tax cut on personal incomes:

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Pensions a national scandal, says CP

Political Correspondent

The Central Party (CP) yesterday reacted to recent statements by the party leader, Mr. Clegg, on the matter of pensions. The CP's leader, Mr. De Wet, stated that the party would continue to demand the government to act on the matter.

The CP leader also addressed the matter of the inflation rate, stating that it was unacceptable and that the government must take action to curb it.

SA economy: 'Gov't doesn't give a damn'

Political Correspondent

The government has become to some extent a political issue, according to the opposition party, the Democratic Party (DP).

The DP leader, Mr. De Wet, stated that the government's economic policies have been failures and that they have failed to address the problems faced by the economy.

The DP has called for a more balanced approach to economic policies and has called for the government to act on the matter.

Cost of living

It is true that salaries have risen, but the cost of living has also increased. The government must take action to address this issue.

The cost of living index shows that the inflation rate is currently at 4.6% per annum, which is higher than the government's target of 3%.

From page 1

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Elderly need 'food subsidy'

Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA — poised on the brink of economic disaster — is in need of unorthodox methods to relieve the strain on consumers, Shareholders' Association chairman Mr Issy Goldberg said yesterday.

He suggested a central trust company be set up by the manufacturers of food and other essential goods to subsidise grocery bills of those hardest hit by inflation — the elderly and families with young children.

He also suggested the chairman of Pick 'n Pay, Mr Raymond Ackerman, be appointed to oversee consumer affairs for the country, as he had made such a success of his small-profit, big-turnover company.

The profits of Pick 'n Pay were about 2% of the gross national product, he said.

Speaking at the Institute of Citizenship, Mr Goldberg said that though he was a supporter of the free enterprise system, it was not helping those in need of an economic strategy to balance their household budgets.

Families throughout the country and throughout the economic spectrum were hard-hit by inflation and the rapidly-spiralling cost of living, while food companies were making vast profits.

Evidence of this was that personal savings had dropped from 12% of real disposable income to less than 1% in the past 10 years, he said.

Mr Goldberg also lashed out at the financial institutions for "marketing debt" to those desperate to maintain their standard of living. He pointed out that the new Usury Act provided for an interest rate of 31% on debt of less than R6 000, which meant the capital amount would double in 2.5 years — something which was seldom pointed out to those who borrowed the money.

He said independent research conducted by his association revealed that the consumer price index, generally regarded as a measure of the rate of inflation, was not accurate for most families.

It was, he estimated, "anywhere between 20% and 30%, depending on the specific circumstances and spending patterns of the individual family."
Gold mining crisis could ‘ruin Operation Hunger’

By Dawn Barkhuizen

The situation for Operation Hunger would become “totally unmanageable” if marginal gold mines collapsed as a result of the sliding gold price.

This was stated by Mrs Ina Perlman, Operation Hunger executive director, at a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday following her recent fund-raising campaign in Europe and America.

Describing rampant starvation and a situation that was deteriorating daily, Mrs Perlman said the organisation was being flooded by appeals for feeding by people who were increasingly at an alarmingly low level of health.

The R2,2 million raised on her recent overseas trip would not go far to alleviate the current situation which demanded “money, money, money as we have never needed it before”.

Mrs Perlman said that should the marginal mines close the situation would become “utterly uncontrollable”.

“All over the country jobs are being lost at a terrifying rate and for every job lost as many as 10 people face destitution within three months.”

She said the number of people currently wait-listed for feeding had escalated dramatically from the 200,000 wait-listed at the end of March.

“In East London this month alone 40,000 people have appealed for aid and in the Western Cape there were calls for assistance for 12,019,” she said.

“In Pearson in the Eastern Cape, we had an urgent appeal this week by a local clinic after 860 children in one school — 460 of whom had active tuberculosis.”

In some areas Operation Hunger workers were too afraid to even start counting the appeals for feeding, she said.

In Transkei, Operation Hunger had been forced to cut down even school feeding. The situation was particularly dire in the peri-urban and urban areas as thousands of jobless people added to mushrooming squatter populations.

This year the organisation was forced to cut its annual budget by R2 million and reduce the number of people being fed.

While self-help schemes had made thousands of people self-sufficient, Mrs Perlman said it took time before these projects became viable and it was essential to feed those involved in the interim.

“Hungry or starving people cannot work. We have had urgent appeals for feeding from some of our new vegetable gardens where women were collapsing before 11 am.”

With regard to corporate support for Operation Hunger, Mrs Perlman stressed that “we receive superb support from a small but faithful sector of the corporate sector which supports us not only in cash and kind, but also services”.

She said “Operation Hunger is not anticipating a drop in donations from the corporate sector because most of our large donors have indicated renewed support for this coming financial year.”
It's a dog's life for many pensioners

By REHANA ROSSOUW
Weekend Argus Reporter

HAVING guests for dinner tonight? How about treating them to a real meat dish, set in delicious jelly which tempts even the most discerning palate?

This suggested meal has been lifted from a tin of pet food at a local supermarket.

Eating pet food isn't a new trend — poverty-stricken pensioners battling in the face of rising prices have been forced to change their diets to suit their pockets.

Social pensioners at a meeting in Claremont this week voiced their anger at the escalating cost of living and afterwards gathered round a reporter to tell of their plight.

One pensioner said she was forced to exist on dog food when her money ran low at the end of the month — because it was the cheapest food available.

Mrs Kay Altman, regional chairman of the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners (ARP & P), said this was not fiction but had happened to a member of her organisation.

Better value

"She was living alone and battling terribly until we rallied round to assist her," Mrs Altman said.

"And she's not the only one. I've been told by members that cats' Bob makes delicious fish cakes — but which I'm reluctant to try."

Mrs Altman said that elderly pensioners had resorted to scratching in dustbins in search of food to eat.

A survey at a local supermarket showed that pet food gave more value for money than tinned food destined for human consumption.

A 425g of baked beans cost 69c while a popular brand of dog food retailed at 79c.

However, the pet food included meat (a cheap brand of corned meat sold for R2.65) and was richer in vitamins, protein and iron.

The dog food also had 69 percent more protein and 25 percent more iron per 100g than the beans.

The pet food contained vitamin A, B12, D and E, fibre and 15 other nutrients.

Mr Ian Goddard, head of marketing for Reckitt and Coleman, which has several brands of pet food on supermarket shelves, said that tinned dog food was absolutely safe for human consumption.

However, legislation did not allow the company to market their goods for any use other than pet food.

"In our testing sessions the marketing staff test dog food on biscuits before new lines are put on the market," Mr Goddard said.

"When I first came into the business I was horrified, but I've since tasted the stuff myself."

An Argus employee who regularly tastes — but doesn't eat — her dog food reported that it was "rather bland, lumpy, had too little salt and was generally tasteless."
MALNUTRITION on the Cape Flats is turning normal childhood diseases into killers.

Measles, which is common among children and easily treatable, is taking its death toll because emaciated children’s bodies have no resilience, says Dr Trudy Thomas of the Child Health Unit at the University of Cape Town.

About 40 children are being treated at a nutrition clinic recently opened by Shawco in Nyanga, and that figure is believed to be the tip of the iceberg. One 11-month-old baby is blind, also possibly because of malnutrition.

According to Sister Miriam Gekusi, who runs the clinic, the major problem is to make people aware of the clinic’s existence. “We had to go to the people and find mothers with malnourished children to persuade them to come for help,” she said.

Dr Thomas, who says that there are no real statistics for the area, believes that there are many cases of severely malnourished children who “never” have medical help.

She says that it is impossible to keep track of people because of the shifting and temporary nature of the population. Shawco, which gives out 23,000 meals daily at schools on the Cape Flats, is battling to keep up with inflation and the expanding population. Costs are rising all the time and it is becoming more difficult for people to give to charity, according to the general manager, Mr Graham Herbert.
Mayor speaks out on crime rate

Missiles: Nato leaders want talks with Soviets

BRUSSELS. — Nato leaders today voted unanimously for negotiations with the Soviet Union to cut the number of European-based short-range nuclear missiles (SNF) in US and Soviet SNF arsenals. But they differed in their interpretations of a key phrase about negotiating “partial reductions” in US and Soviet SNF arsenals.

Nato sources said US President Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher believed the phrase meant SNF forces would not be eliminated. But a West German official said elimination was still an option.

The compromise was reached during a night of bargaining at Nato’s 40th anniversary summit here.

Mr. Muller was reacting to figures given in parliament by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr. Adriaan Vlok, which revealed that a serious crime was reported every 10 minutes in the greater Cape Town area. Crime rates in poverty-stricken areas such as Guguletu, Khayelitsha and Crossroads were markedly higher than in higher-income regions.

“It could be said that the standard of living enjoyed by a community was inversely proportionate to the crime rate of the area.”

Civic patrol

“We are doing the best we can to contain the escalation but suffer from a lack of funds. Mr. Vlok has ruled out the creation of a civic patrol run by the city council but we will continue to make representations to him in this regard.

“However, this would not have affected the worst-affected areas, the so-called township, which fall beyond our jurisdiction.”

“The City Council has a crime liaison committee which meets every two months with police and civic leaders to discuss ad hoc short and medium-term alternatives for combating crime and this has resulted in, for instance, traffic officers being required to perform functions normally left to police.

“But the crime problem will remain as long as there is such widespread poverty.”

A person staving in squalor would not find it hard to commit a violent crime.

“We are seeing a huge influx of people and a relatively low growth rate in job opportunities, housing and social services,” he said.

Europe go-ahead for new jumbo jet

The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON — European aviation authorities have cleared the new long-range Boeing jumbo jet for commercial service while a programme of modifications is carried out.

The agreement has been reached following talks in Paris last week between Boeing and the aviation authorities of four countries — Britain, France, West Germany and the Netherlands — which have been pressing for improvements to the design of the 747-400.

The compromise means that the four European airlines which have ordered 747-400s, British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa and KLM, will now be able to introduce the new aircraft on scheduled services this summer.

MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Boeing, the Seattle-based manufacturer, said that it had agreed to continue working with the European authorities to develop satisfactory design and testing solutions to meet their requirements.

The group of European aviation authorities warned Boeing some months ago that the 747-400 did not meet their latest safety standards and that airworthiness certificates might be withheld until changes were agreed.

By DON HOLIDAY, Staff Reporter

LONG-term upliftment of the general living conditions of the underprivileged was the only solution to Cape Town’s soaring crime rate, the Mayor, Mr Peter Muller, said today.

EAR EAR! United States Secretary of State James Baker cups his hand behind his ear as President Bush smiles during the Nato summit in Brussels.

Soo...
Over 1-m are hit by hunger

OPERATION Hunger is now faced with over 1.6 million more starving people to care for, says the organisation's executive director Mrs Ina Perlman.

At a press conference in Johannesburg Perlman said the situation was "simple and tragic" and that more money was needed as the hunger crisis in the country was deteriorating rapidly.

She said appeals for self-help were pouring in daily and that Operation Hunger was starting 346 self-help projects to help 921 450 people to reach a minimum survival level.

Lay-offs

Perlman said there was a "massive and terrifying" unemployment problem in the urban and peri-urban areas of the country. "One mining group has already announced that they are looking at 4 000 to 5 000 lay-off next month."

While Operation Hunger enjoyed some support from a small section of the corporate sector, it relied largely on the support of the general public.

With four and a half weeks left to go for Gold Rush 6, Operation Hunger will be selling Care and Share tickets where Rl could win R100 000, for those who cannot afford a R10 ticket.
Homeland poor under 'new yoke'

The poor of the homelands were being subjected to a new form of colonialism by large corporations who were making large profits renting the land and paying their labour low salaries, said Mrs Catherine Schneider, the newly elected president of the National Council of Women.

Mrs Schneider and her husband, Theo, were missionaries near Giyane, Gazankulu, for 40 years, before settling in Johannesburg last year.

She said this week that the emergence of “agr-busineess” might seem “lovely” in that it provided work for the people in the homelands but, in fact, labourers often worked long hours in return for very little money.

Mrs Schneider has seen changes for the worse in rural communities in the far-northen Transvaal.

She said when she arrived in South Africa in 1949 the rural areas were in far better shape than they were today.

There were fewer roads then, but people grew an enormous variety of crops.

"Resettlement changed all that," she said. "The deterioration in the quality of life in the rural areas is a direct result of over-crowding which started with removals.

"There is hunger there now. Worst of all is the feeling of despair that they can do nothing about their lot."

People often complained blacks "bred too many children" but often the only affection women received came from their babies.

Birth control would only be effective once the quality of life improved, she said.
One big, happy family

By SOPHIE TEM

GRANDPA Ephraim Diamini, 71, and his wife Nesta, 69, are like the old woman who lived in a shoe who had so many children she did not know what to do.

Ephraim and his wife have one of the biggest families in Soweto. They add up to 42 in all – 10 adults and 32 grand- and great-grand-children.

The Diaminis do not live in a shoe. They live in a four-roomed house in Jabulani. To provide room for them all, Ephraim has put up seven shacks where most sleep at night.

The youngest is a great-grand-child born a month ago.

Nesta and Ephraim had 16 children – seven of whom have died. The other nine have since had children and are still living at home.

Most of the children are very young. At least eight of the little ones are under five and are not yet at school.

The ages of the other 26 range from six to 19 years. Many of the children attend the nearby Siyavuma Primary School and the rest attend various local high schools.

Ephraim – a self-styled priest of the General Mission Apostolic Church in Zon of South Africa – says he left work in 1974. He was employed by the same cold storage company for 36 years.

Although he is not educated, Ephraim and his wife have taught their grand- and great-grand-children to live according to Christian principles. They pray before meals, before they go to bed and when they rise in the morning.

On Sundays, Ephraim and his family – big enough to form a congregation – gather at the Siyavuma Primary School for services.

The children say the Lord’s Prayer and The Lord is my Shepherd in English and
Forty kids, and grandparents love them all
That old blanket may save a life

By Lorna Schmidt

The icy weather that has been experienced over the Rand recently is just a reminder that there is worse to come — officially, winter has not yet begun.

Blankets have come out of the cupboards and heater sales have rocketed, but as you sit in your warm house, under your duvet with a bowl of soup, spare a thought for those who can’t even afford to buy a blanket to protect themselves or their children from the freezing winds.

There are thousands of families like this across Johannesburg, many of whom will never survive the winter.

The Star’s Operation Snowball collects old blankets and money for new ones in a bid to help the needy.

However, the recent cold spell has already severely depleted the Operation Snowball coffers and our depot is standing virtually empty.

A soup kitchen in Brixton is one of the concerns which need our help. People flock to this kitchen daily to receive their only meal of the day, but once they leave the warmth of the kitchen they are plunged into the cold outside.

Donations for this worthwhile cause can be sent to Operation Snowball, P.O. Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.
Muxolisi Zulu was born under a highway in downtown Johannesburg 18 months ago. He was not the first baby born to the women who work and sleep in the vacant area under the Anderson Street off-ramp at City and Suburban. Some of the babies live, others die.

Muxolisi’s mother came to Johannesburg from Tugela Ferry, Natal, 18 years ago. Her husband was killed in a faction fight and Mrs Agnes Zulu was desperate to earn. She joined the women from her village eking out a living sewing pillows under the highway.

A trip to this surprising hive of activity as a trip to the Third World. Despite being smack bang in the middle of Johannesburg, the atmosphere is pure Africa.

The women sit in small groups (mostly from their home towns), between heaps of cloth and foam rubber, cutting cloth, pinning foam and stitching by hand or on old manual sewing machines.

FAR AFIELD

They come as far as Natal, northern Transvaal and Swaziland. Some have been there for more years than they can remember, selling their goods on the spot.

On a good day they can make up many, many pillows. And if they’re lucky, sell six. No one is entirely sure how much she makes on her outlay is, but at R1 for a pillow, the money dribbles in.

The “pillow people” are wary of strangers. They speak little English, they don’t have beds and must sleep outside or with friends in a nearby hostel. They work seven days a week and sometimes freeze to death in winter.

Ask them about their men and they roll their laughter.

“My husband is dead. He was killed in a fight at the taxi rank,”

“Here? He found a new wife when he came to work in the city a long time ago,”

The lives of these women are a constant battle for survival. One long struggle to the factory to buy off-cuts of cloth and foam. One long dream of villages in the hills of Swaziland or Natal where their children are.

Their biggest adversary is the authorities. Randlords are frequent and their pillows are confiscated and seldom seen again.

The women had been raided only hours before The Star arrived. This week pillows had been taken and the women chased away.

“They came and chased us away at 5 o’clock. They took some pillows, but they never try to catch us,” says Mrs Elizabeth Ndelo, of Newcastle.

Under the Anderson Street off-ramp there is a hive of activity hundreds of women live and work there, sewing and selling pillows.

The underside of the highways and byways in Johannesburg are the homes of hundreds of people. Out of the poverty and despair have sprung a burgeoning industry. Hundreds of unskilled women are working as hard as they know how to earn money and sell their sewing. Despite constant raids by the authorities and the adverse conditions they persevere. Dawn Barkhuizen reports.

Mrs Elizabeth Ndelo, of Newcastle, cares for her 18-month-old baby, Presido, as she sews pillows under the highway. She has been there for six years.

Mrs Beauty Hulebe, of Ladysmith, who doesn’t know how many years she’s been there but she’s had 10 children in that time.

The idea of the pillows came from the “Nkalukaluna” she says, pointing at the sky.

She works to stay alive. She cannot afford the R4 taxi fare back home, and if even if she could there would be no work there.

Legal spokesman for the Small Business Development Corporation, Mr David Unterhalter, said the type of work done by the women contributed to stimulating trade in the city and making it an attractive place.

The actions of local authorities towards street vendors was often questionable, he said.

According to Mr Unterhalter, the only basis for confiscation is if goods are seized. The owners of the goods were entitled to have their goods back if they pay administrative costs or if a judge in court decided that charges be dropped.

A Johannesburg Traffic Department spokesman could not be reached.
Boom in debt collection — violence rises

By MALCOLM FRIED

DEBT collection in Cape Town is booming and people defaulting on payments are sometimes being threatened, robbed or assaulted by unscrupulous collectors.

Rising prices and interest rates have left hundreds of consumers with borrowings to finance goods they have no hope of paying off. Debt recovery agencies, reporting better business than ever, are acting on behalf of lenders and sellers and are squeezing defaulters for money.

Many agencies use only letters, phone calls and legal summonses as means of persuassion, but the number of those resorting to rough ultimatums and violence is rising as the economy weakens.

"Business is increasing greatly," said Mr Lynn Gruna, of Inter-Debt, yesterday.

"And lots of us try to be as honest as possible when collecting. A few, though, use very bad methods."

 Victims of "bad methods" are usually too scared to contact the police.

An associate of a collector once employed by a bookmaker said the collector would arrive, unannounced, at the home or offices of a debtor, make public threats and, often, use force to get payment.

"It's common practice in all kinds of collecting, because hard-core debtors — and there are more all the time — will not pay without some kind of coercion."

A Rondebosch man who recently defaulted on a debt and was then forced into compensation said this week that he and many others were not hard-core debtors, but "ordinary folkie fallen on hard times."

"Take what you want!"

"Two strongmen arrived at my house and swore at me and my family. We were terrified," he said.

"I told them to take what they wanted and lost my lounge suite, TV set, hi-fi and bed. There's no way I'm reporting this. They'll come back and beat up the lot of us."

A Woodstock man, also cowed by collectors, said he had been "roughly handled" and told not to go out after dark.

"My health is worth more than reporting this to police."

Police had not yet received enough complaints to find harsh means of debt collection a major problem, a spokesman said yesterday, but he conceded it could be happening.

A measure to protect the public, the Magistrate's Courts Amendment Bill, was tabled in Parliament in April.

It specifically penalises collectors who try to take fees in addition to the original amount and lays down a fine not exceeding R4,000 or a jail term not exceeding 12 months or both.

The measure has been welcomed by the chairman of Information Trust Corporation — South Africa's largest credit information organisation — Mr Paul Edwards. He said intimidation could not be permitted.

Legitimate collection agencies would also welcome punishment for transgressors, noted the head of the agency, Incape Credit Bureau, Mrs Beryl Cull, as "they give us a bad name."

"The odd prospective client asks us to use certain methods," she said. "We and other legitimate agencies refuse, but these people must be finding others to act for them."

"There are some horrifying stories — this is definitely not the way people should be persuaded to settle their debts."
Poverty and crime plague Manenberg

Staff Reporter

NEARLY a third of the people of Manenberg are unemployed, a survey by the Manenberg Research Group (MRG) shows.

And 46% of households live on less than R345, the poverty datum line for 1985. The average household size is six to seven people.

The figures were released by the MRG — which comprises representatives from Manenberg's community and religious organisations, and from UWC and UCT — at a press conference yesterday.

A Manenberg People's Centre (MPC) is to be built in the township's flat-land on a plot donated by the Manenberg Hendeweld United Church, to provide a base for the work of community organisations.

The year-long survey found that poverty, unemployment, high rents and electricity costs and crime were the main problems facing the community.
Constant worry about money takes the joy out of life

Food is a luxury for many

By Lorna Schmidt

Everybody is tightening purse strings nowadays, but it's not an easy task when you are an old age pensioner with an income of R250.

The rent eats up as much of R170 and there is still electricity and water to be paid, among other essentials.

At that age you may also have to go for medical treatment three times a week at about R5 a visit.

There is hardly anything left over for food.

This constant worry about making ends meet takes all joy out of life, at a time when a person should be able to sit back and take a well-deserved rest.

This is the plight of the almost 200 pensioners seen daily by Meals-on-Wheels, which is run by the Congregational Church in Yeoville.

No facilities

They deliver a fully balanced meal at cost of 45c, not always because the beneficiaries are in financial despair, but because they may not have proper facilities for cooking or may be bedridden.

"The people I feel sorry for are the ones who thought they had prepared for their old age," says Mrs Margo Sprong, a helper at Meals-on-Wheels.

"Because some of them receive as little as R30 above the social pension, they end up losing much-needed benefits."

Rent for small flats in the Johannesburg area can be as high as R200 to R220 a month.

Other pensioners live in better surroundings but may also lack money for food.

"Many people see old age pensioners living in lovely, expensive flats but do not realise that these people are spending all their money on them," says Mrs Sprong.

"They do not realise the financial problems these people are experiencing until sometimes it is too late — and they collapse from malnutrition."

Many of these pensioners are reluctant to accept hand-outs and Meals-on-Wheels therefore charges a minimal amount for the food.

A meal consists of soup, a starch, a yellow and green vegetable, meat or fish and a pudding — quite a bit for 45c.

The remainder of the cost is covered by a small municipal grant, the service receives and donations from the public.

An 87-year-old woman and her grandson, whom she was raising, were found sleeping in one room in a run-down block of flats.

In fact, on the day food was being delivered to them, the building was being raged by the drug squad.

Despite these living conditions, the grandson is a well-balanced, polite young man.

Meals-on-Wheels delivers nearly 200 meals like this to old age pensioners in Johannesburg daily. Many would not receive any nutrition otherwise.

Picture by Stephen Davinnes.

These are people that need your help.

The Star's Operation Snowball tries to provide some warmth, in the form of blankets, to people like these during the freezing winter months, but this is not possible without donations.

If you would like to help, please send donations to Operation Snowball, PO Box 1014, Johannesburg, 2000.
Food and blankets are the greatest needs for people they serve

Mother Teresa’s nuns settle in

By Winnie Graham

Mielie pap has become the staple diet of Mother Teresa’s four nuns, working among the poor of the Winterveld, north-west of Pretoria.

“Their favourite food,” Sister Amrita says, “and the most common in this area. It is made from maize meal, which is staple in this region.”

In two months they have been in the giant squatter settlement — a little over an hour’s drive from Johannesburg — they have fast got to know, and love, the people they came to serve.

The gentle nuns, in blue-trimmed saris, were sent by Mother Teresa to start a second mission in South Africa. The first opened at Khayelitsha in the Cape Town in November last year.

The Missionaries of Charity, as the sisters’ order is known, has set up a temporary home in rooms at a diocesan school built by the Catholic Church at Njape. The nuns hope eventually to move into a little house adjacent to the church.

The sisters — Amrita, Aurora, Rose from India, and Leontina from Poland — share a bedroom. Another room doubles as a kitchen and dining room where they eat at a simple pine table seated at benches.

The third room has been converted into a chapel. Here there is a crucifix depicting the dying Christ on the wall with the inscription “I thirst.” A statue of Mary stands on a table in the corner.

When The Star arrived to visit the sisters last week, they had just finished washing their lunch dishes.

Sister Amrita said that she has never heard of Mother Teresa or her sisters. This, however, has not stopped them from giving the sisters a warm welcome.

“People are very friendly here,” she added. “They are very friendly people. They are very kind, very helpful.”

“When we talk, people tell us they were baptised, but they have not practised their faith because there was no one to guide them.”

Sister Amrita said the sisters got up at 4 am to say their prayers and attend daily Holy Mass, an aspect they regard as essential to their lives as nuns.

She added: “We could not survive without Communion.”

Many children are now joining the sisters at evening “adoration.”

The nuns were quick to realise that want was not the only form of suffering endured by the people of the Winterveld. Even those with jobs — and therefore some form of income — did not have things easy.

“We are lucky we can sleep late,” Sister Amrita said. “We are happy to be with her at the end,” Sister Amrita said. The sisters have been given second-hand clothing to distribute and are waiting for blankets from Operation Snowball. These — and food — remain the greatest needs.
Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity and young admirers at their new home in the Winterveld. (Left to right) Sister Mary Aurora, Sister Mary Amrita and Sister Mary Rose.
Fund unable to meet the need

Thousands of people in Johannesburg are freezing — and there is nothing Operation Snowball can do to help

Since the fund was taken over by The Star in 1985, over 30 000 new blankets have been distributed, but this year the fund is in danger of not being able to meet its target of distributing 25 000 blankets

Not enough money is flowing in

So far the fund has received just over R77 000, but is still a long way short of the R500 000 target with only nine weeks left to the closing date.

Needy people, twice the number of last year, are going to the main depot in Kew and are being turned away as there are no stocks. As soon as donations are received they are spent on blankets which are immediately given to those in need.

Operation Snowball needs your help, please send in a donation to help those less fortunate than yourself. The address of the fund is: Operation Snowball, PO Box 1014, Johannesburg, 2000

But the depot was bare... underprivileged people seeking blankets are being turned away. Mrs Megge Leroy, one of the women who staff the depot, is sitting in the empty building hoping that soon it will be full.

© Picture by Etienne Rothbart.
Suddens’ sudden misery

By RUSSELL McKeas

Sudden misery

Mr. and Mrs. Suddens, living in their infamous shack on a piece of land near York, were the talk of the town when they announced their decision to leave their home and move to a new community.

The Suddens had been living in their shack for over two decades, raising a family of six children. They had struggled for years to make ends meet, and the recent downturn in the local economy had only added to their financial pressures.

The shack itself was notorious for its dilapidated condition, with a roof that leaked in every rain and walls that creaked with every gust of wind. The family lived in constant fear of being evicted, but they had never found the courage to leave.

But now, they had made up their minds. They would leave their shack behind and start anew in a place where they could provide a better life for their children.

The community was divided on the matter. Some saw it as a sign of progress and hope, while others feared a repeat of the past. The Suddens were determined to make a fresh start, no matter the challenges that lay ahead.

As they packed up their belongings, Mr. Suddens said, "This is a new chapter in our lives. We're doing this for our kids. They deserve a better life than this."
Winter is a cold, sad time for poor

By Lorna Schmidt

Most people don't enjoy the winter months, and this is especially true for thousands of pensioners on the Reef.

For many of the people who live in Jan Hofmeyer the only warmth, friendship and comfort they receive is when they walk the many kilometres to a soup kitchen run by Mrs Johanna Swanepeol.

Here they receive a warm meal, and warm company from other pensioners in the same predicament as themselves.

And they delight in seeing the 200 young children, who also receive a daily meal, playing around them.

Visiting the kitchen is the highlight of the day for these people.

For a lot of them this meal goes a long way, but even though it may help for a little while, once they leave they go back to their cold, lonely homes.

This is where Operation Snowball can help.

Many of these people cannot afford to buy themselves a warm meal, never mind a warm blanket or a woollen jersey.

Snowball has tried to help as much as possible.
Blankets have been given to some of them, but there aren't enough to go around. There is not enough money and this is where you can help.

Spare a thought for those who cannot afford to look after themselves, old age pensioners and the disabled.

Dig deep into your pocket and post some money to help a good cause for really needy people.

Every rand counts, no matter how little.

To those among us who have literally nothing, whatever you can spare will be a blessing.

Please send your donation to Operation Snowball, PO Box 1014, Johannesburg, 2000.
Charlewood: Hunger in SA

HUNGER queues were growing in South Africa as welfare organisations struggled to feed 1.5 million people, both black and white, every day, the Democratic Party's candidate in Umbilo, Mrs Carole Charlewood, said yesterday.

"Government mismanagement of the economy has led to starvation at certain levels of society and fear in other levels, particularly for those nearing retirement, who view the inflationary spiral with alarm," she said at the official launch of the DP campaign in Klip River, Natal.

Ms Charlewood, who spoke in support of the DP's candidate, Mrs Barbara Buys, added that South Africans were among the most highly-taxed people in the world if direct and indirect forms of taxation were taken into account.

The government was wasting money on, among other things, hand-outs to the public service, she said.
Mother Teresa to return this year

By Winnie Graham

Mother Teresa, the "saint of Calcutta", is to visit South Africa again in November, a year after her first visit.

Sister Jeshirpaa, a Missionary of Charity nun who has just joined Mother Teresa's mission at Khayelitsha near Cape Town, said she had recently seen the diminutive founder of the congregation.

Mother Teresa, she said, had sent a message: "Tell them I love South Africa and I will return again in November."

Mother Teresa founded two missions when she was in this country last year — one in the Cape and the other in Winterveld, near Pretoria. Ten of her missionaries are now working in South Africa, six at Khayelitsha and four at Winterveld.

Thousands of people went out of their way to meet Mother Teresa on her whirlwind tour of the Republic last year. Her message was the same wherever she went.

"Love one another and serve the poorest of the poor," she said.

Brother Andrew, a one-time Jesuit priest who co-founded the male counterpart of the Missionaries of Charity with Mother Teresa, arrived in Johannesburg this week.
Sister Bethany and children play a game with hand-made cards.
Sister Gustavo Maria bandages a burn on the leg of Nation Nyawula, 3, who fell over the primus stove while his mother was cooking supper.
The church is failing in its duty, says priest

By Winnie Grainger

Brother Andrew, the one-time Jesuit priest who co-founded with Mother Teresa of Calcutta the male congregation of the Missionaries of Charity, has discovered a kind of poverty “more degrading and dehumanising” among the affluent than anything he encountered among the poor.

Suicide, divorce and drugs, he said, were a manifestation of this poverty.

Australian-born Brother Andrew is in South Africa at the invitation of the co-workers of Mother Teresa to give retreats and talks.

Speaking in Johannesburg at the weekend he challenged the church to look at its conscience to see where it was failing the people.

He added that he had found “a real hunger for prayer and spiritual values” in South Africa and elsewhere. Unfortunately, priests and religious people were failing to give people the sort of spiritual nourishment they needed.

The church was providing “a lot” of good things, such as social concern and various therapies, but how often was a sermon preached these days where people were told what a difference Christ would make in their lives, he asked.

As a result, many people were turning to the new, fundamentalist religious which were often “rather shallow.”
Johannesburg — Influential members of the Anglican Church — including top businessmen — met Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other Anglican bishops here last week for a secret exchange of views on South Africa's foreign debt conditions.

Mystery surrounds the meeting, described as "sensitive" by a prominent church member. Archbishop Tutu's spokesman confirmed the consultation on financial sanctions — called by the bishops — with 30 experts, mostly church members.

"They included people both opposed to and in favour of financial sanctions," he said.

He noted that the archbishop had called for tougher financial sanctions but could not confirm the call for a 15% debt repayment in June 1989.

Worried about the call top businessmen in the church asked experts to research the implications of a debt squeeze. They found it would cause tremendous economic hardship.

Road to Ferment... Archbishop Desmond Tutu (right) and the Rev Allan Boesak examine their recently launched book, "The Road to Damascus."
Detentions blamed for wave of gangsterism

By DALE KNEEN
Crime Reporter

The detention of community leaders in Guguletu contributed to the "horrifying" wave of gangsterism in the Cape township which has disrupted almost every form of community life.

And, according to the Cape Town branch of Nicro — the National Institute of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders — this situation is unlikely to improve unless problems such as poverty, unemployment and the lack of recreational facilities and parental control are addressed.

Residents fear leaving their homes at night, almost no trafficking of people between the township's four sections takes place and attacks on mourners at funerals have become commonplace, a Nicro spokesman said.

Police, community leaders and social workers appear to be powerless in their efforts to stop the violence which many euphemistically call the "state of emergency" in the township.

Nicro said many people believed gangsterism began five years ago when police swooped on community leaders in the township and detained the people who controlled community life there.

"The township had an historical street-committee structure in which leaders attempted to control community life. With the implementation of the emergency, the street committees became almost totally powerless," the spokesman said.

"Student representative councils were banned, council members were detained and pupils began to act recklessly."

Boys aged between 10 and 21 from predominantly poor backgrounds formed gangs because of the lack of recreational facilities. Peer group pressure and other sociological factors also led to the loosening of parental control, the spokesman said.

"There is only one sports ground, three poorly-equipped community centres, two stadiums and two public swimming pools for Guguletu's 20,000 residents."

Rebellious children left school and joined gangs and soon the four sections of the township had been divided between the Ntsara Boys, Guilty Boys, Ama-Adderley Boys and Mafela Boys gangs.

"There are deaths almost daily and elderly people and parents are also being attacked. People do not leave their homes after 8pm and no one dares move from section to section at night because they know they are likely to be attacked."

Parents joined the violence when their children were punished by citizens who began patrolling the streets at night.

"The parents would come across gangsters and beat them with kierries and sjamboks, but this merely resulted in the parents of the gangsters retaliating."

"Policemen living in the township also fear acting against the gangsters because they know they will be singled out and attacked."

Nicro believes the only way the violence can be ended is by getting the entire community and the police involved.

"Recreational facilities will have to be improved and unemployment and extreme economic deprivation will have to be addressed in order to better the situation."
Food parcels for poor vanish

**By PHANGISILE MTSHALI**

OPERATION Hunger has launched an investigation into the loss of food parcels in Soweto.

"Something drastic is happening," Operation Hunger director Mrs Ina Perlman said.

She said her organisation had cut links with the National Institute of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) in Soweto following "discrepancies about distribution of food parcels by the organisation".

The regional director of Nicro, Mr Doug Pearce, said they would meet Operation Hunger to discuss the matter.

Ina Perlman.

"It seems that we have different information from them," he said.

Operation Hunger decided to sever links with Nicro and to re-allocate Nicro's destitute families to other centres after an internal investigation revealed that only three of them were receiving their parcels regularly.

"Nicro's failure to give us a satisfactory explanation for the parcels that were not received by their rightful owners and yet signed for in our books has led us to this decision," Perlman said.

"We have not pinpointed the problem but we are investigating fully," she added.

Twenty-five families interviewed by Operation Hunger's field worker said they were told their parcels were not there when they came to collect them.

"One of the families interviewed was surprised..."
Relief food is lost and found

THEO RAWANA

ONLY three of 25 relief food recipients this week received their rations although records showed all of them had collected their parcels. Operation Hunger workers found this week.

The parcels were kept at the local branch of the National Institute of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro). Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said yesterday Nicro staff had given parcels not collected to other people they considered deserving cases.

Denying reports that the food parcels had simply vanished, Perlman said there was no evidence of abuse and attributed the incident to "slippery record-keeping."
Feeding schemes do little to combat poverty

BY ALI MWAHAKI

Feeding schemes do little to combat poverty
On Hunger 'saves lives'.

There was no doubt Operation Hunger's mass feeding of children under the age of 10 had contributed significantly to a drop in child death rates, the executive director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Ina Perelman, said last night.

Speaking at Witwatersrand University's medical students' congress, Mrs Perelman said a study conducted in 1981/82 showed child deaths in the black community accounted for 55 percent of total deaths in the country. This figure had dropped to about 29 or 30 percent by 1986, a drop which could be attributed to mass-feeding programmes.
Op Hunger 'saves lives'

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Speaking at Witwatersrand University's medical students' congress, Mrs Perlman said a study conducted in 1981/82 showed child deaths in the black community accounted for 55 percent of total deaths in the country.

This figure had dropped to about 29 or 30 percent by 1986, a drop which could be attributed to mass-feeding programmes.
Nightmare months for Reef’s old and the ill

By Lorna Schmidt

The winter months are a nightmare for people who cannot afford to buy blankets, particularly if they are living in hovels of iron and sacks, old rusting cars and even cardboard boxes.

This is how hundreds of pensioners in Alexandra are living. These people are all too old to work or too ill to care for themselves.

Fortunately a few have managed to get the help of the Ithokomeleeng Association for the aged and disabled of Alex. This association cares and tries to find help for these people.

They organise medical check-ups for them, provide food, and are in the process of building an old-age home in Alex with the help of the Sandton Rotarians.

“We regard the aged as an asset in the home. They cannot help themselves so we try to help them,” said Mrs Marjorie Manganye, an Ithokomeleeng organiser.

“People come and tell us of pensioners living in shanties who have no pension books and therefore cannot get any money. We try to help them, but we simply do not have the space to put them all up.”

This is one of the organisations which have approached Operation Snowball for help during the freezing winter months.

“Our people just don’t have the money to buy blankets or warm clothing,” said Mrs Manganye. “They have no source of warmth and will just freeze during winter.”

The association needed at least 400 blankets, but Operation Snowball only managed to give them 50 as the fund is desperately short of money.

You can help by sending a donation to Operation Snowball.

The address of the fund is Operation Snowball, P O Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.
Readers aid the hungry

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter
READERS boosted the Argus Food Campaign this week as they responded generously to renewed appeals to help thousands of hungry Cape Town families.

Among the latest contributions sent were a R500 gift from a reader who wishes to remain anonymous.

Gifts were also sent by P J de Klerk of Pinelands R180, Hommeillust Nurseries R100, R C Hulme of Sea Point R100, E D Frank of Monte Vista R10, anonymous R70, S E Logan of the Strand R20, anonymous R15, anonymous R15, M S Dolle R20, anonymous R20, Mrs L Moon of Pinelands R50, anonymous R20, S Faure R20, I P Davies of Plumstead R15, anonymous R15, Catholic Women's League 'Our Lady of Good Hope' branch in Sea Point R50, anonymous R50, Mr R Abelson of Wynberg R50, Mrs M Tyfield of Claremont R40 and A E Ordansky of Cape Town R5.

The campaign, launched 2½ years ago in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund as a “band-aid” to alleviate the effects of unemployment, has fed more than a million in under-privileged families.

City treasurer officials said payments on bulk food invoice purchases had reduced fund reserves from R74 702 to R63 880 last week. Municipal health department staff explained that the money was spent on food purchases to feed thousands of destitute people.

The relief programme keeping scores of starving families alive has been gradually trimmed as winter deepens. Food was distributed to a total of 46 300 families at the rate of up 46 300 families at the rate of up 48 200 a week last winter.

To minimise expenditure, the distribution of food has been further reduced by seven percent and the number of aid distribution centres has also been reduced from 24 to 22.

City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Poppus thanked readers for their gifts.

He said only the most genuine and deserving cases were at present being helped.

Parcels pruned

"The relief programme has been able to continue through pruning food parcels to needy recipients in preparation for the winter peak when the demand for food will be greater," he said.

Food parcels include packets of samp, beans, rice, tinned and frozen fish and meat, fresh vegetables and other basic foodstuffs.

Although ever-generous Argus readers have rallied to recent appeals for help, plenty more is needed, to help the fund.

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: Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at. 210 2885.
PILANESBERG — There could be no liberation if South Africa had so many poor people and so few rich people — it was an "unjust and dangerous imbalance", the chairman of the Premier Group, Peter Wrighton, said yesterday.

Speaking at a conference of Nafoce (National African Federated Chambers of Commerce) at Sun City, he said it would be unjust because of the discrimination it entailed and dangerous because, if the imbalance remained, instability would follow — "even under a majority government".

"If the presently privileged think that they can maintain their privilege in the new South Africa, they are wrong. There ought not to be any privileged citizens."

"But equally it needs to be understood that those of us who oppose the simplistic notion of redistribution of wealth do not do so for selfish reasons or because we wish to deny the very real income disparities in the country far from it.

"It is precisely because we care that we oppose this notion. We oppose it because it is not the best, the most efficient way of aiding the poor and disadvantaged.

"We would argue instead for a redistribution which can take place in a stable society, spending less on so-called defence and more on education and housing, for instance."

Mr Wrighton said this was an issue on which black and white businessmen needed to get together, to share thoughts and to help in planning for a better, richer future for all citizens.

What he would like in a new South Africa, Mr Wrighton said, was that it should be a country in which the essential principle was fairness to all.

"... in fact, a just society in which all men and women have the same rights, the same opportunities, a society in which there is no discrimination on any grounds whatsoever." — Sapa
et totoise meet
Some Farm children

Outshoorn Farm despar

BE MURING SAICH

Above an Outshoorn Emrherso, a family in front of their farm house is shown NELFormer Parvotow

An Jueh, that wil neveral work for a lemon in the Outshoorn distric. 2929
Where babies are dying of the damp

REMEMBER last Tuesday, when the heavens came down like nails of ice?
This was Miller's Camp near Nyanga that day — but before the rain.
Even then green, slimey stretches of water were lapping into the lower lying thickets.
In those shacks, while the mud was only ankle deep, calves stayed dry.
But that's far from the babies living in the shacks, who are dying of the damp.

Operation Hunger has identified Miller's Camp as being a desperate area.
Mr John Ntwelo, half of the well-known community, says that there are 2,000 people in the camp originally from Old Crossroads most of whom are unemployed in the formal sector.
Some do piece work two or three days a week for R10 to R12 a day.
Others are garbageman or dressmakers who lack materials. Some buy and sell vegetables and beans and pumpkins.
One shack calls itself the Lusaka Super Market.

"We need a hospital in Lusaka. We have 200 dying shacks, and after the rain, washed out we need rubber sheeting to fill the clothes cupboards - baby clothes must especially full cream powder milk for babies, blankets, rolls of black plastic for roofing.

"We need health workers, there are no clinics or mobile clinics, just the local workers who come around and there is too much sickness here for them with the great water. We need lots of medicines."

Among the many we photograph are Gladys Nkhuwale, Silvia Sankala, Adelaide Mba, Patricia Mwambo Vuma and as we talk and the rain starts again, they laugh.

Miller's Camp and Operation Hunger would be very grateful for any help. Please telephone Philip Davies or Rosalie Francis at Operation Hunger. Miller's Camp can deliver the goods to their office at 5 Crosses Building, Maynard Road, Wimberg.

The philosophy is that if you can't keep dry you might as well have warm hands — if someone logged in dry wood from somewhere.
Hunger on the rise
Low farm, domestic wages seen as cause

By DAVID YUTAR
Staff Reporter

UNTIL there is a minimum wage for farm and domestic workers in South Africa the problem of malnutrition will not be solved, according to Operation Hunger executive director Mrs Ina Perlman.

Countrywide, Operation Hunger is feeding up to 1.3-million malnourished children daily, but the problem is growing at an alarming rate.

Thousands of young children are suffering from severe malnutrition and many have died and will continue to die unless help is offered.

"Until there is a minimum wage for farm and domestic workers, we are not going to solve the problem of malnutrition in South Africa nor will we be able to get at the root cause of poverty," says Mrs Perlman.

"We're extremely concerned about what is happening to children, because a child that is malnourished can be severely handicapped, both physically and mentally.

"We're seeing, in increasing numbers, children who are chronically underfed. There are areas where stunting among children is as high as 50 to 60 percent."

In certain parts of the Northern Cape an alarmingly high percentage of the schoolchildren show signs of mental retardation.

In 1992, 55 percent of all deaths in the black community were children below the age of five years. By 1996 the figure had dropped to 25 percent, "nothing to be proud of but at least an improvement" comments Mrs Perlman.

Operation Hunger in the Cape covers a predominantly rural area which includes the western and southern Cape as well as the Karoo, George, Oudtshoorn and Namaqualand.

In the urban regions of the Cape, the organisation provides an average of 759 000 meals a month while the figure for the rural areas is staggering 3 030 000 meals a month.

When Operation Hunger started in August 1980 it had a budget of R220 000 for its first year of operation. The budget for the present financial year is R18.5 million.

Children of farm workers are one of the main concerns and one of the worst areas is the Karoo. Until now the organisation has concentrated on child feeding but it is investing much of its energies in self-help projects.

In the Karoo alone an average of 13 000 children a day are fed. In Namaqualand over 10 000 children are fed daily.

"The policy of sanctions has the most impact on the most defenceless. Every job lost means an additional nine dependants" says Mrs Perlman.

On the Kalahari fringe of Namaqualand, where there were once 45 mines, there are now only 24, all of which operate on a vastly reduced scale.

According to Operation Hunger, the average farm worker in the Oudtshoorn area earns R25 a week. A well paid worker might earn up to R30 a week while some earn as little as R12 a week.

Cotton pickers are typically paid a wage of R35 a month.

"In most areas bread is a luxury," says Mrs Perlman.

Operation Hunger recently launched its seventh R1-million Goldrush Competition. Since its inception the competition has enabled the organisation to raise more than R3-million for the hungry and malnourished.

"If we were to stop our programme now we would be facing a national tragedy," says Mrs Perlman.
Violence, says Inkatha

Money needed to stop
Strength: Families need much more than money.

By Glee Sawyer
Private sector goes to help of poor

A MASSIVE drive by the private sector to raise millions in funds for the under-privileged has been bolstered by top companies and key businessmen.

Launched on Friday, the Ithuba Project's first event is a celebrity relay and telethon to be screened on TV for 11 hours on October 10.

Clem Sunter, Anglo American director and one of Ithuba's trustees, says corporate sponsorship will get the project off the ground with a huge injection of working capital.

Supervised by trustees from SA's key boardrooms, the project will channel funds to beneficiaries who promote education and training, small business development, sporting and cultural activities and job creation for South Africans of all races.

Sunter says the Ithuba Project focuses on people's development and training.

Beneficiaries of the launch event include, among others, the SA Cricket Development Trust, the Soccer Association of SA, the KwaZulu Training Trust, the Wilderness School and Get Ahead Foundation.

The SABC has given free air time to Ithuba for its commercials and the event.

Leading advertising agency Ogilvy and Mather Rightford Searle-Tripp and Makin has undertaken to design Ithuba's communications Programmes without charge.

"We see our involvement in Ithuba as an opportunity to make a positive and significant contribution on both a corporate and personal level to the successful birth of a new SA," says Ogilvy and Mather deputy MD Mike Welsford.

Other sponsors include legal firm Webber Wentzel, accountants Coopers and Lybrand, Volkswagen SA and First National Bank.
Argus Food Campaign
3 years old

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

THE Argus Food Campaign celebrates its third anniversary this month as free food parcels distributed by city health department officials near the 500,000 mark.

The campaign, launched on October 17, 1986 in association with the Mayor’s Relief Fund as a “hand-and-to ease the effects of unemployment, has fed more than a million hungry mouths.

Readers have sustained the campaign with generous gifts since its inception to enable municipal health staff to distribute a total of 1,606,376 kg of food in parcels to 449,636 of the city’s poorest and hungriest families

City treasury staff said contributions to the fund until the end of last month amounted to R558,557. Expenditure on bulk food purchases in the three-year period was R466,994 and this left R91,563 in reserve.

STEADY TRICKLE

A steady trickle of contributions from individuals, clubs, schools, institutions and small businesses have helped to sustain reserves over the years and a number of larger cash gifts from firms and companies have also given a valuable boost to the fund.

Latest contributions sent by readers to the fund are MJ Power R100, anonymous R100, anonymous R100, and anonymous R10. Nicro has also given a 560 kg gift of apple, raisin and honey pulp to the city’s health department.

In winter, food is distributed to 46,300 families at the rate of up to 48 tons a week.

To minimize expenditure, the distribution of food has been reduced by 7 percent and the number of aid distribution centres reduced from 24 to 22.

BASIC FOOD

Food parcels include packets of samp, beans, rice, tinned and frozen fish and meat, fresh vegetables and other basic food.

City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss thanked readers for their gifts “All contributions, no matter how small, are gratefully received,” he said.

Applications for food parcels were reviewed regularly and were under a constant policy of reduction.

Dr Popkiss said only the most genuine and deserving cases were helped.

Although generous Argus readers had rallied to recent appeals for help, plenty more was needed to help the fund.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, Box 15399, Vlakfontein, 8018, or box 298, Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at 210 2882.
SANCTIONS have serious political reforms as well as for South Africa's economic development. Finance Minister told a meeting in West Germai
Help for man who lost eye in mining.

Missionaries of Charity, the poor in neighboring town, came to the rescue.

In a town where the poor lived, the missionaries opened a home for the elderly and the disabled. The home was run by the Sisters of Charity, who cared for the residents with kindness and compassion.

Respect with Style

Grand Old Lady's Long Street

Nuns nursing home for

Vvery ill in Khayelitsha
Relief scheme needed for flood victims

Staff Reporter

Operation Hunger is likely to undertake an urgent relief operation in Natal after receiving hundreds of appeals for help from the flooded Ladysmith area.

Speaking at the launch of Operation Hunger's eighth Gold Rush competition in Johannesburg last night, executive director Mrs Ina Perlman said field workers were trying to establish the extent of the damage along the Mkhuze River and gain access to areas where self-help schemes were thought to have been washed away.

"So far Operation Hunger has received 400 appeals for emergency aid and it looks as if the floods in Natal are far worse than anticipated. We are waiting with bated breath while our field staff are trying to get in," Mrs Perlman said.

The floods in Natal had only compounded an already horrendous and hideous need in SA, she said.

Closing of factory

"This year was not a good year and economists predict that next year will be no better. 1987, holds out even less hope for those at the bottom of the heap and we must accept that unemployment for the unskilled will continue to escalate and retrenchments increase once the Christmas season is over."

Adding to Operation Hunger's nightmare were two events the recent closing of a factory in East London and retrenchment of 2 000 men and the shutdown of a diamond mine in the Northern Transvaal.

Organisers hope that Gold Rush Eight will top the R4.5 million raised in the previous competition.

The draw for the 10 finalists for Gold Rush Eight will take place on March 31 at the Pick n Pay Norwood Hypermarket. The final will take place on April 7 in a street carnival at Zoo Lake."
10 destitute for every job lost

By VIVIEN HORLER
Weekend Argus Reporter

FOR every job lost in South Africa as many as 10 people face destitution within three months.

This is the opinion of Mrs Ina Perlman of Operation Hunger quoted in the latest Race Relations Survey published in the same week that South African Transport Services announced they had fired more than 17,000 striking workers in the past six weeks.

The director general of Manpower, Mr J D Fourie, estimates there are three million unemployed people in South Africa.

The latest annual Race Relations Survey also records that since September 1984 more than 4,000 people have died during political violence. Last year was the most violent in South Africa's history in terms of terror related incidents.

The 850-page survey covers a variety of subjects which affect race relations, including health and welfare, the homelands, housing, education, labour relations, security and political developments.

Mrs Perlman said jobs were being lost all over South Africa "at a terrifying rate". Operation Hunger was struggling to feed 1.3 million people, and if additional sanctions were imposed one million more people would be thrown below the survival line.

On black labour, the survey says there are only 2,860 black people in managerial and executive administrative positions, compared with 180,000 whites.

And one of the main reasons for this, according to the chairman of the National Manpower Commission, Dr Henne Reinders, is the attitude of white personnel.

Although they paid lip service to black advancement, they displayed "notable unwillingness or inability to do this in practice".

ALMOST 90 percent of the population is semi-skilled or unskilled, but the survey pointed out that the salary gap was gradually narrowing.

Between 1965 and 1985 black semi-skilled and unskilled wages had risen by 75 percent, while white skilled wages had risen by only 58 percent.

In 1988 almost one million working days had been lost to strikes, compared with 5.9 million in 1987 — a drop of 84 percent. Strikes in 1988 were up by almost 200 percent compared with 1986, but considerably down on the record 1987 levels.

On the security front, the survey found that 1983 was the most violent in South Africa's history in terms of terror related incidents. There was also an increase in other violence including killings related to trade union activity.

Quoting Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok, the survey said there had been 251 "terrorist" incidents compared with 225 in 1987, 231 in 1988 and 136 in 1985.

The number of people who died in political violence also showed a sharp rise from 704 in 1987 to 883 last year, bringing the total since September 1984 to 4,012.

Security force fatalities in this period totalled 187, while 163 ANC and PAC guerrillas were killed.

Natal was the worst-hit area for political violence in 1988 — in the year between September 1987 and 1988 883 people lost their lives.

The survey said at least six trade union members were waiting to be hanged for their part in killing fellow workers during strikes, and another 40 were facing murder charges.

On the educational front, the survey reported that about 20,000 black students failed matric in 1988.

There was violent opposition to the Department of Education and Training's edict that matriculants who failed could not return to school but were instead sent to repeat their matric years at adult education centres or finishing schools.

But there was a major departmental concession which made it considerably easier for pupils to get their matric. This was that pupils who failed would receive credit for all the subjects they had passed, so that they had to rewrite only the subjects they had failed.

Another educational improvement was a bill to upgrade the farm school system — about 30 percent of African children outside the homelands attend schools on white farms.

The survey said that eliminating apartheid was only part of the solution to the black educational backlog, because even if every vacant white classroom was opened to black children, the black shortage would be reduced only by 20 percent.

This was worrying because a National Manpower Commission report said the demand for infrastructure, teacher training and educational upgrading was so extensive special efforts would be needed to achieve any success at all.

In the 1988/1989 financial year R4.4 billion was allocated to education in South Africa (including the "independent" homelands), of which 43 percent went to African education, 40 percent to white education, 12 percent to coloured education and five percent to Indian education.

The Race Relations Survey 1988/89 is available from the Publications Department of the South African Institute of Race Relations, P O Box 3194, Bramfontein, for R4.50 including postage and packing.
'Keep SA off the path of poverty'

Staff Reporter

The initiatives being taken by the Government in the political arena now needed to be extended to education if South Africa was not to tread a path to poverty, the president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Kennedy Maxwell, has said.

Mr Maxwell was speaking at the recent opening of a new building for the faculty of engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand.

"Given the path to poverty ensured by an economic growth rate which

Mr Kennedy Maxwell total review of education needed.

continues to lag behind our population growth, we need a total review of our educational system," he said.

Mr Maxwell said the Government had to overcome the inefficiencies of inequality which had resulted in chronically overcrowded black schools while more than 200 000 places at white schools stood empty.

The constitutional progress needed to go hand in hand with the development of skilled manpower to generate wealth and future prosperity, he said.
Help make this a memorable Christmas...

Only one meal a week

Facing a bleak Christmas... more than 300 men, women and children look forward to the Christmas hampers which The Star will deliver this month.

By Jacqueline Myburgh

"You should see them when we serve breakfast. In the beginning I used to cry when I saw it — they just fall upon the food."

These are the words of Mrs Rita Rogers, describing the weekly meal she provides for more than 300 unemployed Meadowlands residents at the Westrand Christian Centre in Florida.

When they arrive at the Shalom Coffee Bar, the men, women and children are given breakfast. Hymns are sung and a preacher addresses the crowd before they are given a food parcel to take home.

The only meal

"As far as I know, this could be the only meal they have all week," Mrs Rogers says.

Mr Daniel Molobela (48) was one of the first to join the Westrand Christian Centre. He used to work as a time keeper and a cooling clerk until he was retrenched.

These days, Mr Molobela has a wife and two school-going children to support. He has tried, vainly, to get permanent employment, and has to make do with "piece jobs" over the weekends.

Mrs Dorothy Huma (51) is divorced with five children — three of them still at school.

She used to be a domestic worker until the beginning of last year when she became ill and had to resign. Since then she has been unable to get work.

"I cope with the money of Jesus," says Mrs Huma, who also receives some support from her sister.

Mr Molobela and Mrs Huma are but two of the 300 people at the centre who desperately seek food and employment.

Their plans for Christmas? Mrs Huma is not sure what she will do. Last year she went to KwaMashu in Randburg, but does not know whether she will have money for her taxi fare this year.

Food hamper

If you would like to help Mrs Huma, Mr Molobela and others this Christmas, why not help The Star to send them each a food hamper.

With the help of your donations, each one of these more than 10 000 underprivileged people will receive a parcel containing fruit cake, tinned meat, soft drink, biscuits and other rare treats. It will certainly brighten up the festive season for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Please send your donations to The Star Christmas Hamper Fund, PO Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.
or those less fortunate than you

ek for some

Mr Daniel Malabela... survives on the income he receives from weekend "piece work".

Mrs Dorothy Huma... without work, divorced and has three school-going children to support.
Cancer bites without resources

By MONK NKOMO

MRS Maggie Johanna Nkanyane is waiting to die to ease the pain of cancer and hunger.

Nkanyane (41), a married mother of six, says a doctor informed her about three weeks ago that she suffers from cancer of the womb. She could also be suffering from malnutrition.

The Soweto resident found her lying on a makeshift bed inside a tin shack in Kgalagadi near Hebron in Bophuthatswana. She was unable to walk more than two paces.

Woman

There is no wardrobe, because her family does not have clothes to put in it. They do not have a stove, blankets or another bed inside the dusty surfaced shack. There is not enough food.

Emaciated, Nkanye’s eyes protrude and the veins stick out from her pale face. She will die slowly for lack of medical treatment and food, unless help comes fast.

Financial

Nkanyane is married, but her husband has not been staying with her since she became ill about three years ago. Her husband stays in a brick house next to the tin shack - with another woman.

“My husband works at a motor plant - the only food he sometimes buys for me and the children is 12.5 kg of mealie meal,” said Nkanyane, who has difficulty in speaking.

Two of her children, twins Jan and Phillip (17) disappeared from home about two weeks ago. They look for work and keep the home fires burning.

Both left school in Sub Standard B because of financial problems.

Sophie (19), who is looking after her mother, left school in Standard One. Elizabeth (23) started work at a supermarket in Mabopane last month. She is earning R100 a month, according to Sophie. Two other children, Lucky and Frans, are in Sub Standard B.

“My womb and all parts of my body have been aching ever since I fell ill in December 1986. I pray to God that I should be helped and live a normal life and work for my children,” said Nkanyane.
Operation Hunger appeals for blankets

Staff Reporter

Operation Hunger has made a desperate appeal for blankets for victims of the Natal unrest.

Executive director, Mrs Ina Perlman yesterday said she had received "terrifying reports" of about 10 000 refugees seeking shelter in churches, halls and farms in the Umzimkulu area.

"All hell is breaking loose. There are pockets of people all over the place and we anticipate there will be further fighting," she said.

Mrs Perlman said that as factories closed for Christmas, Operation Hunger was racing to secure blankets for the homeless.

Emergency feeding depots had been established through church groups operating in the area and existing emergency supplies were being trucked down from Johannesburg to Durban today.

Anyone able to assist Operation Hunger can telephone (011) 403-6756 or (031) 23-1266. Blankets can be delivered at the Operation Hunger depot at 2 Park Court, 13 Adrian Road, Stamford Hill, Durban.
Youngsters next year

Youngsters next year

How it is today. The boys of Khyamandil help clear away
rubble from the courtyard of the home which will house 60

They have been working away

The home was now a home

The home was now a home

The dream is called

By Ewing Steen
She started it all. Rondebosch housewife Mrs Rose McKenna at the relic of the building which was to become Khayamandi — Sweet Home.

FLASHBACK: The Hole in the Wall Gang. This is the picture taken in March 1986, that led to the R500,000 home for boys in Langa.
A time to give
to thousands who go without

By JOCELYN MAKER
Weekend Argus Reporter

ONCE again Capetonians are opening their hearts to the thousands who go without.

During the last year welfare organisations have received generous gifts and with these they have helped the hungry and homeless.

In the Western Cape, Operation Hunger launched Gold Rush 8 on December 4 after Gold Rush 7 grossed over R4-m.

Roselle Frasch, regional director of Operation Hunger, said the perception is often that the Gold Rush competition brings in sufficient funds to meet their budget.

A third of budget

"If only this was so. Our national budget this financial year is R19.6 million, of which the Gold Rush competitions will provide about one third. The balance comes from the public, those on our mailing lists, and through a variety of other fund-raising functions, and another third from overseas agencies.

"An ideal Christmas gift is a Gold Rush 8 ticket which would be helping those who are needy and giving someone a chance to win a million.

"This Christmas many people will be enjoying a time of comparative comfort and plenty, while thousands, in particular children, will be facing even more severe hunger than usual because schools and creches are closed.

"The general public have responded warmly to the fight against hunger, but we must think of the these children over this period and continue to help as much as possible."

The Community Chest, in its 61 years of fundraising to support the work of welfare services, has set a target of R5-m which they hope to reach by the end of the month.

The fund is currently about R499 600 short, but organisers believe from promised gifts, grants from estates and trusts and interest from a special legacy reserve fund, R80 000 will be gained by the end of the year.

They do give. They are kind and concerned about others. We are once again appealing to our regular donors to continue their support.

The Peninsula School Feeding Association which has battled against the escalating costs of bread, provide meals to 150 000 children in 384 schools at a cost of R1 000 236.

At this time of the year their service has closed because of school holidays but their campaign to raise funds is ongoing.

Organiser Mr David Galland said every year they looked at a budget of R1.5-m.

"But we never reach this because of the increase in the number of children who need to be fed and the rising costs of foodstuffs.

"We have had a deficit for the past three years and if it were not for the public we would not be able to do the work we do. What is most amazing is that those who give often have very little themselves."

Dig into pockets

Director of The Community Chest, Mr Robert Blake, said from November to end of December through publicity, awareness promotions and direct mail appeals many people would dig deeply into their pockets.

"It is a special time in the Western Cape. The festive season is a time for giving and people do so generously, as most employees get bonuses or salary raises and holiday makers buy tickets in the Chest's BMW car competition.

"At the Chest we would like to pay tribute to the citizens and visitors in the Western Cape.
A lifetime of operating with the hungry

"The Department of Health estimates the number of black children dying under the age of five has dropped from 55 percent in 1981/2 to less than 26 percent. "Self-help schemes have enabled mothers throughout the country to feed their children and made the households effective. Children who could not be educated because they were starving are now educable," says Mrs Ina Perlman, speaking on the 10th anniversary of Operation Hunger.

While the first round has been won, the battle against life-threatening hunger is far from won, she says.

"Unless there is a dramatic economic upsurge it's going to be decades before the need for feeding in this country falls away. Until there are minimum wages for the unskilled we will never stamp out life-threatening poverty."

Mrs Perlman is motivated to feed the starving millions, not because she is a little Jewish mama, but because of the massive suffering she sees all around her -- suffering that stems mainly from injustice.

She has a job that consumes her (her friends say that she even takes her paperwork to bed with her when she is ill), a husband who is supportive and four adult children who are no longer under the roof of her Northcliff home.

Her reaction to appalling poverty and starvation is different from that of most people.

"While everybody else gets tearful I just get furiously angry. It makes me so mad, because it need not be happening," she says.

"We started Operation Hunger as an attempt to stamp out malnutrition. We never imagined a huge operation growing like a wretched trifid."

Mrs Perlman attributes part of Operation Hunger's success to the fact that the organisation only works in areas on the invitation of the community.

The tiny little lady with the soft voice who chain smokes cigarettes does not "go in all over the place like Lady Bountiful!"

"Someone once said that if, at the end of life, you could say that 50 people had been better off because you walked their way, then you had done well," says Mrs Perlman.

In just 10 years on organisation that was envisaged as a malnutrition prevention scheme has grown into a relief feeding scheme for more than 1.3 million South Africans. Mrs Ina Perlman spoke to DAWN BARKHUizen about Operation Hunger's successes.

September 1988 Operation Hunger formally constituted with Mrs Ina Perlman appointed co-director of the project.

1981 50 000 people fed nationally and R100 000 raised. The first 10 self-help projects were started.

1982 220 000 received relief feeding and R300 000 raised.

1983 The year of the "killer drought."

1984 By March 600 000 were being fed and R2.2 million had been raised. In September Operation Hunger became an independent organisation with its own fund-raising number and board of trustees.

1985 More than 800 000 were being fed, more than R5 million raised. R250 000 spent on establishing 88 self-help projects.

1986 901 579 were fed and R6 million was spent without Operation Hunger getting into the red.

1987 A record R14.5 million was raised and just under a million people were fed. R600 000 was spent on self-help schemes.

1988 R14.5 million was raised and more than 1.3 million people were fed. R1.5 million was spent on self-help and development.

1989 By March this year Operation Hunger was feeding 1.5 million people. R12.5 million had been spent on self-help.

1990 The budget for the year ending March 1990 is R19.6 million.
POVERTY - GENERAL

1990
Good Samaritan helps little ones

Woman houses abandoned village kids

By SOPHIE TEMBA

A DURBAN woman has made her home a refuge for scores of children whose parents have fled from Natal's trouble-torn villages.

The woman, who does not want her name published for fear of reprisals, is presently housing about 90 children who have lost contact with their parents.

Several white homeowners have given refuge to desperate families who deserted their homes in Inanda, Umlazi, Inchanga and Mpyumulanga.

Several of the homes are reported to be so packed that the people have to sleep in relays.

The abandoned houses in the villages - most of them a lifetime's investment - have been gutted by fire as the violence spreads.

The situation has become so tense that Operation Hunger has not been able to enter some of the villages.

East Rand workers face transport hassle

By LULAMA LUTI

THOUSANDS of East Rand commuters will return to work tomorrow to face the transport problem they left at the start of the Christmas holidays.

The problem, which arose from a strike by about 150 Putco bus drivers, started at the beginning of December.

In KwaThema, the strike is still on and the Benoni City Council controlled bus service that operated in the Daveyton, Watville and surrounding areas was withdrawn last week because of financial problems.

In KwaThema the worst affected are domestic workers, who have to pay extra for taxis to their workplaces in the suburban areas.

Meanwhile, the Benoni Taxi Association (BTA) has arranged for extra taxis to ferry workers from Daveyton and Watville to their places of work.

A spokesman for the Putco Support Committee this week told City Press Putco management had issued a warning to workers to go back to work immediately or face the closure of the division. He said workers agreed to conditionally go back to work pending an inquiry into their grievances.

However, he did not say when the drivers would return to work, as they are still awaiting management's response to their proposals.

The bus ordeal which saw many KwaThema residents left almost stranded, started in December after drivers complained about local divisional manager P.Gerber and demanded he be transferred.

Talks between management and the Transport and General Workers Union reached a deadlock shortly before the festive season.

BTA chairman Samuel Msehli expressed his shock at the withdrawal of the bus service but said there were enough taxis and the situation was under control. He said pirate taxis would not be allowed to help ferry passengers to their destinations.

He added that fares to various destinations would be R1.20 a single trip and that in case of problems, passengers should not hesitate to contact him at 845-3960 during office hours.

Some villagers have been without ration for some time as delivery trucks are too scared to enter the troubled areas.

Some refugees leave the worst-hit areas carrying as much of their belongings as they can, saying they can't afford to buy anything more than the clothes they are wearing.

Operation Hunger regional director in Durban, But Collins said the scale of the violence was difficult to imagine, making it impossible to even estimate figures on the number of people killed, injured and those who have been left homeless.

Collins said even before violence broke out, Operation Hunger had already identified a number of children in the first stages of kwashokorko.

Collins said Operation Hunger had decided to call on churches to help deliver food supplies.

While police reported Christmas Day was quiet, a later report said that on New Year's Eve 10 people were killed and 15 injured in Wartburg.
Ex-tramps aim to build new nation from SA's 'rejected people'

"They have become an incredibly strong people capable of withstand almost any pain, illness or hunger. They can take their place in society."

Mr. Ndlovu said the association had been in touch with a number of organizations, including the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business (ACIH), to discuss means of starting workshops and training projects. The aim is to build a nation irrespective of racial discrimination or political background, a nation that will help those who can't work towards the association's objectives.

The telephone number for Siphiwe Ndlovu is 011-233-3918.
Urban black poverty fosters communalism

GRAHAME RUSH

SA's natural resources would not be able to sustain a population of more than 60 million, the projected figure for the year 2000, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) basic communications research unit head Chris Nel said yesterday.

He said by the year 2000 the present urban population would have increased by 22 million.

Under these circumstances it was vital for the various population groups to settle their differences.

In a recently completed study comparing the aspirations and actual living conditions of urban blacks, Nel discovered poverty in urban black communities was fostering communalism.

He said high unemployment levels and a lack of adequate housing facilities in urban black communities forced blacks to rely on each other for the fulfillment of their basic needs.

Nel found 85% of households in the sample did not have a bathroom.

Urban black communalism was not only opposed to the competitive social atmosphere of most white urban communities but also to notions of free enterprise and entrepreneurship, he said.

For SA to achieve substantial growth rates, black communalism would have to be eradicated and whites would have to accept a less luxury-oriented lifestyle, he said.

He said only large-scale foreign investment could break the cycle of poverty in black communities by creating employment and conditions in which entrepreneurship would thrive.

A potentially dangerous gap existed between the expectations and real circumstances of urban blacks, he said.
Food gobbles up SA blacks' household budget

The Argus Correspondent
PRETORIA - Blacks in South Africa allocate a third or more of their household budget on food.

Whites by comparison spend only 15 percent on food - one of the lowest percentages in the world - yet they eat more and often better quality food.

This is according to a Umsa Bureau of Market Research report compiled by Professor Jordan Martin.

The report found that, in real terms, the average spending on food in South Africa's metropolitan areas had dropped by 11.7 percent between 1955 and 1985 - the period under review.

Meat products

But for urban blacks spending on food represented more than 40 percent of their total budget and for those in the rural areas, 60 percent or more.

The average spending on food by whites in the metropolitan areas was twice that of blacks in the same areas, and nearly 80 percent higher than that by blacks in the national states and IRR countries.

Residents of the metropolitan areas were responsible for 80.7 percent of the total expenditure on meat and meat products with whites spending nearly double what blacks spent on meat and meat products.

When spending on meat was decreasing in favour of fish and poultry, but was still considered high by world standards.

The Fisher and Paykel report came second only to the Free State for the high percentage of meat in its diet.

More than one third of the total money spent by whites and coloureds in the meat was spent on buses, but indigenous farmers still regard meat as a popular commodity.

They feel the importance of chickens as part of the meat budget for all population groups ranked highest in the survey.

Blacks in the national states were responsible for more than half of the spending on fried meat and poultry but had a much lower consumption of sausages or ham meat, soups, etc.

The processed meats were bought almost exclusively by whites and increasingly the survey noted that over one half of the former were followed by policy which had increased the meat in the 10-year period to 1985.

Substitution

Professor Martin said the proportionate increases in food prices could lead to substitution - when the price of beef increased by 30 percent in 1986, poultry became more popular.

Similarly, a relative drop in the price of chicken led to a big increase in its popularity, while processed products represented 18 per cent of the money spent on food in 1985.

CLOWNING AROUND An experienced theatrical makeup artist will paint beautiful clown faces like these on children at this year's two day Children's Fair sponsored by the Constancia Country Fair which opens tomorrow. Proceeds from the Constancia Country Fair at Alphen Park go to child welfare organisations and the year's target is $100 000.

Mum-to-be Dusi 'wonder woman' leads a full life

DURBAN - Life is so full for Westville wonder woman Prunella Bonaventura - who feels 'absolutely fine' after completing this year's Dusi canoe marathon - that she barely has time to dwell on the fact she is five months pregnant.

Prunella, 31, not only keeps herself super fit by running, canoeing and swimming, but she also teaches art - the love of her life - at the new Westmead-Blockhouse School in Durban North.

PHILOSOPHY

In addition to successfully completing this year's Dusi with few side effects, she has completed the Iron Man content four times, the Comrades Marathon eight times - and the Dusi a further eight times.

Her last competitive sports event was when her husband was in hospital and she was known as the ' Marathon Mum' on February 11 - and the Dusi continues to run about once a day.

Interviewed in her classroom at the school attractive Prunella spoke about her philosophy on life 'to make the most of her potential and to take all opportunities available to her.'

'I believe strongly that you should never let people dictate to you on how to live your life,' said the mum to be whose family and friends thought she was crazy to do the Dusi whole pregnant.

Everyone in this individual and I believe that individuality should be fully developed. That's why I love teaching art, because it allows for personal development.

I believe my family thought I was crazy to do the Dusi especially my mother, but then I'm heading it and I don't care at no matter what they said. They just reserved judgment.'

Prunella, a vegetarian who is very health conscious said that she also believes we are here on this earth to improve our selves and to reach an understanding of ourselves.

By participating in such events as the Dusi you can improve your potential and of knowing I can succeed in all things.'

Durban mayor's trip called off

The Argus Correspondent
DURBAN - Durban's mayor Mr Derrick Watterson will no longer attend the Asian Games later this year, following a decision taken by the city council's management committee.

The committee yesterday reversed its earlier decision that the mayor should attend the games, to be held in Dubai, in 1986.

The council came to a vote when a row was brewing over the high cost of first class air tickets for the mayor and mayor's wife.

But the row was put in the resolution of hearts. 'We felt that as our sportsmen would no longer be able to go, there would be no point in the mayor attending,' said council chairman, Mr Jim Venter.

Doctor comments on good treatment

LIFESAVING - Eddy Casson

THE beautiful weather last Sunday attracted thousands of sun-worshippers to the Pontini's beaches in what must have been one of the best days of the season.

Lifeguards reported no incidents of note, except for one on Muizenberg beach.

While patrolling the beach, False Bay Surf Lifesavers were asked to help a woman who was apparently having a heart attack.

They attended to her and the John Holtz rescue helicopter flew her to hospital. A local carpenter was also on the beach as well as a doctor who went with the woman in the helicopter to hospital.

PAS EXAM

The doctor later commented on the professional attention the woman was given on the beach. All lifesavers serving under the strand supervisor and the strand supervisor and the Strand Surf Lifesaving Award, an examination they retake annually.

Dr Competition forms an integral part of lifesaving. The events all test lifesavers' skills and technique. Many events are simulated rescues, where everything is executed as speed with high regard for detail.

Western Province competition officer and Springbok killer Steve Earsie believes that the traditional lifesaving competition needs a touch of competition.

"We joke the kids to trip him, swimming, road running, etc because we know some of the local lifesavers have become a bit too long and losing," he explains.

Events over the next few weeks are...
Urgent debate on poverty needed

Staff Reporter and Sapa

A debate about how to eliminate poverty in South Africa was more urgent now than at any time since the 1930s, leading economist and author, Dr Charles Simkins said last night.

Addressing the SA Institute of Race Relations at a briefing on ways to create a climate of economic growth in South Africa, Dr Simkins said he believed it was necessary to devise policies that were affordable, bearing in mind that South Africa was "rather a poor country."

The best framework in which to raise the living standards of the broad mass of South Africans was a multiparty social democracy involving intervention in markets when necessary, as well as "the dismantling of particular privileges which obstruct equality."
THE liquor industry should take a long look at their social responsibility, a UWC sociologist told a congress on development in the Western Cape yesterday.

Addressing the two-day conference on social problems in the "hinterland," Mr. Wynand Louw said alcohol abuse was taking on "disastrous proportions" in rural areas.

Urgent action was needed in rural areas in the Western Cape where instances of child neglect had been reported due to "uncontrolled drinking by mothers."

Up to 40% of households in rural towns were living on government grants, he said, adding that the average wage for farm labourers was from R70 to R120 a month. "Why work in the hot Karoo for R120 when you can have a baby and get R250 (from the government)?" he asked.

In giving the keynote address at the conference, UCT economics department head Professor Francis Wilson said political power must be given to poor people in order to solve South Africa's poverty problems.
This is the Gini coefficient for South Africa, a formula widely used around the world to measure the degree of inequality between a country's rich and its poor. Of the 57 countries for which data exist, South Africa's Gini coefficient was the highest and, since then, fulfilling the old maxim, the rich have got richer and, relatively, the poor have got a lot poorer.

To think that a future government acceptable to the black majority would not take vigorous and effective steps to redress the balance, is wishful thinking.

Some comparisons used in last year's Second Carnegie Report into Poverty and Development: Almost 96 percent of black households had incomes of less than R3,000, but only 11 percent of white households had incomes that low. Although South Africa produces enough food to provide well over 6,000 calories per person for the entire population (more than double the recommended level), the death of one out of every seven black children under the age of five is caused by inadequate nutrition.

In 1970 the richest 20 percent of the population (mainly whites) owned 75 percent of the country's wealth, and while this declined to 61 percent during the 1970s, the total number of poor (mainly blacks) rose from 13-million to 15-million through the natural increase in population.

What all this represents is a daunting political challenge to the ANC (or any other party which would hope to secure the support of the black majority).

It is a challenge proportionately far greater than that which faced the National Party when it tackled the white poverty problem in the wake of the First Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty — and about which those NP spokesmen who have raised eyebrows at Mr. Mandela's mention of "nationalisation" now have little to say.

The NP's antidote to white poverty was a form of socialism: Massive state-funded industries were launched, which provided employment (and in many cases sheltered employment), housing, medical care, and pensions primarily to whites. The public service, likewise, was relentlessly expanded to the point where today, one out of every 27 South Africans has a job — and the numbers keep growing.

Regulation

For decades central planning regulated who could get what jobs, specifically excluding people of colour.

While the Western world moved away from regulation, South Africa, in common with the Marxist countries, moved towards tighter state controls aimed at protecting white interests. After all, how long ago was it that the nations of free enterprise, the central business districts, were opened to entrepreneurs of all races?

Even now, when the NP is rushing to change direction, the extent of its past socialist excesses can be seen from the fact that a former state enterprise like Iscor stood fifth out of all the companies on the JSE in terms of taxed profit in the very year of its "liberation".

Perhaps some of those who influenced the contents of the Freedom Charter looked with some interest at the NP's methods of addressing white poverty. After all, at the time of the Freedom Charter's genesis, socialist doctrine still enjoyed a degree of respectability and exponents could point to some modest achievements in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe — and white South Africa.

But the world has changed and Marxism has been rejected as a means of creating general wealth: in those very countries which embraced the doctrine most assiduously.

This, however, does not solve Mr. Mandela's problem. They still need to put forward a plausible plan for channeling far more of South Africa's wealth to the black majority, and this, translated into political realities, will be smartly booted out.

Free enterprize is held up to them as the answer, but as many of the leading exponents of free enterprise acknowledge, the concept does not enjoy a scintillating reputation among blacks.

While some would argue that free enterprise has not been given a decent chance in South Africa and that the country is only just emerging from the Marxist-like shackles of the past, the fact is that the exponents of free enterprise have failed to put forward a plan which can attract popular black support.

Allure

"Nationalisation" and socialism have a potent allure for people who have gained little or nothing from an economy they perceive as having been "capitalist" so far. And above all, free enterprise has been done a savage injury by being adopted as the credo of those who have enforced apartheid.

If a preferable alternative to "nationalisation" exists, its proponents would do well to get off their derrners and do something to popularise it, rather than expect Mr. Mandela and the ANC to come up with an alternative for them.

Organised commerce and industry did not lack the temerity to plunge headlong into the political waters during the tricameral referendum — on the side of the smirners.

So, where are they now? Simply saying that socialism has failed in Eastern Europe is a soggy answer to a towering problem, a problem which the scions of free enterprise will have to solve — or allow the scions of socialism to do the job for them.
Steyn: involve the poor in self-help projects

URBAN Foundation chairman Jan Steyn said yesterday that the only way SA would be able to help its very poor communities would be to involve them in new programmes focused on solving their own needs.

Steyn told a Port Elizabeth seminar on change that government and the private sector would have to be involved, but that experience here and abroad showed the success of development programmes depended on obtaining the co-operation and participation of the communities concerned.

"We must take our poor people seriously enough to involve them, together with government, the private and the voluntary sectors, in development which is both efficient, flexible and focused on the real needs," Steyn said.

There was a danger that the problems of SA's marginal poor would not be adequately addressed under the present or any future government unless the voicelessness of very poor communities was addressed.

The huge inequalities in SA and the depth of need and deprivation in our large but economically marginal communities make it essential that we should think much further than the standard approaches to development in both capitalist and socialist systems," Steyn said.

Collaborative effort was the key to two recent projects in which the Urban Foundation had been involved, joint plans to rebuild black schools in the eastern Cape and upgrade the Soweto-by-the-sea squatter community.

More than 600 eastern Cape classrooms had been damaged or destroyed in the 1985-87 disturbances. After discussions with government and community organisations, the Urban Foundation and the National Education Co-ordinating Council would launch a joint initiative this year to rebuild destroyed schools.

Parents and community leaders would be involved in deciding how the money would be used, which schools would be rebuilt and how they would be protected.

Similar discussions at Soweto-by-the-sea had led to the appointment of engineering consultants to undertake an upgrading project which, if it succeeded, could be replicated with local modifications elsewhere.
Pay lowest in Botshabelo

Staff Reporter

The average wage paid to labourers at the Botshabelo development point was R140 a month in 1966/7 despite a monthly cash incentive to industrialists of R120 per worker a month, the panel of experts concluded in their secret report on decentralisation.

The Botshabelo wages were the lowest of any development point and were well below the average Southern African wage of R1,000 a month.

Wages at other development points ranged from R148 a month at Putshaputshwa in QwaQwa to R905 in Maritzburg.

The panel said: "The low wages offered at many development points are both a strength and weakness of the Regional Industrial Development Programme (RIDP)."

One result of low wages is that the policy has relatively strong employment effects.

"But they also imply that the overall income effect is less than that in metropolitan areas."

"For example, it is estimated that approximately half of all households in Butterworth and Isithebe, and about 75% in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu, live below the household subsistence level," the panel said.
'Act now to avoid Cape Town chaos'

Staff Reporter

NEW strategies are urgently needed if Cape Town is to avoid becoming "another Calcutta", according to a new research document.

The document is the first in a series and spearheads the launching of a project by the Urban Problems Research Unit at the University of Cape Town and the Urban Foundation (Western Cape).

The project aims at making the future of Cape Town the direct concern of all people who live there and in this way initiating and facilitating debate.

Researchers who contributed to the document say that South Africa's cities are running into problems of a type and scale previously unknown because of rapid urbanisation.

"OUT OF CONTROL"

"In large areas of the Durban metropolitan region, the situation is almost totally out of control," the document claims. "The relevant authorities have lost confidence. This, coupled with a fragmented authority structure, has resulted in a situation where nobody is even sure who is responsible for large areas of land."

The problem is not yet as acute in Cape Town. However, the same basic administration problems exist: a host of administrations, organisations, institutions and interest groups making decisions to determine which way the city develops and large sections of the city's population effectively disfranchised.

To illustrate the problems facing Cape Town, the researchers quote from recent studies which:

- Estimate that the number of unemployed in Cape Town has quadrupled since 1990 and now stands at about 120 000 people — 11 percent of the labour force. A further 165 000 could be earning their living in the informal sector.
- Estimate that between 29 and 37 percent of "coloured" families and the majority of African families live below the Household Effective Level (HEL).
- State there is a housing shortage of well over 100 000 units in metropolitan Cape Town, resulting in "massive" overcrowding.
- State that poverty, unemployment and poor housing conditions are manifested in poor health levels. While infant mortality figures for the African population have dropped in the long-term, there appears to have been a recent reversal of the trend with deaths increasing more rapidly after 1981.
- Estimate that one in every 124 people in Cape Town is infected by tuberculosis and the current notification rate for "coloured" people is 56 times higher than for whites.

The introduction of the document concludes with the assertion that the population of Greater Cape Town could almost double between 1985 and 2000 to an estimated 4.2 million people.

Contributors to this document were Professor David Dewar, Ms V Watson and Ms C Howes (Urban Problems Research Unit, UCT), Ms A Basios and Ms C Glover (Urban Foundation, Western Cape), Mr B Gasson (Section 7), School of Architecture and Planning, UCT.
WEALTH creation is a complex process in which natural resources, government, public and private-sector institutions, entrepreneurs, workers and consumers together with a host of international factors interact to generate income at a level which allows for a surplus after consumption needs have been met.

That surplus is then used as to generate further income or benefits.

Long-term insurance policies have become major instruments for the ownership of wealth. Their annual rate of increase is also significant. These are instruments through which the man/woman in the street is steadily increasing his/her share of the ownership of SA.

Pension fund and long-term insurance growth is particularly noteworthy. Pursuit of McGregor's Who Owns Whom will indicate the extent to which the major industrial pension funds in the mining and metal industries have become important shareholders in SA's major companies.

The real problem lies in wealth distribution. Because of our historical policies of trying to structure SA along racial lines and thus exclude blacks from the mainstream of economic activity, we have a severe distortion in wealth distribution.

We must, however, be careful not to draw the line along colour lines; we have a more complex income distribution pattern.

It has been customary to describe developing countries as having dual economies comprising the formal and informal sectors. There is a third sector, comprising those who are not yet even in the informal sector - the large numbers of unemployed and unemployables. In a sense this sector could be described as the “non-economy.” The classification into formal and informal conveys a picture of two, vibrant but different economies. This is not so.

There is an important distinction between the formal sector and the other two for the purpose of this analysis. In the formal sector there is a framework within which employers and employees, represented through trade unions, can find the collective bargaining process make important choices that will determine the rate of wealth in that sector.

They can embark on joint strategies to increase income; in their annual negotiations determine how income is to be distributed; agree on the proportion of income that is not to be consumed and how that surplus is to be turned into wealth which creates further income or benefits.

Those in the informal and “non-economies” have no such framework. Their need is access to economic activity as evidenced by the extent to which they very often have to break the law to achieve it.

While there clearly is a challenge facing the formal sector to create more wealth, the real challenge for the country as a whole is how to enable (or empower) a very large proportion of our population to climb out of poverty - otherwise our society will be bedevilled by instability and conflict, not between white and black but among have-nots and between haves and have-nots.

We must reach a political resolution as there is not much likelihood of economic growth and wealth creation without it.

At the next level is the question of appropriate policies for the country's economic needs. The emphasis in economic policy today is on reducing the role of government, promoting the market and free enterprise, privatisation and deregulation to foster the informal sector.

These policies may be sound in principle but new policies which target on the consequences of wrong past policies are necessary.

The consequences can be seen very specifically in the crisis facing SA cities in the areas of housing, education, health care, local government, and service provision. This environment has a negative impact on workers with jobs in the formal sector and obstructs efforts to launch development programmes to overcome deprivation in our metropolitan areas.

How best can we address the issue of poverty? It is not my intention to enter the nationalisation debate. There is going to be an intense debate about issues such as control, ownership, role of the market, regulation, taxation and profit levels.

Because of the uneven distribution of wealth, there will be a tug of war between those seeking to create more wealth so that sufficient surplus can be generated to meet the country's social needs and those who wish to extract the maximum surplus out of current levels of income either through taxation or nationalisation for the same purpose due to the situation's urgency.

Hopefully out of this process the political economy that emerges will be able to compete internationally, generate surpluses and thus grow. Within the Urban Foundation some understanding is developing from our experience and analysis of the key components of a viable strategy to address the issue of poverty.

Poverty is not peripheral to the country's economic problems. It is central. Without progress on this issue, conflict and instability will continue to undermine our efforts.

There may be a feeling that in reality the needs of those on the outside looking in are not the concern of the formal business sector. Failure to find the road out of poverty will stand in the way of wealth creation in the society as a whole.

Sam Van Coller is CE of The Urban Foundation. This is an excerpt from his address to the Challenge of the 1990s Conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

LETTERS
SA's real problem: poverty and how to grow out of it

Extract from an address by Mr D L Ivan Collier, chief executive officer of the Urban Foundation, to the IMPS/ACB conference in Johannesburg on "The challenge of the Nineties".

Opinion

BECAUSE our historical policies tried to structure South Africa into rural and urban areas and thus exclude blacks from the mainstream economic activity, we have today a severe disjunction in wealth distribution between the "haves" and "have-nots". We must, however, be careful not to confuse class with colour lines increasingly from the mid-70's, economic forces did not adhere to racial structures so now we have a much more complex income distribution pattern. It has been customary to describe developing countries as having dual economies — formal and informal. There is a third sector in South Africa that is not yet even in the informal sector — the unemployed and unemployable. They could be called the "non-economy".

In the formal sector is a framework in which employers and employees can through collective bargaining make choices that will determine the rate of wage increase, the number of hours that can be worked. There are policies to ensure that wage increase, the number of hours that can be worked.

In the informal sector is a framework in which there is no scope for increasing incomes through deferring consumption and no power to protect themselves from inflation. They need access to the market as black workers as they do not have the support groups of employers and employees to help them.

Thus, while clearly there is a challenge facing the formal sector to create more wealth, the real challenge for the whole country is how to ensure that this wealth is distributed fairly so that the informal sector can find the answer to this challenge. We should be bedevilled by instability between the classes and between black and white and between "have-nots" and "have-haves" — and between "haves" and "have-nots".

How to break out of this? Clearly, we need a political resolution. When discussions of economic policy have reached the point where one of the weapons used to achieve political change is the destruction of economic activity, which is the major weapon of the non-white sector's support base, then it cannot be anticipated that the formal sector workers will be major owners of the country's wealth — through the man-in-the-street, instruments of housing and pension funds. By contrast, those in the informal and "non-economy" have no such framework.

In the second sector, it is clear that there is a survival mode in which there is no scope for increasing income through deferring consumption and no power to protect themselves from inflation. They need access to the market as black workers as they do not have the support groups of employers and employees to help them.

Thus, while clearly there is a challenge facing the formal sector to create more wealth, the real challenge for the whole country is how to ensure that this wealth is distributed fairly so that the informal sector can find the answer to this challenge. We should be bedevilled by instability between the classes and between black and white and between "have-nots" and "have-haves" — and between "haves" and "have-nots".

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Govt may address problem of poverty

The Government may have to address the problem of poverty directly in its structural adjustments to the economy, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Barend du Plessis, said yesterday.

According to a detailed budget review expanding on his budget speech, he said certain structural adjustments had to be made to the level of total state expenditure, in particular, the development of human resources through improved education and health services.

He said "attention will have to be given to the nature and the effectiveness quality, rather than the quantum of spending on these services."

Also it could be necessary to address the problem of poverty.

The economy had to be restructured to raise the standards of life of the whole South African population.

The raising of the income and employment creation ability of the private sector had to be promoted.

This would necessitate the encouragement of personal saving to increase capital funds while the use of capital resources had to be promoted by encouraging productivity in both labour and capital in a market orientated economy.

"High priority will have to be given to the pressing socio-economic questions of poverty, housing backlogs, inadequate education and training, illiteracy, basic health needs and a host of other problems blocking the road to participation in the economy and progress."

Apart from such long-term macro economic policy, short-term policy had to be geared to stabilising economic activity over the course of the business cycle without losing sight of the long-term goals.

"Greater emphasis will be placed on instruments such as public debt management and public borrowing in the pursuit of an active stabilisation policy, whereas adjustments in state expenditure and revenue will be focused more on the longer term goals of socio-economic development and economic restructuring."

Arising from these broad considerations, attention would be given to several structural aspects with particular emphasis on:

* High priority should be given to reducing the inflation rate to that of leading trading partners.
* Restoring the savings pattern.
* Reducing tax pressure on households, relative to companies.
* Encouraging responsible wage bargaining to contain inflation and raise employment.
* Promoting the competitive ability of local industry.
* Eliminating factors preventing the relative prices of factors of production correctly reflecting their relative scarcity.

Mr. Du Plessis said the SA economy was now in a consolidation phase and things were in a greater measure than previously, the opportunity of seeking purposeful implementation of several of the measures envisaged by the long-term economic strategy.
BY MICHAEL STEIN
Co-editor of Income Tax Reporter

THE 1990 budget is a remarkable one that will be remembered in time to come for heralding some dramatic reforms to the income tax system, while at the same time presaging tax relief to a wide variety of beneficiaries. In particular, individuals generally, who will pay lower rates of income tax, married women, investors, the aged who pay tax and the mines. It may also mark the death knell of the ill-fated close corporation.

While individuals will benefit from lower rates of tax, some of them will pay additional tax on certain fringe benefits, that is, company cars and soft loans, where adjustments are to be made to allow for the increased value of these benefits.

Most welcome is the minister's announcement that married women will pay tax separately in their own right on income from a trade that they carry on, as well as on income that they earn in association with their husbands. This income was previously not subject to the standard income tax on employees (SITE). One of the consequences of this change, presumably, will be the elimination of the complicated wife's earnings allowances. But it is still anomalous and a disincentive to investment that a wife's investment income will still be taxed with her husband's income, since this income is very often taxed at the husband's highest marginal rate of 45%.

But the minister did announce sweeping reforms in the taxation of investment income generally. The exemption for interest income and certain building society investments is to be doubled from R1,000 to R2,000. But the minister has already announced that the tax exemptions for certain government and building society investments are to be phased out, so that the present relief may be to some extent in due course be offset by the additional tax on these investments. But the R2,000 exemption is still to be preferred to exemption of individual investments, which is discriminatory and may distort an investor's choice of interest-bearing investments.

Also of benefit to investors is the proposed phasing out of marketable securities tax, and the exemption from tax of profits made on shares held for 10 years, which is apparently aimed to benefit mainly the mining industry, which is "locked into" certain shifts out of the fear of taxation. But the length of the holding period, 10 years, is hardly likely to cause a dramatic increase in investment on the stock market. Nor is it entirely equitable that this exemption should favour only share investors and not investors in other assets, such as fixed property.

People aged over 65, irrespective of their earnings or means, will benefit from a handsomely increased rebate — up from R1,450 to R2,100 — but those over 60 but not over 65 will see their special rebates phased out over the next five years.

Share investors will welcome the exemption from income tax of dividends derived by individuals and close corporations and the exemption from the undistributed profits tax (UPT) of the dividends derived by companies. The minister did not say whether the non-resident's tax on dividends (NRST) will also be withdrawn, but this is unlikely. But members of private companies that have been converted to close corporations whose corporations paid a conversion tax of 10% of their reserves for the privilege of converting will be kicking themselves now that dividends have in any event been exempted from tax.

The one tax advantage of a close corporation — as opposed to a company — has also been stripped away, namely, that its dividend distributions are tax-free. Now that all dividends are to be tax-free, the other non-tax disadvantages of close corporations, such as the onerous membership restrictions, will be even more of a disincentive to their formation.

The direct tax impact on business will be limited. Company tax rates are to remain unchanged, the training allowance is to be replaced by a subsidy, the LIPO basis of valuation of trading stock is to be finally phased out over 10 years and certain consumable stores and spares are to be regarded as stock. At the same time the building industry will be required to account for its work-in-progress as trading stock, which will have adverse cash-flow implications for builders.

Finally, the mining industry is to benefit in two ways. First, the gold mines will enjoy a reduction in their formula taxes. And, secondly, the Securities and Futures Board's "ringfencing" provisions that restrict a mine from writing off its capital expenditure on new mines from its income from old mines will be partly relaxed and the allowance on certain capital expenditure increased from 10% to 12%, both of which will encourage the expansion of mining.

Full text...
Protest against poverty

BY CHIARA CARTER
UNEMPLOYED worker representatives will meet the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, later this month to discuss "endemic poverty" in South Africa.

And, although police prevented a protest march on Monday, the unemployed have vowed to continue their campaign for cheaper food.

This week, the National Unemployed Workers' Coordinating Committee (NUWCC) and the Unemployed Workers' Movement (UWM) sent a letter of protest to Mr Du Plessis.

The letter also contained shock figures on malnutrition.

Students and unemployed workers demonstrate in front of the Methodist Church, Greenmarket Square. Police prevented a protest march and arrested 70 people.
Appeal to readers for help

By SHARKEY ISAACS, Staff-Reporter

A RENEWED appeal has been made for readers to support the Argus Food Campaign to help thousands of destitute people who are dependent on the fund to stay alive.

City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkuss made the call after reserves plunged from R54 536.90 to R53 90 this month — about R6 000 lower than the same time last year, when reserves stood at R53 940.

Meanwhile, readers have boosted reserves with a steady trickle of gifts in response to earlier appeals to support the fund. The latest contributions were D Cross R5, J S Kelfans R50, anonymous R10, J Brook-Norris of Somerset West R20, anonymous gifts of R100, R10, R50, R30 and R4,


"Any contribution, no matter how small, will be appreciated," said Dr Popkuss.

Without a "substantial boost" soon the relief programme will have to be halted, he warned.

Fight disease

A combined programme of immunisation and nutrition helped to fight disease. Food campaigns were vital to bolster the inadequate diet of children in deprived communities.

The campaign, launched in October 1965 in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund as a "band-aid" to alleviate effects of unemployment, has fed more than a million hungry mouths.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, P.O. Box 15399, Vlaeburg, 8018 or P.O. Box 238, Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH, • 219 2922.
Govt adds R1 billion for black backlogs

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE government yesterday boosted the R2-billion fund to remove backlogs in the black community by another R1 billion.

President F W de Klerk said yesterday that R1 billion of the money would be administered directly by the government "to eliminate backlogs of a capital nature in education" and to acquire land for black urbanisation.

The other R2 billion is to form the basis for a trust fund, to be managed by a former Cape Town judge and honorary chairman of the Urban Foundation, Mr Jan Steyn.

The trust fund is to be administered outside the direct ambit of the government so the private sector and other institutions, both local and foreign, can contribute to it.

Mr Steyn said at a press conference that he had already held discussions with business leaders, the UDF and the ANC about the new trust fund and he felt they should be members of the trust, but it was up to them to decide.

Mr De Klerk said the government's contribution of R3 billion would be used to uplift disadvantaged South Africans.

"It is my earnest hope that this initiative will receive the widest possible support from every quarter in South Africa as well as from abroad," Mr De Klerk said.

Mr Steyn said yesterday that before accepting his appointment as head of the new trust he had received the reassurance from the government that it was committed to removing racially discriminatory legislation.

He said he had a real concern that racially discriminatory legislation still on the statute book could inhibit the dynamism of the new initiative.

Top fashions for Nederburg auction
Up to 70 000 homeless in Natal fighting

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Between 50 000 and 70 000 people have been left homeless by intense fighting in KwaZulu-Natal, according to estimates by the executive director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Ina Perlman.

Speaking as the relief feeding organisation approaches its 10th anniversary, Mrs Perlman cited "the killing fields of Natal" as just one of the critical hunger points in South Africa.

Her organisation has responded to urgent appeals for help from 10 000 people urgently in need of food, blankets and plastic in this area — and expects the number to double by the end of this month.

Other problem areas were:

● The Northern and North-Western Transvaal blighted by severe drought, massive lay-offs from farms and retrenchments from mines.

● Parts of the Free State and North-Western Cape, where seasonal labour has been reduced after bad spring rainfall.

● The Eastern Cape, where the townships were overflowing and the small agricultural towns severely depressed.

Mrs Perlman warned that retrenchments, hunger and despair would continue — even if South Africa's economy lived up to hopeful predictions and "bottomed-out" this year.

"First and foremost new urban jobs will be few and far between. There will still be retrenchment; there will still be job loss," she said.

Proud record

In spite of a proud record over the past 10 years that has seen child deaths dramatically reduced, children made educable by proper feeding schemes and thousands employed in flourishing self-help projects, the road ahead looked bleak for Operation Hunger.

"The need for feeding remains and will continue for many years. We need a concerted effort and maximum support if 1990 is to be the beginning of the end to hunger, deprivation and want in our land," Mrs Perlman said.
Steyn gets down to planning R2-b project

From MICHAEL CHESTER
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Mr Jan Steyn has confirmed he has resigned as honorary president of the Urban Foundation to devote his full attention to his role as supreme of the special R2-billion fund created by the government to spearhead a bold new black advancement programme.

Mr Steyn will be succeeded at the Urban Foundation by Mr Mike Rosholt, chairman of the vast Barlow Rand industrial empire and long an active member of the foundation’s board of governors.

While Mr Steyn presses ahead with the launch of the R2-billion fund aimed at new socio-economic initiatives, Mr Rosholt will take the reins of a new programme by the Urban Foundation to set out sweeping new proposals for a radical new look at the destruction of apartheid in all forms of urban planning.

The foundation has released the first section of a series of nine special reports and urged the total removal of the Group Areas Act and a block to Free Settlement Areas as a first target.

Mr Steyn had already started a round of talks aimed at bringing in the African National Congress, the Mass Democratic Movement, the private sector and trade unions to discussions to plan the programme.

Task force

The R2-billion is earmarked for sweeping moves to improve the socio-economic status of black society with emphasis on new housing schemes for low-income families and better education facilities.

The fund was created with state funds by President F W de Klerk on March 16 to be run by an independent task force and ploughed into black advancement.

It was widely welcomed as a surprise bonanza from the government to press ahead with reform, running in parallel with a separate R1-billion programme to be launched by the State.

The only shock opposition he has encountered has come from Dr Nthato Motlana, chairman of the Soweto Civic Association, who told an apartheid audience in Washington that black civic organisations would not touch the R3-billion because it was “insultingly too little”.

Dr Motlana was reported as telling the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in the American capital that he intended telling President de Klerk “Go to hell, man. This is a question of principle. We are not going to touch that money.”

Mr Steyn says he has held discussions with black political leaders and has been assured “at the highest level” that participation in management of the fund is under consideration.
Motlana denies spurning R3-bn upliftment fund

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Soweto community leader Dr Nthato Motlana has vehemently denied telling an American audience last week that blacks would not touch the government's R3-billion fund for socio-economic upliftment.

Dr Motlana was quoted as saying: "We are going to say (to President De Klerk) 'Go to hell, man'. This is a question of principle. We are not going to touch that money."

This caused an outcry among blacks and even drew criticism from the United Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation.

The Argus correspondent in Washington, David Braun, insisted that he had accurately reported Dr Motlana's speech to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. Two tape-recordings had been made of the meeting.

Dr Motlana, a former chairman of the Soweto Civic Association, said yesterday he had said that anti-apartheid groups were reluctant to touch money from governments friendly to South Africa.

"I never said 'go to hell' to the State President. I would never use such language. But I certainly said the money was too little," he said.
‘Poverty, joblessness behind rural violence’

BLOEMFONTEIN — The degree of violence that had spread to the rural areas was a violence caused by the frustration of poverty and unemployment, Professor Francis Wilson of the Department of Economics at the University of the Free State told the 54th conference of the National Council of Women of South Africa in Bloemfontein yesterday.

The sheer degree of armed robbery, assault, rape, violence and child-battering and incest were part of the product of an intolerable position.

Sickness in society

What was being witnessed at present was the degree to which this violence was manifesting itself in the rural areas of South Africa.

Professor Wilson said one could not point to cultural differences in this respect. This was the visible manifestation of a deep and underlying sickness in South African society. These were the realities with which black South Africans were faced particularly if they were poor.

Poverty could not be reduced to a single number or statistic. The consequences of the migratory movement to the cities had the effect of impoverishing the rural areas. There had not always been terrible poverty in the rural areas.

The anti-black urbanisation policy had had two consequences. It had the effect of freezing housing in the urban areas when the natural population growth required more houses. The other, more serious, consequence was that those who were pushed off the farms by improved technology were not allowed into the cities. The only places they could go to were the reserves, which were already overpopulated.

Professor Wilson said poverty was not only a South African problem. However, the rate at which people were coming on to the labour market was greater than that at which jobs were being created. Thus, there was a new phenomenon in SA.

Since 1973, South Africa had, as a result of population growth, lost its capacity to generate sufficient jobs.

There was a need for economic growth, but SA did not have the type of political stability that the rest of the world required for investment.

Professor Wilson said that the new motto should be “Growth through redistribution.”

It was a process that required political legitimacy. If South Africans were concerned about poverty, then a necessary condition to deal with it was a redistribution of political power. — Sapa
Rural poverty

Professor Wilson said the degree of violence that had spread to the rural areas should not be seen as either isolated or random. "Violence is the result of unemployment and human rights are "the right to life, liberty and dignity of the individual‖. "Violence is the visible manifestation of all the wrongs that have been done to people in this country. It is not just about one individual or one group. It is about society as a whole."

Wilson said the rural areas in South Africa were the most neglected. He said they were still living in the era of segregation and racism.

"The rural areas are the most neglected. They are the most forgotten," Wilson said. "They are the areas where the poorest people live. They are the areas where the most violence is occurring."

Wilson said the government was responsible for this. He said they had created a new society, but not only the poor people were suffering. He said the government had failed to create a society where everyone could live in peace.

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Poverty is big enemy

SOUTH Africa was a highly polarised country where poverty, particularly in the black community, hung like a sword over people's heads, the chairman of the Johannesburgse Afrikaanse Sakekamer, Mr Henk Louw, said yesterday.

In his report to the group's annual general meeting, Louw said millions of squatters, hungry unemployed, and illiterate people were knocking on the door for food, housing, education and jobs which, quite simply, could not be adequately provided.

Louw, who is the outgoing chairman, said he believed it was in the interests of the Afrikaner and of the country that the Sakekamer took a public stand in support of the direction which the State President, Mr FW de Klerk, had indicated for South Africa.
Growth Through Redistribution

Should be motto - Wilson 291
R100-m social fund from insurance giant

JOHANNESBURG. — A major insurance group last night announced what it described as its "most important investment" yet—the founding of a R100 million fund for social development.

Mr. Donald Gordon announced the formation of the Liberty Life Foundation which will, over five years, spend more than R100 million on rural and urban upliftment for disadvantaged South Africans.

"We regard this R100 million as the best investment we could make in our investment portfolio to secure the future," said Mr. Gordon.

The foundation will provide education facilities and housing, help ease poverty and prepare talented black entrepreneurs and other community leaders for economic leadership.

"The foundation further aims to help the creation of an environment which will ensure a peaceful and stable transition to a democratic, just and equitable society in South Africa, espousing the highest ideals and standards of the Western world."

Mr. Gordon said he hoped other companies would follow Liberty Life's example in "encouraging the courageous initiatives of our political leadership—both black and white—with the full understanding of the horrific consequences to be faced if they fail us".

He said they believed the gesture was appropriate now as the political initiatives underway could be a major turning point in South Africa's history.

Quakes rattle bay

SAN FRANCISCO. — Three mild earthquakes rattled the San Francisco Bay area yesterday but no damage was caused, officials said. — Sapa-Reuter.
R1,29-m boost for impoverished Natal community

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — One of the poorest regions of South Africa, impoverished Maputaland in northern Natal, is to be given a helping hand in a major development project aimed at creating three new urban centres, as well as four rural centres.

The project is being funded by the Sizazisiza Trust, established in 1987 by a group of Natal and Transvaal businessmen concerned about job creation and community upliftment in KwaZulu. The Anglo American Corporation's Chairman's Fund has granted the trust R1.29 million over three years towards the cost of implementing the scheme.

PILOT PROJECT

Mbazwana, a village in the Ingwavuma/Umbombo region, will be used as a pilot project in the establishment of small urban centres because it has the potential to grow into a viable community with the economic base provided by the timber industry.

In addition, it has the advantage of being on the route taken by tourists bound for the Sodwana Bay National Park.

The project will encourage entrepreneurs to take part in the privatisation of as much of the local timber production and industry as possible.

With the co-operation of the community, the trust hopes to establish a viable timber manufacturing industry so that items such as door frames and school desks can be produced for the local market.
HUMAN deaths related to malnutrition and environmental pollution amount to more than one Hiroshima - 100,000 people - every day of the year, yet the cost of just one nuclear explosion test would finance the installation of 80,000 hand-pumps to give Third World villages access to safe water.

Delivering the College Lecture at the Natal University on Wednesday, Mr Chris Albertyn of Earthlife said that half of the world's scientists and engineers were engaged in the technology of making weapons while 35 percent of humanity lacked safe drinking water.

"We are living in an increasingly polarised world organised for the benefit of a powerful minority whose particular world view is leading us all to collapse and decay," said Albertyn.

He said expanded industrial activity and use of fossil fuels would cause unprecedented rapid changes in the Earth's temperatures resulting in serious disruptions to global meteorological systems and ocean circulation patterns.
Down and out in full
Khayamnandi: Battle
for survival by 10 000

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

CONDITIONS in Khayamnandi township, near Stellenbosch, are very bad and deteriorating rapidly, according to residents.

The Stellenbosch Civic Association claims that more than 10 000 people live in the area (official figure 6 775). There are 145 core houses, one school, which teaches from Sub A to Std 7, one clinic, no clinic and one soccer ground.

Most of the residents are unemployed. There is an acute shortage of accommodation. And — three years after the pass laws were scrapped — the hostel dwellers are still haunted by influx control.

Repeated raids

The township has about 65 of the original "single sex" hostels, which are now occupied primarily by families.

Repeated raids on the living quarters have instilled fear and suspicion among the hostel dwellers. Strangers are viewed with suspicion by women and men alike.

The hostels — dilapidated prefabricated structures with broken windows, outside communal water taps and toilets — were initially built for migrant workers from the homelands who came to work on the wine farms as "temporary sojourners."

Like elsewhere in the country, no sooner had influx control laws been abolished than hundreds of women streamed to the cities to join their migrant husbands, hoping they could now live together without the fear of dreaded middle-of-the-night police raids for "illegals."

However, it was not to be in Khayamnandi. Harassment has continued unabated, according to residents, despite the existence of an "autonomous" black local authority since 1982.

For, while some other "development boards" turned a blind eye to irregularities after the scrapping of influx control in 1986, officials in Stellenbosch continued to make life difficult for the hostel dwellers.

In what were called "crime prevention operations", the living quarters of men and their newly arrived wives and families were raided. They were bundled into police vans at the middle of the night, locked up and accused of "trespassing."

Each hostel block in Khayamnandi consists of 64 double bunks (one bed on top of the other) in a huge hall divided into two. Residents pay R9.50 a month.

Wait lists have not been painted for ages and privacy is non-existent. In some cases, couples are forced to sleep in bunks above single men.

Although the hostels were initially meant for employed men, the majority are now unemployed and their only solace is the home-brewed liquor, which some cannot remember how many times they have been arrested for failing to produce a permit and for the illegal selling of illicit beer.

She said she arrived in the township nine years ago. But most of the arrests had taken place "since 1987."

She, like others, still lived in fear of a "raid" because "every movement, we are under the watchful eye of people from the committee."

Mrs Pauline Khu, a former councillor who is now an executive member of the Stellenbosch Civic Association (SCA), said she had "tried to help her people from within the system" when she joined the council in 1981.

"Manipulated"

"Today's black councils are empowered by law to call the tune in the township, but many of them are still manipulated by white officials they themselves have employed. The situation is hopeless," she said.

"We pay monthly rentals but they are unable to provide services in such a small township."

Khayamnandi committee mayor, Mr Monde Mayekiso, said his committee was "doing all in its power to rectify mistakes."

He said, however, that there were no funds and his committee was negotiating with the Western Cape Regional Services Council for land and funds.

He denied that they were powerless. "We want to improve the life of everybody in this town."

He couldn't comment on other issues raised by residents.
De Beers boss calls for more welfare expenditure

Political Reporter

A market-orientated economy was the only realistic means of satisfying black aspirations, according to De Beers chairman Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson.

In the mining company’s annual report, released yesterday, Mr Thompson said visible progress in addressing socio-economic backlogs would be more convincing than any rhetoric in convincing the majority that a vigorous market-orientated economy was the most realistic means of satisfying their legitimate aspirations.

Economic control and intervention would only re-allocate and perpetuate poverty.

“A higher growth rate, permitting more welfare expenditure, would be facilitated by the restoration of peace in the country and the removal of economic and financial sanctions, so that South Africa could once more attract substantial institutional and private venture capital from the international community.”

Lower inflation

Mr Thompson said the government was tackling with urgency and vigour the tasks of getting the economy on to a sounder footing, with lower inflation and higher growth, and of remedying the gross inequities and inequalities of the old system.

Black communities should actively participate in addressing housing, educational and medical needs and the economic opportunities available to them.

Lauding President de Klerk’s reforms, he said it was to be hoped that a new constitution and bill of rights would facilitate the creation of a prosperous, non-racial multiparty democracy.

Such a system would be the engine of growth for a region that desperately needed an escape route from poverty.

Mr Thompson said all people would have to have access to the market place as much as to the ballot box if they were to be able to create wealth for themselves and prosperity for the country.

See Page 18.
Lesson One: A starving child can’t be educated

IN A TIME of violence it may be boring to think of starvation, even though the one often leads to the other.

There was a time when the government of South Africa took the starvation of South African children seriously enough to introduce a programme of school feeding.

There was a world war on and there were many demands on the Treasury, yet the United Party got its health and educational priorities right and saw that health care had to start with nutrition and that education was impossible if the children were too hungry to pay attention or too brain damaged by starvation to think well.

Now that the NP government has voted R500 million for repairing some of the damage done by apartheid, perhaps we could get back to basics.

There is little value in high quality education programmes for starving children. They don’t pay attention. Nor is there much point to a high-tech medical programme for starving children.

They need food. To this we can add clean water, shelter and fuel.

These are the basic necessities that every decent society must provide for its people.

Everyone knows that South Africa is a country of hunger, but perhaps we don’t believe what we know. That’s why we have statistics.

**Grave**

In a health survey conducted for the Department of National Health and Population Development, about two percent of rural African children were found to be ‘wasted’ (starving), and 25 percent were ‘stunted’ (on the verge of starvation).

These figures are even worse for children under three years of age. Children who are wasted or stunted are not the sort who raise their hands in class to answer questions.

They are born in the wastelands of society and struggle on for a while before they are tipped into the grave.

Perhaps we can make poverty more palatable by an example. This is the diet of a student rather than a wasted child:

**Breakfast:** Slice of brown bread and margarine, coffee with half-teaspoon of sugar and Cremora

**Lunch:** Coffee with half-teaspoon of sugar and Cremora

**Supper:** Coffee with half-teaspoon of sugar and Cremora

**Re奋ments:** A pit of us (From Wilson and Ramphale’s Upending Poverty)

It’s a good advertisement for Cremora but it’s not a good diet. In the poorer resettlement areas, the diet of 80 percent may be pap day after day, with nothing to relieve the monotony.

School feeding cannot make up for all the accumulated misery of our society, nor can it substitute for economic growth and the generation of new jobs. It is merely medicine for the moment, but essential medicine.

Furthermore, unlike most medicines, it is întensively happy medicine. There are few things which make us happier than food when we are really hungry. Make sure that the poor african bread and a little extra and you will immediately increase the sum of happiness in this country.

How did we get into this situation? How is it that, once the school-feeding scheme had been introduced, it was not continued and expanded?

The history of the abandonment of the scheme tells one with much shame that only the possibility of restoring it enabled one to think of it again.

The attack on the scheme commenced almost immediately after the NP came to power in 1948. The first decision was that the total amount voted for the scheme would be reduced and then frozen, so that any increase in the number of children attending school would reduce the amount available per pupil.

**Honor**

A series of restrictions were introduced which then saved about a third of the money voted for the scheme by excluding about a third of the children who had previously been eligible for school feeding.

These restrictions had nothing to do with their nutritional status. In 1956 the scheme was further restricted by forcing African School Boards to choose between feeding and building extra classrooms at a time when the education budget was being squeezed.

Feats for school feeding organisers were abolished and all measures were taken to make the scheme unattractive to school committees and principals.

The peculiarly South African horror was that all of this happened while funds were still available for feeding white children even in wealthy suburbs. By 1963-64, the provision of feeding in African schools had fallen to R50,000; it was finally abolished shortly after this.

Well, we may say, hard choices had to be made by rational men. If only it were so.

When we read the Debates of the House of Assembly, we wonder what was passing through the minds of those who made the choices.

P W Botha was among the speakers in the Debates of 1949, arguing that we ought to avoid “crushing” the “national characteristics” of blacks “under a cloak of philanthropy”.

Whites were presumably immune to these “crushing” effects. He argued that many “natives” (in the terminology of the time) attended school to be fed rather than to learn and that many women neglected their families for the sake of their children’s education. He warned that the schools would take over their duties.

He referred to the NP against accusations of misusing their history. “We have known this sort of talk for the past 500 years.” The originators of this charge were Dr Philip and Van der Kemp, and Red, and other people who were bent on blackening and besmirching the original European populations of the country, the Afrikaners who knew the natives’ interests” (Debates, 1949).

Of course, P W Botha was then a young man making his way by being extraordinarily bagged in an outstandingly bagged party.

When we read the Debates of the time we are astonished by the violence of the imagery. It is the violence of men at war with each other: ghosts of all who have attacked them in the past — the missionaries, the English, the blacks.

It is the imagery of men who have been deeply wounded and are therefore violent. They repeat, in their speeches, the battles for survival they have fought throughout their lives. They have arrived and they mean to stay. This is something which occurs again and again in history.

Is the moral language in which they reject the claims of the poor new? The moralists of the 19th century attacked the provisions of the Poor Law in England in the same violent language. Caring for the poor encouraged men and women to become so idle, they said, that they would not work, and should be in wickedness upon the parish.

Threatened people are defined by the ways in which they reject those who threaten to take them. They reject outsiders, the poor, the unemployed, the deviant, in moral language which is the curse of politics because it is the prelude to violence. How can you recognise this kind of pseudo-moral behaviour?

Inevitably, it is directed against some group of people and inevitably it involves injury to them, physical or mental. It is said to have done to the speaker, or their allies have done to the speaker, or their descendents may at some time do to the speaker.

The self-righteousness of the speaker is politically deadly because it enables him to feel good about doing evil.

Perhaps the time has come when we can bring down sums of our past. At least some of its ghosts have been exorcised. Let us hope that a new generation of wounded people is not expected to take over government. That may easily be so, but it is no excuse for us to do the work which lies to hand.

**Debt**

We now have a government which is struggling to escape from the burden of its past. Now might be the time to start a war on starvation.

The front line of such a war might well be a school-feeding scheme which begins in the most devastated parts of the country and spreads until it provides for all who need it.

Fortunately we have people who have continued where the government left off. Organisations such as Tree Africa School-Feeding Association (and others in various parts of the country) have struggled to raise money privately.

They are deeply in debt, but they know how to do the job. This knowledge can be used. We do not have to start from scratch again.

Do we want healthy, educated citizens? Start by feeding their bodies and you might be able to nourish their souls.
Informal activities adds 50% . . .

New estimates for blacks’ per capita incomes

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Informal sector activity could add as much as 50% to blacks’ per capita incomes — reducing the racial income chasm somewhat, according to Stellenbosch University academic Servaes van der Berg.

In a paper delivered to a symposium on the production and use of socioeconomic statistics in Durban at the weekend, Van der Berg used a recent Central Statistical Service (CSS) survey on the informal sector to arrive at new estimates for black per capita incomes.

"Black compared to white per capita income (R16 531) rises from 8.5% to 12.7% when provision is made for unrecorded activity.

The informal activity raises black incomes from R706 a year to R2 105.

Although Van den Berg believed unrecorded economic activity provided some relief from poverty, he agreed with conference delegates that it did not alter the fact of a heavily skewed wealth distribution to any significant extent.

Van der Berg added his voice to the Reserve Bank in criticising overly optimistic estimates of informal sector activity.

"If the (extreme) free-marketeer view is correct, there is reason for much optimism about SA economic growth, and then poverty reduction and improved income distribution is a mere matter of waiting for further growth along free market lines. In such circumstances, policy attention to matters such as employment and poverty becomes superfluous.

Van der Berg's paper noted the Small Business Development Corporation's Wolfgang Thwaites had admitted the danger of overstating informal sector job creation potential "as much of the informal sector is merely a fall-back position (survival entrepreneurship)."

Van der Berg notes that estimates of labour force participation in the informal sector varies from 6% to 31%, with a median estimate of 19%. The CSS survey, which excludes whites, found that 21% of the labour force (2.7m people) were involved in informal sector activity.

UCT's Professor Brian Kantor came in for criticism for his well-known claim that unrecorded activity could amount to as much as 40% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Kantor responded during discussion time by pointing out the figure was an upper limit.

He stuck to his view that the discrepancy between GDP calculated from the expenditure side and GDP from the income side indicated substantial levels of unrecorded economic activity.

However, Van der Berg was also critical of the Marxist view that "the informal sector was of little consequence and was only a means to hide poverty or not to address its consequences".
Focus in industrial relations

Black minorities threatened, says economist

Shifting from political relations needs

Call for SA to avoid "catastrophe in US"

PRETORIA: "The Death Row catastrophe" is a threat to the US, says the New York Times. The newspaper reported that a large number of capital punishment prisoners are facing death sentences in the US. It is feared that the US will be "catastrophically" affected by the crisis in South Africa.

The New York Times said that the US government has been put on notice by the crisis in South Africa. The newspaper reported that the US government has been warned by the Justice Department that it will be "catastrophically" affected by the crisis in South Africa.

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Living costs soar for low-income families

Finance Staff

Lower income Indian, black and coloured families in Durban are being ravaged by rises in their costs of living which are considerably bigger than those reflected in official inflation figures, according to an independent academic report.

The latest household subsistence level (HSL) survey of the University of Port Elizabeth shows, for example, that an Indian family of six living on R685.85 a month at the end of last September, needed an additional R79.25 (R745.20) at the end of March to maintain the same standard - an increase of 11.9 percent.

The same rate of increase for the next six months would translate into an annual rise of 23.9 percent.

By contrast, the official consumer price index (CPI) monitor of the Government over the September-March period put inflation for lower-income families country-wide at 15.6 percent a year.

FOOD

Ascribing the rise to such factors as steep increases in food and clothing prices, the University's Dr JF Potgieter says blacks in Durban saw their HSL rise 9.3 percent in the six months, while the level for coloured families increased 8.9 percent.

In the 12 months to the end of March, coloureds needed an 18 percent increase in household income to keep the wolf from the door.

However, although subsistence costs for blacks in Durban were rising at the third-fastest rate in the country, their counterparts in Pietermaritzburg lived in the cheapest centre surveyed in the country.

There, a five-member black family could survive on R544.87 a month, while those in all the major centres would need more than R600.

Describing trends in the survey, Dr Potgieter says food, particularly vegetables, fruit and dairy products, is "very expensive".

MEAT

"While the cost of milk powder, cheese and dried legumes was significantly up, it was found that in all centres meat tended to be the same or even lower than at the previous update."

"Vegetables were found to be very expensive, especially in centres such as Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pretoria, Queenstown and Brits."

Dr Potgieter says men's and women's clothing was found, on average, to have risen between 10 and 20 percent in the six months.
Barrydale in crisis over camp closing

THE Southern Cape town of Barrydale is faced with an economic slump because of the Cape Provincial Administration's (CPA) plans to close a nearby road workers' camp, the town's deputy mayor, Mr Kobus van Coller, has said.

The camp has been in existence for more than 16 years and has contributed greatly to the town's economic upkeep.

A spokesman for the CPA, Mr Dirk Smit, confirmed that road-construction work in the area would be completed by 1992 and that there would be no more projects to justify the continued existence of the construction unit.

Other reasons why the camp would be closed included privatisation, and the fact that funding for roads had been slashed.

Mr Van Coller said road workers spent 75% of their income in the town.

An organisation, Barrydale 2 000, of which he was secretary, had been founded to try to keep the town on the map.
THE 300 squatters, whose shack
next to the Transvaal Snake Park
were due to be demolished by the
Midrand Town Council today, have
been given a 90-day reprieve.

The move comes amid an outcry
from the Black Sash and the Wil
tersrand Network for the Home
less, who have called on the council
and investors in the area — owners of
the land — to stop the demolitions
and help seek alternative
accommodation for the 100 families.

The "Snake Squatters" — as they
have come to be known — started
putting up structures in the area
about two years ago when some
stocks and storers were re
trenched. Since then people working
in the surrounding area have joined
in and numbers have swelled.

The council notified the squatters
last week that their shack would be
demolished today.

The squatters' lawyer, David
Woodhouse, said at the weekend a
meeting held on Friday evening by
the TPA, land-owners Stocks and
Stocks and the council decided to sus
pend the demolition of the shack for
90 days, and basic sanitary facilities
would be provided for the families. He
said the TPA would be looking for
alternative accommodation.

In a statement released at the
weekend the council said "No matter
how sympathetic this council is to
their plight, we have no option other
than to prevent random and illegal
occupation of ratepayers' property in
Midrand.

"While the council does not want
to be seen to be hiding behind the pro
tection of the law, there are numer
ous legal provisions which prescribe
to the council the action that must be
taken in these circumstances. To ig
nore or to attempt to counter these
laws is to lay the council open to
extremely serious legal action."

The statement said a special com
mittee was formed with the TPA to
acquire land for the provision of
basic services, thereby assuring
minimum health and living standards
for homeless people.

R100 000 for Natal refugees

MARITZBURG — Natal Administrator Con Botha yester
day handed cheques of R10 000 and R15 000 to Inka
Mars of the SA Red Cross and Maritzburg mayor Mark
Cornell to help refugees in Natal.

The money represents the first payments from
R100 000 which the NPA has donated
The payment to the city council is by way of reim
bursement for money already spent in assisting
the refugees in the capital.

The R10 000 will reimburse the Midlands Cross Relief
Committee for the purchase of food and blankets, while
the remaining R50 000 will be used to buy food rations
and blankets for registered welfare organisations.

An NPA spokesman said the money was in addition to
the R25 000 pledged by Planning and Provincial Affairs
Minister Hermann Kriel last month.

Fears for SA blood stocks

THE threat of an AIDS epidemic, with patients requiring
long-term transfusion therapy, did not bode well for
the future of SA's blood transfusion services.

A spokesman for the SA Blood Transfusion Service
(SABTS), said at the weekend services were five years
away from disaster.

SABTS senior technological officer Bill Nortman said
increasingly sophisticated surgical techniques — de
manding frequent transfusions — and SA's burgeoning
population were outstripping blood donations.

The SABTS operate on a hand-to-mouth basis with, on
average, a three-day supply of blood. This was adequate
only if no major disaster occurred.

Nortman said the only solution was to encourage the
public to come forward in greater numbers to donate
blood.
Rural poor ‘not mentioned in planning for new SA’

By EDWARD MOLONYANE
Staff Reporter

It was heartbreaking that the rural people who had suffered more under apartheid were not mentioned at all in the talk about the “new South Africa”, Operation Hunger executive director Mrs Ina Perlman said last night.

Speaking at the organisation’s third annual regional meeting at the Methodist Church Hall in Wynberg, she said it was “doubly terrifying” that none of the planners and organisations across the political spectrum were addressing the issue of rural poverty.

“We are concerned about the apparent lack of planning for rural areas in the foreseeable future and wish to highlight this issue. They all claim the future lies in the urban areas and hesitate to touch the rural hot potato,” she said.

“There is, for instance, no mention of rural areas in the R5 billion put aside to eliminate backlogs in the black communities in South Africa.

“Long years of apartheid have come to haunt us and we should not go blindly into the future without proper planning.”

Mrs Perlman noted that no progress could be made without some form of land redistribution to give rural people some economic leverage.

“The migrant labour system, influx control and the Land Acts have meant that rural families had to depend on migrant labour income.

“Money should be made available for the buying of land for the rural people and not wait for appropriation, as in Zimbabwe.”

She said that a rural family of six required a hard cash input of at least R100. However, the average homeland family of six presently lived on R36 a month.

Mrs Perlman said although there was rapid urbanisation 56 percent of blacks lived in the rural areas between 1980 and 1985 and the figure was unlikely to decrease.
Rich should pay for new SA — De Beer

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
SOUTH AFRICA should consider introducing a “reparation tax” on the wealthy to provide additional funds for essential services for the poor, the parliamentary leader of the Democratic Party, Dr Zach de Beer, said yesterday.

Dr De Beer said in an interview that funds for essentials like housing, health and especially education should be paid for, to a greater extent, by “forgoing non-essentials”.

The funds required to provide for growing demands of these essentials could not be met by ordinary borrowing on capital markets.

"Maybe a reparation tax or contributions on a more or less voluntary nature will be required.”

Dr De Beer said that a “silver lining” was that SA was relatively under-borrowed in international terms.

It was of fundamental importance that trust in the new SA be built up. A reparation tax could play an important practical and symbolic role.

"If the rich have to sacrifice, it will be an investment in the future of the country.”

The building of trust among ordinary black people would not be simply achieved by President F W de Klerk talking to the ANC.

“…They want to see an improved quality of life.”

Earlier, Dr De Beer told a fundraising breakfast at a children’s home in Cape Town “Money will have to be found to meet the needs of the poor and there may be a call for some temporary sacrifice by the richer members.”

Demands
Dr De Beer said his greatest fear was that a future government, faced by black demands for housing, health and schools, would “resort to the printing press” to find money.

This could result in galloping inflation.
PORT ELIZABETH. — The plight of children who scavenge for food at a rubbish dump in Port Elizabeth remains unsolved, months after Operation Hunger transferred its assistance scheme from community family feeding to school feeding.

The national deputy director of Operation Hunger, Ms Mpho Mashinini, said the transfer was made because of a lack of funds. The organisation felt people should initiate schemes to help themselves.

Many concerned people are still wondering why the “Etupun” rubbish dump in KwaZakhele, which was closed down in the 70s, is still feeding the children.

Conditions

Children as young as eight, some with their parents, were discovered last week shuffling glue, smoking dagga and tobacco, and living in a dumping area in a tiny cardboard hovel.

It has been home to some for the past five years and their living conditions are worse than those of the “streeturchins” in town. They have no water supply or ablution facilities, but sneak to the taps at the nearby blocks of houses to get water.

Some of the children said, although they had parents living in the townships, they could not stay with them because of overcrowding and poverty. Trucks from firms and warehouses in Port Elizabeth bring refuse and food scraps to the dump.

I found the stench almost unbearable as I watched children stoop to sift through the garbage. One child’s hand was bleeding as he pulled it out of the heap — it had caught hold of some razor blades.

Small children were helping grownups. Women roamed around screeching with harsh voices, a goat was eating whatever it could find. An elderly woman told me: “I feel deeply moved at your presence here.”

She said her problems were beyond solution, and that “we live in mortal sin here”.

They have become known as the people of the dump. Their daily survival depends on the food and useful items they find in the mountain of rubbish dumped at the “Etupun” at KwaZakhele near Port Elizabeth.

To most of them the dump has been “home” for more than five years, reports ZOLA NTUTU:

She said she decided to scavenge for food and “valuables” dumped there after she had been refused a pension to enable her to rent a house and feed her children.

“If the people call this living, they are gravely mistaken,” she added. She appealed to anyone who could come to their aid to do so.

A nine-year-old boy, Dumene, said he was born and had grown in garbage.

He does not know where his parents are and said he stayed there because there was nowhere else to go. He said he sniffed glue because “my body goes through all the motions like a robot, while at the same time my head belongs elsewhere.”

Thembiile, 14, who can read and write, said he left school because his parents never encouraged him to study, instead telling him they had no money. He said he was forced to scavenge for copper to sell in the township.

A 17-year-old boy said: “Do whatever’s in your power to let our voice be heard. It’s a crime that we should be allowed to die like this.”

“We are dying of TB, and we are slowly rotting, but let our children live.” — an old pensioner

Encourage

Not much help appears to be on the way for these desperate children, although the “Liebenhause” (house of love) shelter in Gelsondale hopes to incorporate the street children by raising funds to extend the existing building to offer overnight accommodation to the children.

The shelter, run by social worker Ms Anthea Thompson, currently provides care to 12 children.

Thompson said attempts to encourage the children to come to “Liebenhause” had met with little success. They were “terrestrial” by nature and would not leave their area.

Despite difficulties, a dogged determination to improve the lot of the children and establish a platform to enable them to reintegrate themselves into society is what keeps Thompson going. — PEN
Feeding schemes are best aid for poor

From SVEN LUNSCHEN
Johannesburg — Direct feeding schemes are far more effective way of assisting the poor than indirect food subsidies such as the exemption of food from GST
This is the key finding of a study by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research (BMR), which supports the decision by the government not to exempt food from Value-added Tax (VAT), when the system is introduced next year.

The biggest drawback of general indirect food subsidies is that they benefit all consumers irrespective of their need for aid, says the BMR in its report

Total consumption of those items exempt from GST is estimated by the BMR at about R18.8 billion last year.

At the present GST rate of 13 percent the state's loss of revenue on these items amounted to R2.44 billion, with the biggest share of the subsidy going into meat (R1.04 billion) and vegetables (R0.65 billion), followed only then by the two staple foods, bread (R0.76 billion) and mealie-meal (R0.5 billion).

However, this system is not only the most untargeted of aid systems for the poor, but is also the most costly for the state budget, the BMR argues.

It estimates that 11.8 million, or 40.1 percent of the population, are found to be poor by definition and that this group is responsible for only 17.5 percent of the spending on the exempt food items.

"Fully 82 percent of the indirect food subsidy, therefore, finds its way to the well-to-do," the bureau says.

"Even worse, the number of people in urgent need of nutrition in 1989 is estimated at 1.7 million and the percentage of the indirect food subsidy which benefited them was a pitiful 2.3 percent."

A further consideration is that this programme benefits persons in the middle and lower-income groups the most and perpetuates rather than corrects the unequal distribution of income.

It recommends that the Government shift attention to direct feeding programmes, a proposal which has in principle already been accepted by the authorities.

Using surveys by the World Bank, the BMR suggests that these programmes should be targeted at the most vulnerable people — those exposed to malnutrition.

The BMR is very selective about the target groups and suggests that the nutritional programme should initially be extended only to children under three and to pregnant and nursing women.
Reduce poverty or forego aid — World Bank

WASHINGTON — Third World countries must reduce poverty or face losing World Bank aid, the development body warns in its latest report released yesterday.

The warning follows a study revealing that more than one billion people worldwide live on less than 60 pence a day, the World Bank's poverty line, and is the first such threat by the world's largest development body.

World Bank president Mr Barber Conable said in the report that poverty increased in much of Black Africa and South America in the '80s.

Africa is projected to double its share of the world's poor from 150m people — or 16% — in 1985 to 265m — or 32% — by the end of the century, the report says. In Sub-Saharan Africa, poverty is expected to worsen because of population increases.

These figures contrast with a sharp decline in poverty worldwide, dropping from 1.1bn poor to 825m by the end of the century.

Poverty could be reduced by promoting economic growth through policies that harness market incentives and encourage the private sector. At the same time governments should provide education and health care to ensure that people are skilled and well enough to work, says the report. — Daily Telegraph
Six city children die in cold

By MONICA GRAAFF
and DALE GRANGER

A PENNILESS Ravensmead mother told last night how she could only afford to breastfeed her two five-month-old twins — and the shock of waking one morning this week to find that one had died of malnutrition.

Unemployed Miss Mary-Ann Booise, 19, of Connaught Street, was one of seven mothers on the Cape flats who lost a child in the bitterly cold conditions this week.

‘No food’

Six of the children died of exposure in their homes.

“I had no food. I went to Coloured Affairs for money and they gave me nothing,” Miss Booise said.

In desperation she had taken the father to court, but he had not arrived.

The deserted mother said she had no money to bury the child. She even had to borrow train fare to visit the state mortuary to identify her dead child, which was found by a pathologist to have weighed only two kilograms.

Last night the Cape Times visited the home of Miss Eileen Davids, who also lost a twin, but to exposure.

In a dilapidated row of Ravensmead semi-detached homes there was no electricity or street lights.

Sleeping on a bed were nine-month-old Marshalleen, who survived her twin brother Marshall, and five-year-old Brendan.

The children were only covered with thin towels. A family member said four adults and five children shared two rooms.

In another home, just 200 metres away, Miss Valerie Rooi, 20, said that she had slept with her only child, Devon, aged two months, on Monday night.

She said that at 3am Devon had started crying and had woken her up. “I breast-fed him and he went back to sleep. The next morning he was as cold as ice.”

Assistance

Dr Stewart Fisher, Medical Officer of Health, Western Cape Regional Services Council, said “One regards the situation in which people are forced to live in such circumstances.”

He said he had not come across this number of deaths in one group before.

The House of Representatives could provide assistance if they are aware of the situation,” he said.

A police spokesman said they were investigating the deaths. Negligence dockets had been opened in all seven cases.

WIN DEATH. Ms Mary-Ann Booise cradles her five-month-old baby, Francois, whose twin brother died of malnutrition on Sunday night. Ms Booise has still not been able to bury her son and is trying to borrow R50 for the funeral.

BITTER. Children — (from left) Benjamin Christian, Graham Montjies, Deon Davids, and Jonathan Van Wyk — huddle round the only source of heat outside the Davids' Ravensmead home where nine-month-old Marshalleen died of exposure this week.

Pictures ANNE LAING

ONLY BABY DIES. Ms Valerie Rooi sits dejectedly on the bed where her only child, Devon, who was two months old, died during Sunday night’s bitterly cold spell.
FOOD GIFT: Happiness is shown on the face of Mrs Rosie Lot of Manenberg, centre, as she is handed her weekly food parcel by City Council health department employee Mrs Sylvia Groenewald at Manenberg Clinic.

Thank you, Cape Town, say Relief Fund hungry

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

"THANK you Cape Town, the food really is a big help."

This sums up the gratitude of scores of unemployed people from Cape Town's poverty-stricken suburbs for food parcels provided weekly at municipal clinics through the kindness of contributors to the Argus Food Campaign.

Among the people who milled around an Argus team visiting the Manenberg Clinic yesterday during the distribution of hunger-quelling hampers was Mr Sam Gabriels, 58, a destitute father of two from Helen Court.

He stopped working a year ago because of failing health resulting from cardiac and chest ailments.

His sudden unemployment forced his wife Sophia into part-time charring and she had to support him, their two children Joseph, 12, and Basil, 14, on her small income.

NO EXTRAS

"We barely had enough money for essential foods and had nothing over to buy clothes or pay our rent or our electricity accounts," Mr Gabriels said. "We depend every week on our food parcel and look forward to it. It's not much, but we would have starved long ago without it."

Another regular, Mrs Rosie Lot, 68, a widow of Rhinosaurus Road, Manenberg, smiled excitedly when she opened her parcel and took out a packet of chicken-stew base.

"I'll make stew for my six children and five grandchildren from this," she said.

Mrs Margrieta Speelman, 42, a mother of three who lives in a shack in a yard at First Avenue, Sherwood Park, has regularly queued for her parcel.

"I don't know how I would get by without it," she said.

Meanwhile health department staff in charge of the distribution of food gifts said parcels varied from week to week. The campaign, launched nearly four years ago in association with the Mayor's Relief Fund, has fed more than a million.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, Box 15399, Vlaeburg, 8018, or PO Box 298 Cape Town, 8000. Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office of the MOH at 210 2832.

Destitute father of two
Mr Sam Gabriels of Manenberg gets his food parcel.
Poverty kills 43 babies

By GLYNIS UNDEHILL and DAVE MARRS
AT least 43 newborn babies from the Cape Flats and surrounding areas have died of malnutrition, exposure and poverty-related diseases since January.

New figures disclosed by the Salt River State Mortuary yesterday show a total of 263 deaths among Cape Flats babies under the age of one year in the first half of this year.

The figures emerged yesterday after reports of deaths from exposure of six babies during one of the coldest and wettest winters in several years had the public rallying in support.

Calls from concerned residents flooded the Cape Times switchboard yesterday and Operation Hunger stepped in to establish a special fund to prevent further avoidable deaths.

It took a concerned police captain at the Salt River morgue to highlight the extent of the problem. Station Commander, Captain Johann Jordaan, said he had decided to investigate the records after noticing an alarming pattern developing.

He found that the six exposure deaths already reported are only the tip of the iceberg.

A breakdown reveals that of the 263 babies who died, 24 died of gastro-enteritis, 19 from pneumonia, 40 from cut deaths, 79 from natural causes (a "good percentage" believed to be unrecorded cut deaths), and the rest from tuberculosis, heart defects and other ailments.

"Horrified" leaders accused the Western Cape Regional Services Council of being "indirectly responsible" for the six exposure deaths after failing to act when repeatedly told of "inhuman living conditions".

A social worker and assistant secretary of the Ravensmead/Mitchells Civic Association (RMC), Mr Gerhard Kitzler said the council had been three memorandums that listed the problems and needs of the community.

The latest communication of March 19 from the council had specifically mentioned the "row houses" of Connemara Road and connection Street — where babies have since died of malnutrition and exposure.

The memorandum warned of "serious health problems" in the row houses.

It emphasised the need for the homes to be upgraded and for ceilings, plumbing and electricity to be installed, as well as for the block drainage systems and stormwater drains to be repaired.

Western Cape RSC chief executive officer, Mr Chris Moke, declined to comment on the situation until Monday.

A visit to the area by the Cape Times and Operation Hunger's regional director, Mrs Roselle Frisco, revealed large pools of water in the rubbish-strewn streets.

The houses where two tiny exposure victims had died did not have ceilings and stains showed where rain water had run down the inside of the walls.

A soup kitchen is to be established in the area. Yesterday food parcels were distributed to two mothers who have lost babies through exposure. Both have a surviving twin to feed.

Mr and Mrs Mary-Anne Boasie of Brackenfell who have three children, said they "could not cope with all this."

"It's a state of confusion for us and I'm not sure where one turns for help."

Mrs Boasie said that they had not been given any compensation or help for the double tragedy.

Mr Jordaan said it was "unbearable" to think that "the mother of a new life" is the same as "the mother of a dead baby."

"One is not saying that there is no need for a soup kitchen. It is simply a problem that we are not able to solve."

Mr Moke said the "inhuman living conditions" in the row houses were not a problem that could be solved by the RSC alone.

"The housing in Salt River has been neglected for a long time."

He added that he would write to the Salt River council and the provincial government on the problem.

Local MP, Mr Joseph Jordan, said he would also write to the council as he had "heard of the problem before."

Mr Jordan said: "There is a problem with malnutrition and I am not sure if the RSC is doing enough."
Steps taken against child death rate

By PETER DENNEHY

DEATHS of children under five years of age whose bodies are sent to the state mortuary in Salt River are to be reported daily, rather than weekly, to the office of the Medical Officer of Health (MoH) concerned.

This was said yesterday by Professor Deon Knobel, head of the department of forensic medicine at the University of Cape Town medical school and head of the pathologists at the mortuary.

He said this step had been agreed upon after a spate of mid-winter children’s deaths, reported last week by the Cape Times.

Dr Michael Popkess and Dr Stewart Fisher, MoHs of the City Council and the RSC respectively, will continue to report children’s deaths to local clinics as they have been doing for years, albeit on a weekly basis, so that social workers can do house visits.

“We are all concerned about the high rate of infant mortality,” Prof. Knobel said. “To address this problem, one of the things we must do is ensure that bereaved families get both social and psychological support.”

Dr Popkess said yesterday that final infant mortality rate figures for Cape Town municipality in the year ending June 1990 were not yet available, but indications were that these would be the lowest yet.

In 1987/88 the figure (for all races) was 19.29 per 1 000 live births, and last year it was 18.32.

A spokesman for Dr Fisher’s office said the RSC infant mortality rate for the year just ended was also not yet available, but he added that in the years 1986 to 1989, the coloured figures had been respectively 21, 18, 18, and 19 deaths per 1 000 live births.

Another measure being taken within Prof Knobel’s department was that preventable natural deaths were being separated from cases of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or “cot deaths”, in an ongoing research project. Detailed forms are to be filled in respect of cot deaths.

Usually, bodies go to the state mortuary in Salt River only in cases of death from unnatural or unknown causes. This would account to some extent for the relatively high “cot death” figures reported from the mortuary — 40 so far this year.

Some of the babies who had died this winter had not been completely healthy — they had suffered from colds and diarrhoea. Prof. Knobel said the causes of malnourishment — poverty and ignorance — were also being looked at, he said.

Community nursing services could help to alleviate ignorance, especially concerning recognition of the symptoms of illness, Prof. Knobel said.
10 Flats babies die

Poverty, cot death takes toll

Professor Deon Knoel, head of the department of forensic medicine at the University of Cape Town medical school and head of pathology at the state mortuary in Salt River, said a survey was being done to see what percentage of the babies had died in bad living conditions or under the optimal weight.

A spokesman for the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Cape Regional Services Council described claims that the RSC was "indirectly responsible" for the deaths of babies in the area because they failed to act on warnings of bad conditions, as "a distortion of the facts".

Meanwhile, a group of concerned Cape Flats residents have obtained a fund-raising number and appealed to the business community to "keep the fund alive" as a long-term solution to the problem.

And Operation Hunger has moved to save other babies in the area who have been identified as being at risk due to poor living conditions and malnutrition, or whose parents have little or no income.
Most dead city babies ‘underweight’

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

MOST of the 263 dead babies brought to the Salt River state mortuary over the past six months were underweight.

Professor Dean Knobel, head of pathology at the mortuary, said a “large percentage” were 20% to 40% under the optimum weight “Provisional studies indicate that most of these children may be under the expected weight applied by the Institute of Child Health and the child health clinics,” he said yesterday.

Statistics from the mortuary have shown that 241 babies under the age of 12 months died in the first six months of 1989.

Professor Knobel said he could not say what percentage of the babies last year had died weighing less than the optimum weight.

The apparent increase in the number of cot deaths in 1989 and the increase in the number of autopsies performed this year were the result of

stringent diagnostic procedures taken to try to separate cot deaths from broncho-pneumonia.

“In a young child it is sometimes very difficult on naked eye examination of the lungs to differentiate between congested lungs often seen in cot deaths and the hardening of the lungs seen in early broncho-pneumonia,” he said.

Professor Knobel said a survey was under way to determine what percentage of the babies had died this year in poor living conditions or under the optimum weight.

City businessman Mr Marco van Embden has donated R50 000 worth of blankets to the Mayoress’s Fund for distribution to needy children.

He said yesterday: “It has been one of the severest winters for many years. When one is in the fortunate position of being warm oneself, it makes you all the more conscious of the damp cold and misery which is the lot of so many.”
Growing support for Trust

By DANNY STREEK

The new Independent Development Trust (IDT) has received widespread support, including from the ANC, PAC and Inkatha, but it would be completely independent, its chairman, Mr Jan Steyn, disclosed yesterday.

The trust, which intends to announce its first projects in squatter areas and rural and industrial areas by the end of August, would be independent of both the government and political groupings, Mr Steyn emphasised at a press conference.

The fact that he had a board of directors to approve the trust's decisions and that it would be a trust in South Africa,

The extent of support that he won was reflected in the decision by the National Executive of the National Democratic Front to table a resolution at the national conference of the National Democratic Front.

Mr Steyn said yesterday he had consulted widely with leaders in the ANC, IFP, NPC and PAC,

A list of those who have endorsed the new trust includes the following:

- President of the National Democratic Front
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R2-bn trust fund begins its work

By JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

THE first projects to benefit from the R2 billion set aside by the government to promote development of South Africa's "very poor" could be getting assistance by the end of this month.

This was announced yesterday at a press conference in Cape Town by Mr Jan Steyn, chairman of the Independent Development Trust established to manage the fund.

The R2 billion had already been paid to the trust and was earning interest, he said.

Mr Steyn also announced the names of trustees, who include prominent black leaders, academicians and businessmen. They were all "caring South Africans" who had some experience or knowledge of development, Mr Steyn said.

They are businessman Mr Len Abrahamse, child health expert Dr Jerry Coovadia of Natal University, accountant Dr Len Konar of the University of Durban-Westville, president of the South African Institute for Race Relations the Rev Dr Stanley Mogoba, retired industrialist Mr Johan Moelman, chairman of the African Bank and Nafoco president Dr Sam Motsuenyane, consulting engineer Mr Patrick Naylor, University of Cape Town social anthropologist Dr Harriet Ngubane, fellow, UCT academic Dr Mamphlele Ramphale, University of Transkei principal Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, Barlow Rand and Urban Foundation chairman Mr Mike Rosholu, SA Perm building society managing director Mr Bob Tucker, and Human Sciences Research Council president Dr Tjaart Van der Walt.

Mr Steyn said everyone in South Africa recognised that "political reconstruction must be accompanied by meaningful socio-economic reconstruction".

The new trust was specifically directed at redressing some of the damage done by "an unacceptable heritage of unequal opportunities", he said.

The trust had already been inundated with requests for financial assistance and Mr Steyn appealed to organisations not to apply at this stage.

The trustees met yesterday to start formulating a policy and would meet again before the end of the month to complete this, Mr Steyn said.

The trust would be "action-oriented" with only a small administrative structure.

President De Klerk had stated that the government had no intention of creating a new bureaucracy and wanted a fully independent, broad-based, community-oriented structure.

Replying to a question, he said the trust had been discussed with "virtually every political organisation that could possibly have a significant interest in what we're undertaking".

There had included the ANC, PAC, Mass Democratic Movement, UDF, Azapo, business leaders and organised commerce and industry, and "established structures", such as central, provincial and regional authorities.

The trust would not be ethically-oriented.

"Poverty knows no ethnic barriers and this trust is not directed at a particular population group, but it's common knowledge that the overwhelming majority of poor are people of colour," Mr Steyn said.

He warned there were no instant solutions to the problems of poverty.

"We will not even attempt to provide immediate relief in the form of handouts, which are destructive of the goal of self-reliance and restoration of human dignity."
School drop-out shock

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — There are three million black children out of school and poverty forces nearly 660,000 to quit each year. A quarter of the drop-outs are in grade one.

These were just some of the findings of a 30-month study into the black education crisis in South Africa undertaken by Market Research Africa, Markiter and Integrated Marketing Research (IMR) on behalf of the Third Alternative — a group of concerned businessmen. About 10,000 people were canvassed during the 3.6 million study, sponsored by 75 South African corporations. Third Alternative convener and Integrated Marketing Research managing director Mr. Teddy Langschmidt said the findings painted a bleak picture of inequality, poverty and wasted human potential. The education system was failing even more desperately than its harshest critics realised, he said.

Only 25% of black adults were found to have a post-matric qualification, said Mr. Langschmidt, while about 24% of black adults had had no schooling at all.

Mr. Langschmidt said education was a critical dynamic, correlating directly with income. For example, 20% of black adults with post-matric qualifications were running their own businesses compared to 1% of those with no or minimal education. Less than 1% of blacks are in managerial positions and 60% were not working at all.

In view of education's critical importance it was disturbing that 30% of black households did not have a single book. 86% of homes with children had no electricity, only 5% of pupils had their own desk or table to study at and only 20% had a quiet place to study.

Mr. Langschmidt said the existing number of schools and teachers could accommodate only 20% of black pupils to matric level. About 68% of Department of Education and Training (DEAT) schools were primary schools and 75% were farm schools.

The number of teachers would have to more than double from 180,000 to 367,000 by the year 2000. While education levels among teachers had improved, about a third of teachers at black schools still do not have a matric certificate.

Mr. Langschmidt said any solution to the education crisis would have to be firmly rooted in the community. The research would hopefully provide a rallying point for the formation of an education alliance between communities, businesses and educationists, he said.

There was widespread consensus that the political underpinning of the education crisis could not be ignored if a permanent solution was to be found. Most people interviewed saw a single, national, non-racial education system as essential to make equal education compulsory from a young age.

While 87% of blacks wanted integrated schooling, 47% of whites — 75% of English-speakers and 26% of Afrikaans — said they would accept mixed schools.

English would clearly be the language of education in a new SA, said Mr. Langschmidt, with nearly 50% of black parents and 55% of black pupils and teachers preferring tuition mainly or exclusively in English.
School drop-out shock

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — There are three million black children out of school and poverty forces nearly 660 000 to quit each year. A quarter of the drop-outs are in grade one.

These were just some of the findings of a 30-month study into the black education crisis in South Africa undertaken by Market Research Africa, Markmore and Integrated Marketing Research (IMR) on behalf of the Third Alternative — a group of concerned businessmen. About 10 000 people were canvassed during the R46 000 study, sponsored by 75 South African corporations.

Third Alternative convener and Integrated Marketing Research managing director Mr. Teddy Langschmidt said the findings painted a bleak picture of inequality, poverty and wasted human potential. The education system was failing even more desperately than its harshest critics realised, he said.

Only 23% of black adults were found to have a post-matric qualification, said Mr. Langschmidt, while about 24% of black adults had had no schooling at all.

Mr. Langschmidt said education was a critical dynamic, correlating directly with income. For example, 20% of black adults with post-matric qualifications were running their own businesses compared to 1% of those with no or minimal education. Less than 1% of blacks are in managerial positions and 80% were not working at all.

In view of education's critical importance, it was disturbing that 30% of black households did not have a single book, 83% of homes with children had no electricity, only 5% of pupils had their own desk or table to study at and only 20% had a quiet place to study.

Mr. Langschmidt said the existing number of schools and teachers could accommodate only 20% of black pupils to matric level. About 92% of Department of Education and Training (DET) schools were primary schools and 73% were farm schools.

The number of teachers would have to more than double from 180 000 to 457 000 by the year 2000. While education levels among teachers had improved, about a third of teachers at black schools still do not have a matric certificate.

Mr. Langschmidt said any solution to the education crisis would have to be firmly rooted in the community. The research would hopefully provide a rallying point for the formation of an education alliance between communities, businesses and educationists, he said.

There was widespread consensus that the political underpinning of the education crisis could not be ignored if a permanent solution was to be found. Most people interviewed saw a single, national, non-racial education system as essential to make equal education compulsory from a young age.

While 87% of blacks wanted integrated schooling, 47% of whites — 75% of English speakers and 3% of Afrikaans — said they would accept mixed schools.

English would clearly be the language of education in a new SA, said Mr. Langschmidt, with nearly 56% of black parents and 38% of black pupils and teachers preferring tuition mainly or exclusively in English.
FOR South Africa to bring all those people who are below the Poverty Datum Line (PDL) above it a growth rate of 10 percent a year will be needed for 20 years, says Mr Clem Sunter, chairman of Anglo American Property Services.

"Although only a few countries have achieved such high rates of growth over such a long period, we believe SA has a natural growth rate of 10 percent. Our strengths are our excellent infrastructure, our mineral resources, the natural beauty of our country and our people."

Mr Sunter continued: "The key to unlock the door is a negotiated settlement. South Africa is now moving towards the high road but the irony is that when a country moves into transition it is at its most vulnerable. The odds of us moving into the low road (and negotiations breaking down) are increasing. The wheels could come off the country in terms of law and order."

"What we do not need is a black or a white messiah. Our future will be decided by ordinary people. Most successful countries lack a strong leader. To be a winning nation a way must be found to turn ordinary people into champions," Mr Sunter said.
NEW YORK - The world's most powerful people will give their attention to the weakest at the World Summit for Children next month. Heads of State of 60 countries have agreed to meet at UN headquarters on September 29-30 to discuss ways of improving the lot of millions of children whose lives are threatened by poverty, disease or malnutrition.

Officials of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is organising the summit. James Grant, executive director of UNICEF, said he hoped it would produce global acceptance of the idea that children have a "first call" on society's resources.

He urged the national leaders to establish such goals for the 1990s as immunising 80 percent of all children; reducing the number of children who die before age five by one-third, to 70 deaths per 1,000 live births, and providing safe drinking water for every child.

Sapa-Reuter
R5 000 from company helps boost fund’s dwindling reserves

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

A R5 000 cheque from Grinaker Projects and a trickle of other gifts from readers have boosted the fast-dwindling reserves of the Argus Food Campaign.

City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss thanked readers for their gifts.

He paid special tribute to Grinaker for its contribution — the largest in months from a business firm.

"All donations, no matter how small, are gratefully received."

FOOD PARCELS

Municipal treasury staff said gifts totalling R7 610 in the past fortnight had boosted reserves to R40 306.83 this week. Payments on bulk food purchases had reduced funds to R32 016.83 at the end of July.

The distribution of food parcels at clinics of the City Council’s health department had topped the 500 000 mark.

The campaign, launched about three years ago in association with the Mayor’s Relief Fund to alleviate the effects of unemployment, has fed more than a million hungry mouths.

The latest gifts sent are Grinaker projects, R5 000; R100 each from two city councillors, Mrs Isobel Edlestein and Mr Ian Iversen, who instructed treasury staff in August to deduct R100 from their monthly allowances in "retrospect" from January; the Lions Club of Bergvliet, R60; G D Liddle, R300; Wendy Kaplan of Camps Bay, R100; J Sadie, R100; J W Struik of the Gardens; Mrs Peter Carlsen, R50; Mr P van der Leek of Hout Bay, R50; B H Petty of Somerset West, R50; J Broomhead, R50; J E Craik of Sea Point, R25; E M Fish of Wynberg, R25; B H Winter of Rondebosch, R25; J W C Stephenson, R20; anonymous R20; S de Jong, R10; E A Mor of Fish Hoek, R10; Mrs J Abramowitz, R10; and anonymous, R10.

Dr Popkiss said only the most genuine and deserving cases were helped.

In winter, food was distributed to a total of 6 444 families at the rate of up 26 tons a week.

MORE NEEDED

To minimize expenditure the distribution of food had been reduced by seven percent and the number of aid distribution centres had been reduced from 24 to 18.

Although generous Argus readers had rallied to recent appeals for help, many more donations were needed to help the fund.

- Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, Box 15359, Vlissingen 8018, or Box 298 Cape Town 8000.
- Cheques should be made out to the Mayor’s Relief Fund and offered to the MOH’s office at 210 2282.
Fund keeps babies alive

Staff Report

MORE than 700 malnourished babies from Khayelitsha are being kept alive by milk provided by the 'Save The Children Fund.'

'The high poverty is due to unemployment and overpopulation I've seen no neglect in Khayelitsha,' said Mrs. Rose Anne Wilson.

The Fund has offered to feed 20 malnourished children identified by Operation Hunger for a month.
Sacob poverty paper due soon

PETER DELMAH

A SACOB strategy report on ways to overcome poverty and inequality would probably be released within weeks, director-general Raymond Parsons said yesterday.

He predicted that the document was likely to make a significant contribution towards the economic/political debate on redistribution and economic systems.

The "substantial" report was being compiled by a task force of economists and businessmen. It would have to be approved by Sacob structures and members before publication.

Despite signals that it was prepared to reconsider its nationalisation policies, Parsons said the report would not be aimed specifically at the ANC.
Education 'the key to birth control'

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent...

ONE in every three of South Africa's 15 million women is completely illiterate, the Minister of Health and Population Development, Dr Ima Venter, said yesterday.

This high illiteracy rate among women was one of the major factors hampering population control, improved living standards and development programmes in South Africa, she said.

Speaking on the role of women in population development at a symposium in Bloemfontein, Dr Venter said these illiterate women were not equipped to educate their children or to increase their awareness of health care and the need for proper nutrition. Dr Venter said there was a close relationship between population growth and quality of life.

The fact that many women in South Africa, particularly in the rural areas, had not attended school or had a poor educational grounding had a strong effect on their abilities to make decisions concerning financial matters, careers for their children and child spacing, she said.

Dr Venter noted that although significant changes had taken place regarding the role of women since World War II, the majority of the 800 million people worldwide living in the greatest poverty were women and children.

"Households where women play the leading role have increased in the developing world from 16% to 35% in the past 25 years. "The poverty in these households is higher than in any other type of household and is aggravated by a high birth rate."

Dr Venter said this "vicious circle of poverty" from generation to generation had become a major problem in South Africa. In certain rural areas women still had eight or more children, she said.

Dr Venter appealed to women to support the Population Development Programme and to become involved in projects for the improvement of the quality of life of other women.
Army of destitute Afrikaners march

THOUSANDS of destitute and near-destitute Afrikaner families are waging an increasingly desperate battle for survival in the Witwatersrand Province.

The Afrikaner conservative leader, Mrs Martie Herlitzius, believes that the present-day poverty amongst Afrikanerdom "is rapidly reaching the 1930 Depression level again."

And Professor J. B. Burchinall of the Transvaal Youth Trust confirmed that "thousands of disadvantaged white children are growing additional daily meals at the TED schools because they can't get food at home."

These impoverished Afrikaners are unemployed or semi-employed maids, housewives and working-class families with small children, hundreds of pensionless ex-servicemen, and thousands of other Afrikaners whose incomes are not high enough to cover any substantial food bills.

Many of these "unemployed" families have no better-off relatives to fall back on, and they cope for the same jobs with working-class blacks in the city.

Pride and disentchantment

Moreover, especially the younger Afrikaner man can only hold temporary work in organizations affected by strikes of black workers or security guards.

But these Afrikaners are no longer just victims of laws and organizations run by other race groups, but they are run without State aid.

The Afrikaner Weerstandsraad, the Boer_lon Parish, and Mrs Martie Herlitzius, leader of the Afrikaner Farmers' Union, the Transvaal Agricultural Union, and even the V redelander Kaffie Koosmeat are all involved, in their way, in trying to help alleviate welfare schemes.

Spectrum

In response to a growing need, after individuals and groups, especially in the rural end of the spectrum, made their own efforts, the spectrum industries and their own resources the closer to things that are most needed and most appreciated that are the core of the spectrum industries and their own resources.

For instance, the Transvaal Agricultural Union and its members spontaneously volunteered donations in the form of cash, food and clothing to help destitute and near-destitute families.

The Afrikaner and South Africa's problem is not an economic one, but a human one, and the spectrum industries are at the forefront of the battle to help these families.

The Afrikaner is a hardy people, and they will continue to fight until the day they win.

Jobless and hungry "nearing levels of 19"

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inclining ‘needing levels of 1933 depression’

Despairing Queues. Be it for a job that few really want, or food, you gladly wait your turn.

The Afrikaner women who fetch soap for their families also attend services at this catholic church, as they believe in the power of the mass. The dustbin on the side of the road is full of garbage.

They do not have any proper clothing because they have sold all of their belongings. They are all wearing the same clothes.

Mrs. Petersen, the manager of the hotel where they stay, said that she never had such a problem before.

The workers are all unemployed because of the economic crisis. They are all living in贫困 and their families are suffering.

Divide. "Our church is no longer in touch with the families of the poor. Our charity is a lot less than five years ago."

The main stream Afrikaner church has a reduced "poverty problem" but the majority of Afrikaners still live in poverty. The government has not done much to help the unemployed.

The Afrikaner workers are also feeling the effects of the economic crisis. They are all living in poverty and their families are suffering.

The newspaper "The Rand Daily Mail" reported an "economic crisis" in the country. Many Afrikaners are feeling the effects of the economic crisis.

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Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICA had one of the fastest-growing crime rates in the world and more than 50% of white households have guns, two workers for Nicro (National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders), Ms Heather Regenass and Ms Theresa Wilson, said at the weekend.

And with the highest prison population in the Western World, only a complete overhaul of the South Africa socio-political scene would begin to address the problem, they told the Five Freedoms Forum conference on "South Africa at a Turning Point: Negotiations and the Future".

They said statistics in the latest report of the Commissioner of Police showed that armed robbery was up 17.5% and in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area, where there were 8,773 cases of armed robbery in 1989, the increase was 34.6%.

Murder had increased by 9.5% and South Africa had an average of more than 32 murders a day.

Public violence had increased by 121%. In the first six months of this year 1,591 people had died in political violence compared with 1,403 for 1989.

"A common trend which runs through much of the current violence is that most victims are black.

"In our white communities, people are arming themselves for protection."

The daily average prison population, the highest in the Western World, was 110,000, and the daily over-population was 20,000.

"Pundits in many fields link crime to poverty. The correlation between low income, poor or bad housing and low social status and delinquency has been proved conclusively."

Poverty triggered crime against property, such as housingbreaking, theft, robbery and muggings.

"A lost generation of youth accepts violence and killing as everyday township life and they say death or jail as inevitable."

"People need to be given a future. They need to be empowered to influence political developments and ultimately direct the course of their lives without resorting to violence."

"We have to do something while there is still a chance. Don't wait until there is nothing worth saving," Ms Regenass and Ms Wilson said.
Survival battle for Afrikaner families

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Thousands of destitute and near-destitute Afrikaner families are waging an increasingly desperate battle for survival in the Witwatersrand-Pretoria-Brits region.

Afrikaner conservative leader Mrs Martie Hertzog (widow of the late founder-leader of the Herstigte Nasionale Party Dr Albert Hertzog) believes the poverty in Afrikanerdom "is rapidly reaching the 1933 Depression level again".

Newly impoverished

And, Professor Ben Barkhuizen of the Transvaal Youth Trust confirms that "thousands of disadvantaged white children are given additional daily meals at school because they can't get food at home".

These newly impoverished people are unemployed or semi-employed middle-class and working-class families with small children, hundreds of penniless ex-farmers, but also middle-class pensioners whose incomes cannot keep up with galloping inflation.

Many of these "new poor whites" with their "nuclear-sized families" have no better-off relatives to fall back on, nor can they compete for the same jobs with working-class blacks in the cities.

The younger Afrikaner men can only find temporary work at organisations afflicted by strikes of black workers — or become policemen, soldiers or security guards.

Out of a mixture of pride and disenchantment with what many call "Afrikaner elitism" in the government and the main-stream Afrikaner churches, the new breed of Afrikaner poor rarely bother to confront the red tape involved in applying for the several-hundred rand monthly welfare payouts.

Instead they "make do", exactly as tens-of-thousands did before the NP's former Afrikaner-Nationalist policies gave them government jobs after 1948 — they sell their cottage crafts at street stalls, do manual labour, plumbing, odd repair and painting jobs, collect scrap metal, fix cars and roofs.

To supplement their meagre food intake, their families often eat at the Operation Hunger or Transvaal Education Department soup kitchens and feeding schemes run by churches.

Welfare schemes

Welfare schemes are supported or run by numerous organisations and people including the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, the Boerestaat Party and even ex-boxer Kalie Knoetze.

While figures were difficult to obtain, most spokesmen of these bodies estimated that thousands of Afrikaner families must already be living in dire circumstances on agricultural holdings and in urban and suburban communities.

They have not yet turned to illegal squatting, but usually are classic "byowners" — occupying camping caravans, rooms, shanties or garages on the properties of more fortunate friends or relatives.
THE Community Chest of the Western Cape has doubled its fund-raising target to R10 million for the year to March 31 in response to a dramatic surge in welfare needs.

Mr. Dick Canne, chairman of the Chest's allocation committee, said the target of R5 million had been distributed among 256 organisations.

"The Chest is now supporting 300 organisations, from Port Nolloth in the west across the Boland to Plett in the east, with grants ranging from R40 to R222,000 a year.

"So far this year the Chest has already allocated R6.2 million with the rapid flow of new applications and the rate of urbanisation, even our new target looks insignificant.

"Because of the urgency of the situation, the Chest has enlisted the support of a strategic planning task force to assess needs and identify the best methods of securing additional funds."

Mr. Keith Bewick, chairman of the Chest, says the task force's plans will be released within the next few weeks.

"We hope to avoid any cutbacks or rejections of support for existing and potential Chest welfare organisations, but unless we achieve the funds we need, this appears imminent."
Holomisa: Poverty breeds violence.
Economic performance ‘must be measured against poverty’

PRETORIA — Poverty is rampant and 40% of the adult population is substantially unemployed, SA Perm chairman Bob Tucker said yesterday.

Speaking at a Morality in the Market Place conference organised by Unisa’s Institute for Theological Research, Tucker said this was one of the realities against which the country’s economic and business performance had to be judged.

He said fewer than 40% of black urban families could afford a house of more than R12 000. More than a million families were inadequately housed.

There were often three patients to each bed in the Baragwanath Hospital.

Another reality was that of each 1 000 black children entering school — “and we don’t know how many aren’t” — only 100 would write matric and of those, 50 would fall outright, 35 would get a school-leaving certificate and 15 would get a university entrance. Yet 40% of all university students today were black.

Tucker said there was a gross maldistribution of everything from jobs to education and from wealth to managerial positions.

“Enlightened management have responded by questioning whether business does not have some broader responsibility to the community than the maximisation of profits,” he said.

The Sullivan and other programmes had been significant in questioning this responsibility. Tucker said one of the challenges “in our daily lives is to reconcile the absolute injunction to walk in the way of God’s statutes yet in a materialistic environment permeated by the apparently contradictory profit motive.”

If the business mission was viewed as not being the maximisation of monetary gain but progression through worshipping God and serving fellow men, a much more integrated approach would be adopted.

“We would then regard our staff as a key resource and not a cost of production, and the end of profit would not justify the means,” he said.
A spot of warmth in grey and wintry Khayelitsha

By LIBBY PEACOCK
Staff Reporter

Life seems grim in grey and wintry Khayelitsha, but at the Missionary of Charity there are smiling faces and children playing — in spite of the cold.

It is Tuesday afternoon and Sister Ishkripa — one of the six sari-clad nuns devoting their lives to Khayelitsha’s needy and hungry — is distributing food to a line of residents, mainly women.

These women represent the 690 mouths fed by the Missionary of Charity every week. No cooked food is distributed, but mainly dry hampers, including vegetables and bread.

“DREADFUL CONDITIONS”

The mission was founded by Nobel Prize winner Mother Theresa when she visited Cape Town in November 1965.

The six sisters from all corners of the world — Sister Audrey, Sister Bethany, Sister Concessa, Sister Kalpash, Sister Gustavo Maria and Sister Ishkripa — are bringing understanding, comfort and help to the destitute of this area.

As the sisters work without any regular income, they depend on the public for food and other necessities.

“These people live in dreadful conditions. Water seeps up from the ground into their houses when it rains like this. We have also seen the results of the violence — families who fled from their homes. We try to help and be kind,” said Sister Audrey, the Superior of the missionary.

She said she was still “very much in contact” with Mother Theresa. “She is always available for us — in fact, available for everybody.”

The mission comprises a chapel, the sisters’ living quarters, a dispensary, a work centre and a hosepipe housing about 22 people, including seven children.

A new children’s centre, which will be able to hold at least 24 severely retarded children, will be ready in December.

“We are just waiting for another sister, possibly from India, to help us in the new centre,” Sister Audrey said.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: A smiling Sister Ishkripa distributes sweets to some of the children who benefit from the twice-weekly feeding scheme at the Missionary of Charity in Khayelitsha.

Although the Missionary of Charity already offers relief to many people, the sisters appreciate any gifts of food, such as mealie-meal and powdered soup, to help with the feeding programme. Chairs, tables and cupboards for the new children’s centre and flower pots for the garden are also needed.

Anyone wishing to help or wanting further information can contact Sister Audrey at PO Box 155, Khayelitsha, or at 361 3355. People interested in becoming co-workers can contact Mrs Lorna Peart at 72 1918.
Academics help ease plight of poor

Although it is

Experts

"Explain that in South Africa, the government's role is to address the root causes of poverty and inequality. It needs to invest in education, health, and housing to ensure that all South Africans have access to quality services. The government should also work towards creating job opportunities and developing a strong entrepreneurial spirit."
Plea for strategy to uplift the poor

South Africa needed a national development strategy to combat poverty so that the energy and resourcefulness of the poor could be mobilised. Urban Foundation chief executive officer D.L. van Coller said yesterday.

Addressing a National Council for Child and Family Welfare symposium, he said formulating a development strategy to bring about socioeconomic upliftment of South Africans required difficult choices.

Mr van Coller said some believed there had to be a nonracial democracy before development, but in reality this was not the case.

The housing crisis was one of the first challenges that had to be met.

"It is within the capability of our present society to embark on a housing strategy which will ensure that low-income families gain access to a serviced site where health and safety are secure," he said. — Sapa
Oxfam plans R5m in aid to region

Own Correspondent

LONDON — Oxfam, the mass British charity, hopes to raise R5 million for projects in South and Southern Africa in a campaign over the next few months.

A spokesman said the campaign would start with an “Oxfam Week” in London from Saturday, September 29 to October 6 involving street and door-to-door collections.

It will culminate with a sponsored fast on November 2, 3 and 4.

A number of celebrities have been invited to support the event, which has enjoyed the participation in the past of Glenda Jackson, Julie Christie, Michael Palin and DJ Lenny Henry.

The spokesman said that between 1986 and 1989 Oxfam spent nearly R50m on war-related relief programmes in Mozambique alone.

"In the coming year the region will receive one-fifth of Oxfam's total worldwide grant spending."

She said the fast would "draw attention to the lives of ordinary men, women and children in the front-line states and South Africa. Throughout the year, Oxfam has been focusing on the plight of ordinary people living in the front-line countries in Southern Africa whose lives have been severely affected by apartheid, war, inappropriate aid and government policies, and the mounting debt crisis." The funds would go to projects aimed at helping the "millions of people in South Africa and the front-line countries (who) live in crippling poverty caused by circumstances beyond their control."

She added that tens of thousands of children in the region "die before their first birthday."
Heavy penalties for failure

The prospects of SA's full acceptance to the international fold are now far better than before, says British ambassador Sir Robin Renwick.

Addressing the 10th annual meeting of Operation Hunger in Johannesburg yesterday, Renwick said SA's acceptance to the international community included regaining access to the international financial institutions.

SA, with its explosive population growth and ever-increasing unemployment rate, had little time left to bury apartheid, Renwick said, but he cautioned that SA was not able to resolve its economic and demographic problems without assistance from the international community.

'Africa-weary' — What was needed in SA and the rest of Africa was an inflow of investment, which would turn the continent's economic fortunes around, he said.

However, no amount of external help would help if self-defeating policies were pursued, Renwick warned.

"The world is in danger of becoming Africa-weary since, as a result of demographic pressures and mistaken policies, there are few parts of the continent in which there is much prospect of a real increase in living standards in the coming years."

No British investments would be forthcoming if the negotiation process, which had been started in SA, failed.

"The penalty of failure will fall most heavily, as it usually does, on the poorest of the poor," Renwick said.

Referring to the recent violence in the townships, Renwick said that while government had to take the main responsibility for dealing with violence, all political parties and leaders should play their part in helping to bring it to an end.

"Britain is convinced that there can be progress towards agreement on the basic principles governing a future constitution — including commitments to a multi-party democracy, independence of the judiciary, freedom of the Press and a justiciable bill of rights," he said.

He added that his government hoped that the Land Acts would be scrapped in next year's Parliament.

"This will remove a major grievance in the minds and hearts of black South Africans," Renwick said.

The British government would be increasing its assistance to Operation Hunger, Renwick told the meeting.

"The British government has the highest regard for the work of Operation Hunger, which it believes to be the most effective channel of assistance to people in the rural areas."

"The organisation also makes an indispensable contribution to the welfare of people in the squatter camps and of the large numbers of refugees in Gazankulu and KaNgwane," Renwick said.
Shoes for hunger charity

A PAIR of Bruce Fordyce’s running shoes have netted more than R400 for Operation Hunger.

Shoes of celebrities were auctioned this week at the launch of a nationwide campaign to encourage people to donate their shoes in aid of Operation Hunger.

An ordinary pair of singer Cliff Richard’s old shoes fetched R300. Yvonne Chaka Chaka won a prize for wearing the most outrageous shoes and her old pair sold for R150.

The campaign.

By PEARL MAJOLA

mounted by Cuthberts, will run until Saturday September 29. The public is invited to donate their old shoes to Cuthberts stores during this period.

Old shoes which are still in good condition will be distributed to the needy via Operation Hunger’s countrywide shops.

Those in a state of disrepair will be forwarded to community self-help schemes for refurbishment and resale.

Your old shoes could be worth R20 if you choose to buy new ones from Cuthberts’ latest Spring collection.

This year Operation Hunger celebrates its 10th anniversary. To mark the occasion they have launched a fund-raising event with a difference, calling all celebrities to donate artwork by themselves.

Contributions poured in from Raymond Ackerman, Nelson Mandela, Aggrey Klaasen, Miriam Makeba, Mamphela Ramphela, Eddie Murphy, Harry Belafonte, Margaret Thatcher and Francois Pillerand.

The works were auctioned and the proceeds went to Operation Hunger.

According to executive director Mrs Ina Pillerand this year the organisation is feeding 1.4 million people and needs to raise R27 million for this financial year.

“In 1980, 55 percent of all deaths in the black community were of children under five years. By 1986 that figure had dropped to 26 percent.

If we do not reach our financial target, the deaths could again go sky high.”
WHITE FAMILIES SLIDING DOWN INTO POVERTY

AS the cost of living continues to spiral out of control, many white families are sliding down the ladder towards poverty.

One of the problems that families in the province are faced with is that they are not able to support themselves financially. Many have to rely on government assistance and charities to make ends meet.

In some cases, families are forced to sell their belongings or go without basic necessities like food and clothing. This is particularly true for families with elderly members who may not be able to work.

Another problem faced by families is the lack of affordable housing. Rent prices have skyrocketed, making it difficult for families to find suitable and affordable accommodation.

Furthermore, the cost of education, healthcare, and other basic services continues to rise, putting a strain on family budgets. Many families are forced to choose between paying for these services or providing for their basic needs.

The government has introduced various programs to help families in need, but these may not be enough to meet everyone's needs. Many families are still struggling to make ends meet and are forced to make difficult choices every day.

In conclusion, the problem of poverty is a complex issue that requires a holistic approach. It is important for the government, NGOs, and the private sector to work together to find sustainable solutions to help families in need.

Only breadwinners

*Editorial*}

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Mr. Mecke said 35.6 percent of a house income under is spent on housing and electricity — costs which have increased by 14 percent in the past year. Just over 24.8 percent is spent on transport and entertainment, and there costs have increased by 13 percent.

"There are some positive factors but interest rates should be reduced to around 7 percent which will have to be brought down in the future," he said.

The cost of living is also expected to drop to 15 percent in the future.

"Terrible problem!"

The regional director of Operation Hunger, Mr. F. Pepinoek, said the number of white families in the Cape who have become "poor" in the past year is unknown.

"It is a very sensitive issue that has to be very carefully handled. We are trying to look into the different factors that are causing this problem," he said.

"It is almost impossible to get people to agree to some of the measures we are taking but we are doing our best to find solutions." He added that there are many families who are struggling and that it is important to support them.

"White street children in the Cape will become a reality. If they have no food at home and the parents are unable to provide them, they will have to live on the streets.

"One of the real economic symptoms of poverty is court proceedings. There is not only personal conflict among black families, but whites as well, often on a smaller scale. This adds further to the problem. We are not seeing much improvement, but there is still much to be done." He said that there are many families in need and that it is important to support them.

"Going bankrupt!"

Small businesses are going bankrupt and many people are out of work both in the white and black communities.

Mr. K. R. Haffejee, from a book on the Cape, said the organization is working with about 150 organizations to help families in need.

He added that the organization is helping families to find work, provide food, and other necessities.

"It is a complex problem and we are doing our best to find solutions," he said.

"We are not seeing much change, but there is still much to be done." He said that the government is also playing a role in helping families in need.

"Slowly job"

Mr. N. D. Brown, a banker in the Cape, said the situation is very challenging.

"I have been working with a number of families who are struggling to make ends meet and it is very difficult," he said.

"We are doing our best to help these families, but it is not easy." He added that the government is also playing a role in helping families in need.

The government has introduced various programs to help families in need, but these may not be enough to meet everyone's needs. Many families are still struggling to make ends meet and are forced to make difficult choices every day.
Academics honoured
University of Cape Town academics Dr Francis Wilson and Dr Mmaphela Ramphele have won the prestigious Noma Award for Publishing in Africa with their book "Uprooting Poverty, The South African Challenge". They will receive their R5 000 prize at a meeting of the African Studies Association in Baltimore next month.
Famine of horror proportions looms

More than 10,000 Angolans have died in a famine brought by civil war. Elsewhere in Africa wars are also causing death by starvation, RICHARD DOWDEN writes from London.

In addition to Africa's regular famine areas — Ethiopia, Sudan and Mozambique — a famine caused by civil war is threatening 1.5 million people in southern Angola. More than 10,000 people and scores of cattle have already died, according to the government news agency — an estimate likely to be conservative.

A two-year drought in the provinces of Namibe and Cuando Cubango has exhausted food stocks and killed the cattle on which many people depend and civil war has prevented food relief reaching them. Their only hope lies in peace talks being held in Lisbon between representatives of the Unita rebels and the government but after three rounds of talks they have not reached agreement on a ceasefire.

"Unless the fighting stops, to enable emergency aid to get to the worst-hit areas, 1½ million people will face starvation," said Angelo Simonazzi, a project officer for the Catholic development agency, Cafod, who recently returned from Angola. The agency is asking the European Community and the British government for food and assistance in flying it to needy areas.

Earlier this year the United Nations failed to secure an agreement between the government and rebels on peace corridors to bring food to hungry areas but Namibia has announced that it will allow food to be sent across its border into southern Angola. The United States, which backs Unita, recently sent experts to assess needs in rebel-held areas. Large areas have been isolated by the war. Road traffic is liable to be ambushed and aircraft which could reach remote areas are difficult to find.

Elsewhere in Africa a hunger as bad as the famine in 1984 is descending on Kordofan in western Sudan. According to Care Britain, which has projects in the region, 1.2 million people will be affected before the harvest at the end of next month. Destitute people from the area are arriving in Khartoum showing signs of severe malnutrition.

Southern Sudan remains closed because of civil war but a UN-sponsored airlift continues to fly food to the besieged provincial capital, Juba. Some of the 650,000 displaced people have taken refuge. Little is known about the rest of the area but reports from Juba say people are dying of hunger at Mundri, 240km to the east.

In Ethiopia a desperate situation is reported from Asmara, where the last government garrison in Eritrea is holding out against rebels. An airlift needed to keep hundreds of thousands of displaced people alive is only providing a quarter of the necessary food.

Further south in Tigray a relief operation across the civil-war battle lines fed off a severe famine this year. But an upsurge in fighting or a breakdown in the agreement to allow the food convoy to pass across the front line could condemn thousands to death.

Peace talks are back on track in Mozambique but more than a million and maybe as many as 3 million people have been displaced by civil war. Most of them are in Zambezia province. Sufficient food has been pledged but there are not enough lorries for food distribution and the roads are so bad in some areas that the food can be transported only by air.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that 700,000 tons will be needed in 1990-1991 but, although most has been pledged, delivery is behind schedule.
'Shock' at poverty

Two visiting Transkeian chiefs of the Dalindebo district and members of the Congress of Traditional Leaders in South Africa yesterday expressed shock at the poverty and lack of housing in Old Crossroads.

Chief Alfred Sipwe Xobololo and Chief James Kati were speaking after a three-day township visit at the invitation of the Western Cape United Squatters' Association and the Western Cape 'Hostel Dwellers' Association.

Both chiefs have thousands of followers in the Peninsula.
'Liberation won't feed the hungry'

Own Correspondent

LONDON.—Political liberation alone will not solve the problems posed by the "vast arm" of South Africa's poor, says Mr Mpho Mashinini, deputy director of Operation Hunger.

Mr Mashinini, a former political prisoner, is in the United Kingdom with Operation Hunger executive director Mrs Ina Perlman, to appeal for funds from British development charities.

Interviewed in the Sunday Telegraph, Mr Mashinini said: "We need international intervention. There is a big crisis here."

Operation Hunger feeds more than a million children every day. But it estimates there could be another four million undernourished children in South Africa whom it cannot help due to lack of funds.

Political liberation, Mr Mashinini said, was no longer going to be adequate to solve the problems of the poor. "We need to face our economic and educational problems now, otherwise we will be taken unawares and left behind."

And Mr Mashinini says the problems are "rising, wherever we look."

"For example, the young boys whom the ANC called the Young Lions and who led the revolution, full-time on the streets for five years, suddenly find that the adventure is over as we enter a new political phase."

"They have become the Lost Generation. They are not in school, because they now consider it boring and there are no jobs."
PROFESSOR Francis Wilson and Dr Mamphela Ramphele have been named joint winners of the 1990 Noma Award for Publishing in Africa for their work "Uprooting Poverty: The South African Challenge", says UCT's Monday Paper.

Prof Wilson, director of UCT’s South African Labour Development Research Unit (SALDRU), and Dr Ramphele, of the Department of Social Anthropology, will be awarded their R13,000 prize at a special ceremony during the 33rd annual meeting of the African Studies Association (USA) in Baltimore, Maryland, in November.

Published by David Philip, the book is described as a "devastating indictment of the effects of apartheid on the poor and powerless of South Africa"
Ramphele, Wilson
win US book prize

PROFESSOR Francis Wilson and Dr Mamphela
Ramphele have been named joint winners of the 1990
Noma Award for Publishing in Africa for their work
entitled Uprooting Poverty.

Prof Wilson, director of the South African Labour
Development Research Unit (Suldu), and Dr Ramphela
of the Social Anthropology Department, will
receive their $5000 US dollar (£12 650) prize at a
special award ceremony to be held during the (US)
African Studies Association's 33rd annual meeting in
Baltimore, Maryland, next month.

Published by David Philip the book is described as
a "devastating indictment of the effects of apartheid
on the poor and powerless of South Africa."

The work draws together research conducted by
the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in southern
Africa, provides an overview of the inquiry, and
addresses the problems of poverty as they affect the
lives of South Africa's disenfranchised.

Prof Wilson said he and Dr Ramphele were
"excited and thrilled" with the award. He stressed
the work was a co-operative effort, and recognition
should also go to 450 research workers.

Dr Ramphele said the award was "a wonderful
acknowledgement by the international community
that the focus on poverty is critical to the future of
South Africa." - Sapa.
Bus fares to go up this week

By DALE GRANGER

NEW bus fare increases to be announced this week could make train travel more attractive to commuters.

Saturday’s shock 32 cents a litre petrol price increase has prompted City Tramways to increase bus fares — while commuter train tariffs look set to remain the same for the time being.

A spokesman for City Tramways announced on Saturday that the new bus fare increases will come into affect from next Sunday.

The new tariffs will be announced on Thursday.

Spoornet public relations manager Mr Johan Hugo said yesterday rail tariffs on mainline trains and commuter trains would remain unchanged.

“We have no plans to increase tariffs just because of the new fuel increase,” he said.

The new bus fare increases are likely to make travelling by bus more expensive than rail transport.

Current City Tramways weekly bus tariffs are R22.50 (R90 per month) for a 10-ride clip card from Mitchells Plain to the city. The same amount of trips from Claremont to the city costs R13.10 for 10 weekly trips (R52.40 a month).

Monthly return rail tickets from Mitchells Plain to the city cost R102. From Claremont the return fare is R47 and from Fish Hoek R98.

Commuters using their cars and consuming a litre of fuel every 10km will pay about R217 each month for return trips between Mitchells Plain and the city.

Twenty-kilometre return trips from Claremont to the city will cost about R62 a month and 30-km monthly return journeys from Fish Hoek will cost about R196.

All fuel calculations are based on the R1.55 per litre price of 97 octane fuel.
Bus, taxi fares going up, up, up

By DON HOLIDAY and VIVIEN HIRI
Staff Reporters

HARD-PRESSED commuters face higher costs with the Tramways' announcement that its fares will rise about 10 percent and taxi companies considering applications for increases.

Following last week's 32c petrol price increase, Mr Nic Cronje, managing director of Tramway Holdings, said the bus fare increase would be announced on Thursday and would come into effect at the end of the week.

One taxi company increased fares by 60c a kilometre last week, and others said they would decide today whether to apply to the Local Road Transportation Board for a fare increase. Star Taxis, which has a rank at Cape Town station, now charges about R19 for a trip from the station to Sea Point pavilion.

Mr Cronje said the company could not absorb the latest petrol price increase.

"We were able to absorb the last increase but this time we have no alternative but to push up our fares," he said.

Mr Cronje said he hoped the fuel price increase would give momentum to the essential and inevitable swing from use of private cars to use of public transport.

"Changing from private to public transport will save not only money but also fuel," he said.

Mr Cronje also called for a change of attitude by the city council regarding priority treatment of buses.

"We need bus lanes on our freeways and city streets to increase the efficiency of our service. At the moment buses get stuck in the traffic like any private car. A 30km bus trip from Mitchell's Plain to the city takes about 70 minutes. This is unacceptable."

"To be successful, a bus service must be seen to offer advantages over the use of private cars. Providing lanes for buses only will give buses an advantage."

"If Johannesburg can do it, why can't Cape Town?" he asked.

He said bus lanes would cut 40 percent off the time of a journey. This time could be used to make more trips, improving the service and reducing fares.
Now rail tariffs go up 9%

By DALE GRANGER

RAIL tariffs for commuters have followed the recent bus tariff increases and will rise by 9% nationwide from next month.

An official announcement to this effect is expected shortly from the Minister of Transport, Mr George Bartlett.

The move follows a weekend denial by Spoornet of a tariff increase.

Cape Town commuters buying tickets for November's journeys are already paying the additional 9% increase on monthly tariffs.

Inquiries to the Spoornet ticket office confirmed this yesterday.

Mr Con Pappas of Plumstead said yesterday that he had bought bulk tickets for November and was shocked to learn that they cost an extra 9%.

Cape Town is the only area in South Africa where commuters can buy their tickets in bulk.

"I am not happy, this price increase was initiated at very short notice and without any official announcement," Mr Pappas said.

Spoornet spokesman Mr Johan Hugo said yesterday that rail tariff increases were determined by the SA Commuter Corporation and not Spoornet.

"I am not an employee of the Commuter Corporation and cannot comment on tariffs," he said.

Dr Kobus Meyer, general manager of the SA Commuter Corporation, yesterday apologised for the misunderstanding and said the commuter corporation did not have a public relations department at present.

- Monthly return journeys from Mitchell's Plain to the city will now cost R102.
- Return journeys from Claremont, Plumstead and Fish Hoek will cost R47, R61 and R88 respectively.
SOUTH AFRICAN consumers, still reeling from last week's petrol price increases, were dealt another devastating blow on Tuesday when an increase in the bread price was announced.

Yet unlike other countries where governments are toppled by the organised power of consumers, South Africans have few organisations to protect them against price increases and spiralling inflation.

Political organisations all agree that consumers need protection, and that high prices should be on their agenda.

A Democratic government would have to deliver the goods by ensuring there are low prices.

That is why tension is running high presently between the ANC and the government about the release of maize. Foreigners did not affect people in a concrete way, but in terms of the quality of life of South Africans, the ANC must take the lead by the ANC, Manuel said.

In Zambia for instance an increase in the price of maize unleash a chain of events which almost toppled the government.

Many governments are made to feel the power of organised consumers, as they can provoke a leader to initiating the transfer of power.

The Pan African Congress will raise the issue of high bread prices as it will be a social conference next month.

ANC Western Cape spokesman, Mr Trevor Manuel said the government's "high handed attitude" of mixing prices showed a lack of regard for people of South Africa.

He said the government would increase the price of bread to keep white farmers on the land at the expense of the millions which kept food as "people's bread".

"A democratic government would have to deliver the goods by ensuring there are low prices."

There is nothing new in terms of avoiding assembled consumers.

It appears there is an increase in the rinseol of charity to feed starving children particularly in the Western Cape.

While social workers and community activists say it is too early to detect the re-effects of the latest event, they say it will undoubtedly lead to unemployment, crime and social violence.

The chief social worker of St. John's, Mr. Higgins, said that while the protest could not be lessened, it would be mounted to the last.
Food prices soar
Children face daily a dark air

There is a song that goes "The future's so bright, you gotta wear shades." The writer is clearly not referring to South African children when he wrote that song, because for millions the road ahead is so dark and hazardous it seems that nothing short of Divine intervention will help them.

For millions of children in South Africa, each day is a fresh battle to survive poverty and violence. It is even more frightening than the daily suffering, hunger and brutalisation is their future in a country where violence is wrapping its tentacles around them and the economy is shrinking.

Three teenagers were neck-laced near Vanderbijlpark last week as they tried to kill lovers of youths. In the same week a 14-year-old was arrested in connection with the neck-lacing of four whites at Odendaalsrus. Earlier this year, a 12-year-old was attacked in Natal.

The questions being put by welfare workers, psychologists and interviewers is whether the traumas of violence and poverty can ever be removed.

The majority of children suffering are black, according to Dr. Hale Thomas, the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS). There is a vast chain between their lives and those of white children, she says.

Prostitution

The degree of violence and poverty being suffered by children is shown by:

- An increase in child labour and prostitution as reported by the JCWS last week.

- Roughly 3 million children are currently suffering from malnutrition to some degree, according to Operation Hunger's Dina Paterman and their numbers are increasing.

- Facing the TBVC areas, the infant mortality rate (IMR) was last year equal to that of Zimbabwe - 73 out of every 100 live births, according to the United Nations Children's Fund. But the per capita gross national product for South Africa is about three times that of Zimbabwe.

- The most up-to-date statistics provided by the Department of National Health and Population Development were: the age at 75 per 1000 in 1988. And Minister Kader Asmal says this figure is dropping.

In large favelas, according to the UN, 1800 and for the second poorest nation in the world.

- Government statistics for 1985 showed that 7 percent of the children, who died were white, 13.5 percent were Indian, 31.6 percent were black, 44.6 black. The total was 229,850. The Government recently said most had died from "peri-natal" conditions and intestinal and respiratory diseases.

- In 1987 the Institute of Beneficial Studies at Unisa estimated that 9000 children lived on the streets. This figure is thought to have grown and does not include those put to work on the streets at an early age or the thousands who recently fled to cities to escape to escape the streets.

- Recent surveys estimate that 1.5 million black children are not at school. More than half the dropouts have left school because of poverty. The black urban youth have had little schooling, says Lloyd Vogelman, director of the University of the Witwatersrand's Project for the Study of Violence.

- Total consumption by education in about 23,000 for each white child, R76 for black children in South Africa and 29 each for children in the homelands.

- Unemployment in the potential work force was recently put at 41 percent by Business Times. Since 1975, 590,000 jobs had been lost in the formal sector. Since then only 1.2 million jobs had been created for 45.7 million new work-seekers.

World leaders met in New York last week to find ways of protecting children from exploitation, neglect and abuse. South Africa was excluded for political reasons, not because its children are any better off. DAWN BARRHENZ looks at the plight of South Africa's most vulnerable group - its children.

Thomas says:

"A total of 17,200 children under 5 years were detained during the state of emergency. According to the Human Rights Commission, from March to August 1990, one phenomenon in South Africa was the brutal township violence involving the youth, says Mr. Vogelman. Young children, often younger than eight, were frequently involved in shootings, stabbings and bombings. The boys too young to drive cars were seen carrying automatic weapons in the streets."

In addition to taking part in the violence, younger and younger children are becoming targets, says Mr. Vogelman. While the poverty and social deprivation resulting from apartheid are prime contributors, he says, factors cannot be explained. These factors are roles that cannot be explained. These factors can be directly linked to widespread community violence, he adds.

There are many examples in history where the youth in poor communities have endured great hardship without leading to such widespread and brutal violence.

He attributes the current violence involving youth to:

- Relative deprivation: the gap in what people have and what they want, or once had;

- The frustration of that nature increased dramatically in the 1980s as unemployment and impoverishment increased. It was made worse when black youths compared themselves to young white South Africans.

Pressures

- Desensitisation to violence in a generation born since the 1976/7 and 1984 violence have grown up with a culture of violence.

- Group pressures on children, who are spending more and more time on the streets, keeping out of classrooms and schools. Much of the violence by groups is unlikely to be carried out by individuals.

- Collapse of authority: few parents or community leaders are able to control the young. Because community structures were effectively wiped out under former President Plobo, their influence is negligible.

- With their lives of deprivation limited opportunities and small chance of economic advancement, South Africa's youth care little for the future - they live for the moment, Mr. Vogelman says.

- "For millions of young South Africans, talk of a new political era has made no impact. But an estimated 321 children were killed by the police and 1,000 injured in the 1984 and 1986, according to the International Congress on Children."

The JCWS is at present conducting a study of hundreds of children in Soweto with severe traumatic stress disorders as a result of township violence and detention. Symptoms could take up to six months to manifest and could last for years, Mr. Vogelman says.

From The Star's fias Some of the "tent children" of Heavenly Valley. An appeal was made for foster parents to help the child.

Land I

Thousands of blacks assured they areas which were earmarked either for the removal of rural women or for the removal of black communities which were seriously considering to buy back home.

Negotiations between the Transvaal and the government to buy back these areas should either have been completed and land restored.

"It is a most, lot of negotiation on the national level and it is not a matter of negotiation," Mr. Van Rensburg says.

In Natal, rural settlement areas, which were removed in the 1920s, have not been completed and land restored.
Land redistribution now a burning issue

Thousands of blacks are being assured that they can settle in areas which were previously earmarked either for removal or for incorporation into homelands.

In Natal, residents of the rural freehold communities of Cornfield, Thebeholo and Steencolspuit — who have lived under the threat of removal since 1966 — have been granted official reprieves.

And according to the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) in Maritzburg, thousands of displaced people from former black communities are seriously considering going back home.

Negotiations considering the position of Transvaal communities already incorporated into homelands are under way.

As the land master-plan that envisaged blacks neatly ensconced in self-governing territories or in organised urban townships collapses, pressure is building up to have the half-completed process reversed and land restored.

"It is a means that will take a lot of negotiation on local and national level to sort out," says Ken Margo of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee.

The complexities involved in the abandonment of land apartheid are highlighted by the plight of several communities.

In the Transvaal, the communities of Leeufonse and Braklaagte have long been embroiled in legal wrangles with the Government over their incorporation into Bophuthatswana.

The fact that the Government has recently abandoned its policy of incorporation means that these communities want their situation reviewed.

"There are scores of people who have been the victims of incorporation who want their South African citizenship back and the new policies backdate," says Mr Margo.

For the residents of Braklaagte and Leeufonse, the speedy resolution of this problem is critically important.

"We feel only the legal process takes its course, the residents in these areas are considered neither citizens of the homeland nor of South Africa. They are not entitled to Bophuthatswana passports," says Mr Margo.

In Natal, there are problems associated with formerly removed communities returning "home" to areas the Government has reapportioned.

"The question is whether it will remain entrustted to blacks or be privately sold," says Mr Margo.

One of the most pressing problems for rural communities is how land will be distributed once the controversial land Acts of 1913 and 1914 are scrapped in the forthcoming parliamentary session.

"Should the land be privatized, it is quite possible that the best land will be bought by white farmers, leaving blacks in an even worse position in terms of land ownership," says Mr Margo.

Land in Zimbabwe, which was still in the hands of relatively few people while the majority were either unemployed or farming poorer land in over-crowded conditions, was a good example of how, without the aid of a comprehensive land reform programme, the question of equitable distribution could remain unsolved.

The imperative question of land redistribution will be fully debated by the ANC and the Government during negotiations.

While the issue is central for millions of people, the distributive potential of an apartheid system has legitimised the theft of their land, most white farmers fiercely opposing calls for redistribution.

And while the Government has expressed a preference for privatisation, the ANC has called for a land-claims commision to transfer some white farms to blacks. The Pan African Congress has stated that black farm labourers should themselves organise the redistribution of blacks of the vast majority of white-owned land.
Delegates declare war on poverty

By CARMEL PICKARD, Durban

A HIGH-POWERED two-day conference was held in Durban this week to “declare war on poverty.”

Opening the Economic Development Conference on Wednesday, Durban mayor Jan Venter said it was in the interests of all sectors of the community to end the poverty.

The well-attended conference almost never came off.

Last month the African National Congress, in protest at what they said was a right-wing coup in the Durban city council, threatened to get the World Bank to withdraw its participation from the conference.

However, the differences between the ANC and the mayor were ironed out and the ANC fielded a speaker on Wednesday — Don Mkhwanazi, the convener of the ANC’s taskforce on economic policy in Natal.

He warned that most development initiatives had failed in the past because there had been no community involvement.

He also said that a fraction of the country’s pension and provident funds should be invested in projects such as housing.

Although this suggestion had been shouted down by the industry, Mkhwanazi warned that the failure to address social problems would leave the market in chaos because of social instability associated with poverty.

He also warned that the extent of intervention in the economy by a future black government would depend on the response from financial institutions and the private sector to the call for help in providing funds for housing, education and similar projects.

Mkhwanazi urged that funds should not just be spent on the informal sector.

“Big business should be finding creative ways of making sure that blacks establish their own General Mining Corporation.”
Government has set aside Rs. 1,000 crore to develop public education and health facilities in rural areas. The funds will be used to build schools, hospitals, and community centers in remote areas. The initiative is aimed at improving access to education and healthcare for people living in rural parts of the country. The government has also announced plans to increase the number of teachers and healthcare professionals in these areas. The funds will be distributed through state and district-level committees. The government is committed to providing quality education and healthcare to all citizens, regardless of their location.
Focus on 'new' divide

BLOOM 15/11/90

FOCUS ON 'NEW' DIVIDE

There were no guarantees the urban and rural poor would benefit from a new and nonracial SA, Urban Foundation chairman Mike Rosholt said yesterday.

Presenting the foundation's 1989/90 report in Johannesburg, Rosholt said the new divide in SA was between the haves and have-nots. The foundation would have to focus its work on the formulation and promotion of viable policies to address poverty, widening its view from a concentration on race.

Referring to solutions to the problems facing the new SA, Rosholt said "a society based on family values, clear identification of interests and a strong sense of self-reliance will have a much better chance of success than a society dependent on the state for its well-being."

He said housing remained a critical issue, but if government were to adopt the foundation's latest proposals, the proportion of urban households able to enter the process leading to home-ownership with security of tenure would increase from the present 41% to 97%. For every R50bn spent, 100,000 low-income families could be settled on a serviced site with full tenure.

Rosholt said if government committed sufficient funding to a one-off capital subsidy and "levelled the playing fields between the public and private sector agencies delivering serviced sites and houses, we will see the start of a dynamic process to turn the housing crisis around."

Also vital was a national housing strategy which clarified the roles and responsibilities of the state and private sector actors and "mobilised the development capacity in our society."

© SEE PAGE 5
Focus on 'new' divide

Matthew Curtin

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He said housing remained a critical issue, but if government were to adopt the foundation's latest proposals, the proportion of urban households able to enter the process leading to home-ownership with security of tenure would increase from the present 41% to 97%. For every R800m spent, 100,000 low-income families could be settled on serviced sites with full tenure.

Rosholt said if government committed sufficient funding to a one-off capital subsidy and "levelled the playing fields between the public and private sector agencies delivering serviced sites and houses, we will see the start of a dynamic process...to turn the housing crisis around."

Also vital was a national housing strategy which clarified the roles and responsibilities of the state and private sector actors and "mobilised the development capacity in our society."

See page 5
Wilson, Ramphele get top awards

DR Mamphela Ramphele and Professor Wilson have been named joint winners of the 1990 Noma Award for Publishing in Africa for their work entitled "Uprooting Poverty: The South African Challenge". Ramphele of the Department of Social Anthropology and Wilson, director of the South African Labour Development Research Unit (Saldu), will receive their R12 500 prize at a special award ceremony to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, this month.

The poor
Published by David Philip, the book is described as a "devastating indictment of the effects of apartheid on the poor and powerless of South Africa".

The work draws together research conducted by the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in Southern Africa and provides an overview of the inquiry and addresses the problems of poverty as they affect the lives of South Africa's disenfranchised.

Wilson said he and Ramphele were "excited and thrilled" with the award. He, however, stressed the work was a co-operative effort, and recognition should also go to the 450 research workers involved.
By JAN STEYN, chairman of the Independent Development Trust

SPEAKING to the Sakekamer in Cape Town a few months ago, Mr Thabo Mbeki identified the need for the development of a common purpose that could bring South Africans together. He said: "I wear a mask but I do not believe in delirious separation of people in this country."

He went on to appeal to South Africans to help hand in an assault on poverty. This he believed would not only unify us but would also make a direct impact on the urgent problems of the unemployed, the illiterate and those with no access to health services.

Empowerment

At about the same time the State President, Mr Ntsiki, told me how important he believed it was that this initiative should succeed. He had, he said, given evidence that we were indeed a caring society.

In deliberations with Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi concerning the role of the Independent Development Trust in Natal and KwaZulu, he expressed the view that once the basic factors in the system had been established, a dynamic development program was needed to play a key role in healing the wounds inflicted by apartheid—aggravated as before by war and destruction.

These three sentiments—among others—illustrate the fundamental importance of what the trust is seeking to achieve.

Enormous needs

Our funding charter obliges us to invest our resources in initiatives which will achieve the socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged people. In this way, we will break the cycle of poverty and powerlessness in which so many disadvantaged South Africans find themselves.

We are also directed to lessen the suffering of those in poverty by our trust deed to pay and recycle our funds wherever possible and to avoid undertaking obligations that are the legitimate responsibility of the government.

At the three meetings of the trustees since our establishment on August 1, we have given greater contrast to our broad objectives. As our key target we have identified the very poor in South Africa. While some of our investments in development will be facilitated and will create upward mobility for more people, we must never lose sight of the fact that there are probably upward of 10 million South Africans who qualify as "very poor."

The needs are indeed enormous. It is reliably estimated that just over half of South Africans are functionally illiterate, 800 000 families are housed in conditions so appalling as to be totally unacceptable. Rural health services in many parts of our country, I am reliably informed, are well below tolerable levels.

The temptation to "throw money at the problems and to miss the fundamental point that "development is about people."

We see as our greatest challenge the task to provide a sustainable development process by involving people in every aspect of our work. The outcome of our intervention should be self-reliant people who, through access to housing and education opportunities as well as improved health services, can improve the quality of their own lives.

If we fail to initiate

THABO MBEKI jobs hands in an assault on poverty

FW DE KLERK gives evidence that we are a caring society. This process will fail in our task. Our products will lack marketability. Dependency will continue instead of the self-reliance we seek.

Indeed, South Africa is singularly fortunate that it has a strong non-governmental infrastructure that has the capacity to turn resources into products in many of the fields in which we are operating. These organizations need to be enabled to affect our development needs not only through access to resources but also by the co-ordination of their efforts.

What is our relationship with the state, parastatals, provincial, regional and local authorities?

The trust deed makes it clear that we are not there to supplement the budgets of state departmental or those dependent on the state for finance. But there are areas in which it will be possible for us to cooperate productively with those authorities and institutions in pursuit of our development goals.

Private sector

A practical demonstration of how we operate is the Baxter Clean Initiative. We have allocated resources to the upgrading of the Baxter Foundation of this country in Gauteng. But we persuaded the Baxter Corporation to invest R15m in a major corporation donated R50m. Thus we reduced our investment to half of the cost involved.

The community has, moreover, undertaken responsibility for the provision of community facilities and has undertaken

I believe an independent development trust is an important role in helping the poor, the just and stable South Africa.

Facilitator

Finally, we will attempt to do two more things. A great deal of injustice has been done in our country. Whatever the trust can do to redress some of these injustices through its investment in development will be meritorious.

We will seek to play a facilitative role where policies are inappropriate and inhibit the advancement of our objectives. We will seek to influence change. Thus, for instance, in the tripartite areas of our involvement—education, housing, and health—there will be the proliferation of government departments, structured racially, to hinder second development. We will seek to facilitate access to resources and our influence, in the end, to enable the rationalization of these structures.

I believe an independent development trust is an important role in helping the poor, the just and stable South Africa.
International cooperation can alay poverty
A united Africa a fact with planning

By HERBERT W. VILAIAZI

PRESIDENT de Klerk made a moving plea for greater cooperation of the developed countries of North America and Europe, together with South Africa, as efforts to diminish poverty in Southern Africa.

He was not alone in this desire, as the world's major languages, English and French, were among the many who had addressed the 10th summit of the African Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa last month.

The superannuated plan for cooperation with the UN and its agencies, the African Union, has been around for decades, but there is a desire to change its focus from the traditional areas of economic development to include health, education, and social services.

The success of the Johannesburg Summit was marked by the establishment of a new partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, which will work together to implement the goals set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The agreement has been signed by all 55 members of the African Union, and it sets out a framework for cooperation in areas such as peace and security, economic development, and social services.

The President of the African Union, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said that the new partnership would help to address the challenges facing the continent, which include poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

"We are determined to work together to achieve the goals set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda," he said. "This agreement is a significant step forward in our efforts to create a better future for all Africans."

The agreement was signed on December 10th, and it is hoped that it will be implemented as soon as possible.

Attractive

To make a real impact on the lives of the people of the world, we need to work together on a global scale, to build a more just and equitable world.

We need to think about the world as a whole, and to work together to address the challenges that we face, from poverty and inequality to climate change and conflict.

We need to be innovative, to think outside the box, and to be willing to take risks in order to make a difference.

We need to be inclusive, to work with all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector, and the international community.

We need to be ambitious, to set high goals and to work towards实现 them.

We need to be persistent, to keep working towards our goals even when the going gets tough.

We need to be accountable, to be transparent about our actions and to be held to account for our results.

We need to be visionary, to think about what the world could be like, and to work towards realizing that vision.

We need to be hopeful, to believe that we can make a difference, and to work towards building a better world for all.

The President of the United Nations, António Guterres, said that the agreement was a crucial step forward in our efforts to work together towards a better future for all.

"We have already made significant progress in recent years, and we need to build on that success," he said. "We need to be determined, to be innovative, to be inclusive, and to be ambitious, if we are to achieve the goals that we set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda."
The wolf is at the door
R2-m needed to avert calamity

By SOPHIE TEMBA

WITH drought, crop loss and unemploy-
ment worsening, Operation Hun-
ger will have to find R2.5 million to
save the hungry from misery and tragedy
next year.

Experts forecast that maximum unem-
ployment, hunger and poverty can be expected in 1991 due to the
recession and the drought which has
struck large chunks of the country and a still hammering others.

The present 400,000 people al-
ready on the relief list will be small compared with the
number that will need food between now and the middle of next year.

Executive director Ira Perlman has warned that Operation Hunger is
on the threshold of a major tragedy.

To avoid suspending feeding and the need to turn the destitute
knocking on its door, the organisation must find
a miracle R2-million be-

Anglo losses reflect economic problems

SOUTH Africa’s most diversified company, the Anglo American Cor-
poration, is reflecting the growing economic difficulties of the country and its
people.

Earnings for the half-
year ending September
declined virtually every
sector. But its gold mines
are less suffering. Includ-

THE Wildlife Society of Southern
Africa will be running several
conservation holiday courses
for children and adults this month.

The society’s education officer
Ala Bailey said the centre near
Catarcllville will present courses
to 12-15-year-olds from December 5 to 8.

The society’s Umpango Valley
Education Centre near Howick
will also be running courses
from December 10 to 14.

NATIONAL Africans Federation
Transport Organisation (Naftra)
will host a meeting for members
at Phuthaditjaba on Wednesday
at 10am.

A NEW political party, the Is-
andiyo Yezuwe, will be
launched today at 10am at
the Klophanendt (Geminarh), Ma-
bezi Agricultural Showgrounds.

People’s Diary

Solidarity concert for striking workers

A SOLIDARITY concert for workers who have been on strike
at Vosmet, near Mbabane, since
September 3, will be held at the
Gaborone Presbyterian Church hall at 8pm on December 9.

The line-up is poet Don Mat-
ten, Philip Tabane and Mas-
mbolo and others. Admission is
R3.

THE South African Council of Churches (SACC) is appealing to
people whose relatives, friends, employers or colleagues have
been missing since the time of the recent violence in the Soweto town-
hops to come forward, as more
photographs of those buried as
pupils have been made available
by the police.

Those making queries should
contact Father Mpho Noko
at SACC, Klietto House, 63
Marshall Street, Johannesburg,
or telephone (011) 492-1380/9
during office hours, before De-

Matter of fact

LAST week City Press published a picture taken at
Nadine Gordimer’s 70th birthday party fea-
turing the author with post-murdered Von Mah-
laud Mahlangu. Mahlangu was however referred to in the
caption as Lesego Ram-

City Press apologises
for the error.
Tragedy and destitution in Kuruman

By SOPHIE TEMA

ABJECT poverty and misery in villages and rural areas in the northern Cape's Kuruman district has forced Operation Hunger to plan more aid for the area – provided there are enough funds.

Ina Perlman, head of the organisation, says it is already feeding 15,000 people there.

People in villages such as Slough, Dearham, Laxey and Padstow depend solely on Operation Hunger for their survival. They say they have not had proper rain for almost three years and their livestock is dying.

A local villager, Kelebogile Motsepe, says: "We have become completely desperate and all we now depend on is the food we receive from Operation Hunger. If this organisation did not come in to help us we would all be dying by the dozen every day.

"Unemployed fathers in the villages, once stable working-class men, have returned from the cities and now sit at home, fraught with anxiety, unable to do anything as they watch their children being swallowed up by poverty and hunger."

"Many fathers, unable to cope, have left their wives and children destitute and moved on to seek greener pastures."

In most cases the fathers are migrant workers who have big families, so they abandon their children and get away from the responsibility of having to support them.

"Some mothers have also left their babies with relatives and have run off to the cities to seek jobs."

People in these areas cannot plough fields because the land is dry and rocky. Poverty's symptoms are widespread – depression, ill-health, disease, starvation and overcrowded homes.

Ma Torch Mokethi, who could be well over 70 years old, says she cannot remember when her husband died, but she says she and her family have always lived in absolute poverty. "I never worked for a white man because I could never find work."

"Like most poor people in the village, I just had to sit doing nothing, knowing my children were starving."
Dramatically increased demands for help in the face of the deteriorating economic situation, increased violence, unemployment and stepped up urbanisation have put added pressure on assistance to the needy.

Not only have cash-strapped businesses and private individuals cut back on donations, but the government has warned that increasing demands on the “new South Africa” budget will lead to severe curtailment of welfare subsidies which will shift a greater slice of the bill onto the private sector.

Virtually all the stories are the same, only the beneficiaries are different. Mix of the young and old, mentally and physically disabled

“The aged will feel the pinch,” warned Beryl Seafa, director of the Johannesburg Association for the Aged in an urgent appeal for funds.

Faced with a deficit of over R1-million this year, Jaffa had already been forced to close down one home and was seriously considering cutting down on essential services to thousands of social pensioners.

- Abused and neglected children will be badly hit by the forced closure of two home run by the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society and the a threatened cutback on essential services.

- Unless last ditch attempts to wipe out a deficit of R600,000 succeeds before the end of the year, the JCWS will be forced to implement further staff and service cuts.

**Resources**

Field services dealing with 4,000 children face curtailment and foster care homes will have to be found for children now living in JCWS homes which are under threat of closure.

- Services to victims of violence in PWV townships will have to be cut back by the Southern Transvaal branch of the South African Red Cross Association which has been bled dry since the start of this year.

Resources have virtually dried up following months of round-the-clock involvement in township violence in the PWV area, said director Pam Barnes.

- The National Cancer Association is planning to rationalise its services and some staff members are expected to be retrenched, according to president Professor Douglas Anderson.

- Suicides Anonymous run by Sam Bloomberg will be unable to operate 24 hours a day this Christmas due to a lack of volunteers.

- Voluntary service has become unfashionable. "People were afraid to work late at night and the idea of working without pay was uninviting," said Mr Bloomberg.

At a time when most Reef charity organisations face financial crises that are threatening to disrupt welfare services two organisations are well clear of the red.

Millionex 4 has just distributed R2.7-million to charities of the R5.4-million collected from its "shareholders" and Operation Hunger, which collected R400,000 in just one month. Shirley Woodgate reports from Johannesburg.

Red Cross Southern Transvaal regional director Pam Barnes said "Appeals for funds directed at people in distress have taken second place to environmental appeals, save-the-seals campaigns or spending a fortune to win a fortune.

"The shift in public sympathy which coincides with the economic downturn, has resulted in charity donations to less glamorous organisations drying up to the detriment of hundreds of thousands of needy people"

Possibly Operation Hunger and Millionex are telling everyone something with their "give-a-little, win-a-lot" approach.

Tough Operation Hunger chief Ina Perlman said her organisation would be catering for 2-million "totally desperate" people by the end of the year.

"We receive no subsidy and if we get into the red we have to cut back on feeding which we simply cannot allow"

Recently she sent out a personalised "almost emotional" appeal to 400,000 hardcore small donors who regularly average R20 each.

The response was "overwhelming" with R400,000 raised in a month.

**Hard work**

Joint functions with the Stokvel Association have raked in the rands from a spring tea in September and a picnic in Pimville.

Then there is the Gold Rush competition which offers subscribers an overnight chance of becoming a millionaire for just R10.

"It's all damned hard work but it works for us" said Mrs Perlman.

Millionex joint chairman Abe Krok long ago buried the concept of relying entirely on street collections and raffles to fund the country's ever-hungry charities.

"Cake sales and public appeals must receive full encouragement but they cannot cope alone with present demands for assistance.

"Unless fund-raising is tackled with new ideas and bold business strategy, there is simply no chance of being able to keep pace with charitable needs," he said.
1991 bodes ill for the poor and hungry

By Shirley Woodgate

Operation Hunger ends its 10th year with a waiting list of 400,000. And 1991 could be the worst year ever, said executive director Ina Perlman.

She said hopes that 1990 would be a year of celebration had been dashed by increasing unemployment and drought and crop losses in the rural areas.

She appealed for more public donations.

Ms Perlman said that since 1980 Operation Hunger had made a real impact on malnutrition and child death figures as well as relieving the poor, the destitute and the hungry.

Operation Hunger's current budget was R27 million. Basic food-stuff costs had increased by 25 percent and the cost of initiating self-help by 15 percent.

"But over and above the ordinary budget needs, we face the tragedy of helping over 400,000 hungry people. "Our gold mines laid off 50,000 black workers this year and as migrant workers, none qualified for State unemployment assistance."

"The urgent and immediate need is for basic food for three to six months while they attempt to help themselves," Mrs Perlman said.
Politics 'no answer' to poverty

POVERTY will continue to dominate SA unless labour and management reach practical agreements, on how to tackle the problem, the National Productivity Institute says in its annual report.

"Political posturing does not help provide food, homes and education," it says.

The quality of life should be the foremost issue for citizens seriously concerned about the well-being of ordinary people of all creeds and colours.

"Poor people have a limited appetite for words. The masses are rapidly becoming disillusioned by the spectacle of so much posturing for political advantage while grinding poverty is ignored or exploited."

"The training of unskilled labour must be tackled on a much bigger scale to overcome shortages in the skilled, professional and managerial categories," says the institute.

"It adds that it is time for leaders in the economy publicly to declare themselves willing to work together in easing the lot of the poor."

The NPI is willing to offer its services as a broker in serious attempts by trade unions and employers to address poverty.

"The NPI has the expertise to help companies tackle the challenges of the new SA by assisting in identifying problems and providing guidance towards solutions in the production, administrative, financial, human resources, marketing and sales functions," it says.

WILSON ZWANE
Fundraisers try new methods

By MONDL MAKHANYA

FUNDRAISING is a big business in South Africa generating up to R10-billion a year. However, a significant portion doesn't see its way to the desired recipients as it is siphoned off to meet administration needs.

Of the more than 43 000 fundraising structures (this figure includes school and church fund raising committees) in the country, only 4 000 are registered under the Fundraising Act.

According to David Cuthbert, President of the South African Institute of Fundraising, there is unnecessary duplication of fundraising activities and therefore a great need for streamlining.

"For instance Johannesburg has several groups fundraising for children. If these were merged much more work could be done in this regard. Apartheid legislation has also resulted in duplication along racial lines."

By far the biggest fundraiser is the Urban Foundation, which has raised about R400-million a year. Operation Hunger follows with a budget of R20-million for the current financial year.

Cuthbert said the average cost of administration was about 25 percent of total cost. The maximum allowed is 40 percent. Operation Hunger - hard-pressed by poverty exacerbated by Mozambican refugees streaming over the border - keeps costs to the minimum of eight percent.

There is also a move to upgrade fundraising methods. Among these is the direct mail appeal method, whereby companies use their data bases to contact people personally and ask for donations.

"Operation Hunger strongly believes in appealing directly to people's compassion, hence our tendency to raise money at functions and also using the direct mail appeal," said director Ira Pertman.
Johannesburg. —

Poverty will continue to dominate South Africa unless labour and management reach practical agreements on how to tackle the problem, the National Productivity Institute says in its annual report.

The quality of life should be the foremost issue of those concerned about the well-being of ordinary people of all creeds and colours. "Poor people have a limited appetite for words. The masses are rapidly becoming disillusioned by the spectacle of so much "yearning for political advantage while grinding poverty is ignored or exploited."
Desperation causing more black mothers to abandon their babies

The Argus Correspondent
DURBAN — More and more black mothers are abandoning their newborn babies.

Caught between a rock of poverty, ignorance and a disintegrating social fabric, and the hard place of a society which makes abortion a crime, a growing number of desperate mothers are turning to the only option they believe is open to them.

Babies have been found in driveways, dustbins, at bus shelters and at men's hostels where the fathers reside. A health worker said one baby arrived in hospital covered with feathers after it had been rescued from a chicken coop.

"The situation is not unlike that in Europe 100 to 150 years ago," said Professor Walter Loening, of the University of Natal medical school's paediatrics department in Durban.

"If children interfere with the mother's livelihood, she will abandon a baby, particularly if she didn't want the child in the first place," he said.

Mildred (not her real name), a 48-year-old mother of four illegitimate children, fell pregnant again after she missed an appointment for her contraceptive injection.

The father was married and Mildred feared he would not support the child. She earned R160 a month as a domestic worker.

In October, just hours after the baby was born, she abandoned it in a Bluff garden. The child was taken to King Edward VIII Hospital and survived.

Police were tipped off that Mildred had been pregnant but did not have a new-born child. They investigated. Mildred denied having been pregnant, but later confessed she was the mother.

She was given a 12 month suspended sentence. This week she was reunited with little Nomthunzi at King Edward.

"I didn't know what else to do," she said.

Mildred, who has a standard three education, had no contact with the social work system and said she did not know she could get help.

She said she would not have any more children, but if she did she would give the baby up for adoption.

However, the director of Pietermaritzburg Child and Family Welfare, Priscilla McKay, said this was not easy because many in the black community resisted the idea of adoption, and there were other problems.

"People would rather adopt girls than boys. Because of the violence there is the feeling that boys will get into trouble. We have also learned mothers are more likely to abandon boy babies than girls."

No one was able to quantify the extent of the problem, although Mrs McKay said that judging by the critical condition in which many abandoned babies were found, many babies probably died undiscovered.

She said many mothers, who felt they could not cope, abandoned their babies in hospitals after delivery or left children in hospital when they became ill.

"Black institutions are chock-a-block," said Mrs McKay. "You cannot get a child under 12 in anywhere."

The situation was compounded by apartheid red tape, she said.
Operation Hunger warns of tragedy

The Argus

Johannesburg

South Africa is on the threshold of a major tragedy with the effects of a harsh drought and an economic recession heralding maximum unemployment and hunger for 1991, said Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman.

The situation would be further exacerbated by a growing AIDS epidemic. By the year 2000 most hunger relief funds could be cancelled to Aid orphans who were themselves HIV-positive, she warned.

For the short-term future Mrs Perlman predicted "savage reduced crops at best" in the northern Transvaal for black and white farmers.

Every farmer that "went to the wall" represented anything between 20 and 100 families dumped in a desperate situation, she said.

In addition many families were destitute as a result of the closure, with devastating effects, of factories throughout the country.

Many retrenched workers had been the sole breadwinners of families in rural areas. Studies by Operation Hunger on rural vulnerability showed black families in these areas were 80 percent dependent on income from outside.

She cited an example in East London where the closure of three factories had been followed by a 300 percent rise in the incidence of malnutrition at the Milansgton hospital.
'Major hunger tragedy' on way

By Dawn Barkhuizen

South Africa is on the threshold of a major tragedy with a harsh drought and economic recession heralding unemployment and hunger, said Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman.

The situation would be exacerbated by a growing Aids epidemic.

By the year 2000, most hunger relief funds could be channelled to Aids orphans, she warned.

For the short-term future, Mrs Perlman predicted "savage reduced crops at best" in the Northern Transvaal for black and white farmers.

Many destitute

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In addition, many families were destitute as a result of the closure — with devastating effects — of factories throughout the country.

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Studies by Operation Hunger on rural vulnerability showed that black families in these areas were 80 percent dependent on income from outside.

She cited an example in East London, where the closure of three factories had been followed by a 300 percent rise in incidents of malnutrition at nearby Mdantsane Hospital in Castei.

The organisation must raise R2 million before January to avert a "black Christmas period" for the millions of people it feeds.

In Operation Hunger's newsletter, the following retrenchments and impending retrenchments were reported:

- Gants Foods in the Strand, Cape, intends laying off 1 000 seasonal workers after the closure of its deciduous fruit canning operations. This was as a result of sanctions.
- About 900 workers would be retrenched when the Frame Group closed two factories in East London. Executive group chairman Mervyn King blamed the Government's import policy. The company would also close a plant in Harrismith with the loss of 100 jobs.
- Mercedes-Benz in August said it intended laying off 325 employees because of the downswing in the economy.
- An average of 8 000 miners had been retrenched every month, according to the National Union of Mine Workers. By September, 50 000 had lost their jobs, and another 78 000 faced retrenchment with the threatened closure of marginal mines.
- Armscor in September cut their workforce by 9 000. It was estimated that for every worker laid off, subcontractors retrenched two people. Defence cutbacks are therefore estimated to have cost 60 000 civilian jobs.

Payroll down

- Transnet has cut its workforce by 64 000 in the past five years.
- The Eskom payroll was down from 66 000 to below 51 000.
- About 1 500 colliery workers in the Eastern Transvaal and 2 000 power station employees stood to lose their jobs as a result of Eskom's decision to mothball three of its older power stations.
- In the engineering industry, 14 000 workers were retrenched between January and August this year, according to the head of the economic division of the Steel and Engineering Federation of South Africa, Michael McDonald.
Picture: Ken Oosterbroek

Would do well to celebrate
women’s day in United
Nations New York, ahead
Women and girls in rural
areas of the world. Many
refugees, facing economic
and political crisis. This
is the trend in the United
Nations where there is
an increase in the need
for food aid. The UN
has appealed to countries
in the region to provide
food aid to 500,000 people.

"Rice for Africa"

Donation to

Feed 500 000
Radiothon ensures children's welfare

**SUE OSLWANG**

GENEROUS contributions from radio listeners in the PWV area have helped to ensure brighter futures for thousands of severely neglected, abused and abandoned children.

Vital services provided to hundreds of these children by the Johannesberg Child Welfare Society (JCWS) can now continue to operate, at least for the moment, on the R420 000 received by the society after a recent Child Welfare Radiothon.

A total sum of R1 million was pledged by listeners when the independent radio station, 702, held a Child Welfare Radiothon on December 7 and 8 to raise funds for the JCWS and other child welfare societies operating in the PWV area.

Dr Adele Thomas, executive director of the JCWS, said the society was extremely grateful to Radio 702 and its listeners. She appealed to listeners who pledged money, “no matter how small”, to honour their pledges. The society, she said, needed to raise R21 000 every day in order to maintain its services.

Germans give hungry R3.2-m

**SUE OSLWANG**

THE German government has given R3.2 million to help fill the stomachs of thousands who would face a bleak and hungry Christmas without assistance from Operation Hunger.

“The interim or emergency grant from the German government comes on top of the incredible response we’ve received from the South African public,” said Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger.

“The R3.2 million from the German government plus R1 million from the South African public should tide us over until the end of February next year. It also means we can increase our feeding and can now take on the 400 000 people who were on our waiting list,” Perlman said.

Mrs Perlman said 200 000 of the people on the waiting list were from the eastern Cape and Transkei area, 100 000 from KwaZulu and the rest “scattered countrywide”.

She said the feeding scheme, which at present spends R1.5 million every month to meet the basic feeding requirements of 1.5 million people (the figures exclude self-help schemes), will be feeding about 1.7 million people by January.

“Our country is in a crisis. The

Crisis

year 1991 will one of not only maximum unemployment due to the economic recession but also of maximum hunger due to the drought. Unemployment is constantly burgeoning.”

“Many families become destitute when sole breadwinners are retrenched and the constant stream of appeals for help will certainly continue,” she said.

The following retrenchments or impending retrenchments were among those reported in Operation Hunger’s most recent newsletter: Gants Foods in the Strand, Cape, intends retrenching 1 000 seasonal workers from January 1991; approximately 2 000 workers will lose their jobs when the Frame Group closes two factories in East London and a plant in Harrismith; Mercedes-Benz has advised that it will lay off 225 employees (15 percent of the workforce), about 50 000 new workers had lost their jobs by September this year and another 71 000 face retrenchment with the threatened closure of marginal mines, Armcos cut its workforce by 8 000 in September this year; approximately 14 000 workers were retrenched in the engineering industry between January and August this year.