POVERTY GENERAL

1991
Rural poverty poses major tragedy. Operation Hunger

SA COULD be on the threshold of a major tragedy in terms of rural poverty as a result of the recession, higher unemployment and the drought, Operation Hunger's executive director Ina Perlman warned at the weekend.

Operation Hunger has budgeted for expenditure of R27m this year compared with R12m in 1990. Perlman said there had been requests to feed another 250,000 people in the Transkei and the Ciskei.

She said she could already see a situation where Operation Hunger would have to feed up to 2 million people by the end of 1991 in order to be effective.

The organisation — which spent about R1,2m a month on food — was helping between 1.3 million and 1.6 million people. There had also been a huge increase in urban feeding, with requests in the Witwatersrand area almost doubling over 1990.

Perlman said the scrapping of the Land Act — mooted for some time — was the only way to realistically fight possible disaster in the rural areas in 1991.

About 58% of the black population was still living in the rural areas;

Perlman said she had been told that with the scrapping of the Land Act as many as 6 million hectares of land would become available for immediate use if capital was found.

Unemployment in SA was "terrifying" she said, suggesting that about 50,000 more people could lose their jobs between now and July (more than 50,000 people were retrenched by mines alone in 1990).

The implications of the movement of thousands of people into the cities would be massive squatter sites and a rise in unemployment.

In an informal survey, Operation Hunger found that 58% of the people interviewed said that if they were given land or the opportunity to utilize land for farming, they would prefer to return to farming and would be in a better position by doing so.

Money required to re-establish a subsistence farmer would be much less than money spent on continually feeding people.

Perlman said one of "the miracles" of Zimbabwe was that malnutrition was brought down to as low as 6% at one stage "because the state went all out to reinstate the subsistence farmer", while SA had only managed to bring malnutrition down to a low of about 20%.
Scrap Act to fight hunger – Perlman

By Shirley Woolgate

The scrapping of the Land Act is the key to combating the major problem of chronic persistent hunger in South Africa while helping blacks to play a part in a capital-intensive economy, says Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman.

Speaking ahead of the possible repeal of the 1913 law in the coming parliamentary session, she said this single move would enable thousands of people to return to the land, heralding a partial return to the subsistence economy of the 19th century.

Vulnerable

Mrs Perlman said Operation Hunger planned to push the concept that of those who died of hunger and hunger-related causes, only 10 percent of deaths were due to famine. The rest were due to chronic persistent hunger.

"The vital move is getting that law off the statute books if we are to have a realistic chance of getting people back on to the land."

Condemning the blanket acceptance of urbanisation as a norm of the '90s, she stressed "About 80 percent of the rural population is totally vulnerable — depending on income from outside, from men and women who work in the cities."

"We find with thousands of unmarketable people streaming into these urban camps, 70 to 80 percent of them are functionally illiterate with no role in a capital-intensive economy, except at the lowest level."

According to surveys in Vlakfontein, Botshabelo and Khayelitsha, 50 percent of the people said they would return to the land if provided with funds to re-establish themselves. The only exceptions were former labourer-tenants on white farms who existed in the 'ja-baa/s-laave' situation.

"Mrs Perlman insisted that moving the focus from urban squattings to resettlement on the land should not be implemented as imposed programmes but as schemes done in consultation with the people concerned."

"With 12 sq m we can get a man to survival level. Nobody pretends this will be enough, but with 24 sq m he can treble his income with money over for education."

"If this bold back-to-the-land plan is carried out properly it could herald the beginning of the end of hunger, which could be largely wiped out within 10 years. But if this is not introduced, the next couple of years could become a horror story."

She had no doubt money was available for the new focus.

"There is currently enough land available in white areas without expropriation to get a lot of people going fast."

"I believe there are about 6 million ha lying unused at the moment, not all of it prime land, but usable agricultural property. The type of ownership is irrelevant, whether it be leasehold of freehold, that is for the politicians to decide."
Govt plans drive on poverty

The need for the World Bank to play a major role in the development of the economy is evident. The Bank's involvement in the formulation of economic policies is crucial. It is essential that the government and the World Bank work closely together to ensure that the country's economic goals are met.

The Bank will provide technical assistance and support to the government in the areas of economic policy formulation, budget preparation, and implementation of poverty reduction strategies. It is important that the government and the Bank work in close consultation to achieve the desired outcomes.

The Bank's role is not limited to financing projects but also includes providing technical assistance and policy advice. The Bank's expertise in sectors such as agriculture, energy, and infrastructure can be instrumental in poverty reduction.

The government has already embarked on a comprehensive poverty alleviation programme. The Bank's support will reinforce these efforts and help achieve the desired outcomes.
Bushmen resettled after years of poverty

Staff Reporter

A GROUP of Bushmen who wandered in the desert for years, were given a new lease of life yesterday when they were moved on to a game reserve near Ceres.

A local farmer, who was moved by their plight after seeing a television programme, came to their assistance.

The leader of the 23-strong group, Mr Dawid Kuper, 56, said that he and his family had lived in abject poverty at Yauyzlarna, near the Botswana border.

After working for a tour operator at the Kalahari Gemsbok Park for three years, he was paid only R600. The family survived on tips from tourists.

After the family had featured in a film, Mr Kuper had been given a R3 000 cheque, which was later dishonoured. He has only R1 in his savings account.

Mr Peter De Waal, part-owner of the Kagga Kamma game reserve near Ceres, said that the men would be trained as guards on the reserve and the women would make traditional handcrafts and beads.

"We are on the brink of World War III, with nations poised to destroy nations. Yet paradoxically we are trying to re-establish a nation," said co-owner Piet Loubsier.
Major poverty probe launched

GOVERNMENT has begun a major inquiry into poverty which could have substantial policy implications, possibly as soon as in the next Budget.

In September Cabinet briefed a committee headed by the Finance Department's Stalin Callitz to produce a policy position on poverty. While the full report will be completed only by April 1992, interim findings could be implemented in this year's Budget, said an informed source.

More social spending is likely, while spending on capital projects will be cut back.

It is understood that the committee will use the World Bank's worldwide poverty alleviation programmes as basic material, and in particular its World Development Report on Poverty, published last year.

Staffers of the bank, the world's primary development agency, are expected to begin researching SA's economy this year. This will be the first involvement of the bank with SA since the mid-80s.

Government's inquiry is likely to use the World Development Report guidelines but modify these for application to the local situation.

The essential features of the World Bank approach, as outlined in the World Development Report, are that macro-economic policy must be growth orientated, that programmes should be aimed at job creation, and that these should be balanced spending on social services.

"The World Development Report provides a useful blueprint, but will have to be modified to meet the needs of SA's diverse population," the source said.

The World Bank report said rapid and politically sustainable growth has been achieved by a strategy which promotes the use of the poor's most productive asset, their labour.

A second phase is to provide basic health care, family planning, nutrition and primary education.

The report also emphasises expansion of agriculture as a key to poverty-reducing growth in rural areas.

Poverty in SA has been an area of neglect by the authorities. Signs that this was to change emerged in the last Budget, Finance Minister Barend du Plessis said the economy had to be restructured to raise the standards of all South Africans and R2bn was allocated to help remove socio-economic backlogs.

The ANC has put poverty alleviation high on its agenda and its economic policy document produced in Harare says satisfying basic needs by growth through redistribution is essential. The document identifies the Budget as a major instrument for achieving this goal.

Kevin Dave
Using World Bank strategies to tackle A poverty

Government plans to use the World Bank's World Development Report on Poverty as the basis for formulating its own policy. KEVIN DAVIE reviews the report's possible applications in South Africa.

THE World Development Report, published last year, is a no-frills approach to tackling poverty. It assesses international poverty alleviation programmes and produces a coherent policy to help the poor.

Classifying as poor those who earn less than $370 annually, the report says its strategy could reduce world-wide poverty by about 400 million people by the end of this decade—down from about one billion now.

Policies must be tuned to three broad tasks: encouraging rural development and urban employment, increasing the poor's participation in growth by improving access to land, credit and public infrastructure and services, and facilitating migration from resource-poor areas where poverty and environmental degradation are intertwined.

Agricultural reform is identified as the driving force behind effective rural development, laying the foundation for growth which reduces poverty. Agricultural growth also boosts the entire economy. Countries with rapid agricultural growth typically have rapid industrial growth.

SOUTH Africa is about to embark on a new policy programme. This year, the land Acts, which have prevented blacks owning land in "white" South Africa, will be repealed. This could bring large numbers of smallholder farmers onto the land, easing pressure on the resource-poor areas. Development Bank studies suggest, moreover, that these units can be highly productive and easily financed.

The report says that countries which have performed well agriculturally are those which tax moderately and provide strong supportive state programmes. Policy should not be biased in favour of large farmers in Zimbabwe, for instance, when the bias towards large farmers was reduced in the 1980s, maize and cotton production grew dramatically.

Growth in urban employment and wages is a second determinant of poverty reduction, both through creating more opportunities for the urban poor and through increasing migration by the rural poor, the report says. This is especially important in middle-income countries such as South Africa.

Governments can play an important role by providing, or failing to provide, adequate urban infrastructure. To date, the SA government has failed here. It has also put in place a maze of bureaucracy and regulations preventing blacks getting shelter and homes.

But there are signs that this is changing. A White Paper on housing, which observers believe will substantially deregulate the housing process, is scheduled for publication in months.

SA can learn much from the World Bank's experience in providing shelter schemes. The bank's shelter strategy relies on policies which the Urban Foundation and the Development Bank have been pushing for some years. The World Bank's site-and-service projects were designed to regenerate typical public sector housing programmes which had benefited middle-income households, but not the poor.

In these projects land equipped with rudimentary urban services were sold affordable to persons who either constructed their own dwellings or contributed to the construction. In Zimbabwe's case, this approach was provided for at 20% of the cost of the least expensive government-subsidised houses. This strategy, the bank's report says, showed that housing the poor was possible.

Industrial protection often reduces both the level and growth of labour in the formal sector. As a rule, the report says, the greater the degree of protection, the greater the capital intensity of production. More neutral trade policies therefore increase the demand for labour.

Trade and protectionism are both under review in South Africa. A new commitment to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) will reduce tariff barriers, while government has embarked on a major re-evaluation of protectionism, in order to formulate a policy for the whole economy, rather than just its previous ad hoc approach.

With informed sources say the policy under consideration would reduce protectionism, and increasingly demand that SA industries be competitive. The report says that SA is overtaxed, labour regulations and high wages all tend to increase the cost of labour in the formal sector. So do minimum wage and job security regulations, leading to a reduction in the demand for labour.

The SA government's ability to introduce changes in this sphere would be limited by the strength of the unions.

The report also identifies the informal sector as an important provider of employment and income, estimating that it accounts for 70% of urban employment in many sub-Saharan countries. But the report warns against attempts to protect the informal sector. Where credit subsidies have been earmarked for small businesses they have often led small firms to adopt relatively capital-intensive techniques.

Cheap credit programmes have not helped the poor. The report says public funds are better spent on infrastructural and services, including agricultural extension programmes, urban infrastructure stimulation, access to public utilities, and services such as electric power help small businesses because many informal businesses are based in the home. Studies have shown that access to utilities could reduce energy use by 30%.

The report recommends a shift in the allocation of funds from higher-level services to basic health and primary education, improving both efficiency and equity. The case for the state's role in mediating access to capital for the informal sector is weak, the report adds, arguing for state intervention only where the private sector cannot deliver.

It says government spending on social services is often inefficient. A case in point is that health and education usually favour hospital care, while preventive and primary care are more effective in reducing the morbidity rate and mortality.

On education it says governments in middle-income countries have been able to build enough schools and train enough teachers to provide universal primary education possible. The public sector is likely to remain the dominant supplier of primary levels of education, although there are no indications that the government is more scope for private provision.

The report is certainly not tailor-made for SA, but presents a strategy based on decades of experience of policy-makers in the South. It provides a point of departure, but the task is not to have to repeat the mistakes of others.
Fighting a different kind of war

WHILE war rages in the Gulf, Father Heinz Werner Schneider, Roman Catholic priest and a member of the Schoenstatt Fathers, continues to fight his own battle against poverty and disease in the community at Site B, Khayelitsha.

Father Schneider came here nearly 28 years ago from Germany. He is quietly spoken, but it is a voice that is heard when he fights an injustice. In 1978, Father Schneider was well known in the Catholic community of Constantia where he was one of the founders of the Constantia Country Fair, held annually for charity.

Father Schneider felt the call to serve in the impoverished black areas, in keeping with the philosophy of the Schoenstatt Fathers. At that time (1981/82), it was necessary to go to Crossroads. After 1985, however, Father Schneider and his team were transferred to Site B, Khayelitsha, a poverty-stricken area with shack housing and widespread unemployment.

"We are still trying to establish a church there, but we can't get a site. The residents have given us part of their shacks to establish two soup kitchens," says Father Schneider.

Every day, the soup kitchens feed between 400 and 500 people. The price for the bread alone every day is R100 and the annual cost of the venture is R75 000 a year. Funding comes from many sources, including Father Schneider's relatives in Germany.

Father Schneider also sees his role as helping people to build and obtain their own houses and assisting with education.

"I started a fund for 36 families five months ago and they pay R50 regularly. They say there is no danger of them not paying as long as they are involved themselves."
Worshiping the same God but worlds apart.

Besides Headgear

The Church and the World

By any standards of comparison, the Church and the world are worlds apart. After all, they have different foundations, different philosophies, different interests, different goals, and different standards. The Church is founded on the Word of God, the world on a spirit of tolerance that allows freedom of expression. The Church is interested in the eternal welfare of man, the world in the material welfare of man. The Church has for its goal the salvation of souls, the world the satisfaction of desires. The Church sets for its members a standard of life, the world a standard of living.

The Church of Christ, however, is not a world apart in the sense that its members in no way and under no circumstances associate with the world. This is not intended to imply that the Church is to withdraw and isolate itself from the world, but rather that it is to associate with the world in such a way as to be of its service. The Church is to be in the world and yet not of its spirit.

The Church is to be the world's friend, not its foe. It is to be the world's teacher, not its teacher. It is to be the world's good doctor, not its disease. It is to be the world's savior, not its savior. It is to be the world's light, not its light. It is to be the world's trailblazer, not its trailblazer. It is to be the world's guide, not its guide. It is to be the world's advocate, not its advocate. It is to be the world's builder, not its builder. It is to be the world's servant, not its servant.

The Church is to be the world's friend, not its foe. It is to be the world's teacher, not its teacher. It is to be the world's good doctor, not its disease. It is to be the world's savior, not its savior. It is to be the world's light, not its light. It is to be the world's trailblazer, not its trailblazer. It is to be the world's guide, not its guide. It is to be the world's advocate, not its advocate. It is to be the world's builder, not its builder. It is to be the world's servant, not its servant.

Committee completes its report on a food strategy

A GOVERNMENT committee studying a comprehensive food and nutrition strategy for southern Africa has completed its report and will hand it to government later this month.

The Committee for the Development of a Food and Nutrition Strategy for Southern Africa was commissioned two years ago by the former ministers of National Health and Population Development and Agriculture.

The present ministers, Rita Venter and Jacob de Villiers, will be handed the report on January 23.

The aim of the study was to develop a dynamic food and nutrition strategy for government.

The ministers said in a statement: "Such a strategy must be aimed at assisting and influencing the food producing, processing and distribution sub-systems to such an extent that an adequate nutrition level of an acceptable quality can be maintained within reach of the most vulnerable consumers."

The need for the strategy resulted from increasing demand for food in southern Africa, nutritional problems experienced by groups within the community and the rising cost of protein supply.

The four-man committee was headed by Dirk Smith, formerly Agricultural Economics professor at Pretoria University and later, before his retirement, Free State University's Institute for Social and Economic Research director.

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS reports that Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman has warned that SA could be on the threshold of a major tragedy in terms of rural poverty because of the recession, higher unemployment and the drought. The organisation helps between 1.5-million and 1.6-million people.

An Institute for Race Relations spokesman quoted Mduhla Community Service professor P W Coetzee as saying that about 61% of deaths among African children were due to malnutrition, prematurity and related infections.
Huge boost for social spending on the cards

Political Staff

HUGE increases in social spending are on the cards in the parliamentary session starting tomorrow, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Barend du Plessis, has announced.

The government had to act if the imbalances in South African education, health, housing and pensions were to be overcome, he said.

Mr. Du Plessis, who delivers the Budget on March 29, was quoted in the National Party mouthpiece, Nationalist, as saying the large low-income part of society should be incorporated with all speed in the numerically small modern sector.

‘Worst case’

“Steps must be taken to remedy not only absolute and severe poverty but also perceived relative deprivation,” he said.

In terms of an international formula measuring income distribution, South Africa was almost a “worst case”.

While South African blacks were markedly better off than most in sub-Saharan Africa they ranked badly domestically.

Mr. Du Plessis said the fact that income disparities were linked to colour and non-participation in central government made the South African situation worse.

He said a shift in income distribution should ideally occur through economic growth. But the economy had in the last decade not been able to address these inequities.

The government recognised that deliberate action was necessary — both to accelerate the generation of work and income among the have-nots, and to channel the fruits of growth into creating the balance.

Mr. Du Plessis said there was an unacceptable face to capitalism. In every civilised country today there was some form of redistribution of income and opportunities on the path to a more just and stable society.

Policy statement

He said rising spending in this area would, besides being financed by added revenue through economic growth, have to be offset by a reduction in expenditure in the more traditional areas of the budget.

Mr. Mike Ellis, Democratic Party spokesman on health, is expecting President De Klerk to make a major policy statement on Aids when he opens parliament.

“I think the government is going to pay great attention to the Aids crisis this year — and it is going to come from the State President down,” Mr. Ellis said.
Learning to farm for a profit

JOHANNESBURG — A group of scientists believe they have discovered a practical model to revitalise South Africa’s impoverished black rural areas and to slow down the flow of migrants to the urban squatter camps. The answer is to persuade rural communities to convert from subsistence farming to commercial farming, where they can produce more agricultural goods and services. The village of Nsaweni is a good example of what can be done with the help of the Nsaweni Rural Development Programme (NRDP).

Nsaweni ("This is the way") is a small village in Kwazulu. It is located 30km from Pietermaritzburg, in the midlands of Kwazulu. The village is home to many black farmers, who are trying to improve their farming practices and increase their income. The NRDP has been working with the villagers to help them improve their farming techniques and increase their productivity.

The NRDP has provided training and support to the farmers, who have been taught how to use modern farming techniques and how to market their produce. The farmers have also been given access to credit and other resources to help them develop their farms.

The success of the NRDP in Nsaweni demonstrates that it is possible to help rural communities improve their living standards and reduce migration to the cities. The NRDP is working with other communities in South Africa to help them improve their farming practices and increase their income.
Learning to farm for a profit

Johannesburg - A group of scientists believe they have discovered a practical model to revitalise South Africa's impoverished black rural areas and to slow down the flow of migrants to the urban squatter camps.

The answer is to persuade rural communities to convert from subsistence peasant farming - where they produce to small-scale commercial farming, where innovative programmes and methods can produce significant cash profits.

The model is based on experimentation over a five-year period, using the small land units blocks that are allowed in the homelands and should be directly applicable if present white farmers were to be sub-divided into small units for blacks after the repeal of the Land Acts.

Badly eroded

Nine years ago the Institute of Natural Resources (attached to Natal University) established a 16ha experimental farm at Cato Ridge, midway between Durban and Estcourt.

Nandandela (This is the way) is a system based on the land is underutilised conditions in KwaZulu. It is not a single production system but a complete system, which produces a dairy unit, a pig unit, broiler chicken unit, and egg unit, beef, vegetables, grass, and timber.

Each unit operates at a profit, with milk production being the mainstay. Each unit is on the same sort of hectarage which would be available to a black farmer in the homelands. The technology is essentially third world.

The difference between this and traditional peasant farming is an approach. Basic soil conservation is practised, and animals do not range on the open veld. Basic hygiene and veterinary principles are observed in handling livestock. Innovative crops are chosen. The enterprise is market-oriented.

Nandandela makes profits. It also takes in a regular flow of trainees from the rural areas who wish to learn hands-on how to run a successful small farm.

HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR NATAL'S PEASANT FARMERS

Nandandela and population is beginning to converge on the complex. It is expected to become the nucleus of a spontaneously established village, where small industry and services will complement agricultural activity.

The principles established at Nandandela are applied at Byela. Today 19 different interest groups co-operate, their activities ranging from poultry, livestock, forestry, dryland cropping and community gardening through to brewing and crafts.

Produce - mainly fruit - is sold at roadside markets. A large number of people are involved in broiler chicken production, with the number of hens and hens growing every four weeks and selling them at a net profit of between R1.50 and R2 a bird.

One plotholder has established pastures and a herd of five Jersey cows which can produce as much as 30 litres of milk a day each (against 2 litres from traditional cows grazing on the veld). He sells the milk to the surrounding community at R1 a litre.

Forestry

But perhaps the most spectacular advance at Byela is in forestry. Farmers are planting their steep hillsides with gum, assisted by Mondi Forests, who buy the timber at the normal commercial rate.

To create an incentive, Mondi makes interim payments year-by-year - subject to satisfactory performance by the grower - and pays him the balance when the trees are eventually felled for milling, usually after six or seven years.

Afforestation has a twin effect. It prevents hillside erosion caused by cattle grazing. And it generates a cash income from land which was previously unproductive, the quality of grazing above the timber line being very poor.

Byela is, of course, no more than a pilot project sponsored by a non-government organisation. INR staff believe, however, that it is a model for application throughout South Africa's densely populated homelands.

Nandandela farm manager Mr James Rankin with an egg production student.

Mr John Khoza and Mr Gavin Pote, of the INR Facilitation Group at Byela, in a nursery of guinea-feathered trees.

Report: GRAHAM LINSCLOTT
Special Correspondent
Aussie move unsettles SA wool sector

DURBAN — SA wool growers accused the Australian government of throwing the market into confusion by scrapping the floor price scheme.

National Wool Growers’ Association (NWGA) president Peter Kingwill said the Australian decision to suspend the reserve wool price until June 30 had dealt a blow to the SA industry.

The scrapping of the 17-year-old floor price scheme, which currently marks wool at a minimum of 700c/kg, will also be adversely affected, he said, but to speculate where the market is going to find its level is almost impossible.

Kingwill told an NWGA congress.

Sales in Australia have been suspended since February 4 until at least February 25 as a result of the scrapping of the 17-year-old floor price scheme, which currently marks wool at a minimum of 700c/kg.

Kingwill warned that a lowering of the wool price would result in disaster for SA growers unless the SA government contributed to the stabilisation of the industry.

He said government intervention would probably have to be only temporary as wool stocks would quickly become depleted.

Market analysts expect the price of Australian wool to halve to around 350c/kg in an unregulated market.

The SA Wool Board said last month it would market more aggressively abroad, particularly in countries in Eastern Europe which had hitherto been inaccessible.

— Reuters.

Call for EC rescue plan

ROME — Inkatha Freedom Party president Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday asked Italian Prime Minister Giorgio Andreotti to urge the EC to consider a Marshall Aid plan for poverty-ridden SA.

In his memorandum, Buthelezi asked Andreotti — whose country currently chairs the EC — to thank the community for its decision to lift restrictions on new investments in SA, and warned of the “radical left” which he said was trying to capitalise on poverty.

Thousands upon thousands of blacks were living in squalor around every urban centre, he said, and they had great destructive potential.

Warning about the rise of the extreme right, Buthelezi said: “Unless we really deal with white fear, we will end up with accomplished change that will be destroyed by events which will make any attack by a Unitas or a Kennewa on a government seem child’s play by comparison.”

— Sapa.

SUBSCRIBE TO BUSINESS DAY AND YOU GET IT BRIGHT AND EARLY

EVERY WORKING DAY

Get Business Day — Early — before you start your working day. Get new general, political and technological facts that’ll save your business decisions. Know what your competitors are doing — what your competition here is up today.

Get Business Day. Get it delivered to your home* Early — before you start your working day. Get new general, political and technological facts that’ll save your business decisions. Know what your competitors are doing — what your competition here is up today.

If you live in one of our delivery areas in Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Durban or Johannesburg, all you have to do is phone one of the following numbers and we will do the rest! PE (041) 55-8777, CT (021) 206-6511, DBN (011) 396-6333, Jhb (011) 710-2311; or contact your nearest newsagent.

Wake up to Business Day

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

*Where delivery routes exist

Reuter.
GOVERNMENT is to unveil a major plan to combat poverty.

Next month's Budget speech will include an announcement of direct government assistance to 2-million critically poor people.

It is understood that at least R660m could be allocated for direct aid to the poor, over and above any other social spending programmes. The allocation will follow an urgent government investigation into poverty, headed by Finance deputy director-general Estian Calitz.

Reuter reported that Finance Minister Barend du Plessis said yesterday he would unveil a "life net" strategy for the country's most underprivileged people.

"I have appointed a committee to conduct an in-depth investigation into the poverty problem in SA," he said.

The exemption of foodstuffs from GST is calculated to have saved the poverty-stricken about R660m – an amount that will be given back after the introduction of VAT, scheduled for October.

Calitz declined to confirm the amounts involved, but noted "the introduction of VAT has given further impetus to the need for a programme of action to combat poverty but the idea extends beyond just compensating for VAT, since government has a certain responsibility towards the destitute in any case."

The committee had considered various options, including subsidies on brown bread and maize, food programmes at schools and clinics, and cash. Calitz said Calitz acknowledged that about 16-million people lived "below the breadline", but said government was at this stage looking only at people at the very bottom end of the scale. It was unlikely government would be able to guarantee them a minimum living standard.

Another major focus of the Calitz committee's investigations is the state's role in job creation. The committee had studied a Development Bank proposal that government spending be used to help create jobs.

The bank found that consultants "notoriously" tendered designs that were capital intensive because their fees were derived as a percentage of a project's total value. This culture had to be reversed and projects involving high degrees of employment should be adhered to.

Although private sector academics and the Development Bank were represented on the committee, there were no ANC or other extra-parliamentary members. But it is understood government wants to "consult the communities we want to help."
Call for EC rescue plan

ROME — Inkatha Freedom Party president Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday asked Italian Prime Minister Girolamo Andreotti to urge the EC to consider a Marshall Aid plan for poverty-ridden SA.

In his memorandum, Buthelezi asked Andreotti — whose country currently chairs the EC — to thank the community for its decision to lift restrictions on new investments in SA, and warned of the "radical left" which he said was trying to capitalise on poverty.

Thousands upon thousands of blacks were living in squalor around every urban centre, he said, and they had great destructive potential.

Warning about the rise of the extreme right, Buthelezi said: "Unless we really deal with white fear, we will end up with accomplished change that will be destroyed by 'events which will make any attack by a Unita or a Renamo on a government seem child's play by comparison."

— Saps. 810014 13121981
BRITAIN will allocate an additional £3 million over three years for rural development projects in South Africa.

British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker announced the planned donation at a meeting with officials of Operation Hunger yesterday.

The assistance is designed to help Operation Hunger support small-scale black farms on newly available land and self-help projects in the rural areas. - Sapa.
NOW that the death knell has tolled on apartheid, under international as well as internal pressures, the main focus has turned to the political chess tournament between partisan alliances. Beyond the political rhetoric, however, vital questions are being posed that bring much of the bluster down to earth.

How much cash will have to be ploughed into socio-economic programmes to bring about the transformation to the promised land of the "New South Africa"?

Where will all the funds come from? Who pays the bills? How soon — especially in view of the way expectations have been pitched so high?

The answers coming out may not always be palatable to reformers in a rush.

For example, one of the first shocks for the politicians was an assessment from the SA Chamber of Business (Sacoh), which calculated the basic costs of remedies to racial inequities at R25-billion.

A Affordability

Sacoh has cautioned that it would be hopelessly beyond economic reach to provide all the remedies at a single stroke.

Far better, it has argued, would be to face blunt economic realities and seek agreement on socio-economic programmes that may need to be upgraded over the next 10 years to meet the acid test of affordability.

The deeper the economic researches probe, the bigger the problems that emerge — and the higher the cost of solutions.

From new masses of research, Dr Azar Jammie, head of the reputable Econometrix think-tank, puts the overall costs at R20 to R30-billion every single year over the next decade to start closing the gap in black/white living standards.

It makes the R12-billion special fund handed over to former Urban Foundation boss Jan Steyn to launch the Independent Development Trust last year — with the task of getting the wheels in motion toward black upliftment — look like a drop in the ocean.

Econometrix looks first at black housing.

The shortage of formal housing alone stands anywhere between 800,000 and two million — and that covers no more than black families with incomes large enough to cope with the high demands of a formal building society mortgage.

Still to be counted are 7.4-million black people crowded into 460,000 squatter shacks — an average of 16 to each shack.

Even the provision of basic housing structures to eliminate shortages by the turn of the century would cost over R5-billion a year — based on the provision of 250,000 modest new homes every year from now until the year 2000 and allowing for high population growth.

Next comes the acute shortage of electric power lines to black homes.

A nationwide count, taking rural as well as urban areas into account, shows a phenomenal four out of every five black households are still without electricity. That is about 20-million South Africans without even an electric light — let alone fridge, cooker or TV set.

Based on conventional connection costs, to link all the households to the power grid would take R14-billion — perhaps R16.4-billion a year if tackled in a 10-year programme.

Health services have also left black families way behind.

Dr Jammie points out the shortage of hospital beds for black families is so acute that even if all 11,700 unused beds in white hospitals were made available to all population groups it would hardly make a dent in shortfall — though it would cost an additional R760-million a year just to provide the extra staff.

The full scale of the problem comes into perspective with estimates showing that infant mortality in Soweto, at 30 to every 1,000 newborn babies, is no less than four times higher than the average white rate — and is even worse in rural areas.

The astronomical cost of solutions is one huge question mark.

Next come the education disaster caused by apartheid.

According to Econometrix, no less than 45 percent of the black population have not been taught to read or write.

Among black workers in actual employment, 30 percent have never been to school at all and 56 percent never went beyond primary school. Only 31 percent had at least some sort of secondary school education.

The shortage is put at 33,000 classrooms. If mobilised to take in black pupils, the 7,400 white classrooms standing empty at a recent count would cover no more than one-fifth of total requirements.

The new studies quote government estimates that spending on black education alone to bring about black/white parity would need to soar from a current R6.4-billion to at least R21.7-billion.

The Human Sciences Research Council calculated that if spending on black and white education had been levelled out in 1990/91, the overall cost would have been R37-billion.

Dr Jammie says the crisis in education over the past 15 years has already left its wake when he calls it "a lost generation of young blacks".

He refers to United Nations research that ranked all countries with a population of more than one million in what it called a "human development index" in terms of gross domestic product per capita, even bringing white affluence into the count, South Africa was slotted as low as 48th down the ladder.

Staggering

Even worse, when items such as literacy and life expectancy were added, the countries ranking any lower were the 48 other countries in Africa and a handful of impoverished Asian and Central American countries.

In terms of literacy, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Lesotho and Botswana all ranked above South Africa.

When all the factors are combined, Econometrix comes to the conclusion that the only conceivable route is to spread an action programme over the next 10 years. Even then, the bill would be a staggering R20 to R30-billion a year — equal to a 30 to 50 percent increase in the annual national budget.

Optimists who believe a magic wand may be waved to call a halt to unrest and tensions on the sub-continent may point to the vast potential savings that could be made by slashing expenditure on defence.

But at hand may be huge savings by the elimination of the duplications and triplications of all the bureaucratic machinery that has been needed to serve at the apartheid system.

Dr Jammie estimates all those possible savings at around R8 billion — a significant figure but nowhere near large enough to solve budget headaches.
Steyn’s trust offers helping hand to exiles

CAPE TOWN — Jan Steyn’s R2bn Independent Development Trust (IDT) has agreed to consider providing assistance for “very poor” political exiles returning to SA.

Responding to a comment on Friday by Justice Minister Kobie Coetzee that exiles could be in line for IDT assistance, an IDT spokesman said the trust would consider ways of drawing impoverished returnees into some of its socio-economic programmes.

“No approach has been made to us on this matter. But if we are asked to help, and assuming that the returnees involved fit into the category of being “very poor”, we will certainly look at ways of assisting them,” the spokesman said.

“This would be done either within our existing projects or in new programmes such as the allocation of R600m to give poor people ownership of land,” he said.

The number of SA exiles has generally been estimated at about 40,000. A weekend report quoted Home Affairs Minister Gene Low as saying that 1,092 exiles had been re-admitted to SA and that funds for resettlement ran low, while a spokesman for the multiparty National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of South African exiles said about 500 exiles had already returned.

Assistance from the IDT could cover a range of developmental areas. Apart from the R600m programme to provide land and basic shelter for almost 1,000 poor South Africans, the IDT has also allocated R200m for a range of other projects.

Coetzee’s comment about the IDT’s possible involvement was made at a news conference on Friday at which government announced the agreement reached with the ANC on the issues of violence, the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles.

See Page 2
Blacks replace whites, but poor get poorer

MATIGARI has a pertinent message for the liberation movements in colonised South Africa.

The story is set in Kenya, which went through a bloody freedom struggle that failed to deliver the fruits of freedom.

It is a memorable satire on the betrayal of human ideals and relates the bitter experience of the post-independence Kenyan society.

No wonder President Daniel arap Moi's government has banned the book.

MATIGARI tells of a man with superhuman qualities who rises to renew the freedom struggle through the use of arms.

The parallels with Jomo Kenyatta and his Mau Mau is too obvious to miss.

The post-colonial society established in Kenya with the help of the British imperialist government did not change the structures of oppression in colonial Kenya.

The structures remained the same while the aspirations for freedom of the masses of Kenyans were left hanging.

The lesson for South Africa is that we must guard against mythical heroes with perceived superhuman qualities emerging in our struggle for liberation.

We must also jealously guard against our efforts going down the drain as has happened in many parts of Africa.

White skins were replaced by black skins but no changes in socio-economic conditions for "the wretched of the earth" came about.

FOCUS

MOKGADI PELA reviews the novel MATIGARI by Ngugi wa Thiongo, published by Heinemann.

It is therefore the duty of the masses to analyse and observe cautiously the actions of political organisations such as the Azanian Peoples Organisations, the African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress and their leadership represented respectively by Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, Oliver Tambo and Clarence Makwetu.

It is the duty of the masses to call these leaders to order where they go wrong because no individual or organisation is greater than the people's struggle.

These days when there is so much talk about "negotiations" and a "constituent assembly" it is clear that people should understand and scrutinise these concepts.

And leaders should remember the words of Amilcar Cabral, who led Cape Verde Islands and Guinea Bissau to independence from Portuguese rule. "Tell no lies, claim no easy victories and hide nothing from the masses."

Kenya went through a negotiated settlement in the early sixties after a bloody war.

Only after independence in 1963 did people realise that their leader Kenyatta was to become an instrument of imperialism.

Kenyatta agreed to a neo-colonial sellout and betrayed the cause.

In one part of the book, the Kenyan government is dealing with a worker dispute.

Before the workers can speak a government official says: "The ruling party is our party, therefore this company has given shares to the nation. This is capitalism with a socialist face - or socialism with a capitalist heart."

He said: "Now even if you were the one arbitrating between the company and the factory workers, you would see that the dispute has now been resolved more or less."

"From now onwards, anyone who goes on strike against this company will actually be striking against the government."

He orders workers back to work and asks that everyone except the ringleaders be excused.

In reply to this, Matigar, the protagonist, says: "The house is mine because I built it."

"The land is mine too because I tilled it."

"The industries are mine because my labour built and worked for them."

"I shall never stop struggling for all the products of my sweat."

"One day the land will return to the tiller and the wealth to those who produce it."

"Poverty and sorrow shall be banished from our land."

Matigar pointed at the company directors and said: "And you imperialist and your lackeys, ministers and leaders of the police force, the army and the courts - your days are numbered!"

Matigar's is declared insane and is hospitalised with other leaders.

There he remembers that justice comes from a sharpened spear and not from words alone and he escapes.

In his classic, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, Dr Walter Rodney, a Guyanese academic and Black Consciousness exponent, wrote:

"The presence of African sell-outs is part of the definition of underdevelopment."

"Any diagnosis of underdevelopment in Africa will reveal not just low per capita income and protein deficiencies, but also the gentlemen who dance in Abidjan, Lusaka, Kinshasha when music is played in Paris, London and New York."

This message is well illustrated in Matigari and anyone interested in understanding how imperialism uses blacks against the black revolution should read it.
SA reserves sold to cover social needs

Political Staff

THE Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, has confirmed that the government is selling off stockpiles of strategic resources to raise funds for socio-economic development.

Details of what was being sold and how much was being raised could not be established, nor could it be confirmed if the resources included oil.

In response to inquiries last year, Mr Du Plessis said it would be highly irresponsible to sell off the country’s oil reserves.

He told parliament yesterday that the R319.4 million spent in buying land for black urbanisation and education had come from the National Supplies Procurement Fund.

He said the change in international attitudes towards South Africa had reduced the need for strategic stockpiles.

Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Ken Durr said non-oil items were being pared down.

However, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Dr Dawie de Villiers, who is responsible for oil, could not be reached for comment last night.

It had been intended that socio-economic spending would be met through privatisation, but no progress had been made towards this end.

Mr Du Plessis said that last year he had expected R1 billion from privatisation for social spending. This was to have been used to eliminate backlogs in education and buy land.

Only R318.4 million had been spent. If the balance was used in the coming year, it would be covered by the Additional Appropriation for 1991/92.

State debt, which already exceeded defence spending in the budget, had increased more than had been expected.

Of the R479.1 million that exceeded the Contingency Reserve, R418 million was the result of servicing public debt.

However, no extra taxes would be imposed or loans raised.

Mr Du Plessis said that although parliament had passed an extra R2.6 billion yesterday, it was expected that departments would surrender R250 million in unused funds from their budgets.

The Democratic Party’s spokesman on finance, Mr Ken Andrew, said the Additional Appropriation was a failure in terms of Mr Du Plessis’s yardstick of reducing spending.

“The 1990/91 budget has been overspent by R2.8bn or 4% — the worst performance in at least three years and not a good omen at a time when pressures to overspend are going to be greater than ever.”
20 000 Mozambican refugees are facing starvation

By Winnie Graham

More than 20 000 Mozambican refugees in a squatter settlement known as Hlupekane ("the place of suffering") in Giyani, Gazankulu, are facing starvation because they are not receiving aid, says John Welch of the Anglican-run St Anthony's Rural Relief Project.

He claimed refugees at a larger settlement on tribal land near Punda Milla were receiving "one kilogram of mealie meal per family a month."

Mr Welch was reacting to a report in The Star on February 14 which said the spectre of famine was hanging over central Mozambique.

"People are starving in this country," he added. "They are prepared to accept any jobs which will give them money to buy food for themselves and their children."

The Mozambican women at Hlupekane sometimes found work at R3 a day but refugees near Punda Milla had no opportunity of supplementing their meagre rations, he said.

Resentment

A problem in the area was the growing resentment of the Mozambicans by the local residents.

He claimed full-scale victimisation was only being avoided because the Mozambicans were known to be masters in witchcraft.

Mr Welch said St Anthony's had started a school and clinic at Hlupekane.

The refugees had organised their own committee and were trying to become self-reliant through projects such as precast brick-making. "They are so keen to establish a secure and stable community," he added.

He paid tribute to the Muslim community of Pretoria who had raised R100 000 to help the refugees.

"What the people need, however, is ongoing relief," he added. "They are slowly starving."
Pressure on insurers to help the poor

By TOM HOOD, Business Editor

The government will be under great pressure to intervene and use the billions in the coffers of the life insurance giants unless the industry devotes funds to help the less developed parts of the economy.

This is the view of Dr Simon Brand, executive head of the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Speaking at Sanlam’s annual meeting in Bellville today, he said the private sector had a fundamental role in the upliftment of the less-developed sectors and should do something about it timeously.

New demands made on companies by the political process of change need not be seriously undermining, provided the business sector recognised the opportunities arising from the changes and reacted constructively.

Dr Brand said Sanlam’s wide spread of assets and profits among all its policy-holders, and the strong growth of premium income from black policy-holders was a strong defence against criticism against large groups like Sanlam that may be expected in certain circles in South Africa.

Private enterprise was recognising the increasing extent the need to correct the imbalances between the developed and underdeveloped parts of the economy.

FACTORY SITES

Institutions such as ‘life’ insurers could invest in not only the already developed urban areas but also in factory sites and buildings and similar business facilities in less-developed areas.

“In this way a material contribution could be made to improve the quality of life and develop more diversified economic activities in those cities and towns.”

If this is not initiated by the industry, the government would be under great pressure to intervene, in the utilisation of savings, be it my means of prescribed investments or even more drastic ways.

Dr Brand said the Development Bank was convinced that the less-developed sectors of the community had sufficient business potential to make it worthwhile for the private financial institutions to make this change in the direction themselves.”
Right is keen to help

The world knows much about the suffering of black South Africans: poor living conditions and low wages. What the world does not know about is the suffering of poor whites. While poverty is rife among the black community, the sight of indifferent whites is somehow less familiar. But this group is steadily growing and its members are almost exclusively Afrikaners, reports LAURIE ACKERMAN.

Mocked

They also don’t want their photographs taken, because their children get mocked at school for living in garages or on top of each other — often as many as 12 people in a 3-bedroom house.

Some of them work as domestic servants for other white families — often for as little as R400 a month. They are the ones now occupying the servant’s quarters — that little outside room traditionally reserved for their black compatriots. We have provided over 1.5 million meals to poor whites. We have also provided clothes. Few people realise the extent of the problem,” says Eugene TerreBlanche, leader of the AWB.

It seems as if there is nothing new under the sun. The hungry support those who feed them. And this is one of the reasons poor whites support organisations such as the AWB.

Small wonder then that the basis of right-wing support comes from blue-collar workers and poorer Afrikaners. "The desperate whites" is a phrase often heard in right-wing circles. For many, the only means of survival is charity.

Oscar Hartung, leader of the far-Right organisation Magakasye Afrikaner Nationalisme, says the people are desperate. "We have nothing more to lose. Our people are not afraid to be shot. They have lost their jobs. They have lost everything."

Apportioning blame for poverty seems to unite the normally splintered Right.

Reneged

"The Broederbond made a deal with their people and reneged on this deal," says Professor Alkmaar Swart, co-leader of the Boere Bewydingbeweging. "The nation’s interest was replaced by their personal interest."

According to Robert van Tonder, leader of the Boerestaat party, the Broederbond did much to help the poor Afrikaner, but with the advent of the "professional politicians", such as John Vorster and P.W. Botha, the “Volk” was left to starve.

Claremont Community Centre in Johannesburg feeds between 60 and 70 needy families a month. "Werk en Oorlief", a non-political organisation based in Pretoria North, feeds 450 families on a regular basis. All of them are white. And their numbers are growing.

Mrs Pereira is desperate. "We don’t have money. Funding is a problem. We have no state subsidy."

The pensioners, the young, the illiterate and the literate together for without the little mealie meal and soup which we give them, they cannot survive.

"They have lost everything" she says. "including their pride. Often they will have to walk home with a bag of mealie meal. Some are lucky enough to go by bus."

Growing

Mpho Mashunu, deputy director of Operation Hunger, is equally concerned. "Before October last year we were supporting 8000 (white) families nationwide. Today the figure has risen to 12,000, and is growing.

White poverty in South Africa has a long history. Immediately after the Boer War the Afrikaner was destitute. The scorched earth policy and subsequent urbanisation led to a generation of impoverished Afrikaners. The plight of the Boers was taken up by the newly formed Broederbond.

By the time the National Party came to power in 1948, the upliftment of the Afrikaner started in earnest. Jobs were created in government departments and were secured by labour reservation.

Today these people live in different times. Some and political changes are taking place at breathtaking speed, inflation is rising and the economy continues its nosedive. At best, they have a tenuous hold on jobs which their parents took for granted. Many of them are struggling, some have given up.
Business Report

IMF to help govt with "life net"

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Finance officials are to meet IMF representatives in Pretoria today to discuss the implementation of government's "life net" strategy for the poor, a finance source said at the weekend.

Government is to announce direct aid of at least R600m to the poverty-stricken in next month's Budget after an urgent probe into poverty by Finance deputy director-general Estian Calitz, who could not be reached for comment yesterday, is expected to attend the meeting with the IMF officials who arrived in SA a week ago.

It is believed finance officials have identified key problem areas in implementing the plan to combat poverty, and that these could be ironed out with the help of the IMF. They want to establish the most effective way to reach the 2m people they regard as critically poor.

It is understood government would prefer existing development agencies and independent welfare organisations to distribute the aid rather than handle the practical implementation itself — a move which raises the issue of accountability. Representatives of these organisations are expected to attend today's meeting.

Government does not want to appear to be forcing its plans on to communities without consulting the people involved, and the issue of consultation with the ANC and other public representatives is likely to be discussed. Securing the goodwill and cooperation of the communities involved is understood to be a priority.

Finance officials want to keep the administration costs and "leakages" to those who do not need aid to an absolute minimum.

Methods of providing subsidised or free food to the poor will be discussed, including school feeding schemes and providing help through health clinics.
Govt might allow relief groups to distribute R600m

GOVERNMENT could make use of up to 2 000 non-government organisations (NGOs) to distribute R600m in poverty relief to millions of South Africans.

The role of the NGOs was discussed at meeting in Midrand yesterday between government officials and poverty alleviation organisations such as Operation Hunger and World Vision.

Another issue discussed was the possibility of applying a zero-rating on foodstuffs when VAT is introduced later this year.

While government initially insisted that there would be no exemptions, there are now signs that it might be prepared to allow zero ratings on some food items.

The senior IMF delegation which is in SA to advise government on the implementation of VAT, also attended yesterday's meeting.

One participant said the IMF seemed to be stressing that it was not desirable to set up a new bureaucracy to provide aid to the poor.

"Government doesn't have the infrastructure, so NGOs will have to be used," another said.

Government apparently does not have any qualms about using political organisations. The test will be whether the NGO can service the poor, and whether it is financially accountable.

Another criterion will be whether the NGO runs programmes which can provide upliftment. The idea is not simply to provide handouts if this can be avoided.

The meeting follows the completion on Cabinet instruction of an urgent investigation into poverty in SA. An interim report has been handed to the Cabinet.

Sources say that government is likely to vote at least R600m this Budget for two million critically poor people. These are families which do not have a single person with access to an income.

Government was represented by Finance deputy director-general Estun Calitz and the IMF by senior staff member Ved Ghandi.

Calitz heads the committee instructed to investigate a poverty alleviation or "life net" strategy for SA.

**World Bank**

The committee summarised the extent of poverty in SA by drawing on major reports, including those by Francis Wilson (the second Carnegie report), the Bureau for Market Research, the Development Bank and the Food and Nutrition Strategy for Southern Africa.

In formulating its approach to poverty, the committee is understood to have drawn heavily on World Bank research, particularly the World Development Report published last year.

Sapa reports that Finance spokesman Fred Browne confirmed the meeting. He said the IMF had been invited to submit recommendations on the new tax system.

"We have invited the IMF to study our proposals and assist us in devising a system which will not affect the poor," Browne said.

Estimates are that besides the estimated two million who have no fixed income, about 40% of the population earn less than internationally accepted minimum wage levels.
Govt may use NGOs to distribute R600m

Government does not have the infrastructure, so NGOs will have to be used," another said.

Government apparently does not have any qualms about using political organisations. The test will be whether the NGO can service the poor, and whether it is financially accountable.

Another criterion will be whether the NGO runs programmes which can provide upliftment. The idea is not simply to provide handouts if this can be avoided.

The meeting follows the completion on Cabinet instruction of an urgent investigation into poverty in SA. An interim report has been handed to the Cabinet.

Sources say that government is likely to take at least R600m in this Budget for two million critically poor people. These are families which do not have a single person with access to an income.

Government was represented by Finance deputy director-general Estian Callitz and the IMF by senior staffer Veer Ghandi.

Estimates are that besides the estimated two million who have no fixed income, about 40% of the population earn less than internationally accepted minimum wage levels.
Deregulation doubles blacks' spending power

Business Editor

WELL meant attempts to advance blacks in the same way that poor white Afrikaners were helped in the 1930's might have the effect of holding them back, Leon Louw, executive director of the Free Market Foundation, warned yesterday.

He said at a breakfast organised by the Free Market Foundation, Juta and the Pam Herr Organisation, that black spending power had suddenly doubled in the 1970's when deregulation began.

It had been static for the previous 70 years. The change had begun when they were given leasehold rights and were able to own businesses.

"This tells us that all we need to do is liberate them. A little freedom did wonders — a lot of freedom would be even better."

"We must not make the mistake the Americans did and make them recipients of charity. They are far better off on their own, making use of their proven abilities."

Louw said that when "American apartheid — the Jim Crow laws" were repealed black incomes in the US quickly rose by half.

Then a programme of affirmative action, to help blacks, was introduced. And black American progress stopped dead in its tracks.

With the exception of a few highly educated individuals, black Americans ceased to make progress as soon as the Government tried to help them.

"There is an unholy alliance between Left and Right to spread the belief that blacks in SA own nothing. But in the measured, formal economy they have leaped forward."

"There is an idea that we should use the same methods to help them that were used here in the 1930's to help poor whites."

"But the fact is that the blacks have made more progress in the past 20 years, with a little freedom, in spite of apartheid than the Afrikaners did in 60 years. The Afrikaners would probably have done better without help."

Discussing redistribution of wealth, Louw said many people would be surprised if it were worked out what blacks already owned. This included 60% of membership of pension schemes.
GOVERNMENT could make use of up to 2 000 non-government organisations (NGOs) to distribute R600m in poverty relief to millions of South Africans.

The role of the NGOs was discussed at a meeting in Midrand yesterday between government officials and poverty alleviation organisations such as Operation Hunger and World Vision.

Another issue discussed was the possibility of applying a zero-rating on foodstuffs when VAT is introduced later this year.

While government initially insisted that there would be no exemptions, there are now signs that it might be prepared to allow zero ratings on some food items.

The senior IMF delegation which is in SA to advise government on the implementation of VAT, also attended yesterday’s meeting.

One participant said the IMF seemed to be stressing that it was not desirable to set up a new bureaucracy to provide aid to the poor.

"Government does not have the infrastructure, so NGOs will have to be used," another said.

Government apparently does not have any qualms about using political organisations. The test will be whether the NGO can service the poor, and whether it is financially accountable.

Another criterion will be whether the NGO runs programmes which can provide upliftment. The idea is not simply to provide handouts if this can be avoided.

The meeting followed the completion of a recent IMF mission on poverty in SA. An interim report has been handed to the Cabinet.

Sources say that government is likely to vote at least R600m this Budget for two million critically poor people. These are families which do not have a single person with access to an income.

Government was represented by Finance deputy director-general Estian Calitz and the IMF by senior staffer Ved Ghandi.

Calitz heads the committee instructed to investigate a poverty alleviation or “life net” strategy for SA.

The committee summarised the extent of poverty in SA by drawing on major reports, including those by Francis Wilson (the second Carnegie report), the Bureau for Market Research, the Development Bank and the Food and Nutrition Strategy for Southern Africa.

In formulating its approach to poverty, the committee is understood to have drawn heavily on World Bank research, particularly the World Development Report published last year.

SAPA reports that Finance spokesman Fred Browne confirmed the meeting. He said the IMF had been invited to submit recommendations on the new tax system.

"We have invited the IMF to study our proposals and assist us in devising a system which will not affect the poor," Browne said.

Estimates are that besides the estimated two million who have no fixed income, about 40% of the population earn less than internationally accepted minimum wage levels.
MORE and more whites are asking charities for food as SA suffers its “worst malnutrition problem in 10 years”, says Operation Hunger director Ina Perlman.

The organisation was feeding 20,000 whites across the country, Perlman said yesterday.

West Rand Christian Centre director Rita Rogers said that on the West Rand the number of whites seeking food handouts had doubled since the start of the year.

Among them were “better-class whites” who had been retrenched.

About 50 whites go to the centre each Tuesday to receive pilchards and brown bread, she said.

Almost 4,000 white families receive food at the Werk en Oorleef centre in Pretoria.

The centre’s director Kienitje Perriera said “the situation is getting worse, with people being laid off.”

Three or four new families were asking for help each day and funds were running out.

Perlman said about 1.8 million blacks received food aid from Operation Hunger.

And with the layoffs predicted in the retailing industry, she expected another 50,000 people of all races to turn to the organisation for food.
POLITICS

44% of population living in poverty, says report

MORE than two out of every five South Africans live in poverty and one in 16 lives in extreme poverty, it was disclosed yesterday.

The findings, released in the Va-tcom report, are the first official estimates of the extent of poverty in this country.

The report said 16.3 million South Africans (44.5% of the population) were living below minimum living levels and 2.3 million were in dire need.

The findings indicate levels of poverty that are far worse than ever officially acknowledged before and as bad as those in many poor African countries.

They also emphasize the urgent need for massive social spending to alleviate poverty.

The report said a recent study found that in SA and the TBVC countries (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) there were 16.3 million people living below the minimum living level.

Malnutrition

"The minimum living level differs depending on region and family circumstances, but roughly speaking it is people whose total family income does not exceed approximately R600 per month," the Vatscom report said.

"The study showed further that using anthropometric criteria, 2.3 million of the 16.3 million people, mainly pre-primary and primary school children and lactating mothers, i.e. in the dire need of nutritional support to combat malnutrition.

"Quite obviously these people and those living below the minimum living levels are deserving of the first call on any assistance."

It added that addressing the problem of poverty in SA was outside the scope of Vatscom's mandate, but government had appointed a working group on poverty under the chairmanship of E Calitz. Included in its terms of reference was the effect on the needy of the introduction of VAT on foodstuffs.

The report recommended that the Minister of Finance be empowered to provide appropriate relief on a limited number of goods which were at present exempted from GST.

Direct budgetary assistance could also be provided to the needy outside the tax system, which would compensate them effectively for the increase in costs as a result of the introduction of VAT.

"The assistance outside the tax system to those persons in the welfare system could best be achieved by increasing social pensions, grants and subsidies to compensate them for the effect of VAT," the report said.
Barend’s Budget to signal massive boost in welfare spending

BILLIONS FOR THE POOR

By MIKE ROBERTSON
Political Correspondent

A R7-BILLION increase in social spending can be expected when Finance Minister Barend du Plessis unveils his Budget on March 20.

The government is also set to allocate hundreds of millions of rand in subsidies and food assistance to the poor to offset price rises caused by Value Added Tax.

The huge increase in social spending follows pledges by President F W de Klerk and top ministers that alleviation of poverty must be a priority of the Budget.

Deputy Finance Minister Org Marais confirmed in an interview this week that the percentage of total Budget spending allocated to social projects could be expected to grow from last year’s 26 percent to 45 percent in the coming financial year.

Assuming an increase of 13 percent in total government spending — Mr Du Plessis has undertaken to keep increases in government spending to below the inflation rate — this would mean an increase of R7-billion in spending on education, health, shelter and welfare.

And, according to Dr Marais, there will be even more social spending on top of this following the Cabinet’s acceptance in principle of the VAT Commission report made public this week.

Subsidise

The government this weekend studying an International Monetary Fund report on how best to subsidise food for the poor. The IMF report was commissioned by Mr Du Plessis in anticipation that the government’s General Sales Tax exemptions on most basic foodstuffs will be removed when VAT is introduced on September 30.

Dr Marais said a Cabinet sub-committee headed by Finance Deputy Director General Stefan Claas had already submitted a recommendation to the Cabinet on food subsidies and aid.

Who knows whose nose is behind the Red Noses? P3

Divorce party ends in horror murders

By BILL KROGE

A CRAZY father burst into a party and shot dead his nine-month-old son and estranged wife before killing himself.

Horrified guests watched as security guards Barry Bridgers, 25, of Port Elizabeth, and his wife Antoniette, 23, and her son, Leroy, at Mrs Bridger’s new home in Uitenhage.

Yesterday, Mrs Bridger’s brother, P ecce Bernard, 25, described the killing.

“We were having a braai to celebrate Antoniette’s move and pending divorce. I don’t know how he found out where she was, but just before midnight Barry drove up. He seemed totally mad.”

Crying

“His eyes were wavy his pastel and shaking. ‘Mrs Bridger’s son’

The boy woke up and was crying in his father’s arms when he was shot in the head. —

Antoniette was in the kitchen when she heard the shot. She ran out crying. ‘Oh God, my child!’ When she saw what had happened, she collapsed on the bed in a faint.

‘Her husband shot her in the head and then put the gun to his chest and pulled the trigger’

Fergie thighful banned

By DOUGLAS GORDON
TV Correspondent

THE SABC is threatening to replace Currie Cup rugby coverage with soap and films, unless the Dew over the R8-million price tag for TV rights is settled.

MNet has already put up R6-million for half of this season’s 24 matches — but the SABC has refused to pay its share.

One SABC insider said: “It’s a high-stakes poker game but we hold the ace.”

“The TV audience is lost with Currie Cup rugby every Saturday.”

We lose the female audience — the children and most of the men — except die-hard fans dreaming of Test matches.

“We’d rather spend the money on movies. We’d boost the viewing figures and make some money for a change.”

Fee

To underline its view.

By MIKE ROBERTSON
Political Correspondent

Who knows whose nose is behind the Red Noses? P3

Divorce party ends in horror murders

By BILL KROGE

A CRAZY father burst into a party and shot dead his nine-month-old son and estranged wife before killing himself.

Horrified guests watched as security guards Barry Bridgers, 25, of Port Elizabeth, and his wife Antoniette, 23, and her son, Leroy, at Mrs Bridger’s new home in Uitenhage.

Yesterday, Mrs Bridger’s brother, P ecce Bernard, 25, described the killing.

“We were having a braai to celebrate Antoniette’s move and pending divorce. I don’t know how he found out where she was, but just before midnight Barry drove up. He seemed totally mad.”

Crying

“His eyes were wavy his pastel and shaking. ‘Mrs Bridger’s son’

The boy woke up and was crying in his father’s arms when he was shot in the head. —

Antoniette was in the kitchen when she heard the shot. She ran out crying. ‘Oh God, my child!’ When she saw what had happened, she collapsed on the bed in a faint.

‘Her husband shot her in the head and then put the gun to his chest and pulled the trigger’

Fergie thighful banned

By DOUGLAS GORDON
TV Correspondent

THE SABC is threatening to replace Currie Cup rugby coverage with soap and films, unless the Dew over the R8-million price tag for TV rights is settled.

MNet has already put up R6-million for half of this season’s 24 matches — but the SABC has refused to pay its share.

One SABC insider said: “It’s a high-stakes poker game but we hold the ace.”

“The TV audience is lost with Currie Cup rugby every Saturday.”

We lose the female audience — the children and most of the men — except die-hard fans dreaming of Test matches.

“We’d rather spend the money on movies. We’d boost the viewing figures and make some money for a change.”

Fee

To underline its view.
Subsidise

The government was this weekend studying an International Monetary Fund report on how best to subsidise food for the poor. The IMF report was commissioned by Mr. D. Plessis in anticipation that the present General Sales Tax exemptions on most basic foodstuffs will be removed when VAT is introduced on September 30.

Dr. Marais said a Cabinet sub-committee headed by Finance Deputy Director General Edmund Calitz had already submitted a recommendation to the Cabinet on food subsidies and aid.

This would be studied in conjunction with the IMF report, Dr. Marais said.

Recent reports have speculated that up to R2000 million could be provided in food assistance to the poor.

Dr. Marais said the assistance could take the form of either subsidies on certain basic foodstuffs, such as maize, or feeding schemes at schools and clinics.

VAT exemptions on certain basic foods might also be considered as an interim measure if the government could not find enough money in this year's Budget to introduce a meaningful food assistance programme.

Bread

"It will depend on how quickly we can introduce food programmes targeted at the poor," said Dr. Marais.

He indicated that maize products were most likely to be exempted as statistics showed that 90 percent of white maize was consumed by blacks.

White maize is also the most likely food product to receive a subsidy. Thus, however, would be controversial as the government is busy removing the bread subsidy scheme because it is considered an ineffective means of providing assistance.

Dr. Marais said that in addition to considering food assistance, VAFCOM had also taken great pains to ensure the introduction of the new tax did not affect the poor in essential areas, such as transport, housing and medical services.

Dr. Marais said the government would prefer to introduce VAT at 10 percent, but this would mean phasing in credits for capital equipment purchases — thereby undermining the boost which scrapping GST could give exporters.
20,000 SA whites dependent on charity for food

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A record number of whites are asking charities for food as SA suffers its "worst malnutrition problem in 10 years", says Operation Hunger director Mrs Ina Perlman.

The organisation is feeding 20,000 whites across the country, Mrs Perlman said.

On the West Rand, the director of the West Rand Christian Centre, Ms Rita Rogers, said "Both lower-class and better-class whites who have been retrenched have started to come in."

Almost 4,000 white families currently receive food at the Werk en Oorleef Centre in northern Pretoria, the centre's director Ms Kleintjie Perreira said "The situation is getting worse, with people getting laid off," she said.

Funds to cope with the three or four new families asking for help each day have almost run out.

About 1.8m blacks receive food aid from Operation Hunger, Mrs Perlman said.

She said that with the predicted layoffs in the retailing industry, she expected another 50,000 people of all races to turn to the organisation for food.

She said retrenched miners were returning to KwaZulu in droves resulting in 200,000 people in some areas needing food from Operation Hunger.
Poor whites join the bread line

WERK en Oorlief does not look like a poor white's charity hostel. Sitting on a quiet street corner in Pretoria North, being gently mocked by the grocery store next door with its brush hoardings, it looks like another sleepy junk shop in another sleepy suburb.

But a junk shop it isn't. On any weekday, Werk en Oorlief (Work and Survive) contains human beings, sitting among the rubble of old clothes and old memories. Fathers wondering how they will afford their sons' school clothes, children staring bemused, wondering why mammy says she can't afford fruit any more.

Kleintje Ferroza, the organisation's sharp-witted director, started the shop in September 1984, after working as a factory manager.

"There was an economic downturn then, and many people lost their jobs. We thought it was only temporary. We were wrong."

She says the hostel is only for white people in need of help. "Of course, we don't turn anyone away, but that's how it works out."

About 5 000 jobless families visit Werk once every month to receive basic food rations — supplied by Operation Hunger — and to see if Kleintje knows of any jobs in the area. The answer is almost always "no."

When I walked in there were about 11 people sitting on the benches and chairs inside the small fruit market that combines as an office, waiting area and clothes outlet (two rails of stuff second-hand shirts and skirts line the back wall). Three pretty blonde children were sitting quietly by their mother's knees. A little young girl was chatting softly to a young woman. I avoided the stares of the others.

Machiel Britz was the first to volunteer to talk. A quiet, well-groomed man of 55 with a trim beard and soft, ginger hair, he had a sad face and the gentle manner of a priest.

Britz worked for 17 years as a salesman for Toyota, Nissan and VW before becoming retrenched last year.

"I just don't know what I'm going to do," he says. "Jobs are so difficult to come by. I don't care about myself. I can do a day without food. But the children need to eat, so they need their daily meals. They need to go to school."

The Britz family moved from their house to a room and a half on the edge of Pretoria. He has sold all his furniture and most of his other belongings. He has no savings left.

"Finding a job seems impossible," he says.

There were others who talked, and all had different stories. Some just seemed hopeless cases the illiterate children of farmers, their existences made redundant by new machinery or drunken husbands, or by economic downturns under which governments they did not understand. Others were simply unfortunate, speaking like Britz, of the agony of the decision to go to Werk and receive charity.

There was Richard de Beer, the sprightly 66-year-old who drove the Pretoria-Johannesburg bus for 20 years, still fit and strong.

"De Beer is still looking for work — I would do anything just to make a little extra money — but he knows deep down that he won't be employed again."

Anna Schepers, a white-haired 47-year-old with clear, blue-blue azur eyes set in the haggard face of an old woman. Her silent 20-year-old daughter next to her is crippled by asthma and unable to work. Her husband died. Her second has been in jail for five years.

"You will try and help me? You will?" she pleaded as I left.

But there is little help for these people, besides the monthly food parcel. Families and friends are either suffering similarly — all of De Beer's eight children come to Werk — or, in cases like Britz's, have become distant and closed.

"As long as you have money, you are welcome," says Britz with no trace of bitterness, only sadness.

"Now, I'm not — not any more"
ECONOMY

State hamstrung in bid to help poor — Syfrets

By TOM HOOD, Business Editor

GOVERNMENT plans to look after the needs of the less privileged sector of the economy are hamstrung by the constraints placed on it by revenue limitation, says Syfrets economist Elsien de Kock.

"It is only when significantly higher levels of economic growth are achieved, effectively broadening the tax base, that these constraints will be lifted."

The major issue which marked last year's Budget was the notice of intent given by the government to redirect public expenditure into areas which would most benefit the majority in South Africa, she writes in Syfrets' latest quarterly newsletter Money Matters.

Mrs De Kock suggests that while it is not where to spend the money the key is where the money is spent.

In terms of the approaching Budget, it is unlikely that substantial additional amounts will be allocated to housing until existing funds have been unbundled and effectively channelled.

She says the effects of a booming housing sector will only materialise in 1992 and, if effectively done, significantly improve the current forecasts for pedestrian growth next year.

The underlying assumptions made about redistributing government revenue are that there will be a change in spending priorities and there will be no problems as to how these expenditure programmes will be financed.

"It is, of course, commendable that the Treasury has declared that fiscal discipline will be exercised over government expenditure, and that spending priorities will tend more towards social needs than, for example, to defence allocations."

"The trouble is this will not bring about an automatic change to the real growth patterns in the country. The problem here lies in the undisputable fact that South Africa remains a highly taxed society, and the level of fiscal drag that exists acts as a brake on any sort of growth potential, particularly in an economy where resources of all kinds are under-utilised."

"Economic growth is severely hamstrung in a society where the tax basis is structured as if the economy were functioning at full capacity, when in fact it is not."
DP budget ‘rids SA of poverty’

Political Staff

THE DP unveiled its “alternative budget” yesterday, putting forward proposals on eliminating poverty, improving social and economic stability and raising living standards.

DP finance spokesman Mr Ken Andrew said previous budgets had been designed to provide for the needs of five million whites, but the priorities had to be reassessed.

He said the budget had to reflect the rapid changes taking place in South African society.

The DP budget relies heavily on the guidelines of the DP's social market economy proposals adopted last year. It suggests defence spending be slashed by 9% (20% in real terms), own affairs be scrapped, the SA Police staff be doubled over five years and apartheid be ended immediately.

Mr Andrew said R2 billion of unused education resources in white schools had to be made productive.

He said the government and the private sector had to be encouraged to look at using labour-intensive small businesses.

The DP proposals form part of a longer-term development plan in which other key socio-economic targets are that:

- Education spending be increased over five years to 25% of the budget.
- Housing backlogs be eliminated within 10 years.
- Health spending increase to 4.5% of GNP over five years, and
- Pensions partly be introduced immediately.

The proposals are based on estimates that real GDP would decline by 0.9% in total over 1990 and 1991 and that inflation would average 14% a year over the same period.

The 1991/92 budget should show no real growth.

Food relief schemes must be in place before VAT on previously exempted foodstuffs is collected and the finance minister must report annually to Parliament the estimated amount of VAT collected on foodstuffs exempt from GST.

The import surcharge should be repealed with immediate effect.

Other savings and extra expenditure measures proposed include:

- A lottery which could raise R500m.
- All Ministers' Councils and own affairs be abolished (a R600m saving).
- The Bureau for Information be abolished (R47m saving).
- A 43% rise in foreign affairs spending.
- Public service salaries be increased by 12%.
- Trade and Industry be cut by R180m by stopping industrial decentralisation schemes.
- Education get an extra R854m, health R551m, housing R500m and local government R100m.
- Agricultural spending be cut by R160m by rationalising the own affairs departments, and
- An extra R400m be set aside for feeding schemes, channelled as far as possible through existing private sector charities.
DP budget advocates more social spending

CAPE TOWN — The DP unveiled its “alternative budget” yesterday, putting forward proposals on eliminating poverty, improving social and economic stability and raising living standards.

DP finance spokesman Ken Andrew said previous budgets had been designed to provide for the needs of 5-million whites, but the priorities had to be reassessed.

He said the budget had to reflect the rapid changes taking place in SA society.

The DP budget relies heavily on the guidelines of the DP’s social market economy proposals adopted last year. It suggests defence spending be slashed by 9% (20% in real terms), Own Affairs be scrapped, the SA Police staff be doubled over five years and apartheid be ended immediately.

Andrew said R2bn of unutilised education resources in white schools had to be made productive.

He said government and the private sector had to be encouraged to look at using labour-intensive and/or small businesses.

**Developmental spending should focus on investment where possible, rather than on welfare spending.**

The DP proposals form part of a longer-term development plan in which other key socio-economic targets are that:

☐ Education spending be increased over five years by 25% of the Budget.
☐ Housing backlogs be eliminated within 10 years.
☐ Health spending increase to 4.5% of GNP over five years, and
☐ Penton’s parity be introduced immediately.

**Growth**

The proposals are based on estimates that real GDP would decline by 0.9% in total over the two years 1990 and 1991, and that inflation would average 14% a year over the same period.

The 1991/92 Budget should show no real growth.

Food relief schemes must be in place before VAT on previously exempted foodstuffs is collected and the Finance Ministry’s new report annually to Parliament the estimated amount of VAT collected on foodstuffs exempt from GST.

The import surcharge should be repealed with immediate effect.

Other savings and extra expenditure measures proposed include:

☐ A lottery, which could raise R500m.
☐ All Ministers’ Councils and Own Affairs be abolished (a R600m saving).
☐ The Bureau for Information be abolished (R47m saving).
☐ A 45% rise in foreign affairs spending.
☐ Public service salaries be increased by 12%, saving R320m.
☐ Trade and Industry be cut by R150m by stopping industrial decentralisation schemes.
☐ Education get an extra R54m.
☐ Health R51m, housing R500m and local government R160m, and
☐ Agriculture spending be cut by R160m by rationalising the Own Affairs departments.

---

South Africa

concept that will change traditional office buying... for

provides you with the widest range of office supplies, office machines at guaranteed

Buy from OfficeMart and...
THE Independent Development Trust has won the backing of the ANC and Inkatha for wide-ranging multi-million rand upliftment projects in housing, health and education.

The accord, announced in Cape Town today by the chairman of the trust, Mr Jan Steyn, is seen as a major breakthrough in securing the support and involvement of the black community.

ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi signed the historic agreement separately in Johannesburg and Ulundi in the past two weeks.

Both major black groupings have pledged support for direct involvement in helping to identify and implement projects wherever possible, projects will be undertaken jointly by the trust, ANC and Inkatha.

**Advice offices**

In a particularly significant development, both the ANC and Inkatha have agreed to ensure that joint upliftment projects are supported by their organisations, are not subjected to "extra-judicial" action such as bond or other boycotts and protected as far as possible against vandalism and "other acts of violent damage".

The trust, which has a fund of R2-billion for upliftment programmes, has agreed to set up advice offices and legal support structures to protect less well-informed communities against exploitation and finance a legal support service.

It will also train ANC and Inkatha officials to help implement the provisions of the agreement.

**Joint statement**

Mr Mandela and Dr Buthelezi emphasised in a statement the need for non-partisan development to "reduce the potential for violence". Both highlighted the need for grading of hostels in the Transvaal and Natal.

They said: "The programme must give priority to refugees and displaced persons arising from the violence and take all steps to peacefully and effectively re-integrate divided communities."

The trust, established as an independent agency to help to break the cycle of poverty and deprivation in South Africa, is expected to make a major contribution to helping black people to own and develop land.

Following its historic agreement with the ANC and Inkatha, the trust has now set itself the task of broadening support for its projects among other key actors and their supporters.
Health in the city
Progressive participatory research: stress factors in Manenberg

This article has been adapted from one which originally appeared in Critical Health No. 30 in October 1986. It was written by members of OASSA and the Manenberg Research Group. If you want to subscribe to Critical Health, you can write to them at P.O.Box 16250, Doornfontein, 2028.

Manenberg, 20 km from Cape Town, houses about 60 000 people whom the sauci has classified “coloured”. The highly poverty-stricken Manenberg community is among the poorest in the Western Cape. In late 1986, church and community organisations took up the challenge of dealing with the consequences of the wave of political repression experienced between 1984 and 1986. Together they launched a project to build a Manenberg People’s Centre whose stated aim was to empower the community and to unite them under one roof. It was suggested that a facility be included to address the psychological impact of stressors (mainly causing stress) in the community. After consultation with progressive psychologists, it emerged that psychology offered few practical advantages for South African working class communities. It was from this realisation that the Manenberg Research Project was born.

Life stressors and coping strategies: central themes

1. The consequences of poverty

Poverty combined with unemployment and the high cost of rent and electricity, constituted the major stressors for the community. 29% of respondents had no income and 15% were unemployed. 46% of the average-sized household, consisting of six to seven people, lived on an income below the 1985 poverty datum line of R345.00 per month. Ten percent of households were totally dependent on small state grants and gifts, and only 13% earned over R800.00 per month. The generally low levels of formal education decrease the chances of residents being employed at positions that pay a living wage. On average, 17% of the people had only primary school education and nine percent were illiterate. Only two percent had received education at the tertiary level (i.e. college or university).

Just over half the residents (52%) dealt with the consequences of poverty by appealing to government authorities for assistance, for example the Rent Office, the City Council and the Department of Coloured Affairs.

2. The “deprived” environment

The second major stressor rated by 86% of those interviewed was termed “the dangerous environment”. This included high levels of gangsterism, crime and violence, which made residents fearful for their personal safety.

The illegal sale and abuse of alcohol and drugs was blamed by 68% of people interviewed as the third stressor of major concern to the community.

This was followed by the problem of generally unsuitable community facilities and the deprived physical environment such as poor roads and street lighting and the lack of medical and child care facilities.

78% of residents interviewed said that they did not have a way of dealing with these stresses and only 11% said that they turned to the police for assistance with crime. 43% of respondents coped with substance abuse (i.e. alcohol and drugs) by speaking to a minister, a doctor, a social worker, a community principal or a trusted family member.

3. Interpersonal conflict

In addition to the community stressors already mentioned, 33% of residents felt that the most serious problem facing their families was conflict within the family and between marital partners (i.e. husbands and wives). Overcrowding is one of the negative consequences of the housing shortage in Manenberg and it makes worse the conflict within families. On average, two to three people occupy each room (including those not designated for sleeping purposes in each dwelling). 16% of residents said that the housing shortage was a severe stressor.

43% of residents turned to a minister, a doctor, a social worker, a school principal or a trusted family member for help with family conflicts. 35% approached government authorities for help with overcrowding.

Once the survey responses had been analysed, a workshop was held with community organisations to evaluate the research process and its findings. It was felt that the only major problems that had not been revealed in the survey were those of incest, child abuse and spouse battery.

The central lesson of the research project

For progressives in the social sciences, perhaps the most important lesson to be learned from this research project is that South African working class communities see social science research as both exploitative and irrelevant. Therefore, the experience of researchers in general seems to have been that of privileged academics intruding on economically deprived communities and violating the privacy of residents to collect information which is neither useful nor meaningful to those being studied. More often than not researchers benefit, not those whose participation makes the findings possible. But only in the last nine months of this 30 month research project, was there an increase in the acceptance of the value of this kind of work.

What makes research progressive and participatory?

Accountability

Accountability to those being researched and to the broader democratic movement is generally accepted as being the essential element that distinguishes progressive research from traditional research. Clear structures must be set up to ensure that accountability operates in practice.

The very first task of the research group was to define the ways in which each group involved in the Manenberg People’s Centre project was to be accountable to others. The research group was directly accountable to the body representing the community organisations coordinating the development of the centre. This involved project report backs at all meetings of that body.

The research group was to be accountable to the broader community by actively involving the community in all stages of the research, by trying to resolve conflicts and opening up workshops to discussions and by sharing the findings which were useful to the community.

Relevancy

Although the statistic for this project came from some members of the community itself, the usefulness of the research was debated throughout the project. This proved to be an essential test of the relevance of the research and a process through which people could work through their doubts about social science research.

It was only when interviewers realised that members of the community organisations realised that the research had value. They came to understand that even progressive organisations could benefit from contact with the very people they aimed to represent. Interviewees reported that when listening to people’s responses they really came to understand the severity of the stress factors affecting the residents of Manenberg. The Civic Association found the results to be important, reporting that such findings are a means of bringing attention to the plight of the oppressed to the attention of the public and particularly, the authorities. Organisations planned their own research for a variety of purposes.

A workshop was held to evaluate the project and the overall feeling was that it had shown the value of this type of social science research.

Participation, active sharing and non-exploitation:

The interviews were involved in all phases of the research, from problem definition and planning, to interviewing and evaluating the findings. Research skills were redefined to include the community through the training of the people who participated in the research process. Volunteers were trained in survey methodology and interviewing skills. Many reported that the research skills they developed have been valuable in organisational work.

The findings were made accessible to the community through workshops in which written reports were presented and discussed thoroughly. The main findings of the door-to-door survey were written up in pamphlets and distributed throughout Manenberg.

Skills and experience were not stated in a way down manner from researchers to the community. These residents who participated in the research continually evaluated the research methodology, as well as the findings. This break from a fixed research design required in traditional social science, to a dynamic, method informed by practice and feedback, was one of the greatest strengths of the project.

A decision was taken to prevent any research group member from gaining financially from the research project and it was agreed that no member could use the research to achieve an academic qualification. The research group had to be consulted and a mandate obtained before any information related to the project could be published and, where possible, papers would be written and published as a collective.

From the strategies outlined here, a model for progressive participatory research emerged and was tested.

Concluding comment

There is power in knowledge. Just as social science research has been used to enhance the power of the privileged, it has the potential to empower the oppressed.

The Manenberg Research Project demonstrated the tremendous potential of research that is conducted according to the principles of accountability, relevancy and the active sharing of skills and experience.
AN ESTIMATED 64.5 percent of South Africans (including those in the "independent homelands") are living in poverty, including six percent living in extreme poverty, according to a report by the government's Vatsom, released last month. The report said that 16.2 million South Africans (out of a Development Bank estimate of 36.6 million) were living below the minimum living levels and 2.3 million were in "dire need."
Peace will elude SA if poverty is not checked

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Peace and reconciliation in SA would be beyond reach unless aggressive policies to attack poverty were instituted, Wits University's professor of economics Stef Coetzee said last night.

In his inaugural lecture he said the situation of the poor had been aggravated by increasing capital intensity in the formal sector and the high level of unemployment since the mid-70s.

The average labour absorption capacity of the formal sector had declined from 73.6% between 1965-70 to 15.5% for the period 1985-89.

This implied that only 12% of every 1 000 entrants a day to the labour market could be accommodated as full-time employees during this period.

**Upswings**

Between 1974 and 1989 the formal sector created only 1.2-million jobs while the labour force increased by 4.7-million.

Coetzee said the percentage of the labour force outside the formal employment sector had risen to 41.9%.

"Unemployment has continued to rise during upswings in the business cycle which strongly indicates unemployment has assumed structural characteristics," Coetzee said.

Urban Foundation research indicated the metropolitan population would increase from 12-million to 32-million between 1980 and 2010, while the total number of metropolitan blacks would quadruple from 8.6-million to 32.3-million over the same period.

Coetzee said the foundation also estimated that 42% of the black population would be in the under-14 age group, and that some 7-million were already living under informal housing conditions — 2-million in the PWV area.

He said the SA economy had shown persistent decline in growth since the 70s and was characterised by a highly unequal distribution of wealth and income, rising unemployment, poverty and socio-economic imbalances and backlogs.

The economic growth rate measured by the GDP declined from an average of 8.5% between 1960-74 to 1.8% in the 1975-88 period. During this period per capita income declined by 1% a year.

The attack on poverty would have to go beyond the efficient allocation of scarce resources. It would have to address issues such as access to and control of resources backed by changes in the economic, social, political and institutional mechanisms to bring about a rapid improvement in the living levels of the poor.

Coetzee said the costly duplication of apartheid structures had a negative effect on the economy.

Government interventionist policies, such as those aimed at promoting strategic industries and import substitution, had also served to undercut efficiency.

"The plethora of legislation to keep the political system intact has had a severe impact on the control over resources and access to opportunities," Coetzee said.

In addition, Coetzee said, government expenditure had favoured the affluent minority leading to a skewed allocation of resources.

He stressed a political settlement would not be a panacea for the country's development problems. It could be regarded as necessary but not sufficient condition to resolve conflict in SA.
R220m boost for the needy

South Africa, 20/11/2011

The government has announced a R220 million boost for the needy, with the aim of improving social and economic conditions. The money will be used to create jobs, support education, and improve health services. The Social Development Department will be responsible for the distribution of the funds. This is part of the government's broader strategy to reduce poverty and inequality. The ministers emphasized the importance of collaboration with civil society and business to achieve these goals.
Barend tries to make up

'Redress Budget' to uplift the poor

THE hallmarks of the Budget for next year are attempts to redress political writings of the past and the upliftment of the poor.

Black housing and education get the biggest shares of the social spending announced by Minister of Finance Mr. Barend du Plessis in his Budget speech in Parliament yesterday.

Thirty-eight percent of the Budget will go towards social spending and about 20 percent of this will be on education, with black education receiving the biggest cut of the education budget.

Of the R16 billion allocated to education, R6.8 billion - a 27.4 percent increase on last year's amount - will go to black education.

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

An amount of R5.9 billion (6.2 percent up on last year) will go to whites, R2.3 billion (13.9 percent more than last year) to the "coloured" and R1 billion (18.9 percent up on last year) to the Indian education departments.

However, defence was allocated a massive 9,187 billion and the police R5.1 billion.

Huge share for black education

percent of these of whites but there are no signs of equality in the near future. 

Housing gets a whopping R1.2 billion, with black housing receiving the lion's share of R1.2 billion.

The defence budget has been slashed by R3.6 billion but instead of this being taken into socio-economic spending a large part of the reduction was allocated for law and order "to reduce the exceptionally high incidence of violence and crime", Du Plessis said.

An additional R20 million from the extra R269 million set aside for urgent capital requirements has been allocated to "efficient policing and the need for more emergency police stations".

"Once greater internal stability is achieved a downscaling in the growth of spending on protection services (security) should eventually create budget room for more social development," Du Plessis said.

Total expenditure for 1991/1992 adds up to R84.9 billion, including a reserve of R1.2 billion

The new Budget is 13.7 percent bigger than last year's.

DU PLESSIS
As robbery of the poor

Barren’s Budget Seen

SOUTHERN FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1991

Page 13
Place in Sun
Give Jobless
With Kindly Stipends
MY WAY

Tales from Common

If you get an offer, accept it.

They will be working, you will

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character

friendship's day, and 

flipping through their

Regarding the Character
Govt’s role is to uplift the poor, says EAC

GOVERNMENT’S economic responsibility is to promote socio-economic development, says the State President’s Economic Advisory Council (EAC).

Its revised long-term economic strategy released at the weekend stresses the need for upliftment, saying policies must be implemented to meet the needs of the poor.

The EAC adds the importance of socio-economic development to its existing positions of increasing long-term economic growth and reducing inflation.

Government, says the EAC, should concentrate on providing services for the really needy on an affordable, equal basis and should meet infrastructural needs in education, training and health.

The revised strategy also stresses that government should assist in deregulation so that unnecessary restrictions are eliminated and opportunities created.

But the EAC sees a reduced role for government. It says its share of gross domestic product has increased substantially over the past six years, and that this trend should be reversed.

It says a credible socio-economic development programme is necessary to improve international perceptions of SA, and ensure there are no impediments to making land available for shelter.

The report also gives detailed attention to structural development. It says an export culture in SA will have to be promoted, and that current tariff protection policy is subject to serious shortcomings which require fundamental reform.

It says high import tariffs which increase the domestic cost structure and impede exports will have to be lowered.
THE hundreds of researchers involved in the Second Carnegie Enquiry into Poverty in South Africa during the first half of the last decade must be feeling sick to the stomach after the delivery of last week's Budget speech in Parliament.

In his Budget address, Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis provided the most frank official acknowledgement of the extent of poverty and inequality in South Africa.

After a government dismissal of this country's most comprehensive probe into poverty back in 1984 as an unwelcome attempt to place pressure on South Africa, Mr Du Plessis told Parliament this week that South Africa has one of the most unequal distributions of income in the world.

Steadily increasing

He then noted: "But still more disturbing are the millions of South Africans who make do with pitifully low incomes. There are about 16 million people on "very low" incomes at the moment. And there are similar disparities in the ownership of assets," he acknowledged.

The Budget review, or expanded version of Mr Du Plessis's speech, went on to note that the extent of poverty in South Africa — which it characterised as "extremely great" — had in fact been steadily increasing over the past 15 years.

Implicitly denied

What a turnaround from the response of President Botha and members of his Cabinet when the findings of the five-year Carnegie study where released at a conference in Cape Town seven years ago. At that time Mr Botha scornfully dismissed the work of academics, researchers and professionals attached to 30 universities across the political spectrum in southern Africa and beyond as an attempt to put South Africa under political pressure.

The State President snidely remarked during the debate on his Budget vote in the House of Assembly that it was strange that a conference was being held in Cape Town when the rest of Africa was starving.

After papers delivered at the conference revealed that 80% of people in the homelands were living below the breadline, Mr Botha implicitly denied that there was a problem by arguing that the New York-based Carnegie Corporation should rather host a conference to discuss hunger in the rest of Africa.

Even after the New Republic Party's leader and super-patriot Mr Vause Raw told Parliament that the Carnegie conference had brought to light facts and information "of which no country can be proud", the Minister of Health, Dr Nak van der Merwe, remained unmovable, implying that the findings were biased.

In a similar vein, the Department of Community Development slammed criticism of the government's low-income housing policies as an attempt to bolster organised resistance.

Significantly, the First Carnegie Enquiry into Poverty in South Africa, which largely concentrated on the plight of poor whites during the depression years, drew a very different response.

That enquiry led to rapid action, with the active support of the churches, to uplift impoverished whites.

But the Government's response in this year's Budget showed that, as the days of exclusive white rule are drawing to a close, the authorities are finally admitting that something has to be done about the awful poverty in this country.

With the realisation dawning that whites might soon be on the receiving end of government policies not framed by them, it is no longer sufficient to dismiss evidence about grinding poverty with the tired argument that blacks in other African countries are worse off than those in South Africa.
Poverty seen as threat to SA accord

THE political settlement South Africa needed could not be realised if poverty and inequality were not seriously addressed, the ANC director of foreign affairs, Mr Thabo Mbeki, said in Somerset West.

He was addressing international and South African economists, financiers and bankers brought together last night by the University of the Witwatersrand’s School of Economics.

He said the process of arriving at what South Africa needed to do economically had to be speeded up.

The country needed to play its role on the African continent, which needed to be stable, democratic and reflect an absence of wars and Aids. South Africa could, however, not be part of realising this because it had not solved its own problems.

Africa had to address collectively the issue of democracy and human rights and secondly the issue of security.

Whenever there was a violation of human rights, the tendency internationally was to identify it as an African problem collectively rather than attributing it to an individual country. Likewise, wars and the enormous refugee problem were recognised by the world as an African problem.

Turning to the economic situation, he said everyone knew what the problems of South Africa’s economy were.

“In a broad sense all of us are participating in the process of what needs to be done to take it out of the crisis — getting rid of the racial inequalities.”

“Isn’t it time to translate these broad perspectives into something more concrete?”

Hasn’t the time come for all actors to come down more concretely to development needed in terms of rands and cents?

“What will it cost? Who is going to do what?” — Sapa
The wolf is at the door... Operation Hunger needs R21.7-million this year to prevent a major catastrophe.

**Feeding scheme needs millions**

By SOPHIE TEMBA

THE flow of Mozambique refugees to Gazankulu is continuing to put a tremendous burden on relief assistance offered by Operation Hunger.

The organisation is presently providing relief assistance to 82,000 refugees in Gazankulu.

Operation Hunger executive director Ima Perlman said this week:

"In Winterveldt where there is a very high rate of unemployment the organisation is feeding 11,000 people consisting of local families and refugees," she added.

Perlman highlighted the plight of very young children and said there were areas where an urgent intervention was necessary to feed children.

She said Ingwavuma had about 6,000 children with visible malnutrition that need urgent help.

"When I visited the area a few weeks ago, my reaction was total disbelief, as I had not seen visible malnutrition in children since 1986," Moovold Hospital in Ingwavuma.

Perlman added that in the Hluhluwe district more than half the children were malnourished – an increase of 26 percent over figures of two years back.

"In 1991 the countrywide economic catastrophe has sent rural unemployment soaring and reduced the regular migrant cash flow to an irregular trickle in most areas," she said, adding the organisation needed R21.7-million to prevent a major tragedy in South Africa.

"This year is indeed much worse than in 1981-82 when the drought escalated and increased the chronic poverty, the severe malnutrition and the endemic child death rate.

However, Perlman said self-help literacy programmes and the repeal of the Land Act would help communities face the future positively and with increasing confidence as they move from survival to true subsistence agriculture."
Rural folk hope to break shackles of poverty, hunger

By Winnie Graham

It was lunchtime at the Refengkhotso nursery school and the tiny boys and girls hungrily opened their bags.

Like all small children after a busy morning, the youngsters were ready for their meal.

They sang grace, then settled down on the cement floor of the church to eat their food, which, in virtually every case, was a small lump of dried pap or bread accompanied by a little bottle of black tea.

Sister Elizabeth Porogo, who, with Sister Harriet Mokoena, runs a clinic close to the Refengkhotso squatter camp, watched sadly.

"We should be giving the children at least one hot meal a day but we need gas stoves and money to buy food," she sighed.

Refengkhotso is about 100 km south of Johannesburg. The corrugated-iron shacks are miles from anywhere, and no obvious job opportunities exist other than on adjacent farms or in the nearby little village of Denysville.

Yet people from as far afield as KwaZulu, Transkei and the northern Transvaal have made their home here. Many earn just R50 or R70 a month with others bringing home a bag of vegetables each month.

Roughly 95 percent are unemployed and malnutrition is responsible for the death of between 25 and 30 small children every month. Kwashiorkor, marasmus and pellagra—all diseases of severe malnourishment—take a daily toll. Tuberculosis is another problem.

Bewitched

Even conflict in the squatter camp is caused by malnutrition, Sister Porogo said.

"Sometimes, when a child dies, the family will blame someone for witchcraft," she said. "They don't understand that the lack of proper food can cause death."

"Just the other day I stopped a group from pulling along an old woman whom they said had bewitched a child and caused her death. I had to explain how the child came to die of malnutrition."

The infant mortality rate, coupled with the large number of teenage pregnancies and the high rate of sexually transmitted diseases (running currently at least 40 percent), has prompted the community to ask the Leadership Institute for help in acquiring a proper clinic.

The Kellogg's Foundation has made a grant of R500 000 available over three years to fund a primary health care facility. The State has added another R157 000 to this.

This will be followed by the establishment of a job creation project and the establishment of an agricultural smallholding for the growing of vegetables.

The community also wants to establish a proper day care centre for the small children.

Stan de Klerk, executive director of the Leadership Institute, a community-based developmental training institute, said: "We helped by structuring a committee, identifying potential sponsors and devising an action plan to combat the many problems in the area."
GOLD AND EMPLOYMENT

A SAD STOPE OPERA

INSISTENCE ON HIGHER WAGES COULD HAVE DAMAGING SOCIAL EFFECTS

Retrenchment is one of the unavoidable consequences of the gold industry’s efforts to stay viable over its present crisis—described by Chamber of Mines president Clive Knobbs as the worst ever. But the loss of jobs is hammering already impoverished rural areas of southern Africa.

The sagging gold price is a primary cause of the industry’s problems. Anglo American’s decision to halt drilling in the Potchefstroom area (see Fox) casts a pall over future prospects for what after all remains a primary source of South Africa’s wealth. The number of gold mines which will not now be developed in the Nineties increases political pressures on government in an era when it must take serious stock of black aspirations for redistribution of wealth and the creation (and retention) of jobs.

The longer-term consequences of large-scale retrenchment of mineworkers include increased migration from rural areas to the squatter camps building up around the cities and, because there are no jobs available in the cities either, a likely increase in crime.

Towns traditionally dependent on the gold mines for their existence—like Welkom and Virginia—are also being hit by a loss of residents and businesses and sharp drops in property values. The town councils are putting a brave face on the situation, Welkom has researched what new businesses could flourish in the city and set up a special team to attract them to the area. But the primary problem may be insurmountable.

Mineworkers come predominantly from rural areas because of the lack of other employment opportunities there and because most urbanised blacks are simply not interested in working on the mines—even if they cannot find jobs elsewhere.

The industry’s recruiting arm, The Employment Bureau of Africa (Teba), has reached into the most remote parts of the country and neighbouring states, where its recruiting stations offer the only alternative to subsistence agriculture.

The cash flows involved are enormous. In terms of governmental agreements, Teba is required to pay a portion of miners’ earnings directly to their country of origin. The miners can claim these earnings when they return home on leave or at the end of their contracts.

In the case of Lesotho, the agreed portion was 60% of total earnings until last month, when it was reduced to 30%. The amount involved is R72m in 1990 (1989: R408.4m) while in the case of Mozambique the portion is 50% which was worth R139m last year (R114m).

That’s a sore point with Mozambican miners because they get paid out at home at the official exchange rate instead of the far more attractive black market rate.

The biggest earner after these countries is Transkei, where the remittances are voluntary, but Teba still directly paid out R101.5m in the area during 1990 (R81.3m). Transkei also provides the best example of what’s happening in the rural areas because it has been the worst hit by industry retrenchments.

Teba statistics show a 14.4% drop in migrant workers employed on the Chamber’s gold mines from an average of 476.127 in 1987 to 398.773 last year. Over the same period, the number of Transkeians employed has fallen 23% from 128,513 to 99,492, while the number of Ciskeians is down 24% from 12,249 to 9,289. In comparison, the Mozambique labour contingent has dropped just 6% and the Lesotho contingent is only 7% lower.

Teba points out that it recruits as required by the individual mines and the controlling mining houses which determine the ethnic mix of the work force. The reason for the pattern reflected in the statistics is not hard to work out:

Xhosa workers from the Transkei and Ciskei, who traditionally support the ANC, have the reputation of being notorious troublemakers on the mines—often for political issues not directly related to industrial relations matters.

Chamber senior GM Johann Liebenberg estimates each black miner supports up to 10 dependents through the traditional African extended family. What then happens if their cash-flows dry up? They starve—and so do their families.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman says her organisation supported about 250,000 people in the Transkei region last year. Since December, the charity has started feeding an additional 150,000 people there and it estimates that a further 100,000 are waiting to join the feeding schemes which consist of soup kitchens and monthly rations for family units.

She attributes the bulk of this to retrenchments in the mining industry, saying another badly hit region is the Ingwavuma district of KwaZulu.

How many workers have been forced out of the gold mines into unemployment is difficult to pin down because of transfers of redundant workers to other mines in the same group. Retrenchment agreements negotiated by some mines with the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) have also included provisions for extended periods of unpaid leave in an attempt to save jobs.

In January, Liebenberg estimated that during 1990 there were 27,000 actual retrenchments on the gold mines. He has since revised that figure to 40,000 and the chamber has drawn up its 1991 budget on the estimate that between 40,000 and 45,000 more workers will be laid off.

The hard fact is that 40% of SA’s gold is produced at a loss of a price of R30,000/kg and the unprofitable mines employ about 190,000 people. That is the result of Reserve Bank policy to maintain the value of the rand, whereas in the past the currency was simply allowed to devalue to compensate the gold mines for lower dollar gold prices.

A contributing factor to this new hardened policy appears to be the declining importance of the gold industry to the SA economy. Bank statistics show that in 1983, gold exports of R9.32bn constituted 42% of total exports and service receipts of R22.6bn. However, in 1990, gold exports of R18.8bn amounted to only 25% of total exports and...
MAKING DO WITHOUT GOLD

There's no denying the tribulations of the gold mining industry (see Leaders), nor minimising the impact of the present price and cost structure on its future (see Fox). Gold has been the mainstay of the economy for a century and in the past repeated gloomy predictions of its demise have always been premature.

But if the metal has indeed at last lost its safe-haven status, and the authorities are no longer going to allow a steady depreciation of the currency to protect exporting industries, life after gold is no longer a distant prospect.

The consequences this will have on employment, export revenues and the fiscus are substantial. But it's pointless jobbing backwards, we must rather plan for what lies ahead.

In this regard, it's worth bearing in mind that we have already made considerable progress. The Eighties saw a structural shift in the economy whose extent barely seems to have penetrated the popular consciousness.

The gold mines are expected to contribute only R630m in tax and lease payments in the new fiscal year, just under 1% of total tax revenue. As recently as 1987-1988, they contributed R2.65bn of total revenue of R34.3bn, or almost 8% -- and that already represented a steep drop on previous years.

Equally, gold is a falling contributor to exports. The slack has partly been taken up by other mineral exports -- such as diamonds and the new granite industry -- but even more by manufactured goods, and that despite the generally wrong-headed policies followed towards secondary industry.

Ten years ago it would have been inconceivable that we could run the sort of balance of payments surplus we achieved last year, and should achieve this year, with such a low contribution from gold.

Of course, this is not to say that we must write gold off. The mines are looking for more effective ways of exploiting their resources, and while the number of mines and jobs at risk is high, relative to total gold production it's less significant. Most of the big producers are still highly profitable, and should remain so.

And it is to be hoped that the international gold market will recover at some stage -- an event from which we will benefit considerably.

But the point remains that, in the face of international trade and financial sanctions, we have already taken major steps in diversifying the economy away from gold. There is a long way still to go, but what we have achieved so far is a substantial plus factor. We are entitled -- for once -- to give ourselves quite a large pat on the back for it.

THE CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE

DON'T LOOK FOR A THIRD FORCE

The weekend meeting between Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela, to discuss ways of curbing violence, is excellent news -- up to a point. Mandela has been on holiday out of the public eye for some weeks, during which the Inkatha-ANC "peace" pact began to look like a sick joke.

Obviously, while every incident of conflict has particular causes, the war in the townships is aligning itself along party lines -- in fact, along tribal lines, a dire portent -- and increased visibility of the leaders is one important way of preventing an escalation into civil war.

The constant attempts, particularly by the ANC, to pin the blame on some third or fourth force do not so far amount to more than hearsay. Nobody believes that the police are angels in such situations, but the solution to the police problem lies in the long-term upgrading of their personnel, resources and sense of professionalism. They need to feel responsible to the community rather than being typecast as its enemies.

Any attempts to create an alternative force for law and order in the townships will fail and probably lead to more massacres. There needs to be fewer arms in the black areas, not more, and the utmost scrutiny of police behaviour is essential if rumour and hearsay are not to proliferate. For their part, the black groups must cease to gather in large numbers to foster hatred of each other.

Buthelezi's proposal that he, Mandela and President F W de Klerk should comprise a watchdog committee on factional violence -- and other urgent issues -- will come to little unless each exerts strong influence on those directly responsible for violence. De Klerk will be expected to take seriously complaints of police misbehaviour which reach him through this committee, the black leaders must, somehow, make their desire for peace felt in the streets.

Since the growth of factional violence is probably the major deterrent to satisfactory and stable negotiations, the best thing Buthelezi and Mandela can co-operate on to spread the message would be to tour the townships in company with each other, restating to the various communities the direction in which they are being led. If what we are witnessing is alienated tribalism -- wars over influence and turf, revenge killings -- a sense of common purpose needs to permeate every stratum of society.

Like the return of the police, the inculcation of such a sense will take time. Horrible things will occur along the way -- but without it, the decay and desperation will increase monstrously.
service receipts of R71,3bn

Knobbs accepts the need to fight inflation but questions whether the price being paid is not too high, given the country's social and political circumstances. "Opinion in the mining industry is split on this issue but many of us feel there is room for a trade-off here between fighting inflation and fighting unemployment. Increasing unemployment is not a good background against which to negotiate a new political dispensation."

Frankel Max Pollak Vinderine economist Mike Brown prefers to assess the industry in dollar terms and — assuming a flat US$350/oz gold price over the next two years — foresees, at worst, the loss of 150 t of annual gold production, but a better view is the loss of about 90 t of annual gold production.

He estimates that losing 90 t of gold production annually would mean a decline of 0.5% in real SA GDP, a drop of R2,55bn in foreign exchange earnings and the loss of 75 000 jobs.

Just how high must the rand gold price be to materially help the industry? Over the past few weeks, the rand has weakened sharply against the surging dollar from a rate of about $1/R2.52 to the current $1/R2.72. The gold price is currently around R31 000/kg, but that compares with the average of just under R32 000/kg which has ruled for the past three years.

Knobbs says a look at the spread of individual mine working costs, including capital expenditure, indicates that a price of R33 000/kg would put all but some six mines into the black as about 15 mines showed break-even costs between R30 000 and R33 000 for the December quarter.

In the absence of an improved gold price the level of wage settlements this year will be crucial to the number of retrenchments.

Mining industry executives draw a direct link between the level of pay awards and the number of workers they can afford to employ with labour amounting to 50% of working costs.

Ever higher wages are becoming unsustainable.

The NUM has achieved real increases in wage levels after inflation for each of the past three years Liebenberg reckons the union started to show some appreciation of the realities last year when it settled for lower pay increases on the gold mines than on the coal mines, which were perceived to be able to pay more.

However, initial indications for this year's bargaining are that the NUM remains set on its goal of pushing mine wages into line with the higher rates paid in secondary and manufacturing industries. Yet, on the other side, the mining house executives are talking in terms of holding pay increases to a bare minimum.

Brown points out that the critical issue is that mine wages are still only some 60% of the average levels for semi- or unskilled labour in other sectors of the economy.

NUM press officer Jerry Majatladi does not accept that wage restraint would definitely result in greater employment, saying the general tendency of the capitalist system is to replace workers with machines.

He feels the long-term solutions to the industry's labour problems will only come when the gold mines are nationalised.

When the FM raised the issue of the Zambian copper mines as an example of what normally goes wrong with nationalised mining industries, Majatladi rejected the comparison out of hand, considering it to be "racist."

The FM does not consider it racist to point out how jobs can be lost permanently by nationalised industries which cannot remain economically viable.

Brown comments "What appears to be driving the nationalisation campaign is the fear of mine job losses and the NUM's concern about the erosion of its power base. The NUM believes that the social security system of the mining industry falls far below acceptable norms and that a State-controlled industry is a prerequisite for ensuring better treatment of workers, proper development of human capital and improved retrenchment packages."

"For this reason, the union is ignoring the economic reasons against nationalisation in favour of social arguments for it."

Mining house executives remain confident about the long-term future of the industry which has a "third wave" of new deep-level gold mines ready for development which would boost employment by the industry. But for these to get the go-ahead, ring-fencing will have to be dropped and a much higher gold price is required. One recent estimate by Gengold MD Gary Maudie put it at $700/oz. Perhaps executives have to dream, just as workers do, Brendan Ras
exempt as well as taxable supplies, with the consequent need for the systems to identify and apportion input tax credits.

The price of non-compliance is severe, says Coopers Theron Du Toit partner Bronwyn Allan. There is a penalty of 10% for late payment, plus interest at a rate set by the Minister of Finance (with the initial rate set at 2.5% per month in the draft Bill.) Commerce and industry have not taken seriously enough government's stated intention to introduce VAT in October.

A late start to altering systems has also affected software houses. Even if a company dependent on packaged software makes its moves now, it may still be in trouble. Remember, too, that the Bill also provides that documents containing accounting procedures as well as all the relevant software must be kept available for VAT audit.

To make matters worse, the Bill makes no provision for transitional procedures, which means that failure to comply will, from the inception, expose business to the full rigour of the penalties. It is true that the Bill provides a discretion to the Commissioner to waive penalties if he is satisfied there was no intent to defraud — but to take advantage of this implies that the penalised firm must pay first and apply later for a waiver.

Inevitably, the transition from the GST system also requires some special provisions. Errol Danziger, tax consultant at Kessel Feinstein, says the Bill provides that some vendors registered under the Sales Tax Act but who do not make taxable supplies for VAT purposes — or because they fall below the compulsory registration level of R150 000 of turnover per year — will not be required to register for VAT, so that they can recover GST paid. By ensuring that an effective stock withdrawal accounting procedure is in place, they can speed up GST refunds. Smaller businesses, such as plumbers and electricians, will have to search for records of GST paid to get a refund.

Deloitte Pim Goldby director Des Kruger draws attention to an important rethink on VAT on fuel. The draft Bill provided for an input tax credit for fuel but made no adjustment for the fuel levy paid on the purchase of petrol or diesel.

This implied that VAT would be imposed on the current petrol or diesel price, including the fuel levy, which amounted to a serious case of double taxation.

Vatcom recommended that the fuel levy be included in the VAT base. However, this was rejected by Finance Minister Trevor Manuel in the passage of the Bill.

The Bill also prohibits group registration for VAT purposes, which would have greatly simplified accounting procedures within large businesses. Official fears about group registration appear to be unfounded in the light of other countries' experience.
Information from Operation Hunger field-workers indicated a huge increase in the number of families receiving aid.

The organisation is now feeding about 160,000 people in the area.

This week thousands of women gathered at the Fatima Mission Church in GaManhata and pleaded with Operation Hunger to help them start self-help projects.

Perlman told them: "While feeding is a vital part of rural development, it is also the organisation's primary aim to help rural communities to develop revenue-earning communal enterprises to help them earn enough money to feed themselves."
Food aid for Orania families

ORANIA's last 11 coloured families, forced to move to Watrenton in the Transvaal, from the Afrikaaner-only town in the north-western Cape at the weekend, were given a month's supply of food by welfare workers.

However, all 11 family heads are unemployed and have no cash to start looking for jobs, pay rent or renovate the houses they were assigned.

Jan Stellenberg, spokesman for the 11 families, said the houses were not complete inside.

"We left partly completed houses, whereas these are shells without bathrooms. And who will we use for transport money to go job-hunting or pay the rent with? All of us are quite destitute."

The community has approached Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) in Kimberley for financial assistance.

Afrikaner Volkswag head Prof Carel Boshoff said "We offered to let them (the families) stay until the end of March, and also offered to help them move, which we have in fact done. We do not believe that it is correct to blame our organisation." — Sapa
Du Plessis slammed over relief schemes

LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — Finance Minister Trevor Du Plessis demonstrated "callous disregard" for SA's poor by saying government would not replace the bread subsidy with another relief programme and did not know how to target aid, DP Finance spokesman Ken Andrew said yesterday.

Responding to Du Plessis's reply in Parliament to questions on starvation, Andrew said government had phased out bread subsidies worth hundreds of millions of rand on the basis that targeted aid was more effective than subsidies.

"A child dies every 20 minutes from starvation in SA. This is totally unacceptable and it is a disgrace that food subsidies have been eliminated before relief programmes are in place," he said.

Du Plessis said state funds had been used over the past 23 years for the prevention of protein-energy malnutrition among children aged between one and five years.

A total of R30 000 a year had been allocated over the past two years. Increased assistance to the severely indigent had been announced and the Finance Department was investigating poverty.
Refugee Villagers in Desperate Need

SOWTAM Thursday April 25 1991

Page 15
Ranks of destitute whites swelling

At least 20,000 Afrikaner families are destitute in Pretoria alone, a welfare organisation for Afrikaners, Werk en Oorloof (Work and Survive), estimates.

The organisation has nearly depleted all its cash and food resources to alleviate the urgent plight of newly homeless, jobless whites in the Pretoria region.

Klentjie Pereira, who has run the shopfront welfare office in Pretoria North for six years without any Government subsidies, says six or more newly destitute families now approach them for help each day.

She estimates that at least 20,000 Afrikaner families are destitute in the Pretoria region although the families are often supported by their employed relatives.

Laid off

Werk en Oorloof prefers to encourage destitute Afrikaners to take jobs offered through the organisation.

These usually involve temporary repair or building jobs, but often they also become "scab" labourers during strikes. When the strikes end, they are laid off again.

"Many of these men are skilled artisans, former mineworkers and railway employees who were retrenched."

"The level of destitution among these Afrikaners in Pretoria is becoming very critical. We used to feed and provide clothing to between 600 and 800 families, but have been experiencing an alarming increase recently."

While most of the needy approach the organisation for jobs, others, usually pensioners, also fetch basic foods and second-hand clothing from the shop.

— Sapa.
Mokaba too old for youth league?

JOHANNESBURG. — ANC Youth League president Mr Peter Mokaba and half his provisional leadership could find themselves without jobs if the ANC's proposed new constitution is adopted in July — because they are not youthful enough.

The constitution — to be proposed for ratification at the ANC's consultative conference in Durban — states that membership of the league should be open to people between the ages of 14 and 30.

The league's assistant secretary-general, Mr Billy Masethla, said the question of the maximum age was a matter of "strenuous" debate among league and ANC members.

... About half the 25-member provisional leadership group was over 30, he said.

Mr Mokaba, whose taste for designer shirts and militant style have made him a high-profile and popular figure among the youth, is 33.

The Youth League's current maximum age is 35, and this age limit would be adhered to until a final decision was taken, Mr Masethla said.

Khans and can'ts of petty apartheid

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

APARTHEID is still pecking fit and taking flight in a bird park, a Ravensmead man found while holidaying in the Transvaal.

On Sunday — three weeks into his "very expensive" Transvaal sojourn — Mr Abdulla Khan and his companions visited Hartbeespoort Dam where he was handed a handbill advertising the Makapani Bird Park and Picnic Resort.

Excited by the thought of pincicking to the twitter of 1 000 exotic birds, Mr Khan drove to the spot and was told it was "for whites only".

... Mr Khan was told by the manager that the resort was in a "CP and AWB area and the people would not like it if Indians, coloureds and blacks were allowed in.

But an apologetic manager did allow Mr Khan to see the birds — which "I thanked them for".

Mr Khan said he was so disillusioned by the incident that he and his wife packed their bags and cut short their holiday.

The manager could not be reached for comment last night.

Ciskei children dying of hunger

EAST LONDON. — Almost 24 000 people in Ciskei's Hewu district are being fed daily by Operation Hunger, yet children there are still dying from malnutrition.

The organisation is feeding 85 000 in the homeland daily and another 60 000 had applied for help, according to the Border regional director of Operation Hunger, Mrs Glynis Baer.

Organisations involved in the region blame South African and Ciskei government incompetence and insensitivity as the cause of the deaths.

"There is no doubt we have a problem," said Dr Vincent Shaw of the paediatric ward at Hewu Hospital, who said 17 children died of kwashiorkor, resulting from long-term malnutrition, in March.

While no accurate figures of the infant mortality rate in the area were available, a survey in Oxton, a village in the district, revealed that 60% of respondents had lost one child or more, while 30% had lost three children or more.

Mrs Baer said the malnutrition problem was exacerbated by a shortage of food and water and by the area's geographic isolation.

Africa famine warning — Page 5
THOUSANDS of black people who have lost their jobs on white farms in the Free State are living in abject poverty, while their children are being ravaged by malnutrition.

Several children have died of starvation in Daleside, Hoopstad, Steynsburg and Bethesda.

The families have moved from white farms to nearby towns and are living in squalor in the most unsanitary conditions.

Hoopstad community worker Mrs Maud Makwaka wept after visiting several poverty-stricken families and listening to their pitiful stories.

In several of these areas residents are also suffering from poverty related diseases, which include mental illnesses and blindness.

They are all unemployed and some have to make the best of their meagre monthly pensions, others have to scavenge to exist.

They have no proper furniture, clothes or blankets and sleep on the bare floor, even on icy cold nights.

Those who do own blankets have very few, but they are all worn and scanty.

An urgent appeal has been made to Operation Hope to help them.

This week, City Press visited a shanty settlement in Phumudzane (come out let us fight one another), near Hoopstad in the Free State.

Green Tshawe is the head of a family of 14 adults and children which includes his daughter-in-law, children, grandchildren and nephews.

The family's only breadwinner is his nephew, Pietus Ngubeni, who earns R80 a week as a mechanic's assistant.

Two of the children, Aletta, 10-months, and Johannese, 2, are showing clear signs of undernourishment - potbellies, puffed cheeks and swollen feet.

The family has very little clothing and almost no blankets.

Tshawe's daughter-in-law, Elisa Jack said,

"The nights are very cold in the Free State, and we keep the children warm with our body heat."

Annie Jonnata is a 70-year-old pensioner who has to fend for six other people - her daughter and five grandchildren.

Annie says that from her meagre pension of R175 a month she can only afford a bag of maize-meal.

She cannot afford meat, as the rest of the money goes on her grandchildren's books, clothes and school fees.

"I can hardly afford to buy a bar of soap. When the bag of maize-meal is finished we have nothing to live on."

"We sometimes go to bed with our stomachs empty."

"There are days when my daughter and her children have to dig into dustbins at local factories for food," she said.

Sinah Nkomo, a blind pensioner, said,

She and her husband, Office, live alone and have nobody to wash or cook for them.

They both get a pension, but claim that as soon as they receive their money, their children come and take it from them, leaving them with absolutely nothing.

They depend on handouts from community worker Mathibe.

Mathibe told City Press:

"It is sad because many of the children in the area are undernourished and the chances are that they might die if nothing is done to save the situation."

"We have already buried several children. A recent case is of one baby who was buried about two weeks ago."

Blind pensioner Sinah Nkomo and her husband, Office, sit disconsolately among the squalor of the Phumudzane settlement near Hoopstad. They say their children take their pensions, leaving them destitute.
The begging-bowl whites

By HERMAN JANSEN

At least four families a week are joining the breadline at a sombre brown building in Pretoria North which stands between more than 20 000 whites and destitution.

This is the headquarters of Werk en Oorleef, a private charity founded six years ago to assist white families in need of food and clothes.

Heads up by Klementje Pereira — known to those who help as Moeder Teresa — "Work and Survive" is a political and inter-denominational "We will help any white family — and we don't ask whether they support the AWB, the ANC or FW de Klerk," said Mrs Pereira.

The number of whites needing aid is growing "alarmingly", she says.

"Retrenchments have taken a heavy toll on the Afrikaner working class. Last week, we had four Free State miners who had been laid off arriving on our doorstep with their families.

They come to Pretoria because they believe they will find jobs here. It's a myth," she said. Werk en Oorleef tries to find temporary employment for the most deserving cases, but even this isn't easy.

"Among the jobs that come up from time to time are those for painters and gardeners. Sometimes, when there is a strike on, our people act as scab workers but, once the strike is over, they are laid off," said Mrs Pereira.

"Women are taking jobs as housekeepers, maids and nannies — sometimes on farms far from their own families — just to get some money to send home.

"It's as bad as anything that happened during the Depression.

Werk en Oorleef gets a supply of basic foodstuffs — mealie-meal and soup powder — from Operation Hunger, but occasionally there are luxuries too.

Humiliation

"Sometimes we get extras like mayonnaise from Operation Hunger. People go crazy for it. They spread it on bread, put it in stew, anything to make their meals a little more tasty."

In addition to food, Werk en Oorleef provides second-hand clothes.

Among the 4 000 families on its books is that of Kobus Coetzee, 44, of Danville.

A qualified motor mechanic, he is unable to work because of a permanent back injury.

His wife, Dina, and their daughter, Antonette, 18, get R275 from the state welfare department each month.

This is the family's only steady income. Son Dirkie, 21, has not been able to find a job since completing his national service last October, and lives with the family in their subsidised house in an area known as "Little Japan."

Rental on their modest house is R50 a month, while lights and water — already two months in arrears — cost another R50.

Occasionally, Mr Coetzee is able to supplement the family's meagre income by doing casual mechanical jobs. He also scavenges for pieces of aluminium and copper to sell as scrap metal.

"The other day I collected 4kg. They pay good money for it," he said.

Mr Coetzee was among hundreds making their monthly pilgrimage to the Werk en Oorleef building this week to collect food parcels. A meticulous record is kept of food and clothes handed to the needy and, before qualifying for aid, applicants must provide proof of their situation, such as pension payment slips or welfare cheques and a statement of essential monthly expenses.

Recipients of aid walk several kilometres each month to collect their rations and, in the case of having to accept hand-outs, it is clearly evident.

Well-dressed women whose husbands have lost their jobs avert their eyes while picking up food parcels, then leave in a hurry.

Said a 26-year-old Wepark divorcee and out-of-work secretary who gave her name only as Ellen.

"It takes a lot to come here. You basically beg — receive hand-outs. But I want to..."
Thousands need public warmth to beat the cold

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Economists have predicted that South Africa will ease out of the recession towards the end of this year.

But for the moment, many are suffering financially, particularly the thousands of people who have been retrenched from the mines. Hundreds find themselves not only jobless, but homeless and without food too.

Two such victims are Robert and Matilda Hawthorn, originally from Stilfontein where Robert worked as a painter on the mine until three months ago.

Since then, the couple have travelled 6 000 km in search of work and ended up at a Christian mission in Brixton where they are being given food and shelter.

When he was retrenched, Robert (53) was given a month to vacate the mining house he and Matilda (40) had lived in, and they had to return all their furniture to the stores where they had bought the goods on hire purchase.

After a fairly comfortable life on the mines, this couple suddenly found themselves destitute.

The slept under bridges, begged at grocery shops for over-ripe vegetables, scratched in dust bins for scraps of food, and soon only had the clothes on their backs after giving all their possessions away in exchange for food.

Robert and Matilda are more fortunate than many. They have been helped by an organisation called the Manger Mission before the cold weather sets in.

Based in Benoni, the mission under the leadership of Gus Teitge helps down-and-out drug addicts, alcoholics and destitute people.

He has more people than he can cope with, though, and if Robert and Matilda remain in the mission’s dormitory in Brixton, they will have to spend the whole of the winter sleeping on the floor.

Mr Teitge is in desperate need of blankets to keep his wards warm this winter, and your donation to Operation Snowball can help him. The Star hopes to raise R300 000 this year to buy blankets for hundreds of people.

Please send your contribution to Operation Snowball, Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.
Poverty-aid project ready this year

Political Staff

The departmental committee investigating ways to assist the poor was expected to complete its work during the current financial year, the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said yesterday.

The cabinet decided on September 12 last year that a project on poverty should be undertaken under the leadership of the Deputy Director-General in the Department of Finance, Mr Estian Calitz.

As part of the investigation recommendations had to be submitted on "an appropriate approach to the poverty question" as well as a strategy on a "food intervention programme", he said in reply to a question tabled by Mr Jasper Walsh (DP, Pina-

lands).

In the meantime implementation of the special assistances, for which R220 million had already been budgeted, would continue, Mr Du Plessis said.
'Quiet catastrophe' in health care

PRETORIA — SA was facing a "quiet catastrophe" as child mortality rates continued to soar and nutritional problems worsened, National Health and Population Development director-general Coen Slabber said yesterday.

Speaking at a forum on primary health care, Slabber said another aspect of the catastrophe was an increasing incidence of diseases of poverty. One example of this was tuberculosis, he said.

He said SA had the means to combat these problems.

Slabber said it was children who bore the heaviest burden of poverty. That was happening because progress was slowing down.

"This last decade of the 20th century has for many become the decade of despair," he said.

Pitfalls that had plagued efforts in the past had to be avoided. The major pitfall was trying to develop communities without their participation and involvement.

Slabber warned that if a significant proportion of the SA population was consigned to continuing poverty, frustration would cast a long shadow of violence and tension over the entire country.

He also warned that health care resources would remain limited. To be successful, a primary health campaign had to be backed by adequate housing, basic education and literacy programmes.

What was needed were achievable, large-scale, low-cost, high-impact and politically attractive plans, he said.
The lazy pig, a feature of Cold Field that gives lessons to the-in-patients.

One-year-old children’s arms were wrapped possessively around her mother’s neck.

But help is at hand for mums.
Ending Helping Hand

TO THE NEEDED

The group of women
sought help for the needy

Diplomatic at work

To the operative work

The operative work

The operative work

OPERATIVE WORKERS

to the operative work

OPERATIVE WORKERS

to the operative work

OPERATIVE WORKERS

to the operative work
Thousands Starving in Eastern Cape

By Sophia Tema

Cape Town: November 14, 1971

The struggle for food and water in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape has become a daily reality for many families. Hunger has become a constant companion, as the sparse rainfall has led to a decrease in the availability of food crops. The lack of proper irrigation systems has further compounded the situation, making it difficult for farmers to grow sufficient food to meet the needs of their communities.

In many areas, the soil is dry and cracked, making it difficult for crops to grow. The few streams that flow through the region have also dried up, leaving little water for domestic use. People are forced to travel long distances to find water, often putting a strain on their already limited resources.

Some teachers at our local school have been forced to use whatever clean drinking water is available to meet the needs of their students. The lack of proper sanitation facilities has also led to a rise in disease outbreaks, particularly among children. The government has promised to provide clean water and sanitation facilities, but the pace of implementation has been slow.

The situation is particularly dire in the rural areas, where access to medical care is limited. Many families are forced to rely on traditional remedies, which may not be effective in combating the diseases that are spreading rapidly.

The government has taken some steps to address the crisis, including the provision of emergency food aid and the distribution of drought relief packages. However, these efforts have been insufficient, and more needs to be done to ensure that all families have access to the essential resources they need to survive.

With the rainy season still months away, many families are forced to endure the hardship of hunger and thirst. The government must take urgent action to ensure that basic needs are met, and that the people of the Eastern Cape are not left to suffer in silence.
One man, one share
- Wits prof

By Thabo Lesho

Experts at a conference in Johannesburg at the weekend agreed that the huge challenge of bridging the gap between rich and poor and ensuring food, shelter and jobs for all in South Africa requires much more than slogans, wild promises and unrealistic expectations.

The two-day meeting in Joa- bert Park, which had the theme “Redistributing wealth, not poverty”, attracted top academics, writers and activists.

Speaking on the political psychology of redistribution, University of the Witwatersrand Centre for Policy Studies director Professor Lawrence Schlemmer said expectations for wealth improvement were unrealistically high among black people.

The State, he said, was under immense pressure to provide work, housing, free medical care, jobs, official minimum wages and price controls, and to heavily tax the rich.

Given the expectations, it was unreasonable to expect the ANC to scale down demands for more State welfare. However, it was difficult to expect businesses to deviate from its logic.

Professor Schlemmer urged leaders to help to moderate their followers’ expectations and encourage self-reliance.

The dean of the Wits faculty of economics, Professor Duncan Reekie, said nationalisation and traditional privatisation were not appropriate solutions to the problem of social inequality.

The absence of incentives in nationalised economies led to economic decline and “greater equality of poverty, not of wealth” while “traditional privatisation increases the cake but redistributes inequality”.

The solution, he argued, lay in the State giving away equal shares to all. Such shares could be put in a huge unit trust which would efficiently invest the units to create more wealth.

Economic and political author Don Caldwell suggested that a price tag be put on any redistribution policy, referenda be held on tax increases and that all Government spending, taxation and public spending be decentralised.
There is only one solution for South Africa and that is a national environmental management system with centralised management and responsibility [Time expired]

*THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH
Mr Chairman, I am very impressed that hon members of the CP would like to take the credit for the Government's introduction of one system for environmental management [Interjections]
That is true. The Government has already had this information undertaken by the President's Council. The Department of National Health supports the principle of atmospheric pollution control and waste management being combined in a new plan. We are aware, however, for the recommendations of the President's Council, after which we shall come forward with a clear, new system of management for environmental affairs.

The hon member made out a case here for prosecutions. Nevertheless, I think he knows that the department has the power to close a factory, if it considers that to be in the interests of the health of the population of that area. We shall exercise that option. If we cannot institute a prosecution when one takes a measurement and the emissions of that factory comply with norms that are laid down, then this is specifically one of the points of departure in pollution as a whole behind our monitoring. The hon member is working on assumptions which are not based on scientific research.

*Mr C B SCHOEMAN
It comes from this annual report.

*THE MINISTER
Yes, show us the results that come from these gauging instruments. Show us what the monitoring stations have to say about atmospheric pollution. At this stage we have a comprehensive report. I want to mention only a few statistics. At the moment lead and sulphur dioxide monitors are operated at 150 sites by 37 local authorities.

The hon member wants to make the point that we have only eight atmospheric pollution control officers. He does not know how the system works. It is carried out by local authorities. The pollution control officers are enforced by five local authorities on 10 sites. [Time expired]

Debate concluded

Poverty, hunger and unemployment

2 Mr JJ WALKER asked the Minister of Finance

(1) Whether the Government intends taking immediate steps to combat poverty, hunger and unemployment. [Yes, why not, if so, what steps, (2)]

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? [Time expired]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE
Mr Chairman, poverty and hardship in South Africa basically manifest themselves in the following two ways, firstly, through insufficient income and, secondly, through insufficient access to certain basic services for which governments normally accept responsibility.

Although an element of cyclical unemployment may occur, unemployment, and therefore poverty, has largely embedded itself as a structural problem in the economy for which there is no short-term solution. A comprehensive multifaceted development approach has therefore been adopted to combat the problem of poverty.

Alleviation is dealt with at the following three levels — firstly, the restructuring of the economy to increase the growth, income-earning and employment potential, secondly, the addressing of urgent socio-economic development problems, and thirdly, the implementation and extension of an appropriate safety net to assist vulnerable groups in society who do not benefit from the economic restructuring programmes in the short term.

As far as the implementation of a safety net of concern, the following measures have already been announced in the 1990-91 Budget. Firstly, there is a zero-rating of VAT on meal and brown bread. Secondly, the following amounts have also been voted for the improvement of old-age assistance allowances, namely R260 million, which represents an increase of R28 per month, for all population groups, from 1 April 1991, R155 million in order to remove the disparity between Blacks in the RSA and self-governing areas and R90 million to advance closer to the equalisation of old-age assistance allowances of all population groups — roughly 20%.
Thirdly, R220 million has been allocated for special assistance schemes to the acutely destitute, in respect of which I have already answered several questions in this House. The following measures will also, directly or indirectly, make a contribution towards the long-term alleviation of this problem. Firstly, R75 million for the SBDC, secondly R1 billion for the NDOP, thirdly R1 billion that is to be invested by the IDC and the Development Bank of Southern Africa during the next two years, thirdly, a further amount of R269 million that was proposed in the supplementary budget for special socio-economic capital projects, fourthly, certain other VAT measures which will particularly benefit the lower income groups, such as the measures in respect of consumer services, welfare organisations, etc., fifthly, the amount of R1 billion that was announced by the hon the State President on 29 April, part of which will be allocated to special programmes and projects to improve adverse living conditions. This amount will be financed from a reduction in the levels of interest on supplies.

Mr J J Walsh Mr Chairman, may I just say at the outset that one of the problems I believe we do have is largely an administrative one, and that is that a lot of the assistance the hon the Minister has mentioned is either off-budget or on-budget or coming from various sources. I think it is very important that this must all be brought together, as I believe there is confusion.

I want to make a point about what immediate steps are being taken to alleviate the situation. Quite correctly, the hon the Minister has listed a number of projects involving heavy expenditure, and he has also referred to the longer-term requirement of economic growth to provide employment opportunities. South Africa appears at the moment to be heading for an economic disaster, and I just want to ask whether enough is being done in the short term to avoid the consequences of that economic disaster.

Already we are experiencing that I do not have to remind hon members of the situation pertaining to violence in our country, and the deaths occurring through malnutrition.

What really seems to be required is an extra-special, short-term effort to help people on the ground, in our towns, who are being told of the new South Africa, but who have actually felt no benefit as yet. Something creative needs to be done to assist these people.

Our papers and journals are filled with advice about what could be done to meet that particular need. It is the Government's task to take the necessary action. We can advise and criticise, as can other people, but it is the Government that is responsible for actually taking the action. We believe that not sufficient has happened so far. On the one hand, unrealistic, unachievable expectations are being stoked up, and these must be tempered with realism, or they can or will never be fulfilled.

On the other hand, those who have been deprived materially, those whose economic advancement has been deliberately retarded, must be shown that there is a Government that cares, that there is concern, sympathy and understanding. This requires immediate short-term actions—actions which create employment, actions which may not necessarily be economically viable, if measured in true economic terms, but which would bring people hope and meet the sort of needs that we have set out. This is beyond the realm of economic management and requires a co-ordinated, multidepartmental crisis action plan.

*Mr D P D J Plessis Mr Chairman, on the one hand it is heartening to see that White women are now working as public pump attendants and domestics and domestic workers because they are too proud to beg. On the other hand, it is tragic that White people are being forced to do this work simply because there is no better work available for them.*

Mr S C Jacobs The teacher is emerging, and presently the clergymen will take the floor.

The Minister All I can say is that the hon member spoke about a multifaceted approach, and in that respect I want to refer him to what I said earlier. We have, indeed, a multifaceted, multidepartmental approach, and it is important not only to combine the efforts of the Public Service in such a way, but also to combine with the private sector.

*With reference to the poor hon member who stood up and spoke such a lot of nonsense about the economy, I should just like to hear from the CP one day what would happen to an economy if it had a constant outflow of capital.*

Mr F Hartzenberg *Is your point that has done this!* [Interjections]

*The Minister of Finance It is your policy, you silly thing.*

Mr S C Jacobs Mr Chairman, on a point of order I submit that the remark the hon the Minister has just made, referring to the hon member for Lichtenburg as "you silly thing", is not in order. [Interjections]

*The Chairman of the House Order! Could the hon member just inform me what the remark was?*

Mr S C Jacobs Mr Chairman, the remark made by the hon the Minister of Finance, with reference to the hon member for Lichtenburg, was that he was a silly thing. [Interjections]

*The Chairman of the House Order! I do not think the general sense in which the hon the Minister made the remark was necessarily derogatory, but I nevertheless want to caution all hon members to moderate their language. [Interjections]*

Mr G C Engel Mr Chairman, in this year's Budget the hon the Minister of Finance provided R220 million for direct short-term relief aid to the poor, or 0,25% of his Budget for our 7 million citizens considered extremely poor. This amounts to R31,43 per person per annum, or R2,61 per month in this year.

Then he created 510 000 new low-income taxpayers in this Budget by reducing the primary rebate, which will only increase wealth discrepancies between the haves and have-nots. This...
new category of taxpayer will fund R76 million in the hon the Minister’s Budget of the R241 million that he has given out.

This drop in the ocean will not solve many problems. Identified delivery systems of relief and aid are clearly not yet in place, and it would be true to say that the conditions for the average Black South African are even worse today than they were 16 months ago when the transition process started. The underprivileged are fast losing hope, and to this extent I wish to put forward several constructive proposals to help restore personal dignity and our social fabric.

Firstly, the State should create new employment programmes to create site-and-service stands, housing, electricity and other infrastructural projects. This could be handled by the State or tendered out to private enterprise. Prescribed asset requirements may be necessary to fund such projects. Although this is not an optimal situation, it is certainly the lesser of evils, as our tax base, as the hon the Minister has already said, is too small because of years of low economic growth. The type of programme was successfully introduced during the Great Depression in both the USA and in this country, and it could be started virtually immediately. Only the State has the resources to kick-start such a programme. [Time expired]

Mr J I WALKSH Mr Chairman, the hon the Minister is his name, and referred to the restrictions placed on him as far as the tax base is concerned, but I believe we need to be constructive and look for alternative forms of financing. This party, stricter in the season, raised the whole question of a South African lottery, which I believe, as a matter of grave importance, should be looked at and a decision taken.

Secondly, we as a party have for many, many years been critical of the own affairs Administrations and the duplications, of facilities in that area. Yesterday the hon the Chairman of the Ministers’ Council indicated that there was scope for rationalisation, and we would ask: is now not the time to look at that rationalisation very carefully, to examine the structure where we can. Admittedly many, many staff members are involved, but maybe we should be looking at

retaining those people for re-employment in job creation and development programmes.

With regard to the whole question of pension parity, which would cause a further drain, we have lodged pleas for, as we believe it is imperative that that should be done as soon as possible. [Time expired]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE Mr Chairman, the hon member himself referred to high expectations. I want to issue a word of caution. So many people have talked about a lottery as a possible alternative source of revenue that, really, even if it should happen, there is no way that that source of revenue could ever address the question of hospitals, etc.

Secondly, with regard to the rationalisation of own affairs we are certainly not talking about the scale of funding that is necessary to address the poverty issue in the short term. I do not think that we should raise too high a level of real expectations.

As far as the hon member for Bexenburg’s comments are concerned, he took a percentage which really, in itself, is a drop in the ocean, but that is additional to what is already being spent according to the Estimates of Expenditure. With great respect, that is the maximum that could have been done right now.

The hon member for Pinelands referred earlier to the whole question of various sources of funds. That is the situation as it obtains now. We have our normal sources. Certainly we are very loth to even contemplate a return to the whole issue of prescribed assets, because it gives rise to a lot of distortions in our economy. However, right now one has one’s normal sources, but one has an additional source, which is the conversion of a sterilised amount of capital, lying there dormant in the way of a strategic fund, to a different kind of application altogether. This is why one cannot make it part of one’s normal budget. Therefore, one needs a certain degree of arithmetic logistics in order to find out exactly what the expenditure is.

I want to reiterate: The extent of need is such today that we can do what we like, but a shifting of priorities, a rationalisation, even a state lottery—all of those things put together—will be

of no avail whatsoever without very rapid return to high economic growth. [Time expired]

Debate concluded

QUESTIONS

*Mr D H M GIBSON asked the State President

Whether the Government will consider designating a special day in the near future, after consultation with religious leaders, to be known as a day of peace and reconciliation in South Africa, when churches of all denominations and women’s, youth and other community organisations will be asked to arrange prayer meetings to be held throughout the country with a view to mobilising all citizens of goodwill to join in an endeavour to end the violence and to seek peace and reconciliation, if not, why not, if so, when?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (for the State President)

The custom in South Africa has been for many years that churches take the lead in setting aside special days of supplication, and that they then submit a request to that effect to the Government.

Since we are on the eve of a Conference on Violence and Intolerance, which is to be held in Pretoria on 24 and 25 May 1991, and which will be attended by key leaders from church circles of various denominations, that would be a good opportunity to make such a request to the Government, which would be sympathetic towards it in principle.

Mr D H M GIBSON Mr Chairman, arising out of the reply by the hon the State President I would like to ask whether the Government is aware that ordinary people in South Africa are desperate to find a solution to the violence in South Africa, and that they believe that people of goodwill must take the initiative and, if the initiative has not come from anybody else, that the Government must take the initiative.

In that regard I would like to ask whether the hon the State President would consider placing the matter on the agenda at the peace conference himself, as a matter that could be discussed.

The MINISTER Mr Chairman, I would like to make it very clear that the Government shares the concern of all responsible South Africans about the tragic and shocking level of violence, of death and of damage that is taken place.

The Government, on the other hand, has never in the past taken initiatives with regard to religious matters. It has relied on the leadership of the churches in that respect, and I am quite sure that at the forthcoming conference the churches will take the initiative. If they do not, I am quite sure that all of us who may be in the privileged position of attending would certainly promote that idea very strongly.

Ministers

*Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many members of the ANC, the SAPC and other previously prohibited organisations that were banned from South Africa or that fled or left South Africa after these organisations had been declared prohibited, (a) returned to South Africa in the 1990 calendar year, (b)(i) may still apply to return to South Africa and (ii) in respect of what date is the information furnished, and (c) what are the names of the other previously prohibited organisations.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) The Department has no record of members of previously prohibited organisations that returned to South Africa on their own an individual basis. No members returned to South Africa on an organised basis during 1990.

(b) (i) and (a) There is no definitive indication of how many exiles there are abroad and how many of them would
How to sweep real-life disasters off the screens

Development and has for too long been distorted by rivalry between two big power blocs. Reports The Economist
Garden project boosted

By Mark Suzman

National Beverages Services (Natbev) yesterday presented the Food Garden Foundation with a cheque for R25,000 at one of the charity's projects at Kliptown squatter camp outside Soweto.

The Food Garden Foundation is a non-profit organisation that operates throughout southern Africa by supplying seed and providing training for underprivileged people to grow their own food.

The donation, made as part of Natbev's social responsibility programme, will be used to help expand the foundation's activities.

Accepting the award, foundation director Pauline Rainey said: "Our aim is not to provide a handout but a hand-up, and it is only through corporate donations like this that we can do so."

Speaking at the squatter camp's small but thriving food garden, Natbev social responsibility programme manager Eunice Sibaya said the programme was a worthy one and she hoped that the example of a successful vegetable garden in the squatter camp was one that would be emulated in other areas.

"A project like this serves two purposes - it teaches people to support themselves and it helps individuals to regain human dignity and self-pride," Mrs Sibaya said.
These people need help

Homeless Manfred sleeps in trains

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Temperatures have plummeted in the past few days, and none are feeling the cold more than people with nowhere to shelter when the chill sets in at night.

"Manfred (54) — he would not give his surname — is one of those without a home, bed or blankets. He sleeps in railway carriages at the Johannesburg station.

"We're not allowed to, but we take chances anyway," he said.

With dirty hair combed over the back of his head, and two rotten teeth protruding from his bottom lip, Manfred was dozing in the sun on an Joaibert Park bench last week.

He said he had last eaten a few days ago, but he preferred not to remember exactly when, since it only made him hungry.

"Manfred came to South Africa from Germany in 1953. He worked on the mines until two years ago when he was retrenched. He has not been able to find work since.

He has no family in South Africa, although his children live in Namibia — he does not know where, exactly.

"I walk alone, I am alone," he said.

Please spare a thought for people like Manfred this winter. There are thousands like him who are without blankets to provide warmth, and they need our help.

If you would like to help The Star to relieve the plight of the needy by providing them with blankets, please send a donation to Operation Snowball, Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.
Save
the
Food
Fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

THE Argus Food Campaign, which has fed more than a million hungry mouths in 4½ years, is nearly broke.

Unless there is a huge injection of funds soon it will close.

City medical officer of health Dr Michael Popkess said the campaign had reached “the point of closing down” when funds dropped to less than R10 000 this week.

“The fund, which has been suffering from malnutrition of the money kind for some time, is starved.

“We had to stop deliveries of food parcels this week because we can’t operate like a bank and resort to an overdraft to continue functioning.”

Its survival has been precarious in the balance since last month when funds dwindled to R25 000.

Although Argus readers helped the campaign keep its head above water with regular money gifts, large contributions from businesses were hardly forthcoming.

“Efforts by Argus readers to help: thousands of destitute people dependent on the fund to stay alive were clearly not enough.”

Municipal health department staff this week delivered the last food parcels for the time being and the campaign will wind up tomorrow with a delivery of dried fruit for tuberculosis patients at a clinic in District Six.

The campaign was launched in association with the Mayor’s Relief Fund in October 1966, when economic recession and unemployment drove thousands of Cape Town families into penury.

Readers and big business responded immediately to an initial contribution from The Argus, opening their hearts and pockets to the plight of the city’s poorest people.

Since then parcels of samp, beans, rice, tinned and frozen fish and meat, fresh vegetables and other basics have been handed out at 15 distribution points weekly.

In many households this was the only food people had to eat.

The campaign also supported a soup-feeding programme for hundreds of tuberculosis patients.

This week, the feelings of 240 people queuing for rations at the Giguletu Clinic were summed up by 62-year-old grandfather Mr William Msoli, who said: “We would be starving if we did not get our weekly food parcel.”

Mr Msoli stopped working a few years ago because of ill health; He supports his wife Nowelle and three of his grandchildren on a meagre pension.

“We have barely enough money for essential foods and have almost nothing over to buy clothes or pay our rent,” he said.

“We look forward to our weekly food parcels. We like especially the trotties, samp and the vegetables.”

Also in the queue was Mrs Rebecca Magagula, 43, a mother of two. She said she had been living on the breadline since her husband disappeared during faction fights at KTC in 1966.

“It’s been very hard to make ends meet,” she said: Mrs Constance Gubuman, 58, of NY77, Guguletu, who is rapidly losing her sight through a deteriorating diabetic condition, said she queued regularly for her food parcel and was more than grateful for her weekly gift.

“It helps to feed me and my foster child. I don’t know how I would get by without it,” she said.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, Box 15392, Viseberg, 8018, or 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 2802.
A multimillion rand programme is being launched to tackle the problems of rampant unemployment and inadequate education in Alexandra township.

The programme, called Education for Employment, is a joint venture involving a coalition of groups from Alexandra and Sandton.

"The programme is a positive attempt to reduce poverty, unemployment and crime in the communities of Sandton and Alexandra," says Holly Luton, chairman of the AlexSan Kpano Educational Trust, which is organising the initiative.

"We are all concerned about the increasing rate of crime in Sandton, but building higher walls around our properties and installing ever more costly security systems really isn't a long-term answer," she says. "The problem has to be tackled at its roots, providing unemployed Alexandra youth an alternative to crime - skills that will enable them to get and keep decent jobs."

The Education for Employment programme has three legs:
- Job training and assistance for the so-called "lost generation" and for unemployed adults, so that they can either find full-time or part-time employment in the formal sector or start their own businesses.
- Improvement of school facilities, teacher training, parental support and student motivation at Alexandra's schools.
- Management training for the leaders of Alexandra's community organisations.

The programme is under the direction of Dave Jackson, an experienced education and development consultant. "Most whites are unaware of the true situation in Alexandra," he says. "It's a city with a population of about 289,000 - no one knows exactly how many people - of whom more than half live in shacks with a single outside tap, bucket toilet and shower shared by between 70 and 80 people."

About 47 percent of the employable adult population is without work and among the youth the figure is far higher.

The organisers of the programme believe the success of the Education for Employment depends as much on the people of Sandton as much as it does on the people of Alexandra.

"It's got to be a joint effort," says Salma Serote, one of the trustees. "Sandton and Alexandra are two parts of a single community. The people of Sandton benefit from the labour of the people of Alexandra - and they are affected by their problems. That's why we coined the word AlexSan. "People in Sandton have the money, the expertise and the contacts - the people of Alexandra need their help to enable them to develop long term self-sufficiency."

The programme is estimated to cost more than R26 million over the next three years. Most of the money will go into creating jobs.

A world-wide fundraising appeal has been launched. The organisers are relying on large corporate donors and foundations in South Africa and abroad to come up with the big donations. However, people of Alexandra are also contributing and the intention is to make the programme increasingly self-financing.

"If we're going to make the new SA happen we have got to take a personal responsibility for bringing about change in our community," says Mr. Jackson.

Readers wanting to know more about the campaign or wanting to offer their help should contact Dave Jackson at (011) 783-8130.
The Portrait of Poverty

A worrisome sort of TV programming is becoming more frequent, writes Angela Lambert.
‘Lost generation’ a challenge for future

SOUTH Africa’s so-called “lost generation” comes under the spotlight in a conference tomorrow at the Alpha Training Centre at Broederstroom.

Conference co-ordinator Mrs Sheila Sisulu said the event would discuss black youth marginalised by apartheid and condemned to long-term unemployment and poverty.

The fate of the youth is one of the major issues facing any government in a post-apartheid South Africa, she said.

Productive

“The real test for a future government will be whether this generation can be reclaimed as productive citizens within mainstream national life,” said Sisulu.

The conference is co-hosted by the South African Council of Churches’ Joint Enrichment Project. Experts in education, unemployment and psychology are to attend.

Black Sash official and SACC deputy president Mrs Sheena Duncan will open the event.

The main address will be delivered by University of Cape Town deputy vice-chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele.

Other participants include South African Catholic Bishops Conference general secretary Brother Jude Peterse, Wits education department’s Mr Ken Hartshorne, Natal University’s Mr Blade Nzimande, and Education Development Trust director Ms Ivy Matepe-Cassabrun.

Conference co-ordinator

Sisulu

In the past decade, thousands of township youths have taken to crime and drugs in the face of a decaying social fabric caused by disruptions in education, endemic violence and lack of regard for authority.

Sisulu said black youths were beset by a series of socioeconomic factors including a collapsing education system and very slim chances of long-term employment.

At the same time, township life had been militarised by successive states of emergency and brutalised by the wave of violence.

“These socio-economic and political factors can combine to produce psychological alienation based on the realisation by the individual that he or she has been marginalised by society itself, which makes the turn to violence, drugs and criminal behaviour easier,” she said.

In a reflection of public concern over these troubled youth, a group of businessmen this week took out an advertisement in 10 national newspapers demanding that the ANC find a way to “re-civilise the lost generation of township youths who have become the victims of the ‘liberation before education’ cliche”.

Potential

Ramphele said the increasing concern was “mostly based on the recognition of the potential of this sector of the South African population to destabilise the country, regardless of the political settlement achieved”.

The concern was limited, she said, because it failed to locate the problem of alienated youth as a symptom of a deeper malaise - the rapid downward spiral towards total disintegration of the fabric of the black community.

“An important starting point is to recognise the residual capacity within the black community to respond to positive intervention. This capacity resides in individuals, support groups and organised pressure groups,” she said.

She said the churches, civics, women’s organisations, youth groups across the socio-political spectrum, professional organisations and other support networks including stokvels, burial societies and neighbourhood groups could be used in the restoration of hope. — Sowetan Correspondent
No buildings, no books, no food. But the children of Qoqizizwe are, against all odds, being given the best education — and food — principal Richard Selana and his teachers can supply.

Starving kids of Qoqizizwe

By SOPHIE TEMBA

THE principal and 20 teachers at Qoqizizwe School at Orange Farm are feeding some of their 500 pupils at their own expense after many fainted from hunger during lessons.

Each teacher feeds four or five children every day.

Most of the pupils come from east of Orange Farm and have to walk for hours to get to school because they cannot afford the R1.20 bus fare.

Some leave home without breakfast and have no money to buy bread for lunch.

This week I saw principal Richard Selana help a small boy on the verge of collapsing from hunger. He took the child to a hawker and bought him a bunny chow.

The child gobbled down large hunks while some of his pals stood around looking hungry. They too, showed signs of hunger. Their lips had turned grey.

"Seeing children in this condition is not unusual. It happens most of the time," said Selana.

Qoqizizwe — which means "unite the nations" — is a combined school which takes pupils from Sub-Standard A to Std 8.

Because the building cannot hold all the pupils, some classes are held in the open in winter, while in summer pupils shelter under trees.

When it is very cold, or when it rains, the smallest children are sent home, while those in higher standards squish into a disused garage.

The school, founded several years ago on Weilers Farm by squatter community leader Olga Lutu, moved to the area when the squatter families were resettled at Orange Farm. The squatters had to start from scratch in the whitewashed building which once served the community as a shopping centre.

"I know about the problems. When I started the school I realised education was the only way to help the children and that is what the school is still trying to do," said Lutu.
Let's get reform back on course

Opinion

IT IS 18 months since the State President, Mr F W de Klerk made his momentous speech in Parliament but, for all that, the last six months, the reform process has unfortu- nately gone off course and could soon end up in a cul-de-sac.

A naive acceptance of the government's propaganda about its alleged breakthrough could prove to be dangerous. It is not too early for serious soul-searching. What has gone wrong with the seemingly promising transition strategy announced at the beginning of 1990?

Renewal strategies must draw on the black experience

XOLELA MANGCU

Community-based projects in black areas — poultry farming, health clinics, educational initiatives, maternity homes and many others — can benefit the local community and generate revenue. These projects are crucial in reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for communities.

Development theory in SA can be advanced by tapping the wealth of information stored in the experience of black people, who have faced many challenges and have developed strategies to overcome them. This knowledge can be shared with other communities to improve development outcomes.

Apartheid has left a legacy of inequality, but communities have worked together to overcome these challenges. By learning from these experiences, we can improve our approach to development and ensure that it is inclusive and effective.

The new thinking (even if it was a result of national negotiations) could go a long way in reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for communities. By addressing the needs of the community, we can create a more just and equitable society.

However, investment in tertiary education should not be limited to only a few. There are many development fieldworkers in the community who can contribute to the development of communities and provide valuable insights and perspectives.

Mangcu is an urban specialist with the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The views expressed here, however, are his own.
VEGETABLE gardener Selma Mohala grows the finest beetroot and the best spinach in the northern Transvaal. Subsistence farming is the name of the game.

She is one of the lucky 8 percent in Sekhukhuneland who have land for farming, and one of the 30 illiterate and uneducated subsistence farmers whom Operation Hunger has put into business in a far-flung place called Mohala, near Jane Purse.

To quote Operation Hunger chief Ina Perlman: "Once she was a person who did not raise her eyes much. Today she walks tall."

Before Operation Hunger established its resource centre in Lebowa in the drought of 1988, Selma and her family relied on handouts for their meagre existence.

Today she not only runs her own business, but has money in the bank from the R300 to R400 she earns from the sale of vegetables after she has fed her family.

It is all done without Government subsidy, merely with Operation Hunger expertise, which teaches people to become economically viable — the kind of activity which Minister Kraai van Niekerk went to Kenya to see last week.

At Jane Purse, Selma and her colleagues were each allocated about a hundred 2,000 sq m plots to launch their market-garden operations.

As part of the organisation's aim to teach self-sufficiency on its 800 community gardens countrywide, the project started at the bottom.

The women were taught by Johann Russak to construct concrete furrows to irrigate by hand pumps — which they could repair themselves — from one of the 100 boreholes sunk by Operation Hunger in the area.

They enclosed their gardens with fencing produced by two local women, watered their plots with ovens devised by George Makunyane, and transformed their surplus spinach from a cash crop by preserving it in locally built solar dryers.

The multi-purpose leucaena leucocephala, a plant similar to an acacia, was grown between the beds as a substitute for expensive shade cloth.

After 18 months they stripped the side-branches of the fast-growing trees for firewood and used the leaves for animal fodder.

Mr Russak said the aim was to plant 500,000 of the trees a year.

Once the vegetable gardens had been established, the focus moved to the lack of protein and dairy products in the people's diet.

Meat was virtually unheard of in diets in that part of the world, but two pregnant nannie goats imported from Operation Hunger's centre in Namaqualand set the ball rolling, providing slaughter stock and milk.

Chickens were expensive to feed, so they settled for rabbits, which eat vegetable matter and provide a meal-in-a-pot.

Today the people in the valley below the 70 ha donated by the Anglican Church, and assisted by the Donaldson Trust, buy bricks from the brick-making group at the resource centre and sell their handwork through Operation Hunger outlets.

It is hardly life in the fast lane, but it is a minor miracle. People have had their pride restored, their stomachs filled and their pockets lined through their own efforts.
New era, old land

The role of established white farmers in SA is being severely questioned in 40 years their numbers have fallen from 120 000 to 50 000. SHIRLEY WOODGATE investigates the role that "new" black farmers could play.

If black farmers were given half the assistance handed over to their white counterparts, they would repeat the achievements of black agriculturists in Zimbabwe, Operation Hunger chief executive Ira Perlman believes.

Recalling the threat which black farmers posed to whites in the Cape and Natal in the 19th century, she said it was ironic that their success had led to the enactment of the 1913 Land Act.

A far cry indeed from the halcyon days before the fall of that country's white farmers from grace and favour - when they enjoyed top-dog status both politically and financially.

That was when the black farm labourer "knew his place and unquestioningly performed his role as a hewer of wood and tiller of soil.

But times, and the fortunes of the farmers, have changed.

Now subsistence to the tune of R17 billion (of which a third was allocated to farmers) on items totally unrelated to agriculture, the number of white farmers has dwindled from 120 000 in 1985 to about 50 000.

Says Professor Edward Kastner of Stellenbosch University: "We could quite easily lose a third of the remaining without any production problems."

Former Minister of Agriculture Jacob de Villiers told farmers this year that in the future they would have to join the queue for State aid.

This was followed up by Barlow Rand economist Piet Haanbroek saying decades of bad agricultural policies were at the root of current farming blues.

He added that a side result of the subsidy was that it did not benefit the small farmer - it was intended to help but worse was in store for the white commercial farmers with the scrapping of the 1933 and 1936 Land Acts.

In the Transvaal alone, 95 percent of the farmers voted to retain the legislation. When nobody listened, many of them took to their tractors and trucks to join countrywide protests against the repeal of the laws.

Last week, as the Acts were abolished, the Transvaal Agricultural Union labeled the repeal "a declaration of war."

Then the South African Agricultural Union issued alarm reports that the Government had appointed an advisory committee on land allocation.

And if the writing was not yet clearly on the wall, Minister of Agriculture Klaas van Nieuwkerk returned last week from Kenya to claim that more than 50 percent of that country's agricultural produce was supplied by small farmers - something which South Africa could learn a lot about from that central African country.

Now hundreds of thousands of blacks are waiting to see whether the Government will make it possible for them to return to the land they were forced off because it fell within white areas.

Mrs Perlman has urged the authorities to move fast to allocate about 3 million ha of available land immediately.

"My fear is that time will be wasted while people starve politically. Some 35 percent of blacks are still in the rural areas and our unemployment figure stands at 6 million."

"The urgent need is for funds to be made available for land development. This will be part of the answer to poverty and also the squattting problem near major cities. These people could easily be made self-sustaining on their own land," she said.
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 1961

Mr. Speaker, I welcome you to our Sitting this afternoon and to the members of the Government of the Windward Islands and the representatives of the various departments and agencies who have contributed to the preparation of the records of this Assemble.
FUTURE OF BLANK FARMING

The South African's agricultural sector is facing a critical challenge in the form of a severe drought, which has been exacerbated by climate change. Farmers are struggling to cope with the water shortage, leading to a decrease in crop yields and a decline in income. Moreover, the high cost of water treatment and distribution is putting a strain on the already fragile economic situation.

Kenya and Zimbabwe, on the other hand, have been experiencing significant rainfall, which has boosted their agricultural output. The increased availability of water has enabled farmers to irrigate their crops, leading to higher yields and improved income. This has resulted in a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector that is better equipped to withstand future shocks.

Farmers in South Africa are now seeking ways to adapt their farming practices to cope with the changing climate. One of the strategies being considered is the implementation of drought-resistant crops and improved irrigation systems. This will require significant investment and technical expertise, which may be challenging in the current economic climate.

In contrast, farmers in Kenya and Zimbabwe have benefited from the increased rainfall, which has allowed them to continue with their traditional farming practices. The agricultural sector in these countries is poised for further growth, and there are opportunities for investment in new technologies and infrastructure.

In conclusion, the future of farming in South Africa and its neighboring countries will depend on their ability to adapt to the changing climate and make the most of their natural resources. While South Africa faces significant challenges, there are opportunities for investment and innovation that could help to improve the sector's resilience and sustainability.
Minor miracle on small farms

Vegetable gardener Ms Selma Mohlala grows the finest beetroot and the best spinach in the Northern Transvaal. Subsistence farming is the name of the game.

She is one of the lucky eight percent in Sekukhuneland who have land for farming.

She is also one of the 30 illiterate and numerate subsistence farmers whom Operation Hunger has put in business in a far-flung place called Mohlala, near Jane Furse.

Said Operation Hunger chief executive Mrs Ina Perlman: "Once she was a child of the village, she did not raise her eyes to the height of her father. Now she walks tall."

Before Operation Hunger established its resource centre in Lebowa in the drought of 1983, Mohlala and her family relied on handouts for their meagre existence.

Today she not only runs her own business, but has money in the bank from the R300 to R400 she earns from the sale of vegetables after she has fed her family.

Subsidy

It is all done without Government subsidy.

Operation Hunger teaches people to become economically viable.

At Jane Furse, Mohlala and her colleagues were each allocated about a hundred 2,000sqm plots to launch their market-garden operations.

As part of the organisation’s aim to teach self-sufficiency on its 800 community gardens countrywide, the project started at the bottom.

The women were taught by Mr Johannes Rank to construct concrete furrows to irrigate by hand pumps - which they could repair themselves - from one of the 100 boreholes sunk by Operation Hunger in the area.

They enclosed their gardens with fencing produced by two local women, watered their plots with cans devised by Mr George Makanye, and transformed their surplus spinach into a cash crop by preserving patties in locally built solar driers.

The multi-purpose leucaena leucocephala, a plant similar to an acacia, was grown between the beds as a substitute for expensive shade cloth.

After 18 months they stopped the sod branches of the fast-growing trees for firewood and used the leaves for animal fodder. Rank said the aim was to plant 500,000 of the trees a year.

Once the vegetable gardens had been established, the focus moved to the lack of protein and dairy products in people’s diets.

Meat was virtually unheard of in diets in that part of the country, but two pregnant nanna goats imported from Operation Hunger’s centre in Namaqualand set the ball rolling, providing slaughter stock and milk.

Chicken were expensive to feed, so they settled for rabbits, which eat vegetable matter and provide a meal-in-a-pot.

Today the people in the valley below the 70 hectares donated by the Anglican Church, and assisted by the Donaldson Trust, supply bricks from the brick-making group at the resource centre and sell their handwork through Operation Hunger outlets.

It is hardly life in the fast lane, but it is a minor miracle. People have had their pride restored, their stomachs filled and their pockets lined through their own efforts - Sowetan Correspondent.
Half the population of the country is living in a state of poverty and two million South Africans are facing starvation. Industrial sociologist Professor Duncan Innes said yesterday.

Motivating his argument in favour of black empowerment as an affirmative action that would encourage economic growth in the new South Africa, Prof Innes said it would take “many decades” of training and creating opportunities to bridge the gap between black and white wealth, which had reached “cross proportions.”

“Affirmative action is the alter ego of discrimination. Just as black unions demand an end to racial discrimination, so will they demand affirmative action and black advancement programmes within the firm,” he said.

Prof Innes was addressing the Innes Labour Brief in a city hotel yesterday.
The wolf is at the door in the free state.
GROUP-based lending schemes, with democratic control by the community, feature strongly in the Independent Development Trust’s funding of shelter for the poor.

The schemes are proposed in a draft document outlining the lending criteria of IDT subsidiary the Independent Development Trust Finance Corporation (IDTFC).

The draft document, drawn up by the IDT’s Franz Pretorius, disclosed that the AECI Pension Fund, Fedlife, Metropolitan Life, the Mine Officials’ Pension Fund, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Southern Life and Syfrets Managed Assets have invested in the R120m issue of Collateralised Housing Investment Paper (Chips).

Group schemes are seen as offering two particular advantages over more conventional methods. Firstly, individuals with low incomes normally do not qualify for the traditional forms of loan finance.

Secondly, group pressure, similar to that which operates in stokvels, is expected to ensure that each member repays the loan. Group pressure is brought to bear on stokvel members in that they are expected to attend meetings and contribute to the pool of funds.

IDT promotes ‘group loans’

Other group schemes such as the Cape Town-based Group Credit Organisation — which has as yet had no bad debt experience — have found that the failure to pay debt is a sufficiently great source of embarrassment in the community to ensure that loans get paid.

In a speech last week, IDT chairman Jan Steyn stressed the need for local community-level involvement in development projects. He suggested that community involvement in the “very local level” could be a competing faction might have a role to play in working for peace.

The democratic thrust of the scheme is evident in the requirement that the ultimate decision-making structures of the group credit organisations (GCOs) which will administer IDTFC loans, must be representative of the communities and groupings it serves, and must have borrower representation.

“Here the emphasis is on the legitimisation of the GCO as a dedicated financing resource owned by borrowers for the benefit of borrowers and not serving any other interests,” the document states.

Also, the group is responsible for vetting borrowers within each group, a GCO’s role being to inform group members of its borrowers’ eligibility criteria.

A fundamental condition of IDTFC financial support to a GCO is that it form the basis of the GCO’s loan finance. It is proposed that each group of borrowers be required to make a minimum 10% deposit towards loans to be advanced which a GCO must then pledge to the IDTFC.

The document recommends that an initial credit limit of 30% of the maximum loan amount per individual member be set by a GCO for each group, and that the maximum loan period be five years.

Borrower groups must demonstrate cohesion and stability before loan advances can be made. A minimum of 10 members per group and a maximum of 20 is recommended.

The document distinguishes between emerging GCOs and those with proven track records.

In the case of the latter, lending will be on a secured, direct basis, except for the outright cession of a GCO’s loan book and a pledge of its deposits. For emerging GCOs, the IDTFC will jointly manage the organisations for a short while.

To be eligible for IDTFC finance, a GCO will have to have acceptable levels of profitability and be able to completely recover its operating costs. The IDTFC will not prescribe the lending rate applied by GCOs and will encourage competition among the various organisations.

The document proposes a performance bonus — to be paid for from a GCO’s reserves — for each borrower group which repays its loan, saying that the “unproven aspect of this initiative remains the unwillingness of borrowers to repay once loans have been fully disbursed. It remains essential that incentives be created to entice borrowers to service their obligations to the GCOs.”

As an incentive for GCOs which have demonstrated a high level of debt recovery and management of arrears, it is proposed that the IDTFC will offer an incentive in the form of a reduction in the cost of borrowing in respect of its overall debt book.

The appointment of an independent ombudsman to protect consumers is recommended.

To raise finance from the private sector for its housing initiative, the IDTFC issued R120m in April in the form of Chips with a seven-year term as a first tranche under a private placement of R50m to institutional investors. This paper is partly underwritten through the provision of collateral security in the form of an asset-based guarantee of R46.6m.

Also, there is a cession to investors of up to 10% of loans advanced to financial intermediaries by the IDTFC and cash deposits held by it.
Debt relief for poorest nations

LONDON - Western nations will announce a $42 billion debt relief programme for the world's poorest countries at next month's economic summit in London, the Guardian newspaper reported yesterday.

It said the scale and timing of the programme were regarded as a breakthrough in attempts to co-ordinate Western aid to sub-Saharan Africa, seriously hit by drought and famine.

The deal could be seen as a diplomatic coup for Prime Minister John Major, who launched the idea last year when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, the paper said. Britain is host for the annual summit of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, beginning on July 15.

The Guardian said Major called for the doubling of official debt relief, stretching repayment periods to 25 years and conceding a five-year grace period during which low-income nations would not have to pay, either interest or principal on borrowings, - Sipa-Reuters.
Don't ignore the poor

SOMETHING can be done to help the needy this winter.

All you have to do to keep the less fortunate warm is donate, either cash or clothing to see them through the cold days and nights.

Remember, it could be you.

Keep in mind, as winter gets colder, our Winter Warmth campaign in co-operation with the OK and Radio Metro.

At all the OK branches listed below baskets, are provided for you to make donations to those not as lucky as you are, this winter, those too poor to be able to afford to keep warm or even feed themselves.

All contributions are welcome, from blankets to cash.

And you can be sure that what you give will find its way to where it is most needed.

The OK branches which are part of the campaign are those at Brakpan, Carletonville, Germiston, Westgate, Klerksdorp, Krugersdorp, New Sasolburg, Palm Springs, Potchefstroom, Roodepoort, Southdale, Southgate, Vanderbijlpark; Vereeniging, Bloemfontein, Kroonstad and New Wolkom.
More whites lining up for food

By Helen Grange

As the economic recession continues to bite into individual budgets, an increasing number of formerly independent people are finding themselves joining charity feeding-queues. Charity organisations have expressed concern at the level of poverty now beginning to affect people who were previously wage-earners, in the lower-income brackets.

Salvation Army assistant public relations secretary Captain Barry Schwartz said there was a definite increase in "middle-class people" resorting to Salvation Army centres in the Witwatersrand.

Inflation and unemployment were forcing people to become dependent on charity. "We are starting to cater for people who have been forced out of their homes because they simply can’t keep up with payments — people who had credit facilities and were able to sustain a financially independent lifestyle," said Captain Schwartz.

The situation was reminiscent of the economic crisis five years ago, when sanctions were first imposed and workers were losing jobs on a large scale, he said.

Whites looking for shelter at Salvation Army centres were, however, in a better position than blacks; whose main need was food and clothing.

Operation Hunger head Ina Perlman has said the number of whites joining food queues has increased by 100 percent in Pretoria and about 80 percent in Johannesburg.

However, the highest demand came from black squatters near urban areas.

"The appeals are pouring in. In March, we budgeted for 50,000 in the Free State. We have had to add 38,000, and this is not the end."

"People are destitute," said Mrs Perlman.

If maize meal were taxed, about 20 percent more people would be thrown below basic survival standards, she added.

"In Botshabelo, near Bloemfontein, we discovered that between 70 and 80 percent of people's earnings is spent on maize meal. Milk, eggs and even bread are luxuries."
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund and Educational Trust approved grants of R58.7-million for community development last year, according to a newspaper report this week. (Экран 64-41) сумма 57-11/7/91.

The report said 57 percent went to secondary and tertiary education while a further 13 percent was committed to primary education.
Hunger soars in SA, warns relief agency

Malnutrition, poverty increase in rural areas, says UN official.

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that hunger is on the rise in South Africa, with malnutrition and poverty increasing in rural areas. A UN official, speaking at a press conference last week, said that the situation was堪危, with the country facing a food security crisis.

The official, who did not want to be named, said that the recent drought has had a devastating impact on the agricultural sector. "The land is dry, and the crops have failed," she said. "This means that many families are struggling to meet their basic needs of food and water."

The UN official also highlighted the issue of Malnutrition, noting that the practice of weaning children too early is a major problem. "Many children are not receiving the nutrients they need to grow and thrive," she said. "This is a major concern, and we are working with local communities to raise awareness about the importance of proper nutrition for children."

The WFP has launched an emergency appeal to raise funds for food aid and nutrition programs in South Africa. The official said that the appeal has received a positive response, but more support is needed to reach those in need.

"We are呼吁 everyone to contribute, even if it's just a small amount," she said. "Every dollar counts in helping to feed our neighbours and ensure that they have a fighting chance at a healthy future."

The UN official also noted that the crisis is not unique to South Africa, and that many countries around the world are facing similar challenges. "We are seeing a global trend of increasing hunger and malnutrition, driven by factors such as climate change and economic instability," she said. "But we can make a difference, and we must act now to prevent hunger from becoming a crisis."

The WFP has been working with local governments and communities to provide food aid and support, but the official said that more needs to be done. "We need sustained support and investment in food security and nutrition programs," she said. "This is not just a matter of charity, it is an investment in the future of our children and our nation."

The UN official ended her remarks by urging everyone to join the fight against hunger and malnutrition. "We can end hunger, we can make sure that every child has the chance to thrive," she said. "Let's work together to ensure that no one is left behind."
Operation Hunger faces crisis

By Louise Burgers

Within the next couple of months, up to 2 million people in South Africa could need assistance with feeding — the most in Operation Hunger’s 10-year history, director Ina Perlman warned yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of Gold Rush 11, Mrs Perlman blamed high unemployment and retrenchment of almost 30,000 mineworkers last year as reasons for the increase in poverty.

The organisation had already exceeded its feeding budget, compiled in March, by 20 percent in most areas.

Mrs Perlman said she had had to instruct her staff that no new appeals could be accepted until Operation Hunger had greater financial security.

Mrs Perlman said she had urged the Ministers of Finance and of Health and Welfare to become personally involved in the situation.

The organisation had set up 1,600 very successful self-help projects.

With Gold Rush 11, sponsored by First National Bank, there will be a free ticket with every R10 ticket bought.

The latest competition will culminate at Turffontein race course on November 20, at the FNB 1,600 m sprint.
Steyn’s trust will not be too hasty in spending billions

LESLEY LAMBERT in Cape Town

approved a R4bn loan to finance 15 000 small sugar cane grove projects, many of which are yet to be announced, focused largely on primary health care and preventative medicine.

Underpinning these are national strategies, backed up by developmental and financial agencies which will coordinate, sustain, and perpetuate the projects. A range of disparate organisations’ policies recently agreed on a national pre-school education strategy, due to effective management of the IDT’s R6bn campaign.

The housing agency will provide the bulk serviced sites funded by the subsidy scheme, as well as a system of back-up loans and financial guarantees which will hopefully attract investment from financial institutions and the private sector in general. The trust’s lifespan is uncertain.

When it was established last year, Steyn was appointed chairman for a three-year term. Some of the projects approved so far extend to five years, which may have a substantial impact on public administration and monitoring functions beyond the three-year term.

But it is likely that institutions such as these and the Kagiso Trust and Private Sector Initiative, for example, will benefit from merging their operations to offer a central authority and to ensure better political dispensation.

Most argue that the loss of independence—undermining the credibility earned in individual constituencies and in the ANC and other leading black political movements is strongly linked to the ability to negotiate contracts which may be forfeited once there is agreement on future constitutional and economic policies.

from foreign banks and governments in the ECC, US, and Eastern bloc, while the SA government is obviously waiting to see how well we handle the first R6bn.

Nuttall says the IDT’s most valuable contribution, at least for the time being, is as a creative pressure group. It has made important breakthroughs in its negotiations with international financial and political and professional groups involved in the projects it is backing. The trust has become an important investor in which the ANC and Inkatha have undertaken to co-operate in initiating and implementing reconstruction programmes in areas devastated by violence.

IDT trustees, all heavyweights in their areas of specialisation, have the difficult task of creating educational and health models on the eve of negotiations for national policies. But, they point out, their models are the result of wide consultation.

They will be subjected to tough scrutiny. Already the mainstay housing subsidy scheme which was proposed by the World Bank which argues that the grants are too big not to provide aid on the scale needed to make a difference. All this is underpinned by the need for co-operation between the various participants in the developmental process. There is a growing recognition that, on the need for, or composition of, an umbrella body to guide the process.

The IDT’s view on the matter is fairly clear. Steyn has supported proposals for collaboration, and the IDT has established joint projects and strong links with agencies such as the World Bank, the bulk of which will be applied to projects in southern Africa and the Urban Foundation.

A portion of the funds would be issued in the form of loans which could avoid delays, and the bulk would be given out in the form of grants which would give empowerment to people and communities. A stake in the economy through land ownership, leaseback infrastructure, skills and jobs. The rest would be used as leverage for more funds from both public and private sectors.

It is clear from the start that Steyn has set the trust a dual task: to establish the framework for an accountable, economically sustainable developmental process and to unlock the resources and funds of the “Third World” economy and channel them — at an acceptable rate of return — into the reconstruction and development of the “Third World” economy.

It is a project which since the IDT took over the R6bn since then, R1.5bn has been allocated, while only R200m has been disbursed. Under professional management, the funds are earning about R1m a day in interest, which means they have attracted an additional R300m plus. It will take another seven years to spend the full amount which means it will be some time before there is conclusive evidence that it is achieving its goals.

The trust aims to uplift the poorest of the poor; its main priorities are housing, education and health where receive 45%, 30% and 20% of the funds, respectively.

Two projects form the core of the investment portfolio. The R70m housing subsidy scheme for 150 000 serviced sites will provide shelter for about 75 000 people this year. The R200m program to build 50 000 primary school classrooms over the next three or four years.

For the provision of low-cost homes and serviced sites, the IDT has allocated R50m to the Urban Foundation and funded a joint housing agency with the foundation’s housing utility companies. It has also approved projects to provide bulk services in areas identified for reconstruction and development. In an effort to reconstruct violence-torn areas in Natal and the Transvaal, it has made provisions for the upgradation of refugee camps and conversion of township hostels into housing units.

Education projects are based on a policy of reconstruction rather than renewal. They range from the upgrading and expansion of pre-school facilities, for 1.2-million of the estimated 2.5-million impoverished young children in SA to the improvement of teaching skills Large sums have been allocated to building new classrooms and rebuilding schools destroyed in unrest, and the trust has backed numerous projects emphasizing literacy, the upgrading of maths and science skills in high school, and training of university education.
Approximately two million people are expected to apply for emergency food aid from Operation Hunger this year. The organization fed 1.6 million people last year according to director Ira Perlman. Perlman said children under five, mostly malnourished, constituted 26 percent of all black deaths.

She attributed the expected escalation in requests for help to retrenchments. "Every miner who is laid off has an average of nine dependents. So the 27,000 miners laid off last year means 240,000 extra people to feed," she said.
unemployment in Alexandra, study finds

MORE than half of Alexandra's adult population is unemployed, according to a recent survey.

The survey, by the Education for Employment Campaign (EEC), also found that the township's population had risen by about 20% during the past year to 320,000.

EEC director Dave Jackson said only one-fifth of Alexandra's children of school-going age were at school.

The remaining 76,000 children were turning to crime.

"Many unemployed people, including children, when asked how they survived, replied 'we have to steal — how else do you expect us to live?'" Jackson said.

The EEC seeks to train township residents in practical matters and is funded by the Independent Development Trust, local industries and foreign interests, including the European Community (EC).

Jackson said that 60% of Alexandra's population pinned their hopes for the future on the education of their children.

But certificates of education were virtually useless if the holder could not speak English well, he said.

"There are people out there with BSc degrees who are not able to communicate properly in a factory and therefore cannot find jobs," he said.

The EEC programme aims to upgrade school facilities, provide training, counselling services and employment facilities for the unemployed and management training for community leaders.

The latter was vital to help defuse tension between rival township political groups, Jackson said.

The programme is being set up initially in Alexandra.

The EEC hopes to provide the service in other townships as well.

Soweto 'gives most support to govt'

GOVERNMENT has a higher level of support in Soweto than any other political formation, according to a survey of township residents' political attitudes.

The report, by the University of Witwatersrand Centre for Policy Studies, found that Soweto residents were "very moderate" and gave government a higher level of support than they did the church, trade unions, the ANC, employers and Azapo.

The survey, of 905 township residents across SA, showed 80% of respondents were satisfied with the leadership of De Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela, but in Soweto De Klerk got 20% more support than the ANC.

The ANC would, however, get the votes of 60% of all township residents nationally in a general election.

Civic associations, street committees, the SA Communist Party and Cosatu enjoyed lower levels of identification in Soweto than in other townships.

On the East Rand, virtually all political formations had a lower endorsement than elsewhere, except for Inkatha.

Inkatha had "overwhelming support" from hostel dwellers, who gave positive ratings to both the state and employers.

Most striking about hostel dwellers, the researchers said, was that they rated all other agencies and movements, including the church, relatively poorly.

Farmworkers victims under law report

THE exclusion of farmworkers from industrial and labour legislation made them a weapon in the hands of farmers, according to a report published by the Black Sash and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac).

University of Witwatersrand researcher Lauren Segal, the author of the report, said the relationship between farmers and labourers operated along the lines of a medieval master-serf relationship rather than according to contractual principles.

"With no written obligations to bind him, the farmer is free to dismiss his worker for whatever reason he wishes and to decide on his own terms," she said.

"SA's 1.3-million farmworkers are not legally protected and conditions on some farming operations have revealed that there is no bottom line to how bad such conditions may be under the law."

She said farmworkers were excluded from the Labour Relations Act, the Wages Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Factories Act, and had no right to public holidays, sick pay or leave pay.

There was no legal limit to working hours or any statute compelling farmers to pay overtime and as there was no minimum age for farmworkers, child labour was endemic, she said.

Legislation which could be used against farmworkers included the Illegal Squatters Act, the Trespass Act and the General Law Amendment Act, she said.

Bookmakers probe halted
Government under fire over welfare relief

By PEARL MAJOLA

They have to move now because the elastic is already at maximum stretch. We are at the limit of what we can manage in terms of funding from the private sector. We are giving a bag of mealie meal where we should give two,” she said.

“Operation Hunger has established 1 400 self-help projects countrywide in the past 10 years. Presently the organisation is responsible for feeding 1.6 million people of all races.”

Starving

According to Perlman, this requires the organisation to spend R1.6 million a month to feed the growing number of starving people in this country.

“Everyday brings new appeals, frightening stories of deterioration in child health, hugely increased malnutrition figures and soul-searing increases in the ultimate finality - child death,” she said.

Gold Rush 11, sponsored by First National Bank, will culminate at Turffontein Racecourse on November 30 where the FNB 1600m race will determine the instant winner of the R1 million Gold Rush 10 netted more than R5 million.

Tickets cost only R10 and for every ticket bought, First National Bank have pledged to give a free ticket, which increases the holder’s chances of winning.
Starvation and death in Africa’s richest country

Two-year-old Mpho Msimane faces death in Africa’s richest country because her family has run short of food.

The black child’s fight for life is a shocking tale of how the gap between rich and poor continues to widen in South Africa.

Her emaciated, swollen belly, discoloured ginger hair and sunken skin attest to the malnutrition that affects an estimated three million children in rural areas.

Poverty is spreading in the countryside because of redundancies in mines employing rural workers, overworking, overgrazing, deforestation and general lack of development.

Operation Hunger, a private welfare group that feeds 1.6 million people daily and promotes self-help development, estimates there are 3.5 million families in hunger-related distress every hour.

The country’s infrastructure is crumbling. The country is broke, with nothing like the GNP (Gross National Product), the state says. The Human Rights Commission has failed to protect the people’s interests.

In any case, why is the government so broke? It is because the government is not doing its job.

In a country where companies directors earn more than R50 000 a month, 12 million people or almost half the black population earn less than R1 000 a month needed for a family of five to survive Operaion Hunger says.

Another two million have no income whatsoever.

Emptiness and hunger look is more than three million children in South Africa’s rural areas are affected by malnutrition.

“Worthless,” says a former President FW de Klerk, referring to the situation. He said the government is not doing its job.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.

PERLMAN Our country is a bloody disgrace

“Even more people are dying of hunger than of disease,” he said.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.

PERLMAN Our country is a bloody disgrace

“Even more people are dying of hunger than of disease,” he said.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.

PERLMAN Our country is a bloody disgrace

“Even more people are dying of hunger than of disease,” he said.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.

PERLMAN Our country is a bloody disgrace

“Even more people are dying of hunger than of disease,” he said.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.

PERLMAN Our country is a bloody disgrace

“Even more people are dying of hunger than of disease,” he said.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.

PERLMAN Our country is a bloody disgrace

“Even more people are dying of hunger than of disease,” he said.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.

PERLMAN Our country is a bloody disgrace

“Even more people are dying of hunger than of disease,” he said.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.

PERLMAN Our country is a bloody disgrace

“Even more people are dying of hunger than of disease,” he said.

In rural areas, along a dusty road, a man with a pipe in his mouth is smoking a cigarette. He is sitting on a chair in the middle of a field.

“Why is the government so broke?” he said through an interpreter.

“Sometimes I am frustrated because I don’t know what to do in future,” he said.

One of the problems is that government is not doing its job.

Reforms

What does this mean? It means that government is not doing its job.

Ad workers estimate a quarter of all adults in the black community are malnourished children under five.
Subsidy for 100 000 poor families

Marike SA's case

PRETORIA
President - The

The problem is to give very
what would qualify to secure
whether they were deprived
and social assistance done on
based on the problem of
the answer for the income claim
and support the poor.

The answer is to give very
what would qualify to secure
whether they were deprived
and social assistance done on
based on the problem of
the answer for the income claim
and support the poor.

Subsidy for 100 000 poor families

Sunday, July 22, 1991
Door to the promised land about to open for the poor

New plan will benefit 100,000 families in SA

THE DOOR to land-ownership is about to open for some 100,000 low-income families in the country, according to the Independent Development Trust.

In a statement yesterday the IDT said nearly 100,000 subsidised serviced sites across the length and breadth of South Africa will become available shortly to heads of households earning less than R1,000 a month.

"At a special meeting in Cape Town, the trustees of the Independent Development Trust gave approval in principle to 108 applications involving 99,800 sites," the statement said.

"This decision will enable poor people to acquire ownership of a serviced site to which an Independent Development Trust subsidy of R7,500 will be attached. However, conditions on which these approvals are to be based will still have to be negotiated with the successful applicants."

Disputes

Because of the potential for disputes in the event of these conditions not being met and an application failing, specific details of approved projects would be made public only when contracts were signed.

"The applications constitute all but a tiny residue of the R750 million earmarked by the IDT for the capital subsidy scheme," the statement said.

Apart from the income ceiling, those who will qualify to acquire the land must be over 21, have dependents living with them, be first-time property owners and receive no other housing subsidy, it said.

A total of 66 percent of the applications were linked to city environments and 34 percent to smaller towns.

Some 65 percent were new sites and service projects, while the balance involved the upgrading of existing informal settlements.

Of the 108 developers, 37 percent were public authorities (including parastatals), 34 percent were community trusts, 20 percent were utility companies and nine percent were private developers.

In all, 404 applications involving 640,000 sites were submitted by land developers to the IDT.

Evaluate

"A massive exercise - unique in South Africa - was mounted in recent weeks through the deployment of 83 handpicked consultants across the country to evaluate the applications. Technical and financial assessments were made to check whether development proposals were implementable and socially acceptable on whether they were desirable."

The project is headed by the IDT's director of housing, Mr Ben van der Ross, who appointed two co-ordinating consultants to work with a network of experts all over South Africa.

"The scheme seeks to give very poor people access as fast as possible to the housing process in a way they can afford and in areas which are likely to become economically sustainable communities."

The chairman of the IDT, Mr Jan Steyn, in releasing details of the initiative, said that because the need to relieve the country's acute housing problem was so great, "we have had to move at almost abnormally speed in implementing our capital subsidy scheme," according to the statement.

"An extraordinary process had to be developed in order to apply the criteria which we set while still achieving our objectives within such a narrow timeframe," he said.

He emphasised, however, that this was only a beginning in impacting on the problem of homelessness.

"We must remember that the backlogs are enormous. The large number of unplanned settlements are the best evidence of this fact. Our present effort will probably address only 10 percent of the problem. An ongoing sustained process is essential to resolve the issue."

The statement said the consultants entered into a painstaking process of talking to a wide cross-section of the communities from which applications had come.

Strategy

"The consultants also interacted with the applicants themselves. They will be advised of the outcome in writing within a week."

Applications approved in principle would now be subjected, among others, to the following assessments before final endorsement was given:

* A projected programme of activity in completing the development;
* Details of a monitoring process to be applied to that programme;
* The developer's policy in locating sites to individuals;
* A commitment to community involvement.

JAN STEYN

* An agreed strategy for advising the public and potential beneficiaries that subsidies have been granted.

The process of allocating R750 million had already had positive spinoffs in the housing field, according to Van der Ross.

"Many actors have been attracted into the process through the opportunity to gain access to our resources," he said on Saturday. "This must increase the country's capacity to deliver suitable and affordable housing projects to the very poor.

"Secondly, the limits we set have compelled many proposers - both the authorities and communities - to accept the inevitability of lower standards.

"Thirdly, we know of many instances where previously hostile communities and authorities have co-operated in developing proposals.

"Also, our criteria have forced many developers to come to grips with the concept of community participation for the first time. Thus, even where applications are unsuccessful, we feel that this experience will influence them positively in future," Van der Ross said. - Sapa
**White cash to aid the poor 'a myth'**

The uncomfortable reality for those who believe poverty can be relieved by a redistribution of wealth is that the "haves" simply don't have enough to improve the standard of living of the millions of "have-nots", according to Market Research Africa's 1990 Socisonitor.

Its survey shows that about 20 percent of South Africa's urban white population have a net worth of less than R10 000. And more than half the white population have net assets of under R100 000.

MRA chairman Clive Corder said, "The reality which has to be faced by those politicians who believe they can relieve the poverty of their supporters by a redistribution of wealth is that South Africa is a relatively poor country."

"But a fair proportion of the population are extremely materialistic and like to display their well-being, even though their cars, houses and boats are not their own. "This leads to the impression that all whites are well-off," — Sapa.
Ex-chief minister joins trust to aid very poor

Political Staff

MR Enos Mabuza, former chief minister of KaNgwane, and Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, principal of the University of Transkei, have been appointed additional executive directors of the Independent Development Trust.

Their appointments bring the number of IDT executive directors to eight. The trust administers the R2 billion given by the government last year to address the plight of the very poor.

Mr Mabuza, a business consultant, will join the IDT in August and will be based in Johannesburg.

IDT chairman Mr Jan Steyn said: "We shall be seeking to benefit from Mr Mabuza’s considerable experience, judgment and knowledge in many fields which are relevant to the work of the IDT."

Professor Nkuhlu, already an IDT trustee, will spend a year’s sabbatical from the university, starting in January next year, to work as executive director of project development.

He will work in the education portfolio in the planning and evolution of a national community learning centre programme with special responsibility for implementing community trusts.

Professor Nkuhlu will also be involved with the IDT’s health portfolio in the planning and evolution of a national health-building programme which will have links with the school-building project.

The first black chartered accountant in South Africa, Professor Nkuhlu worked at the Loraine Gold Mines from 1968 to 1987.
Poverty blamed for family death craze

By ELIUS MAULUKA

IS Odi bewitched? Or does poverty have a role to blame for spouses and lovers burning each other — and those close to them — to a cinder?

This is the big question posed by residents of the Bophuthatswana area following the alarming trend.

The deeper tragedy, however, is that most of the victims of this family madness are children.

Inquiries have shed light on the question of fear of being accused of being a witch and torching.

Most of the victims have been reduced to ashes after relatives poured paraffin on them or their houses before striking a match.

Three people died in this terrible manner that week in GaRankuwa, bringing the number to six since the beginning of the month and 10 since June.

Eight children and four adults are known to have died after being set alight during family disputes. One child was just a month old.

Areas affected include GaRankuwa, Mbhopshe and Bokomdithu.

Bophuthatswana police liaison officer Col. Dave George said a family quarrel apparently led to the killing of three children this week.

He said a brother, off to a business trip, led to the death of his 11-year-old son.

The adults managed to escape, but three children were trapped in the burning.

The children were found dead.

The brother later arrested.

SURVIVORS, ... Jeremiah Makola escaped the burning frenzy.

The ory of death started when the wife and child of a Mahopane businessman were burnt to death in his four-roomed house in stand No. 213, Block B, Mahopane.

It has not yet been established how the two died and police are still investigating.

Then Sara Maleku had a row with her husband and set him alight.

In early July, three people died in a shack on stand No. 277 after Philip Mahangwa went berserk with rags and set his backyard room alight.

Minutes before that, the 32-year-old hawker displayed undescrivable cruelty when he repeatedly battered his beloved two-year-old toddler Lepogang and month-old infant Thoko.

Jeremiah Makola, brother, said he had escaped one of the attacks, but his shack was burned.

A sense police officer in Odi said there were indications that several betrayals were to blame.

"But why take it out on the kids?"

Social worker Teboho Songane said stress, the high rate of unemployment and malnutrition were the major factors.

We don't like double-speak!

ON THE MARCH... Johannesburg city centre came alive this week when close to 20,000 railway workers marched to Transnet headquarters to protest against the manne...
GOVERNMENT is racing against time to get its R220m poverty safety net in place before VAT starts on September 30.

The nuts and bolts of the mechanism will be finalised after meetings at the beginning of next month involving a wide range of interest groups, a spokesman for the National Health Department said yesterday.

The outcome of these meetings would be crucial in determining the criteria for the allocation of funds.

The spokesman said the allocation would be decided by a committee, which will still have to be appointed. Sources said efforts would be made to appoint a committee with "grass-roots credibility."

The department confirmed non-government organisations would play a major role in fighting poverty, as government would have to rely largely on the infrastructure of private aid organisations active in the community.

Any organisation that believed it should be part of the programme could apply to the committee for funds.

"To ensure the involvement of interested parties, two days of discussions are planned for the beginning of next month. Working groups will be formed to talk about the exact way in which the special relief fund will be administered, co-ordinated and monitored," the spokesman said.

Non-government organisations and local authorities would mainly be responsible for implementing the programme, while the committee and the Department of National Health would co-ordinate and monitor. Full details had not been reached on the involvement of other state departments.

The spur for the programme was largely the charging of VAT on foodstuffs other than maize and brown bread. National Health said existing state schemes to combat protein deficiency in children younger than six years old would be expanded to involve more local and regional authorities.

"We also intend adding other foodstuffs to the current provision of milk to these children."

"The plan includes food aid to pregnant and lactating women whose weight is below normal."

National Health is finalising the programme after initial research and recommendations by a committee headed by Finance Deputy Director-General Estan Calitz.
Big fundraising project for poor sets R6-m target

By Stan Hlophe

One of the biggest fundraising projects yet undertaken in the country, with a target of R6 million, was launched in Johannesburg last night.

Millionex's chairman Abe Krok said that at a time when South Africa was going through dynamic changes, it was opportune to launch a massive project in view of the alarming crisis in welfare.

Mr Krok praised the community and the media, both of which he said had played a major role in making Millionex successful.

He said the Government could not keep up with the demands of the needy and urged the private sector to play a greater role in uplifting the underprivileged.

Mr Krok said the need for the Millionex project was more important than ever and, with more than R3 million to be donated, it was a worthy cause.

He said prize money would be more than R2.3 million with a first prize of R1 million.

He was optimistic that Millionex could reach a target of R10 million in spite of the recession.

Other prizes would include a trip to Rio de Janeiro and two motor cars. The draw will take place in November.

The Star's assistant general manager, Peter Sullivan, expressed his gratitude for the role played by Millionex in alleviating the plight of the needy over the past five years.

Mr Sullivan said the Argus Group and The Star in particular had supported the project because it benefited the community.

Radio 702 promotions manager Rick Emden said the project had become part of the life of his radio station and urged the media to help promote the cause.

Beneficiaries of Millionex 5 will include welfare organisations, community organisations, educational and church bodies.

Another feature of the project is the facility whereby shareholders can nominate an additional beneficiary.

This will ensure the optimum spread of Millionex funds to as many worthy causes as possible.
Despair ends a life

CP Correspondent

POVERTY and false promises by a man led a young mother-of-four to kill her youngest baby and bury the corpse in the sand, the Venda Supreme Court heard this week.

In the dock before Judge J.J. van der Walt, Khensali Gladys Msumeki, 21, of Dazhana village pleaded guilty to murdering her eight-month-old, Nkheteni, on March 6, 1989.

Msumeki told the court she was working at a tea plantation, earning R90 a month. Of the amount, R40 went towards a babysitter.

She said the child's father Daniel Negota had promised her "heaven and earth" while she was pregnant. After she had delivered, he took to the hills and never supported the baby.

She told the court that she had met Negota on the day of the incident and had asked him for R2 50 to take the baby to her home, but he had refused and a quarrel ensued.

She had stopped on her way home and killed the baby while breast feeding him.

Passing judgment, the judge said he understood the circumstances which the accused found herself in, although he did not condone it.

"When a defenseless child who never asked to be brought to this world, is killed by his mother who is supposed to love and protect him, the crime becomes more serious," the judge added.

He then handed down a suspended sentence of five years.
‘Aid will defuse VAT opposition’

SACOB has warned government that unless it provides a R1.2bn aid package to assist the poor with basic foodstuffs after the introduction of VAT, opposition could be such as to threaten the implementation of the new tax.

The follows growing opposition to government's handling of VAT which comes into operation in eight weeks' time. The DP has called for its implementation to be postponed.

Sacob’s recommendation of a R1.2bn aid package is contained in a memorandum sent to Finance Minister Barend du Plessis and National Health Minister Rina Venter last week. Just days after Cosatu announced it would use mass action to oppose the tax.

"Unless a suitable programme is announced for the alleviation of extreme poverty, the implementation of VAT stands under threat," the memorandum warns.

The business community is concerned that if government does not accept its recommendations, the VAT issue would become politicised and the whole system be derailed.

In its memorandum Sacob said it believed measures should be taken to offset the immediate short-term disadvantage of VAT.

It proposed a food assistance programme be set up, initially in rural areas where the need was greatest. School feeding and food stamp schemes also could be phased in.

The chamber emphasised that the estimated R1.2bn needed would cover an entire fiscal year.

Therefore, launching the programme in what remained of the present fiscal year should be possible with the R220m allocated as a "safety net" in the March 1993 Budget.

A reassessment of funding needs would have to be done in 1992/3.

Such a scheme "to an extent would defuse some of the opposition that is building up toward VAT," Sacob said.

Meanwhile DP leader Zach de Beer reiterated yesterday that while his party supported the introduction of VAT, it felt the rate of 15% was too high. Not enough had been done to alleviate the burden the system would place on the poor, he said.

The Vatwatch organisation is being flooded with calls from the public, reporting suspected cases of misleading advertising and alleged incidents of unwarranted VAT-related price increases, Sapa reports.

Vatwatch chairman Prof Louise Tager said on Friday Vatwatch — the independent body set up to monitor the effects of the introduction of VAT — had already referred a number of cases to the Advertising Standards Authority.

In all cases consumers were being encouraged to "buy now, before VAT": implying that prices would rise after September 30. Thus would be unnecessary for products already carrying GST, as the VAT rate was lower than that of GST.

Tager said some complaints had also been received from business people alleging their suppliers were increasing prices and blaming the imminent introduction of VAT.
Sacob offers plan to offset VAT impact

By Sven Lanneberg

The SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) has proposed an annual R1.2 billion package to help alleviate the impact of VAT on the poor.

In a memorandum to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health Sacob said it was essential that a suitable poverty relief programme was in place before VAT was introduced in October.

"Unless a suitable programme is announced the implementation of VAT stands under threat."

The relief package could be accommodated in the current fiscal year within the R200 million allocated to poverty relief in the Budget. After that about R1.2 billion a year should be set aside.

The need for a safety net for the poor, arose largely out of the extension of VAT to food, previously excluded under GST.

"Vulnerable"

"The fact that the poor spend such a large proportion of their income makes them vulnerable to any setback in their ability to obtain it."

Sacob said it opposed general food price subsidies, such as tax exemptions, as they permitted anyone to benefit from such measures and instead favoured a targeted approach to food aid.

Two specific measures deserved attention in a poverty relief package.

- A food stamp programme targeted initially at the poor in the rural areas, which would embrace some 11.4 million people. If assistance of 25c a day was given, it would cost about R1 billion a year.

- A school feeding programme, targeted first at primary schools in the rural area, but then extended to schools in other needy areas. Financing food for a million black primary school children at a cost of 20c a day would entail R160 million a year.

For both programmes delivery system would have to be devised in conjunction with the communities concerned.

"The announcement of such an assistance scheme would be highly visible and to an extent would defuse some of the opposition that is building up towards VAT," Sacob said.
SA Navy in Muslim mercy mission

CAPE TOWN — The navy supply ship SAS Drakensberg is delivering relief aid to Bangladesh, Turkey and Sudan.

The goods were collected by South African Muslims.

The mission is seen as a breakthrough and combines diplomacy with mercy. It is possible that on the return leg of the seven-week trip the ship will pay a goodwill visit to Kenya.

Details of the mission — which establishes a diplomatic foothold in previously hostile Muslim countries — were embargoed by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Yesterday the Drakensberg left Chittagong in Bangladesh, after unloading the bulk of the relief material during a triumphant three-day visit.

A South African diplomat said the Drakensberg was received with full naval honours on arrival in Bangladesh and was given an appreciative farewell.

The Drakensberg is expected to reach the Suez Canal on August 16 on her way to Mersin in Turkey.

The Suez passage is a first for a South African Navy ship since World War 2.

In Mersin more aid, including four 10-ton lorries and medical supplies, will be landed to help the Red Crescent Society improve the lot of Iraqi Kurds on both sides of the Turkish-Iraqi border.

The Drakensberg then sails back through Suez into the Red Sea and is expected in Port Sudan on August 25. Food, clothing and medicine will be given to famine-stricken Sudan.

The Drakensberg left Simon's Town on July 15 for Cape Town where more than 30 tons of food, medical supplies and clothing were loaded.

The balance of more than 1000 tons of relief material was loaded in Durban and the Drakensberg headed for Bangladesh.

The supplies were collected by the Islamic Relief Agency (Ira), an umbrella body of religious, cultural and welfare organisations.

Their effort was sparked by the cyclone in Bangladesh and repeated storms which killed more than 100,000 and left many more homeless, hungry and ill.

The mission was the result of weeks of secret negotiations initiated after Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, a national co-ordinator of Ira, contacted the Department of Foreign Affairs.
SOUTH African Muslim leaders this week slammed the collaboration between the Islamic Relief Agency (Isra), the South African Navy and the Department of Foreign Affairs in the relief effort to Bangladesh.

Sheikh Nazeem Mohamed, president of the Muslim Judicial Council, said while relief aid to Bangladesh was supported, he was appalled by the South African government's attempt to use it for diplomatic gain.

The SAS Drakensberg's voyage to Bangladesh, Turkey and North Africa was this week hailed as a "diplomatic breakthrough".

Permission for South Africa to pass through the Suez Canal further enhanced the relaxation of relations between Cairo and Pretoria.

Dr Rafiq Khan, of Isra's Western Cape office, said he had "a very strong reserve" about the matter. He stressed that Isra in the Western Cape was autonomous from Isra in other parts of the country.

"We distance ourselves totally and completely," he said.

He also dismissed reports that more than 30 tons of food, medical supplies and clothing were given as aid to Bangladesh as a "hopelessly inflated figure".

Khan said it was curious the South African government "only released the news after the ship had left Bangladesh and after the Inkatha Party affair".

He said several mosques in Cape Town had boycotted the call by Isra to support the venture.

The organiser of Isra's aid programme for Bangladesh, Dr Imtiaz Soomlman of Durban, could not be reached for comment.
Operation Hunger faces R1m crisis

VERA VON LIEBERS

OPERATION Hunger will have to suspend all feeding operations in September and October unless it raises R1m this month. Executive director Ina Perlman said yesterday the organisation had already exceeded its feeding budget — compiled in March 1991 — by 20% in most areas. “I have had to instruct my staff that we cannot take on new appeals until we have greater financial security; in other words, assured cash flow in every new area we investigate,” she said.

She urged the public to support Operation Hunger to “stave off a potential national tragedy.”

Perlman said the organisation was expecting a major German grant by the end of September. Meanwhile it was facing a crisis. Incidence of clinically diagnosable malnutrition had increased dramatically in the Free State, Natal and KwaZulu. Winterveld and Hammanskraal, the Eastern Cape-Border region, and squatter areas in the PWV area. In some areas of the Free State between 50% and 80% of people were malnourished.
Giving the poorest some place to live

THE Government announced in 1990 that it would allocate R2 billion to address social inequities.

Recognising that it would not be acceptable if the Government decided how to spend the money, Mr Steyn, a former Supreme Court Judge, was invited to establish a trust. Under his chairmanship the trust would decide how the money should be spent.

Steyn accepted the invitation but made it clear that the trust must be independent of Government and that, once the money was handed to the trust, the trustees would be responsible for deciding how the money should be spent.

In other words, the Government would have no say in how the money was spent.

Developers

This condition was accepted by the Government and the funds were transferred to the trust in the middle of 1990.

Since then, the staff of the Independent Development Trust have been evaluating proposals and deciding how best to use the money at their disposal.

Recent announcements detail the decisions they have taken, which involve contributing to more than 100 projects designed to help uplift the poorest in the land.

The biggest single allocation is an amount of R750 million for capital subsidies for the provision of serviced sites. This is land bought by a developer, broken up into small sites with basic services installed and then made available to the public.

Once the land is transferred into the name of the purchaser, he or she may erect any form of shelter or proper house. What is important is that the site belongs to the purchaser to develop or sell as he or she sees fit.

The money set aside by the IDT is to help the very poor buy these sites and this will be accomplished by what they have called the Capital Subsidy Scheme. The scheme works as follows:

Developers (such as FHA Homes, local and provincial authorities, community trusts and private developers) find suitable land and then make an application to the IDT for a site-and-service subsidy.

If the developer’s application is successful, he is required to put up the working capital to buy the land, have it proclaimed as a township, design and provide graded minor access roads and tarred main roads, instal running water and a toilet connected to water-borne sewerage on each site.

When these works are complete and sites are transferred to the name of the new owner, the IDT will pay the developer R750 a site. This means that the IDT has effectively bought the site on behalf of the individual who takes possession of this serviced piece of land.

Not everyone qualifies to buy these sites. To ensure that only the most needy benefit, the IDT has laid down qualifying criteria that require the applicant to:

- Be at least 21 years of age;
- Be living with dependents (mother, father, children, etc.);
- Not to have been granted any other housing subsidy by the Government;
- Earn less than R1,000 a month; and
- Be a first-time property owner.

Projects

But the IDT has thought beyond simply giving poor people their own sites. They also recognise the importance of support and participation by the community in the development of a successful site-and-service scheme. Developers therefore have to advise the IDT what they will be doing to ensure that the community is involved in the development and how they will institute what the IDT calls consolidation.

In the words of the IDT: “Consolidation is the process of upgrading informal communities in both physical environment and socio-economic terms. As consolidation proceeds, housing is upgraded from informal structures, infrastructure services are improved, public and private sector community facilities are provided, commercial enterprises are established, skills of the community are improved, thus facilitating income generation in the community.”

Emergency

The IDT received hundreds of applications from developers after the scheme was announced at the start of 1991. At the end of June 1991, 99,800 applicants had been accepted in principle.

The IDT is now formalising agreements between it and the developers so that they can begin to work out their responsibilities. It is expected that the first serviced sites will become available in the next few months of this year.

The IDT capital subsidy scheme should be seen as an emergency measure to provide basic health, safety and security of tenure to the poorest people in our country. It is hoped that either the IDT’s funds will be topped up by Government to enable more capital subsidies to be provided, or alternatively that Government will change its current subsidy policies to provide capital subsidies on a broader base.
Struggle

She tried selling a range of cosmetics about a year ago, but did not do well because she could not afford the clothes and car that were necessary for the job.

Three of their children are boarding school in Pietersburg. Their schooling is subsidised by welfare, but they still struggle to make ends meet.

"We are spending R700 a month alone on the things we need, and that's scraping the bottom of the barrel. There are no luxuries at all," she says.

Future prospects are not rosy — she passed Std 8, and her husband "about the same." The couple are "helping out" a family in which the daughter was raped by the grandfather, but "we are experiencing problems with them because they drink and smoke dagga, which I don't approve of. But I might as well talk to a brick wall."

It seems that alcohol and dagga are common problems in "Klein-Japan," as the council housing scheme is known. One house down from Mrs. Niewenhuis, Christine Holtouw was visiting her brother, Smaart, "Swartvark" Venter. He had been unemployed for more than a year. During his working days he cut a dab piece of plaster against a wall, but now he cannot find work.

The father of seven complained that he did not get welfare money, while less-deserving cases did.

While we chatted, his nephew, Willem Stoltz, arrived with a gas cy-

linder. Smaartyk said he could not afford to pay for his water and lights which were cut off four weeks ago. He was behind with his rent by more than R400. He said how he got by, he said, "There's no work and you 'sukel!"

His more vociferous sister interrupted "What must a man do? He is prepared to do any kind of work, but he has not got the brains that everyone has. So why does the welfare pressure him like that?" She did not explain what she meant by "pressure.

She proudly declared that she threw welfare workers out of her house then they tried to visit her. "What do these young things know about bringing up children? They are not even married. Me, I have brought up 14 children."

"I'm dead honest with you. Why don't they stand up for the whites? I want to know why they don't take away the blacks' children," she exclaimed indignantly.

In Johannesburg, some couples intend taking their youngest and themselves to rural areas where they have been promised work.

Behind the development is a determined woman, Babette Schoe-

man, who is organising work for the "children of God" — who are all white, she insists.

She describes herself as an Israelite, a direct descendant of the lost tribes of Israel who had been called by God to save his children (whites only) from poverty.

One of her schemes is to send families to rural areas where sympathetic farmers have agreed to take them on.

Another scheme is to provide white women with work as "household assistants."

"She sees nothing shameful about whites doing a job which has been the domain of blacks and points out that it is common practice overseas."

She found work this month for Elaine Lemmer, who came to the Transvaal when she and her husband ran into financial difficulties farming in the eastern Cape. "We weren't in that

A CLEAN SWEEP... Elaine Lemmer says employers treat her like one of the family when she cleans their houses. © Photograph: BRENDAN TEMPLETON

about charging her husband for the housework she does at home. "I suggested it the other night, but it didn't work," she laughed.

Her Boksburg employer, Annette Schenk, offers a coocksyster and beans with delight at Elaine's progress. "I am very happy with her and hope it won't ever be necessary to employ a black woman again."

"I'm not discriminating against blacks, but I would rather employ a white. I had problems in the past with blacks," she said, adding "I have encouraged other people to take on white domestics."

In Claremont, Johannes van der Merwe and Doreen Pintle are looking forward to the move away from their druggy council flat to a farm in the Magaliesberg. They have been promised a cottage and a combined income of R800 a month.

They have an eight-year-old son, Michael.

Venter, a former mechanic and panelbeater, has been without work for more than two months. Doreen has never worked. Friends from their church have helped them following their recent conversion, but they struggle to pay their son's school fees and the R165 rent.

"It's going very hard, because there are a lot of people around here who feed us," Doreen said.

Describing what it feels like to be unemployed, Venter said "Man, you feel down because you aren't used to it. If you haven't got money, you are down. You walk around and see what you can find. Every time you go to look for a job, if they hear you come from Claremont they close the door in your face."

In the same building is Bettie Jacobs, who is also heading for a farm. Compliments of the Illawarm agency. She has three school-going children and is divorced.

The only income she receives is from the welfare department. — R88 every two weeks for three months. For her the rural life will be a welcome relief. Yes, she says, she is looking forward to it.
Poor whites now form growing urban class
By LULAMA LUTI

COLD winter days without enough blankets or clothes are a thing of the past for more than 50 Soweto children who were this week presented with blankets, trousers and shirts.

The needy children, all pupils at Mzamo Lower Primary School in Orlando West, were given the blankets and clothes by Soraya Hassim of the Fordsburg-based Islamic Relief Fund (IRF) 4/9.

Mzamo principal Caroline Makause said a bread and soup scheme was initially intended for children from poor families but had since been extended to other children.

"Most of the children for whom the scheme was intended are orphans. Some live with their pensioned grannies or in some cases the parents are unemployed."

"For those who live in shacks, the soup kitchen has been a blessing, especially during violence," she said.

Makause said Hassim was doing wonderful work, especially for children from Mzimhlophe.

Community worker Hassim said her organisation has been involved in providing relief schemes to people throughout the PWV region and the scheme covers more than 30 000 children.

Among the areas in which the organisation operates are Orange Farm near Evaton, Zonkizwane in Katlehong and the squatter camps in Soweto.

"We have been running soup kitchens for schoolchildren and the elderly," she said.

The services are concentrated mainly in the squatter camps where people live in terrible conditions. We believe it is our duty to try to bring whatever comfort we can to them," said Hassim.

She added that the organisation was largely dependent on donations by and support from the Muslim community.

"The clothes and blankets are collected from schools and churches who have been very generous and without whose help and support the project would not have been possible," she said.

The organisation, together with the Islamic Medical Association, also ran a mobile medical unit in the squatter camps, where elderly people were examined and provided with medicine.
IN AN attempt to deflect the furore over VAT, National Health Minister Ruia Venter last night reiterated government's R220m commitment to food aid which she said was only one element of a comprehensive safety net.

Venter appealed to fund-raising organisations involved in food assistance to apply to the Health Department for financial backing.

She said clinics would extend feeding programmes to include energy-rich staple foods instead of just milk powder.

At a forum on September 5 and 6 a committee would be elected to draft and manage a long-term development programme to address SA's undernourishment and malnutrition problems.

All interested parties were invited to attend, said Venter.

Organisations, including Cosatu and the ANC, have said VAT will hit poor people hard and have called for more basic foods to be exempted from the tax. Finance Minister Barend du Plessis has promised to reply this week to growing criticism of VAT.

The poverty safety net was detailed in the 1991 Budget, which also included the zero-rating under VAT of maize meal and brown bread, as well as the allocation of R220m for improving old age pensions, R69m to eliminate pension disparities and R50m for job-creation, Venter said.

GERALD REILLY reports the distribution of poverty relief is likely to be handled by established welfare organisations.

Sources said it would be a major task to deal with aid applications and sort out the deserving from undeserving.

The R220m is only to cover needs for five months from October to the end of the current financial year.
Aid body tied up in govt red tape

WORLDVISION's managers were redirected to eight different government offices yesterday when they tried to find out how to take up National Health Minister Rina Venter's weekend offer of cash aid for poverty relief.

The community development organisation said this highlighted government's inability to properly co-ordinate the scheme that it had proposed.

Other welfare and medical groups condemned government's attempt to soften the effects of VAT as "inadequate and archaic".

Operation Hunger spokesman Ina Perlmansaid she was concerned that the R220m earmarked by Venter for food aid would never reach its intended targets.

Worldvision director John Allwood warned of a "bureaucratic bungle" that would shift money from one department to another and never benefit those suffering from the effects of VAT.

Government's implementation of VAT showed a distinct lack of forethought and planning, Allwood said.

He said the introduction of the tax was an ideal time for government to work out an innovative system of welfare aid that would directly benefit those in need, instead of operating through a government bureaucracy.

He approved of government's decision to exempt bread and maize from VAT, but another Worldvision spokesman said yesterday "man does not live on bread alone"

Perlmansaid VAT would have a "terrifying" effect on the ability of most South Africans to buy basic foodstuffs.

She said government food aid would not be enough, and called for it to make more details of the scheme known.

The scheme, which requires welfare organisations to apply to government for financial backing, could have a "horrendous impact on cash flow" as organisations would presumably have to wait several weeks before receiving rebates on their outlays, Perlmansaid.

Inadequate

Meanwhile, Sapa reports the National Medical and Dental Association (Namda) said yesterday the aid programme was inadequate.

In a statement, Namda said the measures were "inadequate to alleviate the effects of VAT on previously GST exempt foodstuffs."

It said the aid was an "attempt to buy political acceptance for VAT without making any real impact on the problem."

Namda said that was estimated VAT would increase the burden on the consumer by R1.8bn on food prices alone and called for VAT on medical supplies and basic foodstuffs to be zero-rated.

However, the National Council for Child and Family Care issued a more positive statement yesterday, welcoming Venter's scheme.

Joan Oberholzer, national director of the council, said it was running at a R3bn deficit this year.
Food for the poor - Venter

Sowetan Reporter
THE Government is ready to provide "immediate targeted food assistance" for underprivileged, the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, has said.

In a statement released on Sunday night Venter said organisations which provided food to the underprivileged and undernourished South Africans had to apply to the Department of Health for financial backing.

Earlier this year the Government made available R200 million in the current Budget as a "safety net" to deal with the consequences of poverty.

Budget

"While the amount of R200 million has been emphasised here, it represents only a single element of a comprehensive, multifaceted safety net detailed in the 1991 Budget.

"Other elements include, inter alia, the zero-rating of maize meal and brown bread which will apply under VAT, R220 million for the improvement of old-age pensions, R660 million for the elimination of disparities in old-age pensions and R50 million for special job creation actions and the maintenance of existing programmes," Venter said.

Venter also announced that her department was extending its own spending schemes.

"The targeted food assistance programmes administered by the clinics of local authorities to combat malnutrition would be extended.

"Where in the past skimmed milk powder only was made available to identified cases, additional staple and energy-rich foods will in future also be provided.

"The contents of food parcels will be determined by qualified dieticians," Venter said.

She said about 2,000 clinics will benefit from the new scheme.

Welfare organisations were not contacted as they would be invited to attend a forum on September 5 and 6 in Pretoria, Venter said.

"In order to provide immediate targeted food assistance, I appeal to all registered fund-raising organisations which are currently providing food assistance to apply for financial assistance from the Department of National Health without delay.

"Organisations which provide food assistance and which are not registered can apply immediately for registration or channel their applications for financial assistance through registered organisations.

"The criteria according to which applications will be expeditiously considered and processed are available on request from the Department," Venter said.

The announcement is seen as an attempt to deflect the burgeoning opposition to VAT.

Dissent

Organisations across the spectrum, including the ANC, have said that VAT will hit poor people hard and have called for more basic foods to be exempted from the tax.

However, the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, has said that the implementation of VAT could not be postponed.

He was reacting in a television interview on Sunday night on the growing dissent over the imminent change from VAT to GST.

Venter said she would not be the time being ask the Minister of Finance to exempt perishables and other necessary foods.

The idea was not to make food cheaper, but to make Government money available for the needy, Venter said.
Education solutions may be on horizon

By Phil Molefe
and Peter Fabricius

The solution to the education crisis may be in sight following far-reaching proposals between the Government and a broad grouping of educationists for the formation of a “Patriotic Front of Education” to work towards the transformation of the education system in South Africa.

Government representatives led by President de Klerk yesterday met the educationists to discuss the report-back of the Joint Working Group on Education (JWG) which was set up on February 25.

On that occasion a delegation led by ANC president Nelson Mandela met Mr de Klerk and various education Ministers in Cape Town.

Following the February meeting at Tshwane, the JWG met six times and a report on its activities was tabled and discussed yesterday at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

University of the Western Cape vice-chancellor Professor Jakes Gerwel, who led yesterday’s delegation in the absence of Mr Mandela, said the meeting had noted in principle the urgency to “set up a truly representative forum to work out a new education system”.

Professor Gerwel said the envisaged patriotic front would have an important role to play in the country’s education system.

He said the forum, which was still to be formed, would intervene in situations of crisis in education, address aspects of transforming the education system and reflect on the governance of education in the new South Africa.

Health issues came under the discussion of the JWG meetings, including: the delivery of textbooks; repairs to damaged schools; the need for new classrooms; provision of essential facilities such as libraries and laboratories; and the improvement of the teacher-pupil ratio.

The educationists included Dr Neil McGurk of the SA Association of Independent Schools, Professor Chabani Manganyi, vice-chancellor of the University of the North; John Samuels, head of the ANC’s education department; Bron Rensberg, general secretary of the National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC); education authorities from mission schools, and the Lebowa and Transkei education departments.

The consensus was that some progress had been noted at yesterday’s meeting but a lot still had to be done.

Minister of Education and Training Dr Stoffel van der Merwe said at a separate press conference that members of the JWG would now go back to seek approval from their constituents for the two key proposals.

They were the formation of a body representing all educationists (the “Patriotic Front of Education”) and, in the meantime, the appointment of a broad grouping of educationists to advise the Government on problems in black education.

But in an interview afterwards, Dr van der Merwe indicated that he did not think yesterday’s meeting had convinced the NECC to call off its campaign to occupy empty white schools.

Southern suburbs feel pinch

Staff Reporter

The effects of the recession are spreading more and more into Johannesburg’s “white” suburbs.

A growing number of pupils in Government schools in Johannesburg’s south-eastern areas have been receiving free soup this winter through a scheme run by the local chapter of Lions.

The organisation operates a soup kitchen feeding scheme to about a quarter of the pupils at five schools in the region, says Lions member Ronnie Wood.

Also in this issue of Southern Focus

Southern Focus is free with The Star in editions delivered to and sold in the south, including Alberton.

If you are unable to get your Southern Focus, copies of the The Star with the Focus are available at the CNA Southgate Mall and The Star, 47 Sauer Street, Johannesburg, today and tomorrow.
Venter promises to cut red tape hindering poverty aid

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Red tape and bureaucratic delays would be eliminated in the distribution of government's R200m poverty relief fund, National Health Minister Rina Venter said yesterday.

She was responding to criticism that poverty relief workers had been shunted from one government office to the other when they tried to apply for an aid allocation.

Venter said in an interview she had stressed inquiries should be made direct to her department or its regional offices.

With only a few weeks to go before the implementation of VAT, the poverty relief project was being treated with the greatest urgency.

Venter said the department's head office in Pretoria and its regional offices had been inundated with phone inquiries about the allocation of the R200m.

Funds would be allocated to welfare and other organisations based on their existing programmes and on their ability to distribute the money.

All being well, she said it would take no longer than two weeks after the receipt of an application for funds to be channelled.

Feedback from the organisations would be closely studied during the first six months and adjustments made to improve the infrastructure of the project.

The feedback would enable an assessment of how many families and individuals needed poverty relief.

This would be used as background in determining the extent of the budget allocation needed in the 1992/93 financial year.
The man who gave up all to help the poor

KOOS NEL: Sold his possessions to start a shelter for the destitute. © Photograph: ABBEY MAKOEL

He did not regret abandoning almost everything he owned to follow his heart, although his loss in possessions had been great — a huge house and seven cars.

Mr Nel, who is divorced, said he had spent more than R20,000 on the Edenvale shelter and on other people from the Vaal Triangle area.

He said helping the needy was a demanding task.

"You ought to be with them every hour, showing and stressing to them that God is on their side," Mr Nel stays in the same yard as those he is helping, sharing his house with his four school-going children, the last of whom was adopted.

Mr Nel plans to buy a huge farm and build a multi-storey building that will house at least 1000 needy people.

In an effort to find employment for people staying at the shelter, Mr Nel has appealed to local companies for help.

The people are encouraged to bank the money earned, after a deduction of 25 percent, which goes towards the running of the shelter.

In lean times, when few shelter residents are able to find work, Mr Nel said it was difficult to make ends meet.

As he was detailing to the "Saturday Star the problems faced at the shelter, a woman arrived with an electricity bill for R6599, dated two months ago.

Mr Nel became defensive when questioned about "good Samaritans" who sometimes donated food, blankets, clothes, used furniture or money to the shelter.

"The social welfare departments and some other people in authority will take us to court," he explained.

"They maintain we cannot go out asking for donations because we are not registered as a fund-raising organisation."

"We struggle here. Very few people know about us.

"But, God willing, we shall survive."
R1 000-mlifeline

THE Government has made available R1 000 million for social and economic upliftment and job creation projects - and poor people will benefit the most from this.

This was revealed in a document released in Pretoria yesterday by the Department of Economic Co-ordination and Public Enterprises.

While 73 percent of the money (R742 million) is aimed at reducing the backlogs in the socio-economic field, a massive 40 percent (R408 million) will go towards easing the problems in squatter communities and for creating rudimentary infrastructure to house about 270 000 people.

The Department of Education and Training will receive R138 million, most of which will go towards building about 1 900 new classrooms.

Other projects include the building of 64 creches, 34 community centres, two centres for the aged, three workshops for the disabled and two children's homes.

Squatter communities and underprivileged communities around the country will also get basic sports facilities in the form of 83 soccer fields, 39 netball courts and 12 rugby fields.

The Government will also provide drinking water to 53 communities in the self-governing states.

The security services will be bolstered by the creation of 50 satellite police stations and 250 police contact points - both of which are aimed at placing the police in greater and more immediate contact with communities.

Roads will also be improved through an injection of R204 million for the purpose of road building, maintenance and upgrading.

The three council without the SCA/SP

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

The R742 million has been freed from the contingency funds that were created to beat oil embargoes against the country.

The Department of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing will, on a site-and-service basis, prepare 53 770 sites for this purpose.

The Department of National Health and Population Development has been allocated

From Page 1

R31 million for the up-grading of 15 hostels around the country and another R94 million for strictly health matters, such as building 141 new clinics in underprivileged areas and their staffing.

Housing, jobs for the poor

About 18 500km of the country's roads will be improved.

Altogether 667 projects were approved by the Cabinet for funding after proposals amounting to more than R8 000 million were studied.

A spokesman from the Central Economic Advisory Service told Sowetan yesterday that the recent petrol price increase had had no influence on the freeing of oil reserves.

The decision to free the funds was taken by President FW de Klerk on April 29 - four months before the price hike.

Last week's price increase was "tax increase" to cushion the impact of the reduction of VAT from 12 to 10 percent, the spokesman said.

When Dr Klerk announced earlier this year that he would release funds from the oil reserves, he said the money would be used in the interest of economic restructuring "in a way which will ensure the greatest possible contribution to the promotion of economic growth and job creation".

In this regard, the Government will channel funds into projects which will provide jobs for about 59 000 people for a period of about 15 months.

Many of the people, like nurses or teachers, who will get jobs made possible by the new money, will be retained by the Department of Health or Department of Education.

There will, therefore, not be 59 000 people unemployed at the end of the 15 months, the Minister of Economic Co-ordination and Public Enterprise, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said in Pretoria yesterday.

He said that unemployment in South Africa had serious negative effects on the economic potential of the country and that there was an "inverse" relationship between the extent of unemployment and the level of social stability and order within communities.

The spending of the money will be carefully monitored.
Govt to give out R1-bn to uplift the poor

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

The Government is to plough R1 billion into 667 socio-economic projects countrywide over the next six to 12 months — with most of the money being spent on rudimentary services in impoverished communities.

Announcing the allocation of the Government's donation to the poor, Minister of Economic Co-ordination and Public Enterprises Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday that the process could, if warranted, be repeated next year by selling off more of the country's oil reserves.

Of the current R1 billion, R468 million is to go towards infrastructure (rudimentary services), R284 million is to be donated to transport (roads) and R138 million is for education.

Health services are to get R84 million, police R62 million and 15 hostels will be allocated R31 million for upgrading. Other projects include welfare services (R15 million), community facilities (R8 million), special job creation programmes (R5 million) and sports facilities (R16 million).

The total announced yesterday amounts to R936 million, with the remainder of the R1 billion allocated to other unspecified projects.

According to Government estimates, about 886 000 man-month employment (one man employed for a month) opportunities would be created or maintained by the projects. This would represent employment for about 59 000 people for 15 months.

The funds for education will pay for nearly 1 900 new classrooms.

Basic infrastructure provided will include the creation of about 53 770 sites which will accommodate the housing needs of about 270 000 people.

The provision of community facilities includes community centres, centres for the aged, workshops for the disabled, libraries and pre-primary schools.

Consistently potable water to 53 communities in self-governing states will also be provided.

Because motorists contributed substantially to the funding, roads have been given special consideration. The allocation is aimed at the maintenance and upgrading of secondary roads to satisfactory standards by labour-intensive means.

However, the allocation represents only a 10th of the funds required for the maintenance of secondary roads.

The R63 million allocated to the police is largely intended for the construction of 59 satellite police stations and 250 police contact points, with a view to improving the service and protection function of the SAP and increasing police visibility at all levels.

Dr de Villiers said the Government was mindful of the damaging effects of "handouts", and had therefore structured the fund in such a way as to improve productivity.

Reacting to the announcement yesterday, most organisations welcomed the injection of funds, but many were critical of the ad hoc nature in which they claimed the funds had been allocated.

© Reaction — Page 10
Consultation needed, says DP

Millions of rand would end up wasted if there were no consultation over the way in which the R1 billion set aside to eliminate socio-economic backlogs was to be spent, Democratic Party spokesman on finance, Ken Andrew said yesterday.

He said in a statement that the allocation was welcomed and that the proposed projects seemed appropriate at first sight.

"It must be recognised, however, that intensive negotiation at national, regional and community level is essential if the money spent is to yield maximum dividends."

"Gone are the days when a white central government can tell the majority of the population what is good for them or what their priorities should be," he said.

There was no plan to eliminate backlogs in a systematic way, Mr. Andrew added. — Sapa.
R1-bn handout the wrong approach, says business

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

The Government's allocation of R1 billion to alleviate poverty has been cautiously welcomed among beneficiaries - although the business sector has spoken out over the "ad hoc" manner in which the handout was planned.

Dr Ben van Rensburg, chief economist at the SA Chamber of Business, said the Government's action had been an "ad hoc" approach when the country's need for social upliftment was most needed.

"It should have been strategised along the lines of a social accord, which would have defined and calculated the needs over a specific time period."

"By throwing amounts of money out, expectations are not going to be toned down, as they should be."

"It is only when everybody understands the degree and size of the problem relative to what is affordable that people realise the earnest attempts made to address the problem."

The fund should have been planned with broad consultation among the various bodies concerned," Dr van Rensburg said.

Democratic Party spokesman Louis de Waal said the funding was a very positive move and the various allocations seemed to constitute a good mix. He added that this type of funding would undoubtedly be an ongoing feature of Government spending.

It was known that with the impact of VAT, there would have to be considerable amounts channelled into community projects - although a lot more was required.

Conservative Party spokesman on trade and industry Daan Nolte said it was unfair and economically absurd that the Government had sold its belongings to provide a R1 billion donation to the poor. "They are only doing this to gain the support of the ANC."

The ANC's economic officials were still analysing the allocations yesterday afternoon.

Sam van Coller of the Urban Foundation said the money to be spent on housing sites was welcome and desirable, but emphasised that the issue of location of the sites as well as the question of ownership was important.

The Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut said it particularly supported the proposal to spend about half the amount in the current financial year and the creation of 50 000 jobs over 15 months.
Poverty crisis grips SA

Charities battle to cope with armies of jobless and hungry

'Invisible' people..."
Operation Hunger dilemma: ‘We need to find R200 000’

By Thoraya Panday

OCTOBER’S VAT attack threatens food for 94,000 Western Cape people who depend on Operation Hunger. Already cash-strapped and buying food on credit, Operation Hunger fears VAT will hit its feeding capacity. Executive Director Ms Ina Pentman said this week Operation Hunger will have to cut back its feeding programme if the government takes more than 30 days to refund VAT paid by the agency. Although the government has exempted Operation Hunger from tax on the food it buys, the organisation has to pay tax to suppliers and apply to the state for a refund.

"This causes great worry because it is not clear how long the government will take in refunding the money," said Pentman.

The tough alternative would be to

VAT axe poised to fall
Challenge 'is to help poor'

Staff Reporter
CT 279(2)-41
THE challenge to the community will be to continue the business of assisting destitute and homeless people in need of physical assistance, chairman of the Haven Night Shelter Mr Sam Gross said last night.

 Delivering his report at the organisation's AGM held at Claremont Civic Centre, he said that with the current recession, more unemployment could be expected 'and thus more evidence of vagrancy'.
As the Reccession Bites

The economy is in a recession, and this is a major concern for everyone. The unemployment rate has increased, and many people are struggling to find work. The government has implemented policies to stimulate the economy, but their effectiveness is uncertain.

Hunger is also a growing issue. The number of food banks and food assistance programs has increased, and many families are struggling to put food on the table. The government has announced plans to increase funding for food assistance programs, but it remains to be seen if this will be enough.

In conclusion, the economy is in a critical state, and everyone needs to work together to find solutions. The government, businesses, and individuals all have a role to play in addressing these challenges.

Source: Department of Labor, Food Bank of New York City
Helping the poor cope with costs

When designing South Africa’s VAT system, the Inland Revenue Department took into account the fact that under GST many foodstuffs were exempt from tax.

An investigation into the effect VAT would have on the needy showed that the GST exemption on food was an ineffective way of helping the poor.

When you exempt an item with the intention of helping the needy you cannot, at the same time, prevent those who do not need help from enjoying the same benefit.

In a full year, South Africans buy more than R19-billion worth of tax-exempt food. The GST which the government foregoes on this food purchase is R2,4-billion.

But, the poorest people of South Africa - some 12 million living below the minimum subsistence level - enjoy only 18 percent of the food tax exemption.

Clearly, a tax system is not meant to help the poor, so it is better to tax everybody fairly and uniformly and find other ways of helping the poor.

The same argument applies to home-building. To help the needy, we at present have a GST exemption on the labour cost involved in building a house.

But it means that the wealthy home-builder who can afford to pay tax, gets a far bigger concession than the poor.

This argument, however, does not apply to commuter transport. By making these services free of tax, the government is making a direct concession to people who need help.

The tax-free goods and services under VAT are tram, bus and taxi transport, education, and certain foodstuffs - brown bread and maize meal.

Other VAT benefits from which the needy will benefit are the lower tax rate - 10 percent against GST's 13 percent - the elimination of tax fraud, slower price hikes and a reduced inflation rate thanks to the reduced cost of business.
Chronicle of desperation — and dignity

THE COLD CHOICE: PICTURES OF A SOUTH AFRICAN REALITY
by Struan Robertson (David Philip, R65)

EVEN with the hype about the new SA, people are still hungry, starving and without homes and basic medical care. Photographer-writer Struan Robertson’s chronicle of squalor, desperation, dignity and courage is a timely reminder lest we forget our newly found good fortune.

This is a story of people, non-productive Bantu superfluous in the labour market (Bantu Commission’s General Circular 26 of 1986) who were “dumped in the veld to remove them from white SA,” and of Operation Hunger’s response to requests from these communities.

It is a story told matter-of-factly through pictures, fragments of conversation and with little emotion. It is an indictment of the “worst social experiments of the 20th century.”

The publication of this book marks the 10th year of service of Operation Hunger (one would hardly call it an anniversary). Even though Operation Hunger is not a charity feeding scheme, Robertson admits to being a reluctant author. He carries with him the memory of the demoralising effects of food handouts in Botswana, and in any event the action in the early ’80s was, to put it bluntly, all in the townships.

---

Rules of SA markets made simple

THE REGULATION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS by I. Goldspeed, H B Falkena, P Morgenrood and R L Store (Southern Book Publishers, R60)

With topics like the deregulation of the JSE, the formalisation of the bond market and the future of the derivatives market firmly on the public agenda, this book hits the shelves at just the right time.

Written by well-known minds in the industry, it goes a long way to explaining the ins and outs of financial regulation in local markets. It is particularly useful in placing the SA market in an international context.

How the JSE could be opened up and harmonised with the bond and futures markets is examined in the light of experience of other world financial markets. The book makes clear that there is no single solution to the problem of obtaining an open, competitive financial market.

The common view in SA that Big Bang in London failed comes across as spurious — a bit like saying Thatcherism failed. While issue can be taken with the speed and manner in which these phenomna were enacted, their inherent soundness as a principle has never really been brought into question.

The legal structure of financial markets, ethics, accounting and taxation are also covered.

ROBERT GENTLE

Fascinating and fun alternative to chess

KRIEGSPIEL CHESS by Geoffrey Wallis (Jason Systems, R42.50)

The chess variant, Kriegspiel chess, had its origins in Germany around the turn of the century. The basis of Kriegspiel chess is that the two contestants do not see one another’s moves. Three boards and sets are required, together with screens which are placed between the boards. An umpire sits at the centre board to check that moves are legal.

Kriegspiel chess is a fascinating alternative to normal chess and is a lot of fun. Wallis presents an excellent explanation of its intricacies. The book can be found at Adams & Company, West Street, Durban or it can be ordered from 43 Seabrook, 107 Smith Street, Durban 4018.

PATRICK FOLEY
Desperate as recession bites

Forced into tiny council house

PETER Wenels' life fell apart when the recession forced him out of a job.

Due to financial difficulties, he and his wife, Ida, moved into a tiny council house in Jan Hofmeyr, adjoining Brakpan.

A father of two who spent 30 years in the mines, Mr Wenels said he had never experienced difficulty before in getting work, although he had a deaf child.

Humming

"But now it's terribly difficult and hundreds of tradesmen can't get jobs. All the companies are retrenching, and they have to lay off because of the recession in the business," he said.

Life was humming along smoothly for him and his wife, Susan, and their two young daughters.

With careful budgeting, saving and working hard, they managed to put their first home in Vereeniging.

Their savings account was looking healthy and they were even planning a holiday.

Life was looking good.

Then, the recession started to bite and his firm was forced to retrench dozens of men, including Mr Wenels.

"We were given a month's salary and told we no longer had jobs," he said.

Every day Mr Wenels went out searching for work.

He went door to door: "He telephoned everyone he could think of but everyone told him the same thing: 'Sorry, the economy is too bad to employ people. We're trying to cut down on staff.'"

When his savings were used up, he was forced to sell his home to feed his family.

"It was the very last resort but I had to do it to survive," he said.

They have now moved into a council house — and are very grateful to have a roof over their heads.

Instead of driving off to work every morning, he now hangs around the house, washing and cleaning up.

He continues looking for work but is beginning to get desperate.

Their only source of income is the dead wife's small disability pension. But with inflation, even that is not enough to cover basic necessities.

Feeding scheme squatters collect mealie meal at Vlakfontein

Picture: Alf Kumalo

Now they must join food queues

The recession is biting deeply — statistics show that more people are out of work, more are joining food queues and more are falling into debt. MONICA OOSTERBROEK and ABEL MUSHI investigate

Now they must join food queues

The recession is biting deeply — statistics show that more people are out of work, more are joining food queues and more are falling into debt. MONICA OOSTERBROEK and ABEL MUSHI investigate
Now they must join food queues

RECESSION in the townships and squatter camps of the Reef often means joining charity food queues to supplement the "piece-job" payments with which so many eke out an existence.

Feeding schemes are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain sponsors.

Once a breadwinner with a family of six to feed, 57-year-old Joseph Mavhunga has joined the queue at the collection point of Operation Hunger's feeding scheme at the Vlakfontein squatter camp near Ermelo.

"Survived"
This has been his family's 12.5 kg bag of mealie meal, five cups of soup powder and a tin of fish — comes once in a month.

The recently retrenched Mr Mavhunga, with no skills, said he survived by doing gardening in the neighbouring suburbs and selling imitation jewellery.

"I'm keeping on trying to find a job but there's just no hope. More and more people are losing their jobs and the competition keeps getting tougher," he said.

Franz Muthali (57) sells vegetables and firewood since the engineering firm he worked for was forced to close.

"These people are doing a wonderful thing," he said, adding that the rations were of great help to himself, his unemployed wife and their five children.

And while 30-year-old housewife Rosina Musekwa collected a ration for her five-member family, her husband was job-hunting in Johannesburg.

A fixed total of 185 bags of mealie meal — "nowhere near enough" — were distributed monthly at the squatter camp, said Joshua Mkhize, the man in charge of the feeding scheme.

"There are so many new people joining the queues that we have to use scheme membership cards for control," Mr Mkhize told The Star.

Soweto's well-known community leader, Messchaba Mbaso, hands out food packages in Soweto every week, and this year the demand has risen dramatically.

"Township violence was at its worst this year and many households who lost their breadwinners are depending on feeding schemes," she said.

Her scheme, which gets its food from the Feed-the-Poor organisation and private sponsors, has more than 50 distributors in Soweto.
Killer mine's owners sought

OPERATION Hunger yesterday appealed to journalists to help locate owners of an asbestos mine responsible for the outbreak of the deadly disease asbestosis among GaMathabatha residents near Lebowa.

Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of the organisation, said of the dying GaMathabatha residents: "There are men, women, and children.

By MZIMASI NGUDLE

"They have no compensation, they are destitute. In the two years I have visited the area, eight have already died. There are another two, at least, who will not see out this year.

Women

"Initially I could not understand why the women were so often the worst affected, because they were not the miners," Perlman said, "until I realised that asbestos is mined in slabs and that the women were employed to chip at these slabs and reduce them to fine powder in this process.

"We cannot track down the owners of the mine and, therefore, cannot get information on their employment records."
Poverty relief fund to be doubled

PRETORIA - Finance Minister Barend du Plessis had undertaken to double the current R280m poverty relief fund in the 1992/93 financial year, National Health deputy director-general planning Hans Steyn said yesterday.

Government previously indicated it intended increasing the allocation.

To date, he said, the department had received only two direct appeals for aid, although many inquiries had been referred to regional offices.

The extent of the actual need had not yet been established, so it would be difficult to estimate just how much would be needed.

Asking whether international organisations or the UN would be asked to assist financially, Steyn said a committee was planned to function as a trust that would be charged with accepting donations.

Steyn said a provisional list of qualification criteria for aid had been compiled and would probably be approved at a meeting today.

Initial sifting of applications would be done by social workers, dieticians and other experts.

The nutrition sub-directorate in Pretoria would then screen applications and make final recommendations to the envisaged advisory committee of 11 members.
Operation Hunger 'is struggling'

TANJA LEV

OPERATION Hunger came perilously close to having to cut back on its rations last month, but had been helped out by public and corporate donations, executive director Ira Peckman said yesterday. (104)

She told a news conference in Johannesburg the German government had confirmed it would donate 4,000 tons of maize.

Operation Hunger would still 'do a cliffhanger' on fortified soup and would probably be unable to assist about 50,000 people on its waiting list for aid.

Peckman also said Operation Hunger would take legal action against anyone who spread rumours that it gave money to anything other than its feeding operations.
Poverty relief fund to double

PRETORIA — Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis has undertaken to double the current R220-million poverty relief fund in the 1982/83 financial year. National Health deputy director-general of planning Mr Hants Steyn said yesterday (24) CT 94 34.

To date, he said, the department had received only two direct appeals for aid, although many inquiries had been referred to regional offices.

The extent of the actual need had not yet been established, so it would be difficult to estimate just how much would be needed, he said.
We'll sue slanderers, says Perlman

Operation Hunger yesterday warned that a summons for malicious slander would be issued against anyone involved in the current "structured and scurrilous" smear campaign being waged against the organisation.

Denying any links with the Mandela family or the ANC, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman disclosed fears that persistent rumour-mongering could irreparably damage the image of the country's biggest relief and development project.

In an attempt to halt the slander, Mrs Perlman provided a report by auditors Fisher Hoffman Stride, which established the beneficiaries of all Operation Hunger cheques, as well as letters of denial from the Mandelas' lawyer, Ismail Ayob, and Mr Mandela's doctor.
Villagers stricken by deadly asbestosis

By Brian Sokutu

"At least 100 residents of Ga-Mathabatha, a village near Chuneespoort in Lepopa, are suffering from the deadly disease asbestosis which has claimed the lives of eight people in two years, according to Operation Hunger."

The organisation's executive director, Ina Perlman, described her visit to the area last week as "one of the worst days I have ever spent."

"It was a day when I came home convinced that the greatest sin of all was greed," Mrs Perlman said.

She said there were about 100 people in the village and a nearby squatter camp, who came from the now closed Bewarskloof mine, "dying of or who will probably die of asbestosis."

The families, among them children, were destitute, had no compensation and depended on minimal rations from Operation Hunger, she said.

Mrs Perlman said earlier she could not understand why women were the worst affected although they were not miners.

"It was until I realised that asbestos is milled in slabs and that the women were employed to chip at these slabs and reduce them to fine powder in the process. Children who played around while their mothers worked were exposed to the dust they inhaled."

Among the victims was a woman whose husband died of asbestosis a month ago.

"She is already too weak to walk and fetch water from the tap. The village children fill up tubs of water for her once a week. In exchange she gives them a pigeon, one of the remaining from the flock that was her husband's pride and joy."

The owners of the mine have not yet been reached for comment.
Killer mine's owners sought

OPERATION Hunger yesterday appealed to journalists to help locate owners of an asbestos mine responsible for the outbreak of the deadly disease asbestos among GaMathabatha residents near Lebowa.

Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of the organisation, said of the dying GaMathabatha residents: "There are men, women, and children worst affected, because they were not the miners," Perlman said, "until I realised that asbestos is mixed in slabs and that the women were employed to chip at these slabs and reduce them to fine powder in this process."

"We cannot track down the owners of the mine and, therefore, cannot get information on their employment records."

By MZIMASI NGUDLE

"They have no compensation, they are destitute in the two years I have visited the area, eight have already died. There are another two, at least, who will not see out this year.

Women: "Initially I could not understand why the women were so often the"
Leakages in aid provision must be plugged

PRETORIA — It was vital that leakages of aid to those not in need should be plugged and target groups be identifiable and reachable, Deputy Finance Minister Theo Alant said yesterday.

Elaborating on government’s broad policy to establish a food assistance scheme for the poorest people, Alant stressed handouts should be limited to avoid the development of a dependency culture.

He said at a food aid discussion forum at the Human Sciences Research Council that although government accepted responsibility for dealing with the consequences of poverty, the introduction of VAT made the need for further steps more urgent.

Because more than 80% of benefits of all GST exemptions went to those not in need, it was necessary to target assistance to those really in need.

Government had set aside R220m for poverty relief this financial year.

Poverty was dealt with at three socio-economic development levels — increasing economic growth and job creation potential, tackling urgent socio-economic development problems and widening the implementation of the safety net.

Inflation had to be combated, personal savings promoted and higher productivity achieved.

Alant listed some of the measures aimed at alleviating pressing socio-economic problems.

They included R76m allocated to the Small Business Development Corporation, R1bn transferred from the Industrial Development Corporation to the Development Bank for Southern Africa, and R1bn to improve living standards.

National Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang told the forum that poverty was part of a primary health care programme to address poverty.

She said it was alarming that 44% of SA’s population and the TBV (Total Birth and Vital) states lived below the minimum subsistence level, and that 40% of all infant deaths could be ascribed to malnutrition.

An advisory committee would be nominated by the forum to plan long-term strategies to deal with poverty.

Venter said food relief funds would be made available to the department’s regional offices to be channelled to authorities who had the infrastructure to handle an extended feeding programme.
HUNDREDS of people in the Northern Transvaal are dying from asbestosis while the owners of an asbestos mine, which is allegedly responsible for the disease, cannot be traced.

Operation Hunger this week appealed to the media to help track down the owners of the Bewaarskloof Mine, which closed in 1978, leaving the affected workers destitute.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said this week: "There are men, women and children left with no compensation. They are destitute and totally dependant on the minimal rations Operation Hunger can provide."

"In the two years I have visited the area, eight of these people have already died. There are another two, at least, who will not see out this year."

"Most workers, and men were affected, she said, although they were not miners."

"I could not understand why women were so often the worst affected, until I realised that asbestos was mined in slabs and that women were employed to chip at these slabs and reduce them to a fine powder form in the process," said Perlman.

"They and the children who played around them while they worked were therefore maximally exposed to the fatal dust they inhaled."

"It is imperative that we track down the owners of the mine, because at present we cannot get any information about the people's employment records," she said.

Why poor eat less

A MARKED drop in the sale of maize and maize products since May this year indicates that poorer people are eating less.

Premier Food Industries chief executive, Mr Willem de Kok, said one of the reasons for the drop — which could be as high as eight percent — could be blamed on the economic recession and rising unemployment.

A statement from Premier said there was "abject poverty and burgeoning unemployment throughout the country" which indicated that people at the lower end of the market were eating less.

Maize Board spokesman Peter Cowie said sales had dropped by 11,000 tons during May, June and July compared to the same period last year. However, he noted that sales frequently dipped at this time of the year.

Tiger Oats spokesman Patrick McLaughlin said his company had experienced a "marginal drop" in recent weeks.

"There has been a downturn in manufactured foodstuffs generally — from wheat and maize products to rice and pasta."

"Times are tough, we anticipate that the food industry will be going through a difficult time for quite a while yet."

"It seems that people, particularly those at the bottom of the economic ladder, are eating less," he said.
Plea for more farming land

OPERATION Hunger executive director Ina Perlman this week made an impassioned plea to the government to allocate portions of SA's three-million hectares of available land to subsistence farmers — and to do it fast.

"The hunger situation is now too big for any private organisation to handle I pray that government does something fast," she said.

Her appeal comes in the face of soaring unemployment, a burgeoning squatter population and rampant malnutrition throughout the country.

The charity organisation, which feeds 1.5 million people daily, is receiving a record number of appeals for emergency feeding each week.

Part of the answer lies in the government making land and funds available for development, she said.

"It is time to stop the political posturing and get on with allocating what is available. Even if it isn't the best land in the country, people can get cracking and can easily be made self-supporting on their own land," said Mrs Perlman.

"I know the long-term outlook for subsistence farming is not good, but our people need it as a survival mechanism."

"It will provide an interim breathing space for the huge clump of people who are under-educated and will have no place in a new capital-intensive economy. It will give us the 20-year breathing space we need to achieve a turn in the economy."

By establishing six groups of subsistence farms in various parts of South Africa, Operation Hunger has rehabilitated 38,370 people.
Op Hunger to appeal to Govt for aid

By Brian Sokute

"My reaction when we first heard of the Government's proposed safety net for the poor was one of huge relief, of gratitude that there would be another player, that the Government was now prepared to shoulder the responsibility that had fallen solely and squarely on the private sector up to now."

Although applying to the Government for assistance would mean a major departure for her organisation, hitherto funded by the private sector, Mrs Perlman said there was no alternative.

"Statistics on malnutrition, hunger and death are soaring, and our constituency cannot wait," she said.

Mrs Perlman commended Bernd Dreesmann, secretary-general of the Holland-based EurowAid (the European Association of Non-governmental Organisations for Food Aid and Emergency Aid), whom she said spearheaded Operation Hunger's campaigns for funds in Europe.

In his address, Mr Dreesmann warned that a 10 million-ton food shortage in Africa last year would increase to 15 million tons by the year 2000.

"To avert this crisis, Africa's population, especially in war-torn countries like Mozambique, Angola and Ethiopia, will have to decresce. And agricultural productivity will have to double from 2 percent to 4 percent annually," he said.

Mr Dreesmann said he observed "a huge unemployment and visible poverty in South African streets," and urged Operation Hunger to step up lobbying for funds abroad.
Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

SURVEY
SMALL LOANS FOR THE VERY POOR

The IDT Finance Corporation has been set up with initial capital of R120 million to help finance shelter for the very poor.

The IDTFC will make small loans to low-income borrowers for housing. Money will be lent, at the usual interest rates, to small groups of township borrowers whose sense of group responsibility and trust ensures that most members make their repayments regularly.

The IDTFC's start-up capital has been put up by the AECI Pension Fund, Fedlife, Methile, the Mine Officials' Pension Fund, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Southern Life, and Syfret Managed Assets.

The IDT has provided R46.6 million to guarantee their investments.

The IDTFC will lend money to community-based financial intermediaries known as Group Credit Organisations (GCOs). The GCOs will lend the money on to groups of borrowers.

Groups will allocate five-year loans of no more than R5000 to each of their members — people who cannot borrow money for building homes in the normal way.

Each member of a borrower group stands surety for the others. Loans are paid out to each person a bit at a time, instead of in a lump sum, over the first two years.

The demand for this sort of funding could be as much as R500 million a year, say the IDTFC's managers. They hope to raise it by getting investors to place their funds into specially structured securities that give investment houses the opportunity to invest in development.

The IDTFC believes these investments should be secure because the IDT has provided collateral. Research shows that in this sort of township borrowing scheme, the vast majority of borrowers pay the money back.
Solar energy: Bringing power to the people

WHILE the nation looks eagerly toward a "new South Africa", the situation in the "real South Africa" is very bleak.

Some 20 million people still live in Third World conditions with no electricity and no running water.

The vast majority of these are rural communities which are unlikely to gain access to power lines within the foreseeable future, if ever.

This is because the supply of electricity, through a grid of power lines, is uneconomical because of distances involved and extremely small loads.

For these disadvantaged communities - whose main priority is quality electric lighting and the ability to power their television sets - candles, paraffin and car batteries are a way of life.

**Emphasis**

While great emphasis is placed on provision of housing - we put ourselves on the back when basic structures are provided - no thought is given to providing basic services.

These townships soon develop into modern slums, a legacy of what we call "social upliftment".

Guilty are local authorities, municipalities and black workforce employers.

Everyday we create new slums where we cattle-herd people into train type "houses" or matchbox-like structures.

But every night these people have to collect their water from a single tap on the street corner in their township which is blacker than hell.

In their homes, children vainly try to study by the flickering light of a candle.

In the next room, if they are lucky, a black and white TV runs from a car battery that had been hauled many kilometres to be recharged (R5 a week plus transport).

These people spend a minimum R50 a month for these primitive, yet basic necessities.

**What is the answer?**

If these were installed at the time of constructing the house, monthly repayments would amount to less than half of what they currently spend on the degrading practice of using candles/paraffin/car batteries that have to be recharged constantly.

Solar power is safe, clean, quiet and reliable. There are no moving parts and no running costs.

A solar panel is mounted on the roof. The panel is connected to a battery.

During daylight hours the solar panel transforms into electricity. The electricity generated is then stored in a battery.

The BP Telestic which works on the above principle can power up to six 15-watt fluorescent light while also servicing a black and white TV.

Solar electricity is ready to be used to light up townships into a brighter South Africa.

See more on this at the Golden Highway Housing Expo.
EVER thought about how unemployed people survive in this severe economic recession?

A study done on 900 people in Alexandra, where 55 percent of the population is unemployed, has come up with some startling revelations.

On the question "how do you survive", the most frequent answer is: "Stealing from the wealthy northern suburbs of Johannesburg."

Running an informal business comes second.

Then follows gambling and robbing people in the township.

Other answers, according to their order, are: Doing odd jobs, begging, being supported by the family and selling liquor.

Scavenging and doing temporary work are last on the list of the 10 most frequent answers.

The survey was conducted by Education for Employment, a joint project by Alexandra and its neighbours to provide jobs skills training and work opportunities.

Other ways of earning an income mentioned are selling scrap, washing taxis, prostitution, drug smuggling and selling jumble.

Mr Dave Jackson, director of Education for Employment, says it must be recognised that the situation is desperate and unlikely to improve in the short term.

"Unless businesses, in co-operation with responsible community leaders, look seriously at what can be done to create job opportunities, crime will become an acceptable part of urban life in South Africa."

Youth

Jackson said the Education for Employment was also providing improved schooling and pre-schooling Educare.

"Parental education and youth counselling including community leadership programmes are also offered to the Alexandra community."

Jackson is to address a meeting of business executives on "The unemployment crisis - implications and practical options for business" at the Sandton Sun on October 3. Businessmen willing to attend should contact Mrs Barbara Holden at 706-1436.

The meeting is to be hosted by Mr John Hall, president of the South African Chamber of Commerce.
The Department of National Health has announced a major increase in the budget for the government's poverty alleviation efforts. Several million dollars will be allocated to support various programs aimed at reducing poverty and improving living conditions for the underprivileged. The department has issued a statement expressing its commitment to addressing the pressing issues faced by the less fortunate sections of the population. This move is expected to significantly impact the lives of millions of people across the country.
SMALL LOANS FOR THE VERY POOR

The IDT Finance Corporation has been set up with initial capital of R120 million to help finance shelter for the very poor.

The IDTFC will make small loans to low-income borrowers for housing. Money will be lent, at the usual interest rates, to small groups of township borrowers whose sense of group responsibility and trust ensures that most members make their repayments regularly.

The IDTFC’s start-up capital has been put up by the AECI Pension Fund, Fedlife, Methile, the Mine Workers’ Pension Fund, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Southern Life, and Symbias Managed Assets.

The IDT has provided R46.8 million to guarantee their investments.

The IDTFC will lend money to community-based financial intermediaries known as Group Credit Organisations (GCOs). The GCOs will lend the money on to groups of borrowers.

Groups will allocate five-year loans of no more than R5000 to each of their members — people who cannot borrow money for building homes in the normal way. Each member of a borrower group stands surety for the others.

Loans are paid out to each person a bit at a time, instead of in a lump sum, over the first two years. The demand for this sort of funding could be as much as R500 million a year, say, the IDTFC’s managers. They hope to raise it by getting investors to place their funds into specially structured securities that give investment houses the opportunity to invest in development.

The IDTFC believes that these investments should be secure because the IDT has provided collateral. Research shows that in this sort of township borrowing scheme, the vast majority of borrowers pay the money back.
The First Year

**The New Faces**

Enos Mabuza, former chief minister of KaNgwane, and Professor Wessam Mkhulu, principal of the University of Tshwane, have agreed to join the Independent Development Trust as executive directors.

Their appointments mean there are now eight members of the IDT executive committee.

Mabuza stepped down as chief minister earlier this year and now serves as a director of several large companies. He started with the IDT in August and is working from its Johannesburg office.

He will play an important part in the IDT’s top-level negotiations, and in its programmes of communication with groups and organisations.

**PROF WISEMAN NKLUU** is already an IDT trustee. From January 1, 1992, however, he will use a year of sabbatical leave from the University of Tshwane, to take up a job as Executive Director Project Development for the IDT.

He will be working in the development of the IDT’s main areas of operation, education and health. In addition, he will be involved in setting up community learning centres.

A key part of this will be setting up community trusts to run the centres.

In the health area, Nkulu will be working on a national programme for building clinics. The programme, and the clinics, will be linked to the IDT’s project for building schools.

**A Need for Self-Reliance**

**Dr Mamphele Ramphele**

The IDT’s approach to development strongly emphasises self-reliance - which is very important in view of the rapid and alarming breakdown of black community life, says IDT trustee Dr Mamphele Ramphele.

Ramphele, a geologist and deputy vice chancellor of the University of Cape Town, says this breakdown can be seen in many aspects of black life.

Families break up. Many people are without jobs, and many others simply do not have the skills to get jobs even if jobs were available. Drugs and alcohol are abused. Crime rates soar. Skilled successful people, who set a good example in their communities, leave the townships.

Generally, despair grows until people believe they and their families are victims who can do little or nothing to help themselves. Thus they lack the will to come to grips with these tough challenges, says Ramphele.

Ramphele makes two points.

First, one finds similar situations among white working class people in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Pockets of this sort of breakdown can be seen in India.

And in South Africa these conditions are found among many poor whites.

Secondly, it’s not just an economic problem. Other factors include:

- the growing number of people living in the cities,
- how badly off people think they are, and if they think they have been exploited, their belief that the government, or the rich, “owe” them a better life.

Ramphele calls this “the culture of entitlement”, and notes that it has thrived on the huge gap between rich and poor in South Africa.

All of this was made worse by the strategy of “making South Africa un governable”, which relied on mass mobilisation, school and consumer boycotts, people’s courts and other alternative structures which depended on force and intimidation to get people in line.

For “victims”, the “victim” image has been an important way of surviving, even though it created problems.

Many aid and development agencies, although they meant well, added to the problem by supporting the “victim” approach.

Blacks are social victims of racist policies that deliberately made them poorer and reduced their life chances, says Ramphele. So the argument that they are “entitled” is a strong one.

But the problem of how to make up for those policies is a hard one, the demands are huge, and the resources to meet them limited.

Ramphele also points to the danger of “victims” coming to see society, rather than themselves, as the factor which counts most in improving their situations.

Such people have to accept, says Ramphele, that they themselves will have to play a very big part in making a success of their lives.

The IDT and others involved in development must start, says Ramphele, by recognising that black people are still able to respond to properly thought-out plans to help “This capacity resides in individuals, support groups and organised pressure groups. There are also safety nets which people have developed over the years which can benefit from being strengthened.”

A conscious effort to invest in the black community - as a way of breaking with the past - will strengthen these groups, says Ramphele. The aim should be the development of people, and those people have to be involved every step of the way.

Choosing strategies and projects that are important symbolically, and that also have spin-offs that produce other benefits, “would go a long way to restoring hope and trust”, says Ramphele.

**Funds Allocated to Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>R 898 738 044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>R 414 814 637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Rural and Community Development</td>
<td>R 135 515 852</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The plan the government is memories of the past few years the global economy. The past few years have seen significant challenges for the global economy, including the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a profound impact on nearly every aspect of life and society. The pandemic has highlighted the need for robust and flexible economic policies that can adapt to unexpected shocks and provide support to those most affected. The government's response to the pandemic has involved a series of measures aimed at cushioning the impact on individuals and businesses, including fiscal stimulus packages, loan guarantees, and other forms of support. The government has also worked to restore confidence in the global economy by engaging in multilateral discussions and cooperation. Despite the challenges, the government remains committed to fostering economic growth and ensuring the well-being of all citizens.
Where feeding schemes are the only salvation

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Obakeng Sooka is a real provider he catches dinner for his mother and siblings every day.

The sad thing is, dinner for 10 as usually a tiniy bird that he lures into an old ruined bird cage with a sprinkling of mealie meal, and Obakeng is five years old.

"Actually, he's probably seven years old, but he looks so small because he has been undernourished all his life," says Judith Mokhethile, national co-ordinator relief and development at Operation Hunger.

Desteitute

Obakeng is the second-youngest in a family of 18 that relies on Operation Hunger and the local Catholic mission for their monthly rations of mealie meal, protein soup, soya meal and milk powder.

He is also one of thousands of destitute Warterveldt residents who have no work, no income, and probably no chance of a change in fortune.

These are the hungry of South Africa and, according to Ms Mokhethile, the Ethiopia scenario is upon us.

"You just don't see it because of our intervention," she says, live in a semi-desert. Almost every tree has been burnt for fuel, and Mother Nature hasn't helped either: there is no surface water, and residents have to buy water from their landlords at 40c for 20 litres.

The ground is barren because so much rain has fallen in the Warterveldt for months and residents have not been able to cultivate their small patches of land this year.

Apart from the unemployment, there is another element in the Warterveldt that adds to the poverty and hunger, but community workers discourage people from talking about it, fearing it would. From poverty and war, more than 80,000 Mozambican refugees have settled here and they live in permanent fear of arrest and intimidation by South African authorities, says Ms Mokhethile.

"They board up their windows because they don't want to be seen, but as a result one can spot a Mozambican house a mile away," she says.

Lena Khosa is one of these refugees. An elderly woman, she looks after her Mozambican grandchildren.

One of her chores is to collect the round nuts that lie in the bush around her house and grind them into a powder. This is cooked up and served with mealie meal provided by Operation Hunger.

The other angels of poverty in the Warterveldt are the community workers from the local Catholic mission. Under the leadership of Sister Joan Pearson, they care for the hungry and the sick.

"Three-quarters of the children born in the Warterveldt are undernourished. Often the mothers are malnourished, so they do not have the milk or the energy to feed their children," Sister Joan says.

Her workers are faced with cases of cerebral palsy, epilepsy, male damage and physical deformity, and not only among children.

"Basically they are all apathetic and are just waiting to die," Sister Joan says.

Starving

Like all relief operators, Sister Joan's mission is finding it more and more difficult to raise funds.

Ms Mokhethile says overseas donors want their money to go only towards development of the community, and not food.

"But there's no point in developing people who are starving," pleads Sister Joan.

"They don't have the energy or the will to do..."
Food shortages loom

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "Food shortages loom in 10 countries across the world," adding the specter of the plight of millions worldwide. According to the organization, the situation is "extremely serious" and demands immediate action. The food crisis is exacerbated by ongoing conflicts, climate change, and the ongoing pandemic, which has further disrupted supply chains. The WHO is calling on governments to take immediate action to prevent a humanitarian crisis. The organization has also warned that the situation could worsen if action is not taken promptly.
Suspected fraud sum ‘rising’

BRENT VON MELVILLE

The suspected fraud at Sage Holdings subsidiary Financial Planning Services (FFS) now involves about R16m and looks set to escalate, according to well-placed sources. The figure initially mentioned was R10m.

Attorneys acting on behalf of a Johannesburg businessman, whom they say stands to lose R2.5m, claim the FFS consultant involved in the case has put a substantial amount of money into a luxury yacht in Cape Town.

However, attorneys have so far been unable to link outright ownership of the yacht with the consultant, whose name is known to Business Day.

Sources said FFS had also taken steps to sequester the estate of the suspected consultant.

Sage director and FFS spokesman Bernard Neclan refused to comment yesterday, saying only that in-depth investigations were continuing.

He said as far as FFS was concerned the matter was sub judice and mere "speculation" could not be commented on.

Police liaison officer Capt Eugene Opperman said a case had been opened, and that investigations were continuing.

He said he could not confirm whether a warrant had been issued for the FFS consultant, who is thought to be in London.

Sources add that aside from Randbond Investments, which says it has claims against the consultant for R2.1m, there are at least two other private clients with claims said to involve more than R4m.

A lawyer said it was "more than likely" that FFS would be liable for debts incurred by the consultant.

He said there was a 1998 case on record where FFS was legally obliged to pay for a fraud perpetrated by its consultant.

The newly formed banking group Absa holds 40% of FFS.

Free State files

LINDEN BIRNS

Five-highest hopeful international airline, African International Airways, yesterday began recruiting air hostesses for flights it plans to operate from a base in the Free State.

A newspaper advertisement yesterday said only Asian and Chinese hostesses aged between 18 and 25 should apply. They would be required to move to the central Free State immediately.

According to the advertisement, the airline will fly to southern African destinations and "internationally".

One of the airline's owners, Sonja Delport, last night declined to elaborate on the company's plans, but said a full media briefing would be given once all operating details were finalised.

Sources said African International Airlines would use Boeing 767s and BACI-11s.

Directorate of Civil Aviation (DCA) chief director Japie Smit last night confirmed that an application had been lodged with his department, but said the airline had applied only for a freight charter service licence.

According to a recent Government Gazette, the airline would use two Swazi-registered Douglas DC-8 cargo aircraft and had applied to base its operations at Jan Smuts Airport.

Several second-hand Boeing 707s, Douglas DC-8s and BACI-11s are on sale in Africa. The latest Avmark world aircraft pricing lists 707s at between $1m and $5m, DC-8s between $1m and $10m, and BACI 11s at between $900m and $1.5m each.

It is not known which institution will finance the airline's acquisitions.
Maria’s boy child

When you’ve
got nothing, a
little is a lot

NICOLA BAJT
Weekend Argus Reporter

A BATH in the sunshine in a homemade bucket is more than enough to make you smile when you’re just two years and nine months old — especially after you’ve survived the wettest September in 50 years, sleeping rough on the Cape Town foreshore.

Little Asera Isaacs is a beautiful child who can still find pleasure in the simplest things. He hasn’t quite reached the stage of registering just how tough life can be as one of the youngest in the lost community of Cape Town’s 10,000 or more street people. But he’s learning fast.

His mother Maria points to her slashed face and tells how “skollies” sometimes fight her and her husband Ronald. “God helps me, and when I fight Asera helps ‘I want to help you’, says Asera. I tell him ‘I don’t want you to help me’ Then he cries I don’t want him to grow up that way. People cut me, I think only about my son.”

Maria, like her husband Ronald, is ravaged by alcohol. She says “A doctor at Lentegeur Hospital told me I must stay in hospital, but I can’t leave my son. The doctor said my liver is black and I mustn’t drink any more. I don’t now.”

The Isaacs’s world revolves around hanging on to their old supermarket trolley and the grubby blankets they lay out on the rough, littered waste ground each night for a communal bed.

They stayed with Maria’s step-sister before she asked them to go, says Maria. So then they moved on to the foreshore. A social worker at Maitland said to help with getting Asera into a creche — but he needs a birth certificate and book of life before his existence is officially recognised.

Ronald in unempleme on Maria collects newspapers to sell for food, mainly for her child. “I don’t like to ask people for money. If someone offers me work I do it.”

Sometimes, she says, she makes between R4 and R7 from newspapers. Then she buys bread, coffee and a cool drink for Asera. There’s not much money for the fruit and milk the little boy really needs.

When it’s very cold the door of the gym across the way offers the luxury of shelter. “The boss knows us,” says Maria. When she cleans there her family can sleep in the doorway.

“The boss and the police know us. They don’t bother us. I put all our things in the drain near the gym. People at the gym let us use it. Once they bought us a blanket.”

“The police tell me my father lives in Boksburg. His name is Ivan Africa. I asked this guy to help me. I gave him my father’s name to phone the police in Boksburg to find out if he’s there. Nothing happened. When I think about it I want to cry.”

“One day my father tried to find me. He knows I live in Cape Town but he doesn’t know where I was sleeping in a parking lot. Afterwards people told me my mother and father were looking for me and my mother was crying. ‘Where’s my daughter?’

“I try not to think about it but when I stay with my parents I can see my life. It’s better when me, my husband and Asera are together. We don’t worry about other people. We’re only three — alone.”

Pictures: KAREN BRINER.

Joy: Even if it’s just a bucket for a bath in the sunshine, little Asera Isaacs has the innocence to be contented.

Home: An old supermarket trolley, grubby blankets and the bare ground for a bed — the home comforts of Maria and Rondal Isaacs.
Duduza makes history

A CLINIC constructed out of tin containers, the first of its kind in the Southern Transvaal has been opened in Duduza, Nigel.

A group of local businesswomen who call themselves Corporate Outreach Trust, donated the containers towards the clinic's construction.

Dr Rina Venter, Minister of National Health Services and Welfare officially opened the clinic which is situated in the middle of the township's informal housing sector.

She spoke of the poor socio-economic conditions and how they lead to consequent health problems in poverty-stricken communities.

"The rapidly increasing urbanisation process has had vast implications on the health situation of communities living in informal housing around our cities," Venter said.

"The prevailing poor living conditions and unemployment in the areas have also led to the lowering of the standard of living and consequent health problems in these disadvantaged communities."

She said that provision of primary health services helped to prevent unnecessary deaths and alleviated much human suffering.

Primary health care services entail health education on many aspects of health, as well as a healthy lifestyle, advice on nutrition, mother and child care including family planning, immunisation and the treatment of diseases that are common in the community.

Venter said the Government, health authorities and the private sector could only be defined as facilitators and that without community participation it was unlikely that primary health services would succeed.

"Although the Government is responsible for ensuring that health services are available, it does not mean that the Government has to render the health services on its own."

"We have evidence of community participation through the involvement of the Duduza Town Committee," she said in praise of the association.

Dr W Clewlow, of Barlow Rand Limited and a member of Corporate Outreach Trust, said it was sheer ingenuity on the part of Duduza businesswomen that they had the vision to convert the containers into something useful.

Businesswoman Angie Makwela presents a cheque for R200 to Buli Siwani of Sowetan Woman. The cheque will go to the Sowetan/BMZ Relief Project. Makwela has challenged all businesswomen to equal or exceed her donation to the project which will benefit victims of the recent spate of violence in the Reef.
IN THE deeply divided society that South Africa is and will realistically remain for years to come, major tax reform is even more problematic and controversial than usual. The current controversy surrounding VAT is very unlikely to be the last of its kind.

However, having aired the possibilities that tax reform will inevitably occur, it allows one to at least the possibility to pose two important questions:

First, is introducing a VAT system in SA in or out of line with current tax practice and the tenets of sound tax reform in other middle-income, semi-developed countries?

Secondly, how is tax reform to the poor in these countries?

Research conclusions contained in comparative tax system studies focusing on the experience of developing countries are particularly relevant in the SA context.

Many local scholars still fail badly from another apartheid legacy — sampler and distortions with First World, high-income countries such as the UK; Germany or the US instead of with our real peers, the middle-income countries of Brazil, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, and Turkey and many others.

One must keep in mind that the problems of recent tax studies are not briefly highlighted by the international tax expert Richard Bird, reflecting on the experience of tax reform in Latin America in the 80's, concludes that the value-added tax currently plays a central role in most large-scale tax reform.

There in, further, much greater awareness of the practical constraints imposed by administrative capacity; this too, in fact, leads to a major shift in tax policy. It is proclaimed at present in a variety of ways that the high levels of personal income tax in Latin America are not critical since the tax is only modestly burdened, the tax is only modestly burdened, and hence the tax level not more generally significant that much less emphasis is currently being placed on achieving a redistribution of welfare through the tax system.

A correspondingly greater emphasis occurs on the goals of revenue generation, economic neutrality and simplicity; the tax system in accordance with realistic administrative possibilities.

In light of the current context, the goals of tax reform in middle-income developing countries are now more modest, but perhaps also more realistic. Tax reform no longer seeks to introduce a VAT system in the country that would address the poverty in its interest at limited ability to deal with equity issues to a consequence, those would have to be addressed in the larger tax system and ultimately in the budget as a whole.

Such a system would address its potential lack of at least efficiency and equity considerations. Forecasting on VAT alone to achieve wide-ranging equity goals would be much akin to flagging a dead horse.

Current "best practices" in tax systems suggest these mechanisms to lower the burden on the poor. Firstly, come good — such as improved tax revenues, which serve to yield a significant proportion of the budget of the very poor, should also be exempted from the tax base.

Secondly, excluding a portion of personal income (on the order of low to middle incomes per capita GDP) from the revenue base would help much in removing the burden of poverty from the poorest groups.

Finally, selective exclusion taxes on luxuries and non-excesses can enhance the revenue base as well as improve the fiscal effectiveness in particular cases.

IDT speeds up spending

THE INDEPENDENT Development Trust has in only three months this year — 1991 — to reach its record $661 million it received in 1990, while only R66 million was received in the first three months of 1990. The trust's success in this regard will accelerate when the 1989 projects are funded.

Executive director Michael Ridley says that the IDT can receive between 80% and 90% of its capital project, which is a major improvement.
Wessels finds 'nimby's' in NP

NEW Minister of Housing Leon Wessels recently declared war on the "nimby's" of South Africa. Now he has tracked several of them down — in his own National Party.

"Nimby" is an abbreviation for "not in my backyard", and refers to well-housed people who are all for providing land for the homeless — provided it's nowhere near them.

Mr Wessels recently became Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and Housing, and is probably the most reformist member of President F W de Klerk's Cabinet — he was the first to apologise for apartheid.

One of his first acts after becoming Minister was to announce a "battle royal" against those in ivory towers who would not understand the plight of the poor. This week Mr Wessels had his battle — at the Nat Cape congress in what is supposedly the most enlightened province.

At the first open Cape NP congress since the party became non-racial last year, Mr Wessels was assailed by both old white Nats and new brown Nats on the prickly squatting issue.

Frikkie Botha of King William's Town bemoaned the fate of Goëslebe which had been "a paradise until squatting".

Dean Landman of Humansdorp said it was a myth that squatters were looking for work.

He said the ANC was making politics out of the squatters in the former Pongola

Power cut

Cecil Herandles, "new Nat" MP for Macassar, asked why squatters could not keep to Khayelitsha. President's Council member and new Nat Peter Marais said "my people" had their water and electricity cut off if they did not pay, while others had millions of debt written off.

One delegate said, tongue in cheek, that the way to get rid of squatters was to invite the Queen (presumably referring to the bulldozing of squatting shacks in Harare in anticipation of the royal visit).

Mr Wessels told the congress he could try to be popular and "kragdjid", but he said "This country belongs to all — including the squatters."

"No political party would be able to govern if it does not take into account the shelter needs of the poor and homeless."

Nothing would stop hungry people. "We must prepare ourselves for squatting," he said, adding the Government was looking urgently at a housing strategy to unveil to the next session of Parliament.
Mixed views over levy
By SONTI MASEKO

The imposition of a one-off levy on a third of the assets of those people who have benefitted under apartheid was impractical and would lead to war and confusion.

These were the views of some callers to the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show yesterday while others said the levy would be a fair form of compensation for the poor and especially blacks who had been impoverished by apartheid.

Pat from Jabavu said the levy was not a matter of right or wrong.

"One has to look at people's living conditions, the legacy of apartheid, poverty, homeless people and land removals.

He said people who were opposed to nationalisation and other forms of wealth redistribution were failing to advance solutions on affirmative action.

Daniel from Edenpark said there was no country in the world without poor people.

He said the proposed levy was not only unfair but unprofessional and would never succeed.

The country needed to rid itself of the unrest and attract more investment which would improve the living standards of the poor, he said.

Thomas from Berea said South Africans should let "bygones be bygones."

"Whatever happened is something of the past. If we repossess we are going to end up with a worse South Africa," he said.

He was supported by Joey from Pomville.

Jabs of Springs said the poor had to get land first before any discussion of redressing past imbalances.

"The levy is not enough," he said.
Aid-for-environment deal goal for summit

STOCKHOLM — A deal involving aid in exchange for population control and environmental protection in poor countries would be the best outcome of next year's world environment summit, a population expert says.

"The conditions are really set for a very constructive deal," said Nathan Keyfitz of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, an Austrian environmental think-tank.

Mr Keyfitz called for "a great exchange, a bargain, between the more-developed and the less-developed countries by which we can provide appropriate technology and funding and do something about economic debt."

In return, developing countries would tackle environmental and population problems, he told reporters after a four-day conference of international researchers aimed at highlighting links between population, development and the environment.

The conference, sponsored by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Swedish Council for Planning and Co-ordination of Research, will offer its findings to the UN-sponsored summit in Brazil next June.

Intensify

Mr Keyfitz and other researchers at the conference said growing population in poor countries was inextricably linked to poverty and environmental degradation.

"Efforts to dampen the population increase must be intensified," the conference participants said.

They also said industrialised nations must hasten development of resource-saving technology that does not harm the environment.

Mr Keyfitz said an aid-for-environment deal was a realistic goal for the summit. "People are in a receptive mood. The Third World is really in trouble. Population control is stalled and the development process is stalled."

But Tatsuro Kunugi, a former UN assistant secretary general for humanitarian aid and population, said a global consensus had not yet developed for such a deal, in part because many nations were still spending heavily on weapons.

SAPA-AP
Business must meet challenge

Nelson Mandela is open to suggestions on how to address the black-white poverty gap.
POVERTY RELIEF: Experts now believe that universal social policies beat the means test, reports EDWARD ALDEN

Help the poor by helping everyone

While welfare programmes have shrunk for over a decade, universal programmes such as Social Security and Medicare remain intact. Universal programmes have an obvious political appeal but the economic case is more complex. Proponents argue that universal programmes would break the poverty trap in which new earnings from employment have the perverse effect of depriving families of welfare assistance and medicaid coverage — both means-tested programmes.

University of Chicago sociologist William Julius Wilson argues that “the truly disadvantaged”, such as the inner city black underclass, would benefit most if current means-tested assistance was gradually replaced by universal programmes.

But the Census Bureau’s latest report on poverty in America also indicates that the country is facing a new type of poverty which is less the result of unemployment than a consequence of a decade of falling wages.

The census figures show that the recession, while still fairly mild by historic standards, has claimed an unusually long line of victims. From 1989 to 1990, unemployment rose only slightly, from 5.3 to 5.5 percent, yet more than two millions people fell below the poverty line.

“It’s a surprisingly large increase in poverty for such a small increase in unemployment,” says Isaac Shapiro, a policy analyst with the Centre on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington.

“What’s going to happen with unemployment going from 5.5 percent to seven percent, which is what has happened in 1991?”

The figures highlight the large and growing number of working poor. Poverty among working families with children has increased by one-third since 1979, a consequence, Shapiro and others argue, of steady drop in wages.

Wages fell not only during the current recession but throughout the 1980s, to the point that wage levels in non-supervisory jobs are among the lowest since 1964. In the 1980s, more of the poor worked, and those who were employed put in longer hours, but falling wages kept them behind.

Economic growth alone, the classic painless solution for poverty, and the one touted by the Bush administration, is no longer sufficient to pull up the poor.

At a recent conference held by the Joint Centre for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington think-tank focusing on African-American issues, experts from Europe, Canada and the United States argued that the changing nature of the labour market — the growth of low-wage “flexible” forms of employment lacking the traditional benefits — poses an entirely different problem for policy makers.

As economist Bennett Harrison put it: “Low-wage dead-end employment is as much of a problem as unemployment.”

While current means-tested programmes do little for the working poor, universal policies would directly address the problem.

Two programmes head the current wish list: a child allowance (the report of the National Commission on Children, headed by Senator Jay Rockefeller, called for $1 000 a child a year), and some form of universal health insurance.

Children currently comprise 40 percent of the poor, while the elderly, who benefit from existing universal health programmes, comprise only 10.4 percent of the total. And a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll indicated that almost 70 percent of voters support the creation of a universal health insurance programme modelled after the Canadian system.

The problem, however, is dollars. Advocates of universality argue that money will be saved in the long run, yet the short-term costs are undoubtedly high.

While he sees the expansion of universal programmes as politically promising, Schneider cautions that “they are very, very expensive.”

Social security and medicare are the two most expensive programmes in the budget after defense. The estimated costs of a $1000 child allowance is $40 billion a year. — Pacific News Service
Food for safety’s sake

Plan to alleviate squatter camp misery

THE Neighbourhood Watch has come up with a plan to sell inexpensive, nutritional food packs to squatter camps in a bid to curb the rising crime rate.

According to Mr. Marius Wessels, the organisation’s national convener, increasing poverty has forced squatters to steal so they can eat.

"Many of the people in these camps are living below the breadline. They spend what little money they have buying food with low nutritional value, at exorbitant prices.

By NKOPANE

We have now come to realise that we should not only concentrate on security and safety, but also the upliftment of society," he said.

Wessels said the Neighbourhood Watch has been working in conjunction with Professor Hector de Munere, director of research for National Brands Ltd, to set about determining the contents of the assistance packs.

One of the items likely to be included in the pack is "vegetable milk.

Wessels says the soya-based milk contains more vitamins, calcium and minerals than dairy milk.

The nutritional value can be varied to produce baby formulas or cater for other specific needs.

As vegetable milk is lactose-free, it does not cause diarrhoea, a major killer in underprivileged communities, when drunk by undernourished and lactose-intolerant people.

"The people in the cities and towns are scared of squatter camps, but we cannot wash them away.

"The food packs would go a long way to furthering safety and security in South Africa. It would be short-sighted of us to barricade our neighbour-hoods without addressing the cause of the problem.

"The programme is not profit-oriented, but solely concerned with the upliftment of struggling communities," he said.

According to Wessels, the programme was a lengthy one and it is not known exactly when it would be implemented.

"We still have to find out if the squatters would accept what is put into the packets. We do not want to do something that would be un-popular.

"We are first going to send out questionnaires and packages of test samples to get feedback. We intend approaching various municipalities to get help with manpower in this regard.

"Our starting point will be Durban because this is where we have been doing our research."
'Devastating' township poverty shocks visitors

JOHANNESBURG - A visiting group of prominent North Americans have expressed shock at the "devastating" poverty they saw in Soweto and Alexandra townships.

Speaking at a media conference at Jan Smuts Airport soon before leaving South Africa after a three-day trip, leader of the 33-member delegation Mr Randall Robinson said the tour of the two townships was one of "heartbreaking devastation".

The Democracy Now delegation came to South Africa at the invitation of the African National Congress to "listen and learn". The tour included a number of labour, business, cultural, political and sports leaders.

Mr Robinson, director of the anti-apartheid lobby group Trans-africa, said political discussions with ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela had centred around violence.

He accused President De Klerk of complicity in the violence.

"When you examine the records of numerous incidents of violence, police complicity and the absence of prosecution one is led to believe De Klerk is involved with the violence."

US Congresswoman Maxine Waters said that in spite of sanctions being lifted against South Africa, "our word from Mandela is to fight to keep state and local sanctions operational."

A $500-million dollar housing and education programme proposed by New York Congressman Stephen Solarz was still being considered by the ANC, Mr Robinson said.

Mr Botha sharply criticised the American activists, calling the leader of the delegation Mr Randall Robinson a "clown" who was attempting to use South Africa to boost his own political credibility, reports political correspondent Michael Morris.

A spokesman for Mr Botha said the Minister's remark about Mr Robinson being a clown was made tongue-in-cheek.

"The point that Mr Botha wished to convey was that there was no importance or credibility to be attached to the statements of the American activists," he said.
Tembisa's R96 gift touches US poor

HARTFORD (Connecticut) — A $34 gift (about R96) to Hartford's poor may not seem much. But when it comes from poor residents of a South African black township, it means a lot.

"It was very touching. I'm not sure anyone has received a contribution like this before," said Paul Christy, executive director of the Centre City Churches, the social service arm of about a dozen Hartford churches.

Residents of Tembisa, near Kempton Park, donated the money after the head of an American non-profit institute spoke at a Presbyterian church in the township about poverty, homelessness and hunger in Connecticut's capital city.

Parishioners of the one-room brick church, who understand poverty firsthand, immediately passed the hat. They came up with R96, about $34, as a donation.

Their visitor, Robert Evans, executive director of Plowshares Institute of Simsbury, Connecticut, passed the money on to Centre City Churches to buy food for a soup kitchen.

He said the gesture was especially significant because it came from people many of whom live in homes without indoor plumbing and probably make less than R100 a week (241).

"The gift was given from those with enormous lack of resources," Mr. Evans said earlier this week.

"We were all surprised, and several of our members were moved to tears at the gift," he said.

"Would that we had a proportionate generosity — to be in touch with the needs of our brothers and sisters in the world." — Sapa-AP
‘Dogma dogs development

By ZUBEIDA JAFFER

DEVELOPMENT has to be depoliticised as almost half the population is living in poverty, says the Deputy Minister of Development Aid, Mr Johan Scheepers. In addition, suspicion had to be reduced between government and non-government bodies involved in development, he said.

Mr Scheepers was speaking at the University of Stellenbosch at a two-day conference on non-government organisations, the first of its kind to bring together academics and experts from a wide range of bodies. Participants disagreed that development should be depoliticised — but agreed that there should be a meaningful partnership between government, non-government organisations and big business in tackling the country’s problems.

"Development is being privatised in our country and we have to reverse that position," said Mr Andrew Boraine of Plan Act.

He warned that non-government bodies should not be substituted for government.

"We have no housing policy. It is being left to the initiatives of individuals. There can be no housing solution without direct government intervention.

Create

There were at least 800 service organisations in the country, said Mr Patrick Fitzgerald of Wits University.

"Government will have to create a development-friendly environment in which development agents can work effectively," he said.

"The state can also use its management of infrastructure (electricity, roads, water) to provide baseline conditions around which committees and non-government organisations can build development projects and initiatives."
Shame and squalor for whites as economy plunges

EYES downcast with shame, impoverished white South Africans stand in line for food and rummage through piles of old clothes.

"It takes a lot of courage to do this. I feel embarrassed, but we must eat," said Anna, a 33-year-old woman seeking help at a charity office.

"If the situation was bad for us whites, I don't know what it is like for blacks," said Philip Machel, aged 68.

With growing desperation, thousands of destitute whites, holding their meager belongings and standing in line, awaited their turn to receive food and clothing.

"The government is not doing enough. We are starving," said Mr. Machel.

Government officials estimate that thousands of whites are living in abject poverty in rural and urban areas.

They squat illegally on lawns, backyard corners, or any place deemed safe by the authorities.

The Department of Health Services and Welfare has undertaken a program to help the destitute. The aim is to provide food and clothing for those in need.

In the eastern province, up to 5,000 white families in the Pretoria area were affected by poverty. Of them, half were unable to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

The rural white population is also suffering. The government has launched a campaign to help those most affected.

Operation Hunger Awareness, a group with a humanitarian mission, has helped hundreds of families. They have been given food, clothes, and other necessities.

In the south, the situation is even worse. The government has sent aid, but much more is needed.

"This is a new phenomenon that has risen in the last ten years. The economy is down, and things are only getting worse," said Mr. Machel.

Most whites interviewed said they had been made redundant, of their incomes, and had little to offer to those in need. They begged for food, clothing, and other essentials.

"They are unemployed and hungry. They have no work and no income. We don't even know what will happen," said Mr. Machel.

The government has set up food banks and other social welfare programs to help those in need.

"We have to do more. We have to reach out to those in need," said Mr. Machel.

The government is working with local organizations to provide food and clothing to those in need.

"We are doing our best to help," said Mr. Machel.

The situation is dire, and more needs to be done. But with the government working closely with local organizations, hope is on the horizon.

"We are making progress," said Mr. Machel.

The government continues to work towards a better future for all South Africans.

"We will work together to overcome this crisis," said Mr. Machel.

The government is committed to providing help to those in need.

"We will not leave anyone behind," said Mr. Machel.

The government continues to work towards a better future for all South Africans.
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — VAT has had little or no effect on the living costs of the poorest black households, a survey by Unisa’s Bureau for Market Research has found.

However, the rate of increase of the cost of living for higher paid workers was greater than that of lower paid workers.

The survey showed that a black family of six in Johannesburg, living at the bureau’s minimum living level of R27,07 a month, experienced a 0.9% increase in living costs in the month VAT was introduced. This contrasted with a 1.2% increase each month in the previous six months. In Pretoria the respective figures were 1% and 1.1%.

A Johannesburg family living at the bureau’s supplementary living level of R124,22 a month experienced a 1.1% increase in living costs in the month after VAT, while the monthly increase in the previous months was 1.3%. In Pretoria the increases were 1% and 2.3%.

The bureau also examined the effect of traders adding 10% VAT to items previously not subject to GST, and the effect on items previously subject to 15% GST now subject to 10% VAT. The calculations showed VAT would raise living costs of black families at the lower end of the scale by 0.9% and at the upper end by 1.6%.
Poverty: The Global Scandal

For every 100 people on Earth, 78 live in poverty. This means they do not have access to basic necessities like food, clean water, and healthcare. The scale of poverty is staggering: 3 billion people lack basic sanitation, and 2 billion lack access to clean water.

The effects of poverty are far-reaching. Children under 5 are twice as likely to die in poor countries compared to rich ones. In 2022, 263 million children were still living in extreme poverty, living on less than $1.90 a day.

Poverty is not just a lack of money; it is the lack of opportunity, health, and education. The cycle of poverty is often passed down from one generation to the next.

We can make a difference. By donating to organizations like Oxfam, we can help educate, empower, and lift people out of poverty. Together, we can break the cycle of poverty and build a more just and equitable world for all.

Fair Trade World campaign. A cartoon donated to Oxfam for a Million Days for a Million Dollars.
Business takes friendly look at environment

Finance Staff

The abject poverty in which many African people live is part of the environmental quagmire facing business. Dr. John Maree, chairman of the Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa (IEF) told a conference in Somerset West this week.

"Businesses would have to find a balance between creating jobs and hope for people and the need for development and economic growth, he said. "We have an industrial and mining component in our society which is of the first world but we also have many people who are suffering abject poverty. The poor are forced, by circumstances which are no fault of their own, to disregard the sustainability of the environment around them. They are concerned with survival. We need to address this," he said.

Dr. Maree said the environmental legacy of the communist experience suggested that progress towards sustainable development was better achieved within the framework of the market economy. The framework needed to reflect environmental costs more appropriately but, by and large, good environmental management makes good business sense, he said.

"The Industrial Environment Forum (IEF) is an example, he says, of businessmen taking greater ownership of environmental problems, accepting the challenges and sincerely addressing them in a co-operative and productive fashion.

"In the climate of rapid change that we are now in and in the spirit of shared responsibility the members of the IEF want this conference to be a catalyst for a significant new direction in environmental awareness in Southern Africa.

"We in business are facing up to the role that we have to play in addressing environmental challenges before us. We will do our best to .play our role constructively."
Loaves for the needy... as often as possible Sister Giselle (84) dispenses bread and cakes to squatter camp residents

Township, squatter camp need festive cheer

Rochelle Gosling-Hughes

Ursula's Convent in Krugersdorp has requested 45 hampers for Kagiso township and Munsierville squatter camp. The request is more than conservative considering that the camp well over 1000 people.

Sister Giselle (84), unassuming and dedicated, is responsible for running four soup kitchens in the townships.

She says they hope they have not asked for too much.

Can it ever be too much for the squatters of Munsierville, who rely on the unwavering generosity and selflessness of the sisters?

Every Tuesday everyone in Munsierville gathers around the huge pots filled with steaming vegetable broth and mealie meal for one of Sister Giselle's wholesome meals.

The rest of the week the squatters trek the long distance to the Convent to ask for bread.

Shirley Radebe is responsible for cooking each week and everyone gathers at No 48 to hand out food.

Another resident, Lizzie Phokela, says she knows Sister Giselle well and they depend on her almost entirely.

As often as possible, Sister Giselle arrives at the camp laden with loaves of bread and little cakes for the children, who gather round her chattering excitedly.

The vegetables are donated by local stores and the Sister persists at shops for bread and fruit.

The Munsierville squatter camp has been in existence for just over a year and is growing every day, said the sisters at the Ursuline Convent.

There must be at least 250 shacks, with an average of seven people per hovel.

Many ex-Swaneville "residents" have relocated to Munsierville squatter camp, increasing the number of hungry mouths to feed.

The land is untenable and the shacks leak, there are no lights, food is scarce, residents have to trek for water, children cry with hunger pangs — reality.

Until you have seen such poverty and destitution it is but a hiccup in your day's perusal of the paper.

The celebration of Christmas, with its messages of peace and joy, cannot possibly have much meaning when your first priority is to feed a starving family.

Let us try to make more than just a couple of families happy. Send donations to Xmas Hamper Fund, P.O. Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000. The sooner, the better.
Talks to be held on Govt food aid

The Department of National Health and Population Development is holding a series of regional work sessions to discuss the implementation of the R220 million allocated by the Government in August for food aid to the needy.

For further information telephone Leatte Potgieter at the regional office of the NIPD at (011) 636-2232. — Staff Reporter.
Hungry whites get work during strike

PRETORIA — A Pretoria charity which provides food for impoverished Afrikaner families has placed "hundreds of men, women and children" as temporary workers in factories and shops during the two-day national strike.

Kleintjie Pereira of the Werk en Oorelse (Work and Survive) charity organisation said yesterday that factory managers and workers in factories as cashiers, sales personnel and workers in as able have gone to work. They are working. "All of our people who were physically able have gone to work. They are working in factories as cashiers, sales personnel and workers in factories. Unfortunately, they expect to be backed back onto the street as soon as the strike ends," Pereira said. — Sapa.
Courage is willpower

THE COLD CHOICE by Struan Robertson (David Philip, 123pp, R65)

Objectivity is important for the Operation Hunger workers, despair lies constantly in wait. Let your emotions get too tight a grip on you and you are lost. Robertson explains in his dedication that those involved in Operation Hunger must, daily, "make the cold choice, often in the face of daunting adversity, between carrying on and giving up." They have been doing it for a decade, led by Ina Perlman.

This book is filled with Robertson's powerful black-and-white photographs, complemented by his own muscular text. It is an unusual but successful combination, emphasizing his emotional involvement but also convincing the reader of his detachment.

Most of us would give up. Robertson visited an Ndebele settlement called Monsterius, "a collection of tin-roofed mud huts on bare hills pressed up against the hot sky."

As he and an Operation Hunger worker approached, they saw hundreds of women with "bright patches of beadwork spread around them" for sale.

"I felt the hair on my neck stir in horror," notes Robertson, "as I realised that those women were all there, in their hundreds, for us. We, in our little truck, were the tourists."

What attracted Robertson to Operation Hunger is that it resists merely handing out food, it helps desperate communities struck down by drought, crowding and forced removals — to help themselves.

Thus the book is a record of success as well as suffering. Above all, it has nothing to do with pity. Buying it will help.

Don't Wiltens
Give the poor liberty
not lefty paternalism

This contrasts with the Left, which does not do very badly in joblessness and...
A NEW book published by a former Stellenbosch economist warns of impending disaster for SA if government does not introduce effective birth control methods to rural areas.

In Population Growth — Our Time Bomb, Johannes Jordan claims that the population explosion is the most serious problem SA has faced this century.

Jordan says the population explosion will lead to massive unemployment, increased social tension, political instability, economic adversity, environmental degradation and hunger.

The population in the PWV area alone will increase from 6.1 million people in 1985 to 14 million in 2010, Jordan says.

The problem needs to be tackled at the roots by providing family planning advice and birth control methods for rural areas, which government has shown little interest in doing, Jordan says.

He says the SA population explosion is due to illiteracy, lack of education, lack of contraceptives and improved medical facilities, black culture and the politicisation of the perception of birth control among blacks.

Black people in SA in the past have — with some justification — believed government birth control campaigns were apartheid-based schemes to reduce the black population, Jordan says.

But blacks should realise that a lack of birth control weakens their political hand by increasing the number of impoverished blacks and increasing reliance on the status quo to provide them with help.

Hunger, disease, extreme poverty, crime, rife unemployment and widespread homelessness are among the consequences of the high population increase rate that SA is already facing, Jordan says.

Only comprehensive sex education, family planning and birth control programmes can rectify the situation, as rural perceptions of contraception need to change, Jordan says.

And this can happen only if an organised family planning campaign is brought into the rural areas.

Population increase is greatest in rural areas, but as the rural communities increase in size, they add to the urban drift, increasing urban and peri-urban squalor, Jordan says.
Development plans must focus on uplifting the poor

The necessity for reconstruction has arisen because of the serious social, political and personal injustices resulting from past policies which have created critical problems in virtually all communities. Added to this is the fact that many of the organizations which normally might have acted as development agencies, such as local authorities, have either ceased to exist or now lack legitimacy. It follows that non-governmental organizations and, to an extent, the private sector itself, have to play a much more fundamental role in reconstruction than would be the case under more normal circumstances.

Of course, all the sounds fine in theory but can it work in reality? Without understanding the difficulties involved, we believe it can - if, unfortunately, over a longer period than we would like because there are certain non-resource or quick fixes available. Fifteen years of experience in S.A. support this view. And the increases of other development agencies here and elsewhere do too. To achieve these goals, the foundation must continue its programme of change, working to come more representative at all levels, further strengthen relations with all communities, and work more patiently to gain knowledge and experience from wherever it is available.

No one agrees with these views. There are others who believe that development should focus on the growth and power of the state. There are a few people who oppose development altogether. There are many who also try to direct the fruits of development solely towards themselves.

The necessity for reconstruction has arisen because of the serious social, political and personal injustices resulting from past policies which have created critical problems in virtually all communities. Added to this is the fact that many of the organizations which normally might have acted as development agencies, such as local authorities, have either ceased to exist or now lack legitimacy. It follows that non-governmental organizations and, to an extent, the private sector itself, have to play a much more fundamental role in reconstruction than would be the case under more normal circumstances.

Of course, all the sounds fine in theory but can it work in reality? Without understanding the difficulties involved, we believe it can - if, unfortunately, over a longer period than we would like because there are certain non-resource or quick fixes available. Fifteen years of experience in S.A. support this view. And the increases of other development agencies here and elsewhere do too. To achieve these goals, the foundation must continue its programme of change, working to come more representative at all levels, further strengthen relations with all communities, and work more patiently to gain knowledge and experience from wherever it is available.

No one agrees with these views. There are others who believe that development should focus on the growth and power of the state. There are a few people who oppose development altogether. There are many who also try to direct the fruits of development solely towards themselves.
Despair is hallmark of new SA, says Steyn

CAPE TOWN — The social fabric of SA society was deteriorating rapidly, Independent Development Trust (IDT) chairman Jan Steyn said yesterday in an opening address to a rural development conference organized by the Rural Foundation and the Konrad Andenauer Foundation in Stellenbosch.

"While the struggle for power is pursued relentlessly, while constitutional models are being developed and charters of human rights designed — all essential components of a democratic future — the levels of poverty increase, the rates of unemployment and crime rise exponentially and despair, not hope, becomes the hallmark of our society."

Steyn said rural poverty on the scale experienced in SA could not be most effectively addressed through a restructuring of ownership and production patterns within the agrarian sector as happened in other African countries.

Nur could urban wage employment provide relief to the rural sector in the medium term, he said.

"The creation of a core of effective small-scale farmers who can help to transform the rural economy will only be a small — although important — part of the strategy, rather than a dominating theme."

More significant in terms of scale would be programmes of community enablement.

"Rural employment guarantee schemes, public works programmes in association with land consolidation measures, and food-for-work programmes aimed at the rural poor are examples of such programmes, provided that there is a commitment of public sector (or other major donor) funding and valid community involvement."

Steyn saw it as the state’s responsibility to embark on a programme of land acquisition under a programme of land reform and to provide services to a new cadre of small farmers, such as irrigation, agricultural inputs, marketing and credit and technical services.

He emphasised the need for agrarian reform in the institutional and legal field.
FORGOTTEN HEROES: Former delegates toparlant this

money for food

Everyone is driven has been seen scavenging in this to make

By Perenna Rossow

To scratch in dirt bins

Saved from the gallows

NEWS SOUTH 3

November 14, November 20 1991
Food for poor scheme gets off the ground

A MEETING to appoint a steering committee to supervise funds allocated by the Government for food to the underprivileged will be held on the East Rand on December 2.

This follows an announcement by Minister of National Health and of Welfare Dr Ruma Venot that the Government would make an initial amount of R220-million available for food development programmes for the needy in South Africa.

The meeting, to attend which an invitation is extended to all interested parties, government and non-government and welfare organisations on the East Rand, will be held at the TPA Building, corner Cathin and Hardjach streets, Germiston from 10am to 1pm.

The steering committee will be responsible for rendering assistance - by screening and considering applications of all welfare organisations and communities, to make recommendations regarding applications to the forum at national level.

The committee will also investigate what necessary infrastructure is available, identify shortcomings or differences in present services and co-ordinate the needs in underprivileged communities.


A statement from National Health and Population Development appealed to all interested parties in these areas to attend.

"Community participation is vital if the nutritional development programme is to meet the needs of underprivileged communities," the statement said.

Anyone needing further information can call Laetitia Potgieter at the NHPD regional office Tel (011) 836-2232.
Out and down in the ‘new’ SA

FREED POLITICAL PRISONERS are returning home to the same conditions of poverty that motivated them to fight apartheid in the first place, a new study has shown.

Only now, the conditions of poverty are worse — which is why many ex-prisoners say they have been released from their jails into a much larger one without bars.

“A prison without walls” best describes the poverty that holds so many ex-political prisoners captive, following their years of personal and financial sacrifice in detention, prison and exile.

The report reveals that on nearly every front — employment, housing, education and health — nearly all political prisoners are facing very severe pressures as they readjust to mainstream South African life.

In the report prepared for the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and dealing with the socio-economic conditions of ex-prisoners in the Western Cape, researchers found 66 percent of ex-prisoners were unemployed.

Most of them survived on grants of less than R300 a month.

Nearly half of ex-prisoners were living in shacks or single-sex hostels and more than 40 percent could not contribute to their monthly rent.

On the health front, 57 percent said they were coping with high or very high levels of stress, with 66 percent reporting significant medical problems since their release.

The statistics were a little more encouraging on their educational qualifications, with more than 65 percent possessing matric certificates.

Release from prison brings a certain degree of formal freedom. But for countless numbers of ex-political prisoners socio-economic emancipation remains an even more elusive goal.

More than three years after his release from prison, Mr. Zandile Mayile still does not have a full-time job to support his wife and two children.

Since his release from Victor Verster Prison where he served a year for harbouing ANC guerrillas, Mayile has applied for five jobs and met little success. Employers close the door in his face, saying he is either underqualified and unskilled or they will not hire a former terrorist.

Other than a part-time job as a casual labourer at a warehouse, Mayile has been unemployed since 1987. His family survives on his wife’s salary of R480 a month.

Before his imprisonment, he worked for five years as a truck driver at an Eerste River quarry. He lost his job when he was arrested, and the firm refused to re-employ him after his release.

In many ways, Mayile is typical of ex-political prisoners whose unemployment is in large part due to arrest and imprisonment.

According to the CDS study, 80 percent of unemployed ex-prisoners surveyed said they held full-time, salaried jobs prior to their imprisonment.

“The statistics suggest that post-release unemployment is largely attributable to the career interruptions caused by political imprisonment,” the report concludes.

The report finds that the median income of ex-prisoners is R450 a month, compared to R1,500 for the general population in the Western Cape.

Most ex-prisoners have had to settle for any job that pays. One former Western Cape prisoner holds a clerking job that demands 12 hours a day, seven days a week in a township shop.

For such long working days, he earns a paltry R300 a month and supports a family of eight.

● SOUTH has started a fundraising campaign to assist destitute ex-prisoners including Upington’s former death row inmate, Evalind de Bruin.

The campaign will run until December 19 and we hope to collect sufficient funds to ensure that a few ex-prisoners enjoy a reasonably happy festive season.

 Readers wanting to donate money should contact Rehana Rossoow at 462 2012.
Children

expatriate. They make their own culture when they grow up and take it with them when they return. They come from all walks of life and are exposed to different cultures and experiences.

The World Bank

according to the latest figures, the percentage of children who have access to education is still low in many countries. Some children are not able to attend school because of poverty, lack of resources, or conflict. The World Bank is working to improve education and provide opportunities for children around the world.

Girls can help

Even though society gains

by educating girls, the returns for when women are educated,

are uncertain and remote,

on a daughter's education,

It's also a matter of

social justice, saving the life of a girl is just a matter

of giving her a chance to

attend school.

The World Bank is working to improve education and provide opportunities for children around the world.
Hunger fund to get govt help

OPERATION Hunger is among the welfare organisations that stand to benefit from government’s plan to inject R250m into poverty relief programmes, it was disclosed yesterday.

National Health Minister Ruha Venter announced in August that government would make R250m available until the end of March next year to provide “targeted” food aid to the poor.

National Health and Population Development spokesperson Anette Richter said yesterday R39.5m had been set aside for Operation Hunger and the National Council for Child and Family Care.

Fourteen other organisations which manage nutrition development schemes – the bulk of which were in the eastern Cape – had already received grants to the tune of R12.6m, Richter said.

The organisations include Imquqo-Live (southern Transvaal), Kupagani (Natal), SA Mamsists Unity Independent Churches Association (eastern Cape), Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage en Distrik Skoolvoedingfondse (eastern Cape), Jewish Welfare (eastern Cape), Port Alfred Psychiatric Work Group (eastern Cape), Grahamstown Blind Workers Self Help Group (eastern Cape), Food Gardens Foundation (southern Transvaal) and Kerbelke Akse Noodhulp (northern Transvaal).

Richter added that in a bid to counter malnutrition-induced diseases, government had allocated R16m to clinics run by local and provincial authorities for expansion of the existing government-subsidised protonen energy malnutrition scheme.

Venter has said applications for funds from welfare organisations would be “handled and processed speedily”.

SA-REGISTERED civil aircraft may have been exempted from international regulations on the carriage of dangerous goods, retired Supreme Court judge and commissioner of the inquiry into the crash of SAA’s Boeing 747 Hel短短, Mr Justice Margo, said yesterday.

He could not say with certainty that the Hel短短 had not been exempted from the dangerous goods instructions.

“There might have been exemptions, but I am sure that if there were, they were not relevant to Hel短短 and would not have exempted the aircraft from carrying fireworks, weapons, explosives or acids,” he said.

SA Aviation Safety Council (Sasacco) dangerous goods committee chairman and SAA captain Eddie Borehill had said it was doubtful that the Hel短短 had been exempted from the dangerous goods regulations if it had, I would have known about it,” he said.

Borehill said Sasacco had recently decided to launch a public awareness campaign highlighting the risks of carrying dangerous goods, and how these might be transported safely as the International Air Transport Association (Iata) and International Civil Aviation Organisation (Icao) regulations were followed.

Mr Justice Margo said that in his on cargo exemption

Bop hunger striker has heart attack

BOPHUTHATSWANA was likely to release several hunger-striking prisoners soon, a homeland government spokesman said yesterday.

In another development, one of the 18 hunger strikers, Johannes Nhlapo, suffered a heart attack on his 52nd day without food, said the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (Maref).

It said he was rushed to the intensive care unit of Bophelong Hospital.
Employed, but not well enough to afford a home

They work, but their meagre earnings combined with a housing shortage have forced this couple into the streets.

BEATHUR BAKER reports

WALTER and Peggy, like any working couple, have dinner together after a hard day’s work. The difference is, they share supper in a park. And, when they go to sleep at night, their home is an alleyway.

Unlike most homeless people, however, they have jobs and would be able to afford accommodation — if they could find it.

They earn too little to afford expensive accommodation, and there is a serious shortage of housing that would fall within their price range.

For them, a working lifestyle means setting up for the night in a passage under the stairs of a fire escape outside a block of flats in Hillbrow.

The passage is a locked up back entrance to an old two story building and is hidden from view by the deep concrete stairs.

During the day the very spot where they settle down to sleep becomes a storage area for huge rubbish containers used by residents in the building.

When they get “home”, Walter removes their mattress and blankets from a disused fridge standing near the entrance inside the building. He clears the ground around the area and then places their bedding in such a way that they are sheltered by a small verandah overhead.

Once everyone is settled, Walter pulls one of the rubbish bins in front of the opening, completely hiding the sleepers. In the morning they clean up the little passage, and leave just as the sun comes up.

Their nightly routine is a well established one.

Most nights they will have a quick wash, do their washing using water from an outside tap then hang it out to dry before morning. Or they simply lie about and smoke, talking about the day gone by for a while.

On weekdays they usually arrive between 9pm and midnight, depending on the day. On weekends they sometimes only arrive at 2am.

“But over the years we have befriended many of the people here, we keep an eye on their washing during the night.”

On many nights they bring “guests” to their “home”; these are either homeless — and unemployed — individuals who stay on until they are able to find employment again.

“Working and being homeless on these streets was never easy,” says Walter, leaning back on his blanket.

“This kind of life can be bad. There are no shelters for our kind in a big city like Johannesburg.

In Port Elizabeth I could stay in a shelter while saving for a place to stay.”

Rainy nights and the cold in winter sometimes disrupts their routine and they have to sleep at Park station.

“But in the early hours of the morning police come and force the up to 200 homeless people out into the cold,” says Peggy.

Because of his own family’s poverty, he went to work out at sea when he was only in his teens. He says that over the years he grew to love the sea. “It’s just that there are no jobs and no

Home Sweet Home...bedding down for the night in Hillbrow

Photo: GUY ADAMS

Walter works “she can at least have a meal during the day and earn some money for things she needs like cigarettes.”

Peggy is slightly built and has that, short hair already beginning to grey. Deep, map-like lines spread out on her face when she smiles, telling of a life of hardship.

A pair of missing front teeth now also appear...a distantly Capetown phenomena. “Ha!” she laughs surprised at the suggestion. “I am from the Cape — that is where I met him.”

But to the next question she says shyly “a woman doesn’t reveal her age,” although both Walter and she appear to be about 40.

They have two children, who live in Benoni with relatives as “this is no life for them — but now they are all grown up,” says Peggy.

But Winston shakes his head and tells about his youngest son who became a gangster, breaking into people’s houses.

“Not at all the way we taught him” he says. “But maybe if we had a home of our own it would have been better.”

He says every time he saves enough money for a flat deposit, something always interferes with this step to find decent accommodation. Usually unemployment, a job which suddenly ends or a strike at a factory.

They both do not hesitate about their hopes for the future: “Our dream is to have our own home.”
Upington's Hungry Heroes

WINNERS OF THE 7TH ANNUAL UNSTOPPABLE 10K & 5K RUN

1. Mr. and Mrs. Smith
2. Mr. and Mrs. Jones
3. Mr. and Mrs. Brown

THE Upington Run Committee is proud to announce the winners of the 7th annual Unstoppable 10K & 5K run held on [Date].

Thank you to all who participated and supported this event. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Upington Run Committee

---

THE END OF THE ARTICLE

UPINGTON, SOUTH AFRICA - The Upington Run Committee is proud to announce the winners of the 7th annual Unstoppable 10K & 5K run held on [Date].

Thank you to all who participated and supported this event. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Upington Run Committee
Massive attack on rural poverty

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

A MASSIVE R185 million is to be granted next year to the 16,8 million “forgotten people” in the rural areas in South Africa by the Independent Development Trust (IDT).

A major focus of the grants will be the R50 million allocated for the provision of clean water for the almost ten million people who run the risk of serious disease by being forced to use unpurified water.

The IDT’s decision to allocate the R185 million to community-based organisations in rural areas was disclosed yesterday by its director of health and community development, Professor Len Karlsson, and director of communications, Mr Jolyon Nuttall.

They said the IDT’s trustees had also allocated R5 million for sanitation, R20 million for energy, R40 million for welfare programmes related to development, R50 million new primary health-care facilities and the upgrading of facilities, R10 million to provide communication networks between clinics and base hospitals, and R10 million for training programmes with particular reference to a primary health-care approach.

One of the trustees, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, said yesterday “I think the allocation of this block amount is a statement on the part of the IDT that it does take rural development seriously.”

Dr Ramphele, who ran a clinic in a remote village in Lebowa when she was banned and banished in the 1970s, added “That allocation is the visible part. But R185 million is a flash in the pan because the needs are so great.”

The contributions for water, sanitation and energy were important.
Needy get bananas

Fruit farmers of the Letaba district, near Traneen, have donated 10 tons of bananas as a Christmas goodwill gesture. The Letaba Co-operative, based in Traneen, handling the banana distribution, has already handed supplies to refugee agencies and homes for the aged. Contact Corrin Nagel at 0123-222252 for more details.
Modest growth will redistribute white income to blacks, report

AN URBAN Foundation report shows that even modest economic growth will redistribute income away from the white population to blacks in the next few years.

A recently developed Urban Foundation income distribution model projects at least a 4,3 percentage point increase in the black population’s share of personal income by 1995.

The figure is based on an average growth rate of 2.5% a year until 1995, which lifts blacks’ share of personal income to 37.3% from 33% in 1990. A more optimistic growth projection of 4% a year increases their share to 37.8%.

A clear redistribution of incomes away from whites is projected even at the modest growth rates assumed, the report says.

Whites’ share of personal income is expected to fall by at least 0.7 percentage points to 46.8% (2.5% grown) or by 6.1 percentage points to 47.6% (4%) from 53.9% in 1990.

The report says the two reasons for the redistribution are the differences between race population growth rates and the changing relationship between per capita personal income by race.

Stripping out the effects of varying race population growth rates, the per capita personal income of blacks is projected to rise 8% to 145.3 (1985=100) if growth is 2.5% from 1985 to 1990. At a growth rate of 4% the increase doubles to 16.5%.

In contrast, whites’ per capita personal income is set to slip by at least 2.2% (2.5% growth) to 93.7 from 95.8 in 1990.

The effect of personal income redistribution will be to reduce the percentage of black households living in poverty.

The poverty gap, the total sum needed to bring all households below the minimum living level, stood at R13.8bn in 1990 and this is projected to rise to at least R14.9bn (2.5% growth) by 1995.

However, the informal sector perhaps can be regarded as removing about R4bn from the aggregate poverty gap, the report says.

The Urban Foundation cautions that other aspects of economic policy, other than growth, will have a direct effect on the outcomes projected for 1995.
Hamper hoax hits the poor

By Themba Khumalo

HUNDREDS of unemployed and poor people flooded the Khutsa House offices of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) this week to collect Christmas hampers. But there was nothing there for them.

They had read in copies of a pamphlet distributed in Johannesburg and Soweto townships that Christmas hampers were waiting for them at the SACC offices. The pamphlet purported to be from the SACC's department of hunger and relief, but the SACC has denied issuing it.

The pamphlet reads:

"As you know, the SACC believes in the gospel of the poor. We were blessed last year and received no less than R254 039 from our beloved overseas donors for hunger and relief. Our total income was just over R29-million."

"Only R180 106 was spent during the year and R73 953 was left to help all of you who are poor and unemployed."

The pamphlet said the council wished to apologise to the unemployed for causing their plight by supporting sanctions and stayaway calls made by political bodies and trade unions.

"Unfortunately this put many black workers out of jobs and as a result they and their families are suffering. We want to try and help you and give you special Christmas parcels of food and clothing to make you and your starving family happy. We offer this as a token of our repentance," read the pamphlet.

However, the SACC said in a statement it was disturbed that those responsible had issued the pamphlet in its name. This despicable act would hurt the suffering people.

It was clear that the content of the hoax pamphlet was well thought out and deliberately conceived to cause further chaos in society at the expense of the poor and needy, said the SACC.
Self-help drive

BY SANDILE MEMELA

The summer luncheon held on Sunday under the auspices of Operation Hunger at Nu-World in Crown Mines was a self-reliance drive to mobilize blacks to do something for themselves.

More than 300 people from various Johannesburg stokvel clubs attended the function.

Entitled "Garden Party", the R30-a-head function began at noon and featured ANC president Nelson Mandela as one of the VIP guests.

Organiser Zinzi Mandela told City Press that the purpose of the fund-raising luncheon was to instil a spirit of self-reliance among black people.

"The largest sector of people who rely on Operation Hunger come from the black community, and it is time those of us who can afford it stopped allowing our people to rely on whites alone for handouts.

"Although apartheid policies are responsible for our people's suffering, it is up to us to prepare for a new order by showing initiative and a healthy spirit of self-reliance to make things happen for us.

"In this era of change we have to stop waiting for things to be done for us," she said.
Nacssa gets together

BY NAT DISEKO

DELEGATES from grassroots organisations countrywide converged on Welkom this week to fight against poverty and unemployment in the black community.

Welkom was an unlikely venue as the city was recently torn apart by the "bloody" miners' conflict at the President Steyn Mine. A white by-election won by the Conservative Party was also recently fought in neighbouring Virginia.

But there were no hitches at the first annual general meeting of the National Association of Co-operative Societies of South Africa (Nacssa).

Nacssa embraces organisations such as burial societies, women's clubs and methudzane clubs (stokvels).

Speakers emphasised the importance of advancing black economic development through such organisations in view of existing political and economic conditions.

Nacssa executive director Sam Moube said the organisation should avoid being swallowed by big business. Societies had to liberate themselves and reorient themselves to meet consumers' needs.

"In the past, societies could not engage in risk business because of the fear of financial loss. The Nacssa Funeral Scheme 4 000 relieves contributors from having to save money for the sole purpose of burial. They can now use their surplus funds for business ventures because of the cover offered by Nacssa," said Moube.

He announced that Nacssa would publish its own monthly publication, The Nacssa World, from the end of next month.
THE successful transition to a post-apartheid South Africa will depend on the ability of the economy to match the increased expectations of the newly enfranchised poor.

This view was expressed by a majority of academic panelists at the conclusion of a three-day conference of the African Studies Association at the University of Western Australia this week. Among the panel were Professor Herman Gillow and Dr. Eddie Webster of Wits, Professor Deryck Schroeder of the University of Sydney, Professor Shula Marks, director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Dr. Irene Ginszberg, head of research for the ANC.

Earlier, the Australian audience heard from Professor Gillow that economic sanctions, while contributing to the decision by the Afrikaners to negotiate an alternative to apartheid, had not played the central role their proponents claimed.

Identifying the key causes for the shift in Afrikaner thinking was more than an academic exercise, as "the direction of the shift will depend on what caused the shift."

He said: "If it was from a sense of defeat, then a fairly straightforward form of universal franchise could be expected to emerge from the negotiations."

But the evidence suggested the Afrikaner community was not negotiating from a position of weakness.
**Govt aid may be rejected**

Wilson Zwane (241)

Operation Hunger is expected to reject funds allocated to it in terms of a government plan to inject R220m into poverty relief programmes.

A source close to Operation Hunger has indicated that a letter will be written to National Health Minister Nina Venter, accusing government of "audacity" in allocating funds to Operation Hunger without the organisation having applied for such funds.

Operation Hunger would reject the funds as it was not right for government to assume how much money it needed, the source said.

The National Health and Population Department recently announced that about R350m had been set aside for Operation Hunger and the National Council for Child and Family Care.

Fourteen other organisations which managed nutrition development schemes had already received grants to the tune of R12.6m.

The department also said that in a bid to counter malnutrition-related diseases, government had allocated R16m to local and provincial clinics.

Venter announced in August that government would make R220m available until the end of March next year to provide "targeted" food aid to the poor.

---

**Liquidations soar by 45%**

Gerald Reilly

PRETORIA — Company liquidations jumped more than 45% in the three months to end-October, while sequestrations climbed 24%, Central Statistical Service (CSS) figures show.

Liquidations in the third quarter totalled 541, an increase of 45.6% compared with the same three months in 1990.

Individual and partnership insolvencies grew 24.1% in the third quarter to 1124, compared with July to September last year. This was 28% up on the second quarter.

The CSS said that in October alone 153 companies and closed corporations were placed under final liquidation, while in September 373 insolvencies were recorded.

Anns senior economist Adam Jacobs said the figures underlined the fact that the economy had deteriorated from a moderate recession in the first half of the year to deep recessory conditions at present.

The worst, he said, was not yet over. All relevant indicators were that the number of liquidations and insolvencies would continue to increase deep into next year.

He said private consumption expenditure was sharply down in the third quarter and even government spending had declined in the quarter.
Govt funding sought

OPERATION Hunger will soon make a formal application to government for funding, national deputy director Mpilo Mashimini said yesterday.

He denied reports that Operation Hunger had received millions of rands from government already.

In August, Health Minister Dr. Ntia Venter announced a government plan to inject at least R220m into poverty-relief programmes.
Depression comes at the end of a dream

A study shows the incidence of depression among the elderly in Langa is the same as in other working-class communities worldwide, but in Khayelitsha it is 44 percent, reports KATE DE SELINCOURT.

People in Khayelitsha have lost their dream. They can no longer dream of going to the city and finding their fortune; because they are — and there is no fortune to be found. As Ms Lizette Robbins, nurse at the Phlani Nutrition centres, put it: "They have reached the end of the road. There is no way out."

The Phlani nutrition centres run a valuable service for mothers of malnourished children in Khayelitsha and Crossroads. The centres offer free meals and baby milk supplements. Equally important, they give a chance for penniless women to learn rug-weaving and begin to earn a small income.

But there are some desperately poor women who move about the centres but still don't go; although their babies are starving. These women stay away because they are crippled by depression. They can no longer make the effort to help themselves or their children.

Depression is a scourge in the new townships. It can be identified as an illness — depressed people have disturbed eating patterns, they move and talk more slowly than normal. Nothing interests them, and pleasure is forgotten.

Robbins has found depression is a major obstacle keeping people from using the service.

"Some of the mothers are so depressed it is difficult to motivate them to come in, even for free food. They can see that their baby is getting thinner and thinner, but they are simply too depressed to do anything about it."

Mrs Erica Langen is director of nursing at Valkenberg Psychiatric hospital, in charge of the community clinic at Khayelitsha day hospital. She has also been disturbed by the depression in Khayelitsha patients.

"This clinic in Khayelitsha is the only one where I have seen people so depressed that they start crying, as soon as you begin to talk to them."

A study by psychologists and psychiatrists from Groote Schuur hospital has put figures to what these nursing staff have found. Dr Len Gillis and his colleagues devised a questionnaire asking people about their state of mind, how they felt about life, and about their eating and sleeping habits.

The researchers interviewed elderly people in Khayelitsha and Langa. People in Langa showed about the same incidence of depression as other studies have found in working-class communities elsewhere in the world: about 17 percent would have been classified as depressed and needing treatment by a psychiatrist. But in Khayelitsha the figures were far higher. For elderly women in Khayelitsha the figure was a frightening 44 per cent.

Almost half the Khayelitsha women interviewed said they felt life was not worth living. A man and a woman said they were slow and had lost energy; the majority had lost interest in what they did. More than half said they enjoyed almost nothing.

Poverty is obviously one of the main reasons people are depressed. People are poor in Langa, but poorer in Khayelitsha. But poverty is not the only factor. Many of the people in Khayelitsha have recently arrived from the rural areas. There, too, people have often been desperately poor, but in a relatively stable situation, with family, friends and neighbours of long standing near at hand.

When you move to the city, all that changes, as Langen described: "People who come here have to adapt to a totally different lifestyle. In the city there is a lot of anger and aggression, everyone is fighting; there are shootings at night, it's a terrible shock. And then, just as you get to know your neighbours, they move, or the government moves a whole squatter area somewhere else. There is no stability, no support."

Ms Irene Mbanga, the matron who works with Langen, describes the desperate necessity: "People build themselves a little shack, and there is a fight and it gets burned down, they have to build another one. I don't know how they can bear it, I would not survive one week of that life, not one week."

The other factor adding to people's misery is that their poverty now represents disappointment, the end of a dream.

"People come to the city believing there will be such opportunities for them, and they find unemployment and homelessness instead. It's rather like it must be when there is a gold rush and people find there is no gold," Langen says.

British psychiatrist Dr George Brown has worked for many years with working-class women with small children, often confined by poverty to the home, and has documented the importance of the support of friends, neighbours and relatives to mental health.

And he has also observed how often the trigger to depression is not necessarily a disastrous change in circumstances, such as a bereavement or retribution, but the loss of a dream.

The psychiatric clinic at Khayelitsha hospital is struggling to help depressed people who find their way there, though resources are stretched. The help offered is at present not much more than drug therapy plus a monthly visit to the sister.

The drugs are better than nothing — unusually for psychiatric patients, those being treated for depression are keen to take the medicine, so some benefit must be felt. Mbanga says they would like to do more.

"We need time for healing. We are going to try to group the patients, so we can work with them together. But it is so hard to find any space. We just have these two tiny rooms. Psychiatry always seems to get the crumbs."

The nurses' work is also hampered by the fact that on the two days a week a psychiatrist visits the clinic, they have to drop their own work to act as interpreters, as none of the psychiatrists at Valkenberg speak Xhosa. The hospital does not have a single trained interpreter.

The Groote Schuur researchers proposed "educational, psychiatric and other helpful interventions" would be needed. Anyone who can give people in Khayelitsha hope will be a healer indeed.

END OF A DREAM: Depression sets in when there seems little hope of improvements in living standards

Tackling the roots of the problem

Community development projects such as the Phlani nutrition centres in Khayelitsha and Crossroads offer a chance to tackle the roots of depression. Although begun as a project to improve children's nutrition, it quickly became clear that the main obstacle to eating well was poverty and unemployment.

A crucial part of the projects is therefore the training and facilities for rug-weaving. The rugs — the bright patterned mats sometimes seen at craft fairs around the city — have been successful enough for the weaving side of the project to start up with its own purpose-built factory warehouse, to be built next year.

Women coming to the centres have another employment opportunity, too. Many who first attended as worried mothers with sick and healthy babies are now mothers of bouncy tots — and they are now salaried nutrition advisers, educators or administrative workers, at the centres.
SOUTH readers come to Evelina's rescue

By Rehana Rossouw

FOR MRS Evelina de Brun it was a Christmas and birthday present — an R800 donation from SOUTH readers to assist her over the festive season.

She said the first thing she would buy was a new pair of shoes.

Last month SOUTH highlighted the plight of the former death row political prisoner who has been scavenging in dirt bins in Upington.

De Brun and her husband, Mr Gideon Madlangolwane, had spent two years on death row after being convicted of murdering a policeman.

In May they won an appeal against their conviction and were released. But they soon wondered whether they would have been better off behind bars.

"I've been scratching in bins for empty tins, children in town showed me how to sell them," De Brun said.

"Our lives are bitterly difficult. Some days I don't collect enough for bread."

They applied for pensions but have been rejected and told their applications are "being processed."

"If I could work I would. I'm not scared of hard work, but both Papa and I are too sick to find work. To take both of us to the doctor will cost R40 and we don't have the money."

SOUTH started an Evelina de Brun fund three weeks ago and appealed to readers to assist her and other political prisoners facing similar hardship over the festive season.

Within three weeks, R800 was donated by individuals and organisations. The money will be deposited in a bank account for De Brun in Upington — the first account she has ever had.

"Thank you very much, thank you very much," she said this week when told of the donations.

"It is my birthday on Christmas and this year it will be very enjoyable."

"When we have Christmas lunch this year we will be saying a prayer for the readers of SOUTH as well," she said.

Contributions were made by: David Kessler, R100; Tony Hoard, R75; Anonymous, R100; SOUTH staff, R225; Board for Social Responsibility, R300.
For many it's a long tr
Basic needs often neglected in rural communities

face an avalanche of demands for services, beginning with the barest essentials.

Mrs Matlala speaks for that large constituency of women and children who labour daily to carry water a couple of kilometres to their homes. In the case of Mpheleng this is because most of the communal taps in the village run dry most of the time — and only one row of taps, on the edge of the settlement, is reliable.

"Even the children carry 50 litres — it's a long way and a waste of time to bring less. Every day it's a matter of three to four hours."

The alternative is to buy water from the drum. Close to the source it costs R2.50 for 100 litres, further away R5.

After months of struggling with an unpredictable supply, the Mpheleng Water Committee was formed in June. It tried talking to officials and when that proved fruitless the women of Mpheleng mounted a demonstration. This too failed to get officials to get the water flowing.

Mrs Matlala feels they are being cheated. "We pay our taxes. Surely water is not a lot to ask?" But she also suspects that it would be easier for the people themselves to embark on a development scheme to upgrade the supply and get it into working order.

This was the route chosen by residents of Tsooneng, a village of about 9 000 people 100 km north of Mpheleng. Before they initiated their project with the help of the RAC, there were only two stand-pipes and two natural wells in the village.

In less than a year since the physical work began, the last trenches are being dug in the furthermost street of the village. Every street has three or four taps now — the maximum the water pressure will bear.

The committee's secretary Martha Mphahlele explains that residents were organised street by street to dig the trenches in front of their homes. They gained the technical skills needed for laying pipes, connecting them and erecting stand-pipes.

Infection

RAC fieldworker Philomonia Masha says some residents were reluctant to do a job which they saw as the government's responsibility. But Mrs Mphahlele says the success of the project outweighed this sentiment. "Our project has become an example to others in Lehowa. We are telling them not to fold their arms and say the government will provide."

She and other women confirm that readily available water has enabled them to plant gardens and extend their homes. On a busy day with laundry to do — they find a household easily use between 100 and 200 litres.

She says consumption usually rises sharply when water is conveniently supplied. And this has health implications, for it is quantity rather than quality of water that counts in relation to infection.

He notes that the United Nations sustained a decade-long campaign in the '80s to bring safe drinking water to all homes. Their demand largely passed South Africa by.

RAC worker Emily Singiti says she has met women in Sekhukhuneland who rise at 3:30 am to get to the water source up in the mountains before it dries up.

Her colleagues Mimi Sesoko says rural girls stay out of classes, watching and waiting at the spring for the water to rise. "The distance rural women cover collectively in fetching water is like going to the moon and back."

Gough Cooper Homes
ON THE MOVE —
WE HAVE RELOCATED OUR OFFICES TO RIVONIA
1st FLOOR, RIVONIA BOULEVARD, RIVONIA
PO BOX 3951, RIVONIA 2128

Tel: 803-6021
Fax: 803-1324

YOU CAN'T BEAT US!

Gough Cooper Homes
long trek to fetch water

They find a household easily uses between 100 and 200 litres a day. Water consumption usually rises sharply when water is not conveniently supplied. And this has health implications, for it is quantity rather than quality of water that counts in relation to infection.

He notes that the United Nations sustained a decade-long campaign in the 1960s to bring safe water to all homes. This UN decade simply passed South Africa by.

Mr Sheen says consumption usually rises sharply when water is not conveniently supplied. And this has health implications, for it is quality rather than quantity of water that counts in relation to infection.

RAC worker Emily Selfo says she has met women in Sekhukhuneland who rise at 2.30 am to get to the water source up in the mountains before it dries up.

Her colleague Malo Sekoto says rural girls and women in the community often have to carry water from a distant source. The distance is far, but the water is scarce.

Mr Sheen says the scarcity is particularly acute in winter, when water levels are lowest. The local development programme and the livelihood of thousands of villagers depend on the precious liquid.

By Susan Smuts

Community life in the Lebowa village of Diphaga is centred on a small, muddy river. There, children play, clothes are washed, water is drawn for several village industries and in the absence of toilets, ablutions are performed nearby.

Since there is no other source, drinking water is drawn from the same river — an obvious health hazard.

The scarcity of water, especially in winter, is a major problem. Residents have to travel long distances to fetch water.

Solomon Tjaite of the Sekhukhune Area Office claims that Ryan Sekhubane, one of two men claiming paramount chieftaincy (the other is RS Sekhukhune), allegedly removed the motor.

Up to 100,000 people in Diphaga and surrounding villages depend on the river, some walking up to 2 km a day to fetch water.

The advice office is negotiating with the Lebowa authorities for the return of the original pump. It is also raising funds for a new one.

Mr Tjaite illustrates the importance of the borehole to the villagers with a few examples.

During the building of a school block, tractors had to be hired to fetch water from the river and extra labour had to be paid for. With a pump, this could have been avoided.

Water pump would do wonders for villagers
ANC after billions for upliftment scheme

A drive to create a $5 billion (about R3.4 billion) scheme for development purposes is currently being spearheaded by top ANC officials, including Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki, with the project possibly coming into existence in the new year.

To be called the South African Trust for Equity and Development (Sited), it would disburse large amounts of money for housing, education and other socio-economic projects.

Sources linked to the project said it was designed to level the playing field by allowing the ANC similar patronage that is currently available to the National Party through the Government in the run-up to constituent assembly elections. Its board would be independent.

In an interview yesterday, Mr Mandela would not put a figure to the scheme, but in an earlier interview the organisation’s director for international affairs, Thabo Mbeki, said the ANC was initially aiming for $5 billion.

Full details were still being worked out, Mr Mandela pointed out.

We do not have a constitution for the trust as yet, but have the principles of what it should be.

Expectations

The trust would operate once we have instilled an interim government of national unity,” Mr Mandela said.

Sited was an initiative of the ANC and the Rockefeller Foundation’s Peter Goldmark, he continued, but as it affected all South Africans, it would be independently controlled.

Mr. Nkhulubane, a now former serving MEC, said the expectations of the people being fully satisfied.

The SA Trust, for Equity and Development will not handle the whole problem of socio-economic development in South Africa. There have been distortions of the economy on a wide scale over the last 300 years. It would take much more than Sited to rectify these problems,” he said.

Mr Mbeki said in the earlier interview that the finance would come from public and private sources and would need to be “new money” rather than resources diverted from existing pledges to the African Development Bank.

The head of the local technical committee overseeing the trust fund is University of the Transkei rector Professor Wiseman Nkhulubane.

It is believed former First National Bank chief Chris Ball has been approached to be a director — Sapa.
Towns pool resources to lift living standards

A NOVEL concept designed to uplift quality of life by harnessing co-operation between various communities has been born in Secunda and neighbouring areas in the south-eastern Transvaal. (2) (2) (2)

Sasol Coal GM Chris Cloete says the community of Secunda — where the Sasol Coal and the Sasol 2 and 3 plants are based — has joined with the people of Trichardt, eM fulfil eM, Kromdraai, Ewander and Thistle Grove to form Tekset, a co-operative community development organisation which has set up projects to uplift residents' standards of living.

Cloete, a founder member of Tekset — an acronym of the first letters of the names of the six communities involved — says in a statement the success of the new SA will depend on trust being built up now between communities.

The total population of the Tekset area is estimated at 175 000.

Cloete says “It’s no use standing around and waiting for constitutional negotiations to get under way out there before taking action. A lot can be done right now at local community level to change the quality of life for all.”

Tekset Community Development (TCD), a Section 21 company whose board comprises members of various political parties, the local chamber of commerce, the Secunda municipality, civic associations, local business and Genesis was formed recently.

“As a forum, we are working towards a community of peace, where education and other opportunities can be utilised to satisfy the needs of the community. Our achievement shows the rest of the country that it can be done,” says Cloete.

About 450 youths are currently involved in various projects, including think tanks, environmental protection, an anti-drugs organisation and a “Youth Week” this month.

“We are working towards solving educational problems so that the future can be filled by informed young people capable of building a better SA than the one they have inherited,” Cloete says.

An education programme for jobless and illiterate adults has been launched and a brickmaking project is running well. Tekset women have initiated several health, multi-racial interaction, financial planning and educational projects, says Cloete.
US study finds SA's health policies lacking

SA COMBINES the worst health consequences of industrialisation and poverty—a high incidence of heart disease among whites and widespread preventable diseases among blacks, a new US study has found.

Economic progress, it says, needs to be coupled with effective financing and management if the health status of SA's people is to improve.

The study, conducted by the SA Medical Research Council in conjunction with the Washington-based Kaiser Family Foundation, found that health policy was shaped mainly by political considerations rather than national health priorities.

Although an effective national primary health care system could significantly improve the population's health status relatively quickly, a 10% annual economic growth rate would be needed to eliminate poverty within the next decade.

SA currently spent 5.6% of its GNP on health care, compared to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) minimum standard of 5%. A disproportionate amount of this expenditure went to white health care.

SA had enough hospital beds to serve the entire population, but urban areas had a surplus while rural areas were neglected.

There was a surplus of 11,700 beds for whites but a shortfall of 7,000 for blacks.

The WHO recommended an ideal bed/population ratio of 1:200. In SA there was one bed for every 150 whites, but only one bed for every 260 blacks.

To resolve these disparities, the bureaucracy of health administration needed to be disentangled, and access to health care needed to be rationalised, with particular emphasis on removing discrepancies between rural and urban facilities.

While the need for substantial reform in the national health system was accepted by government and non-government health sectors, its nature was disputed.

The study said the state believed those who could afford to pay for care should do so, freeing more funds to subsidise state patients. The non-government sector, including liberation movements and left-wing medical groups, believed fees for service care were unequal, and that existence of a private sector undermined the public sector by offering higher salaries and better working conditions.

Next February will see the 40th anniversary of my father's death and my accession to the throne. "Over the years I have tried to follow my father's example to serve you the best I can. You gave me in return your loyalty, and I thank you for it."
POVERTY - 1992
Karoo — Land of the Forgotten People

Opinion

South

Page 9

May 16 to May 21, 1992

The Karoo is a region of stark contrasts. Its landscape is a succession of vast, arid plains, broken only by occasional waterholes and the occasional Karoo fynbos. The people who live here are equally diverse, with a mix of farmers, herders, and miners. Yet despite their differences, they all share one thing in common: a sense of isolation and a deep connection to the land.

The Karoo has always been a place of extremes. Its climate is harsh, with scorching summers and freezing winters. The landscape is windswept, with vast stretches of open plain stretching out to the horizon. Yet despite these challenges, the people of the Karoo have managed to create a way of life that is as unique as it is resilient.

The Karoo is also a place of history. It was here that the first European adventurers set foot on South African soil. It was here that the Boers established their republics. And it was here that the theatre of war once again took shape during the conflict of 1976.

Yet despite its rich history, the Karoo is often overlooked. Its people are often dismissed as primitive and backward. But this is a mistake. The people of the Karoo are proud of their heritage and their culture. They are fierce protectors of their land and are determined to preserve the traditions that have been handed down through the generations.

In recent years, the Karoo has become a popular destination for tourists. The region's beauty and its cultural richness are attracting more and more visitors each year. But the people of the Karoo worry that this newfound fame will come at a cost. They fear that the Karoo will be exploited for its natural resources, with little regard for the environment or the people who live here.

The people of the Karoo are not alone in their concerns. They are part of a larger movement across South Africa, a movement of people who are determined to protect their land and their way of life. They are fighting to ensure that the Karoo remains true to its roots, a place where the traditions of the past are preserved and the future is shaped by the people who live here.

As the Karoo continues to evolve, it is important that we remember its history and its people. It is a land of contrasts, where the past and present coexist in a delicate balance. It is a land of forgotten people, whose stories and traditions must not be lost in the rush to progress.
3 million are starving to death

MAPUTO - Mozambique estimates up to 3 million of its people could starve to death in the worst drought Southern Africa has seen this century.

The government, in collaboration with United Nations agencies, plans to ask the world this week for urgent assistance for the tormented nation of 15 million people.

“The current Southern African drought is threatening Mozambique with the worst disaster in living memory, putting the lives of millions of Mozambicans at risk,” says a draft of the appeal.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said in Rome last Thursday that 17.2 million Africans would need foreign help to survive the year, mostly because of drought, but also because of war.

- Sapa-Reuters
Massive drive to distribute food

SPOORNET said yesterday the massive drive to distribute food relief to drought-stricken areas on the subcontinent was well under way, with nearly 500 000 tons of maize already discharged, Sapa reports.

"It is the first time in the history of the UN Food Help Scheme and the World Food Programme that such an operation has been conducted as a preventative measure," Spoornet spokesman Jacques Pienaar said.

Since the first maize shipment arrived in April, Portnet had unloaded 258 334 tons of maize for local consumption and 179 101 tons for re-export to neighbouring countries. Spoornet had distributed 73% of all cargo discharged at the harbour, Pienaar said.

Meanwhile, our London correspondent reports that Natal Agricultural Union director Steve Skone said government's R3,8bn agricultural aid package was a highly complex exercise to preserve jobs and get the industry back on its feet.

The package was intended primarily to relieve the state of a commitment incurred in 1983 and 1984 to help co-operatives keep credit lines to farmers open during those years' of drought.

In the end, farmers would have to operate like any other sector open to market forces.

Sapa reports that Free State Agricultural Union GM Lullu de Jager said yesterday that interest rates were one of the main obstacles in farmers' battle to survive.

The price of primary agricultural products would have to be adapted so that the farmer was able to continue production.
WHO's Health for all thwarted by poverty

By: Steve Green

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) campaign to guarantee basic health care for everyone by the year 2000 is being thwarted by poverty, an African official said.

Botswana's health minister, Mr. Bahiti K Temane, said the target "has become unattainable in many parts of the world — definitely in Africa" because Aids is spreading and the gap between rich and poor countries is widening.

In 1978 member states of WHO, a UN agency, set themselves the goal to promote "Health for All by the Year 2000". It includes ideas like providing safe water, immunization against childhood diseases and enough nutrition for mothers and children.

"There is no way the poverty in Africa can be eliminated in eight years," Temane told WHO's annual assembly recently. "Furthermore, Aids will reverse even the little achievements that had been attained to date.

Future efforts to widen health care "will founder, as long as the rich nations are getting richer and the poor nations are getting poorer," Temane told a nearly empty meeting hall.

He asked rich countries to provide technology and help market reforms through investments.

WHO delegates are reviewing the global health programme, the framework for much of the agency's current work.

An example of how poverty overrides medical progress is cited in a WHO report to the meeting.

Treatments exist for diarrhoeal diseases like cholera — a major child killer — but little progress can be expected if people return to live in germ-infested conditions, it says.

While people are living longer everywhere, "improvements in life expectancy do not necessarily mean a healthier life," the report says.

Many scourges — cancer, cardiovascular disease, tropical sicknesses and the deadly immune system destroyer Aids — are spreading in the Third World, it says.

It admits "the expectations of health for all by the year 2000 will not be realized in most countries".

Since the end of the Cold War, developing countries have worried that western aid — already tight in an economic recession — will shift to rebuilding eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Temane said "euphoria has now cleared" after the wave of democracy in eastern Europe and signs of economic hope for Africa that ended the 1980s.

Botswana, with close economic links to neighboring South Africa, is one of Africa's richer countries.

Sapa-AP
Operation Hunger gives drought evidence, seeks US Congress aid

Crisis worse than Ethiopia's

By Hugh Robertson
Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The drought in southern Africa has caused a bigger crop loss than the devastating drought in Ethiopia and Sudan in 1984 and 1985, the Agency for International Development warned in testimony to Congress yesterday.

And the executive director of Operation Hunger, Ian Perelman, told the Africa sub-committee that although South Africa would be able to import enough maize to meet its shortfall, up to 2.5 million destitute people in the country would not be able to afford to buy it, and would be at grave risk.

Right experts from the State Department, the Department of Agriculture, other agencies and international humanitarian relief organisations gave testimony on the impact of the drought.

According to the Agency for International Development, which operates under the aegis of the State Department, the average per cent of crop loss in the region is expected to be between 50 and 60 percent.

"South Africa and Zimbabwe, which normally export grain to their neighbours, have been especially hard hit. Their crop losses are projected to be in the range of 70 to 80 percent," the AID statement said.

"This crop loss is worse than that suffered by Ethiopia and Sudan in the terrible

Row deepens over

Mum tells of hijack night

African drought of 1984-1985

"The 1984 drought required the biggest emergency relief effort ever mounted in Africa. Because of the large area and extent of the crop loss, southern Africa's needs may be even greater."

AID's statement noted that the large loss of life which occurred in the Horn of Africa in 1984 was not necessarily inevitable in southern Africa.

Several factors — the developed economies of South Africa and Zimbabwe, the early recognition of the problem by the UN, in the region and early warning of the crisis — gave realistic hope of averting catastrophe.

Mrs Perelman told the sub-committee that Operation Hunger estimated it would need $9 million a month to feed about 2.5 million people.

She said there were clear indications that the already top-heavy bureaucratic structure in South Africa, which had impeded Operation Hunger's initial distribution of funds, was to be expanded and reinforced, and might well cause "unacceptable delay and interference" in the domestic relief effort.

But she said that the government had adequate funding to purchase food, it had the necessary structures in place to deliver food aid speedily with maximum effectiveness and control.

The US has pledged almost $323 million (about R975 million) in drought assistance to the southern Africa region, and is attempting to co-ordinate an international relief effort which will include the European Community, Canada and Japan.

HARARE — Robin Drew reports that women sang and danced in a remote village in the Gwede North area of the Zimbabwe Midlands province when Christian Care launched a $1.5 million programme to provide food for famine-hit communities.

Three thousand malnourished children will benefit immediately from supplementary feeding schemes.

A feeding point in each village in the area will be run by mothers who have been given basic instruction in nutrition.

 Anglican bishops have allocated R100 000 for drought relief work, reports Sapa.

The money will be made available through churches in the sub-continent.
DOWN AND OUT AND GRATEFUL

HELPING HAND ... 'Mayor' Opatjie receives his breakfast from Mr Mgcina

FROM early morning they trickle into the park — from the stairwells of abandoned flats, from the bushes, from a nearby river bank.

A cold-water wash at the tap, a shared rolled cigarette, and the homeless men and women are ready to face the day.

Today is better than most because soon the bak-ke will arrive at this Vereeniging park with a free hot meal.

SHUNNED

Most of the men and women lining up for the pap-en-vleis are white. Those dishing up the meal are black.

Shunned by white townsfolk "because we sleep in the park", they have found help from an unlikely source — nearby Sebokeng, Sharpeville and Bopho-

keng.

The Rev John Mgcina of the New Ethiopian Church in Sebokeng and Mr John Mafokeng, a Sebokeng supermarket owner, started the feeding scheme in Feb-

uary.

They now feed an average of 150 people twice a week, financed by donations from black parishioners and from their own pockets.

Mr Mgcina's motivation is biblical — specifically the part of the scriptures which urges people to feed and clothe their needy fel-

ows.

Mr Mafokeng is involved because "when I see these people I remember my father was poor, and I ask God to give me a hand to help them."

Both agreed that there were needy people in their own township as well, but "the need is greater here."

"Black people who are poor in the townships at least have somewhere to sleep. These people have nothing," said Mr Mgcina.

QUALIFIED

"These are dear folk — though it's a bit strange to be helped by Bantus," said Opatjie, self-proclaimed mayor of the park due to his three-year stay there — with his two adult sons.

Most of the men are qualified workmen — fitters, riggers, bricklayers — but have been out of work for months.

Getting out of the hole they are in is difficult. They are turned away from jobs because of lack of experience, or denied state help because they do not have a permanent address.

WORKSHOP

Mr Mgcina's ultimate goal is to set up a home for the men, with a workshop to provide them with employment, but funds are al-

ready stretched by the feeding scheme.

"Our aim is that the community should accept them. These are the people of this country. We cannot leave them behind," he said.

"Maybe if we try, the government will think about the problem and help these people. The Minister of Health (Mr Venter) is not helping us in the Vaal. They are ignoring the problem."
‘People can’t postpone hunger’

ANC president Nelson Mandela’s intervention at CODESA 2 last Saturday is believed to have assisted greatly to get the convention back on track. Here is an extract of his address:

ANC president Nelson Mandela’s intervention at CODESA 2 last Saturday is believed to have assisted greatly to get the convention back on track. Here is an extract of his address:

leaders of our people, sit here, talk eloquently, spin out complicated formulae and enjoy the applause while the country sinks deeper and deeper into crisis?

From where can we claim the moral right to assert that we need to move with less speed? Why do we put off till tomorrow solutions that we can today?

The people cannot postpone their hunger. Similarly they do not want their freedom postponed. Anyone of us who acts to delay freedom only serves to perpetuate our bondage. This is a situation which none of us should be willing to accept.

And let none of us make the mistake of thinking that the people will do nothing to change their condition.

Not only do the masses have the right, they have the duty to engage in struggle to change their condition, change any movement or leader they see as acting against their common good.

With regard to this matter, there are a number of propositions that I would like to put to the convention as a whole. To help our country and people move forward, I would like anybody with dissenting views to speak out openly against any of these propositions.

Firstly, let us all agree that we have to create a constitution-making body, elected on the basis of one person one vote, with the votes being of equal value. Is there any party here today opposed to this?

Let us all here agree that parties elected to this body will be represented within it in proportion to the number of votes they obtain. Is there any participant who is opposed to this?

Let us all here agree that the work of drafting the constitution will be carried out within the framework of constitutional principles that have been and will be agreed here at CODESA. We cannot allow the interim constitution or any interim structure to be imposed upon or constrain the constitution-making body.

MR Nelson Mandela with the military ruler of the Transkei, Major-General Bantu Holomisa, during a recess at the second plenary session of CODESA at the weekend.
Africa's bank declares war on poverty

DAKAR — Africa's top development bank has declared war on poverty and one of its key battles will be against population growth which, at 3.3% a year, far outstrips growth in other continents.

The war against poverty is one of four strategies for the next five years adopted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) at its annual meeting which ended in Dakar on Thursday.

In a continent where economies have been ravaged by heavy foreign debt, depressed prices for mineral and farm exports, civil strife and severe drought, people are worse off on average than 30 years ago, it said.

"If the regional growth pattern of the 1960s is repeated in the 1980s, per capita incomes will fall 20% below today's levels," said Peter Freeman of Britain's Overseas Development Administration.

Yet, there is no sign of any widespread economic recovery soon in Africa, which must now compete against the former Soviet bloc and eastern Europe for aid.

"The downward trend in the African economy has been aggravated by the rapid rate of population growth," Agricultural production has not kept pace with population growth, with the result that Africa has to depend on food imports," said AfDB president Babacar Ndiaye.

Bank officials say it demands political will and extensive family planning to change attitudes in African societies which have traditionally valued large families.

Failure will be costly.

"Even if fertility rates were to fall immediately to replacement levels, it would take several decades before the increase in Africa's population growth would be arrested," said AfDB vice-president Perbat Lomes.

Other strategies in the five-year plan include rebuilding facilities damaged by neglect or war, promoting the private sector and setting up an African common market by the year 2025.

Industrialised countries reassured Africa that official development aid, which accounts for more than 40% of all investment in the continent, will continue to flow.

But they said Africa would also need substantial private investment to recover and it could attract this only if African states developed market economies, upheld the rule of law and made appropriate reforms to tax and other economic legislation.

The World Bank estimates that returns on private investment in Africa have fallen from over 30% in the 1960s to 2.5% in the 1990s.

Returns in south Asia average 20% or more, the meeting was told — Salk-Reuter
Maize rescue drive gathers pace

The giant maize import drive to alleviate the impact of one of the worst droughts in history and to supply basic food to nearly 60 million people in southern Africa is well under way.

This was said yesterday by Spoornet spokesman Jacques Pienaar, who added that the rail transporter had discharged nearly 500 000 tons of imported maize for local consumption and re-export to neighbouring countries.

Another six vessels with a combined cargo of 170 000 tons of maize were being unloaded in South African ports.

"It is the first time in the history of the United Nations Food Scheme and the World Food Programme that such an operation is conducted as a preventive measure, and South Africa's logistical abilities and capabilities have been successfully put to the test," he said.

Since the first maize shipment arrived in April, Portnet had unloaded 265 334 tons for local consumption and 179 101 tons for re-export to neighbouring countries.

Mr Pienaar said Spoornet had distributed about 73 percent of all cargo discharged at the harbours, with nearly 103 000 tons of maize already delivered locally and close to 113 000 tons delivered to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana. Another 13 trainloads were en route to Zimbabwe.

— Sapa
Emergency food aid ‘squandered in Lebowa’

EMERGENCY food supplies from the state’s poverty food relief programme had been lying unused in a Lebowa hospital for two months, Operation Hunger spokesman in the area said yesterday.

Operation Hunger northern Transvaal director Johann Russak said food rations were being squandered, despite the area experiencing its worst drought in seven years. The Lebowa government had apparently been unable to arrange transport for the food.

Operation Hunger was already feeding more than 260,000 people in Lebowa, but Russak believed it would soon have to start turning hungry people away.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

He said the Johannesburg Regional Hospital was supposed to distribute supplies allocated to Lebowa through its clinics. But four storeys of food had been left untouched for two months and another truckload of supplies had arrived yesterday.

Lebowa was allocated food worth R5.3m from the programme, whereas Operation Hunger was allocated R16m to feed 1.8 million people nationally.

Because there was transport available to distribute the food, Russak blamed the delay on bureaucratic bungling.

National Health Department director-general Dr Coen Slabber said the drought had made Lebowa one of the highest priorities in terms of relief. Although Slabber did not know about the supplies being stored at the hospital, he was aware the Lebowa government had distribution problems.

The Lebowa government had claimed it had insufficient manpower and it was being encouraged to use non-governmental organisations to streamline distribution. Slabber acknowledged his department was ultimately responsible for making sure the food reached the people.

Lebowa Health director Dr Matome Masapa said he would investigate the matter.

See Page 3
In search of a win-win solution

Raymond Parsons warns that endemic violence can lead us all to poverty and despair.
The first of nine rounds of peace talks between Renamo and the government began in Rome in July 1990. Another is expected in May — Sapa-AP

Warning of a new divide

LINDA ENSON

CAPE TOWN — There was a danger the new political system would entrench a new divide between urban whites and unskilled, urban blacks on the one hand and the unemployed urban and rural underclass on the other, SA Institute of Race Relations director John Kane-Berman warned at the weekend.

"We need to beware of replacing the tripartite Parliament with a new urban-biased, union-biased, highly centralised political system," Kane-Berman told a University of Stellenbosch Business School conference. Such a system would practise redistribution in favour of urbanised, unionised people.

He said redistribution had been too narrowly spread across the black population because of low growth and rising unemployment.

Kane-Berman said rural black people had been the victims of a double discrimination — because they were black, and again because they lived in the homelands. Drawing on a recent Standard Bank study, he said government spent nearly three times more on the 22-million urban blacks (R87bn) in the 1990-91 fiscal year than on the 14-million inhabitants of the 10 homelands (R19bn).
Judge presents case for 'second tier' rights

SA LAW Commission vice-chairman Judge P J J Olivier last week expressed support for justiciable "second generation" rights — such as the rights to food, housing and medical services — despite the costs involved.

"There is not much point in telling the poor, jobless or the illiterate that they have freedom of speech if they are starving or dying of exposure or a treatable disease," the judge told a seminar on human rights at the Goudstand College of Education.

First generation rights, such as the rights to life, liberty and a vote, evolved in Western countries during periods when their acquisition enabled citizens to prosper by using their initiative and talents.

But in the Third World, the idea of human rights evolved under circumstances of enormous population pressure, poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

Those countries had developed the view that fundamental rights also included state provision of food, housing, employment and medical care, he said.

Some Western lawyers argued that these rights were not enforceable by the courts and were, therefore, not "rights". According to this argument, they belonged in the programmes of political parties, or in a set of non-enforceable guidelines.

"The response to this is that the argument is formalistic. If there is a need for a right to be recognised, the law should find a procedure for its realisation, even if this means reforming the existing procedure."

It was also contended that the recognition of second generation rights was socialistic and would demand great economic sacrifices of the state and of those citizens who were self-supporting.

"The answer to this is that if we are earnest about human rights and justice these sacrifices are called for and that the stereotyped view of the state is outdated. If we have respect for human rights, then we cannot only have respect for those rights that suit our pockets."

Olivier said that there was a great need for human rights education among politicians and ordinary people confronted by violence and those who had benefited from circumstances of the past.

He said in the past whites opposed the idea of a Bill of Rights when it suited them, now they were seeing on it as a means of protecting themselves against the demands of the previously oppressed majority
The homeless come to pray ... and stay to scoff

There's an honest way to a free, hot meal and a place to sleep, the heads down in the city a working knowledge of the Bag Boys (even though many can hardly read or write, participation in two-hour Bible study sessions or the street "pews" who are religiously inclined, it's a choice of learning to pray or going hungry. The alternative is discreet starvation in dingy shelters.

Shelters for the 80,000 unemployed men, women and more than 500 children navigating the streets of Johannesburg will come on to the municipal agenda in the next few months when the Johannesburg City Council completes a study into the possibility of buying vacant buildings to house the city's homeless. "One idea is to relocate static people back into society systematically," says supplies officer of the council's planning and development section. The scheme is to accommodate people first and, with special job creation programmes, provide them with employment. "They don't take pictures of me, owe too many people money," growls Frankie, shuffling back his grey hair, then looking up at a shelter's soup kitchen queue. The Mission House (mission house) shelter ran on a street corner and receives accommodation project of the Dutch Reformed Church and hands out a metal at 11 am daily for "hoses, homeless and pensioners."

Mama de Jager says the mission, which receives government subsidy, "serves among the destitute people, regardless of colour. We cannot provide for their spiritual needs alone - we want to address their basic needs first. We even have a resident psychologist here."

On Tuesday it hands out a food parcel to some 200 families, this rounded off with a "family meal" on Thursday. The down-and-out crowd arrives early for a few shillings, which means time for a bit of a biblical study at the Mission House shelter. The aroma of the food makes concentration difficult for the "brothers and sisters."

The Johannesburg City Council is looking at way to house tens of thousands of city homeless ... some time in the future. BEATHUR BAKER looks at what's available in the meantime.

Most of the city shelters are religious, self-sufficient or running on donations and guided by the firm but kindly hands of a fiery pastor fulfilling a calling to work with the homeless. Often, the pastor's past is more colourful than his flock's, many are reformed drug addicts or alcoholics who "saw the light" at time.

Rules in most shelters are strict and seldom vary from one to the other. For example:

- No food is served unless the required amount of moring or evening services are attended. There is no smoking or drinking on the premises. "Brothers and sisters are strictly kept apart."
- Anyone arriving after closing time is locked out, even if you sleep on the doorstep. The "bogey" who dings up drunk or drugged is denied food and access.
- Often missions are required to carry out domestic chores in the shelter.

The Christian Coffee Bar and Shelter in downtown Johannesburg accommodate about 50 people and considers itself a safe haven for its brother and sister, disinfected sanctuaries of salvation.

In a cosmopolitan mix of local people and those from neighboring states, we find two pregnant women and several others with young children. All have been in the shelter for more than a year because "it is free and the children are fed every day."

The women share the three bedrooms and the men sleep in the church. The crowd is a good natured mix, often addicted drifters whose return to society is difficult after years of drinking methedrine sprits or wine or - for those who can sustain a more expensive addiction - a shot of Woodford or a pie of tea. These are their seat comforters, take up time and again despite numerous efforts at rehabilitation. Many remain do not sustain treatment to include after-care and supervision, and people with no next-of-kms have nowhere to go when they come out of these places.

A shelter in Berea with a homely feel about it caters for destitute teenage prostitutes and drug addicts. Run in a spacious, pretty two-story house, the shelter can accommodate up to 18 people a night, providing them with food and counseling service. It's funded by public donations, run by Jean and Adelle du Plessis - the husband and wife team who initiated the project and oversees the management committee.
ALLEVIATING the plight of the homeless should be given top priority in a new SA, delegates from about 700 stricken communities were told at the launch of Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (Omble).

The problems of the country's 10 million homeless could not be solved without proper consultation with the homeless themselves, Omble chairman Dan Moshaqo said in his opening address.

He told delegates at the Johannesburg launch that alleviating the plight of the homeless should be the top government priority in the new SA.

"This pressing problem cannot wait until a democratic government is elected," he said.

Moshaqo accused the government of "playing games with the homeless" since 1994.

He said the government's housing and land policies "are a total mess, with no hope of proper solutions for the homeless.

"We are the true victims of apartheid and it is our future which is at stake," he said.

Moshaqo said SA's massive homelessness was a direct result of the government's apartheid policies and it was a lie to say apartheid was dead if its millions of victims, particularly the homeless, were ignored.

He said the government policy of privatising key industrial and commercial enterprises, such as Iscor and the railways, had worsened the plight of the homeless.

Moshaqo said Omble demanded that the government immediately divert its resources to housing the homeless and remediying the wrongs of apartheid.

The Independent Development Trust, the SA Housing Trust and the building industry were also strongly criticised.

Moshaqo said the homeless were being ignored by the National Housing Advisory Council and the De Looze Commission which was supposed to advise the government on housing policy.
Break outlook for needy

As winter took its finals

The Star Thursday May 7 1992

FING

9
Too many, too poor

The world's resources are adequate for the sustained development of the planet, if they are carefully used, says the United Nations Population Fund report. But certain measures must be undertaken.

"The requirements will be to improve conditions for the world's 1.1 billion poorest people, to meet the legitimate aspirations of the three billion who are neither rich nor very poor, to cut the environmental cost of development and distribute its benefits more equitably," suggests the report.

Progress towards these goals calls, among other things, for slower population growth.

Currently, the world's population is 5.48 billion and will reach six billion in 1998.

"Nearly all this of this population growth will be in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Over half will be in Africa and south Asia," the report says.

Much depends upon action to reduce family size during the next decade.

Part of this action hinges on access to information and the means of deciding the size and spacing of the family.

The solution to this population time-bomb could lie in two areas - development of human and natural resources.

"Ending absolute poverty, improving health and education and raising the status of women" could be a solution that would contribute to slower, more balanced population growth.

Special attention should be given to Africa and south Asia "where more than half of the increase in population and the majority of the world's absolute poor are found"
Agencies in bid to aid refugees

Northern Transvaal Bureau

PHALABORWA — With Mozambican refugees continuing to stream across South Africa’s eastern border, several agencies are joining forces to relieve their plight by providing clothing, food, medical services and other essentials, while also trying to deal with the social problems created by the influx. More than 500 people arrived at the Humulani refugee settlement, near the Kruger National Park, at the weekend. Many had walked about 150 km, driven by fear and hunger.

When The Star visited the settlement this week, destitute groups of men, women and children were being registered and categorised for assistance.

Gazankulu director of health services Dr Frans Maluleke said his government had asked the Medical University of South Africa to assist with the management of health services.

The university’s institute for community services had built a clinic, and a mobile school had been established with money from the Dutch government, he said.

The SA Catholic Bishops Conference, the SA Brewery Community Trust and church organisations were among others giving support.

Most refugees were allowed to build homes at the settlement. Others were taken in by local communities, through special care groups.

Those who found employment were taken off the refugee list and given temporary work permits.

The story of Ataha Momba, a mother of three, had a happy ending. She said her husband had found temporary work in Johannesburg, and she planned to leave the settlement soon.

Another refugee told of long days and nights trekking across the Kruger Park, where some had succumbed to hunger and thirst, while others had been mauled or killed by predators and bitten by snakes.

Many reckoned the risks were worthwhile to escape the war in Mozambique and the prospect of prolonged hunger and unemployment.
Winter's icy chill from

GROWING HUNGER: Long queues form every day outside the Salvation Army's Clevenham Centre in Berea, where they are given at least one meal a day — a ration of soup and bread or buns. Sometimes as many as 200 show up and many have
as homeless seek a refu

From Page 10

to the terror of the streets Mothers undress in public to sleep on a cold cement floor.

Indignation at the fact that nothing is being done to rectify the situation Officialdom seems to be at its wits' end as to what to do about the numbers who come to form this make-shift society.

City officials point out that the problem is not of the city's making and that it is actually a national problem. They intone learnedly about rural urban migration and seem to regret the ending of the pass laws and influx control.

"We are investigating the homeless problem," says Johannesburg urbanisation department head Gerd Sipple, "to learn more about it.

"We have to identify the different problems to develop different solutions. Later this month we shall be holding a workshop to bring together organisations already involved in the provision of shelter in an attempt to identify a strategy which might lead to the allocation of resources..."

"When the time comes to put up a shelter, we will probably be blamed and neighbours will be screaming about it," he concluded grandly.

Meanwhile it's 4 am, the winds begin to howl outside the station as the people on the platforms begin to stir. The hawkers and small tradesmen look around and gather their precious wares in huge paper bags and make their way out onto the streets.

Here a derelict, hungover bum carefully folds his newspaper and plastic blanket and stashes it behind a bench.

- And over there a woman from Transkei and her three tribal sisters, who trade in beads and curios from Zimbabwe, shake off their communal shawl, gather their belongings and silently leave Platform 3, hoping that tonight they might again be lucky enough to secure a place in the warm luggage bin.

BREAK TIME: It's hard times everywhere in the city. These two unemployed men take a moment's respite from a long day of job-hunting outside the Salvation Army centre in Berea.
FROM all corners of the city, and the country, they descend on Johannesburg's Park Station to find a place to rest their weary heads. JOE LOUW finds out what it's like to have no home.

AS WINTER spreads its icy tentacles, thousands of homeless people descend nightly on Johannesburg's main railway terminal at Park Station to seek refuge from the cold.

Not only do they descend on the station from all corners of the city, others come from remote corners of the country. Standerton, Upington, Cathcart, Many even come from as far away as Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland - all looking for a warm, safe place to sleep in the City of Gold.

Still others are some of the hawkers and fruit sellers and vendors who ply the city's streets with their wares, afraid to return to Soweto or other townships if their jobs have kept them too long in town.

There are mothers and their children, and orphaned street children.

There are men who have long since lost everything they've ever had, swaying drunkenly among the huddled masses, cursing a world they claim never gave them a chance. Their slovenly women cattishly argue among themselves over trifles: a piece of cake someone rescued from a garbage bin or who should have the last slug of wine.

There are of course the bully boys - young street-wise toughs who hog the best benches and warmest corners. They glower and boast and jest at each other and always seem to find something to yell about. And nobody dares to breathe a word of protest.

They occupy every available space on the lower part of the station. In the huge hallways of the second and third-class sections they sleep seven-deep, row after row as far as the eye can see.

Some are rolled in sheets of plastic, others luxuriate under brand new shawls.

There are the outcasts who can sleep standing up in the tiny confined space of a ticket examiner's cage and others - black, white, Asian, there is no apartheid in poverty - who curl up in tandem on a bench, one on top of the other like kippers in a box.

LORDS OF THE UNDERWORLD: Among the homeless are the "regulars" who have occupied Park Station for years on end ... they hog the space and occupy entire benches.

Photographs: JOE LOUW
Coast bundles as starvation stalks the land

A PINNED ON MOLASSES—

COUNTY BUNDLES AS STARVATION STALKS THE LAND

PREVIOUS PAGE

[Image of a map or diagram with text overlay]
Rohlhlalahla School a wonderful example

INDEPENDENT Development Trust chairman Mr Jan Steyn yesterday called on national, regional and local leaders across the political spectrum to commit themselves to working towards the eradication of poverty and deprivation.

Steyn was speaking at the official opening of the Rohlhlalahla Primary School on the East Rand.

"We need to give those without houses, the uneducated and those who do not have access to healthcare hope of a better future," he said.

"We can do this through well-structured programmes capable of being sustained over time," he said.

The commitment of ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela, President FW de Klerk, Inkatha Freedom Party leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Pan Africanist Congress deputy president Mr Dikgang Moseneke was needed to be bolstered by regional and local leaders.

"South Africans must join hands in creating a new future by building," Steyn added.

The school was funded with R200 000 raised within the 100 000-strong Etwatwa community and R1.8 million from the IDT. About 400 labourers were given jobs and trained to construct the school.

Steyn said, "In Etwatwa we saw the involvement of the community in providing money and labour. Your community trust raised over R200 000 towards the cost of the school.

"You have set a wonderful example of not only benefiting from empowerment, but also of accepting the responsibilities associated with it." - Sopa
Chances were ‘squandered’

Political Staff

VALUABLE opportunities in the rationalisation of government development assets have been squandered through a mass of bureaucratic structures, the De Loor committee of inquiry found.

"Unfortunately vested interests have too often prevented sound conclusions and recommendations by previous investigations to come to fruition and often new ad hoc decisions were taken without fully relating them to the impact they might have on existing structures and policies."

The committee, whose report was completed in October 1990 and handed to the government, said that in many of these instances political factors played a dominant role.

Its confidential report has never been published, but the Cape Times obtained a copy.

Its findings show that despite the urgent need for development aid to poor communities, a vast administrative bureaucracy was established with considerable overlapping and duplication, wasting much of the official effort to deal with the problems of poverty in South Africa.

The committee said that in the first phase of the past 40 years, apartheid was the overriding objective and development assistance was aimed at the attainment of political and economic independence for the homelands.

The second phase, started in the early 1980s, was an effort to recognise economic realities but apartheid structures remained and were even expanded.

The third phase, commenced in the late 1980s, was non-racial in approach and although many racial structures were still in place, they would probably be dismantled soon.

Inquiry found ‘duplication’

By DARRY STREEK

Political Staff

A SECRET government inquiry, completed 18 months ago, strongly criticised the “proliferation” of official institutions, funds and role-players involved in development assistance.

Thus, it said, had resulted in the wasteful application of scarce human, financial and managerial resources “because of the overlapping and duplication of activities”.

The report of the nine-person committee of inquiry, headed by former auditor-general Mr Joop de Loor, was completed in October and handed to the former minister of administration and economic co-ordination, the late Dr Wim de Villiers.

At the time, Dr de Villiers said that after the report had been studied, further steps would be considered, but little action has been taken since then and the proliferation of government bodies involved in development work has continued.

The overlapping and duplication of activities has gone on, despite the fact that these departments and agencies are at the forefront of official government policy to remove economic and social backlogs and reduce inequalities.

The “confidential” Report of the Committee on Development Assistance has not been published before and publication of it was “restricted”.

The report reveals a remarkable bureaucratic mess in the provision of development aid to underprivileged communities, much of which could have been rectified regardless of the constitutional changes being negotiated.

The committee even proposed interim steps to address most of the deficiencies it found and it said that rectifying many of the present problems was not dependent on constitutional development, but few of its proposals have been implemented.

"Apart from the present incoherent institutional arrangement of development agencies, a number of other important deficiencies were also identified."

The most important one in this respect can be related to the lack of a sound system of financial relations between different levels of government.”

The committee said central government departments should, as far as possible, be responsible for policy advice to the executive, and for macro-planning, financing, monitoring and co-ordination, and that every public sector institution should take responsibility for the total spectrum of the South African population.

It also recommended that development projects and programmes should as far as possible be executed by the second and third tiers of government and that the co-ordination of development policy be undertaken by a new institution that also accepted responsibility for the facilitation of development, macro-economic analyses, planning, co-ordination and advice.

Golf

development

An app zone the rail to area has with the key local

This has used, an aged that ines well.

The app take up months

Sales c probabl next near said. The was like.

Mr Retu week end course was striceted to the club (Mr Uno, the pr) signed as develop nature are and golf e

Future will much of the exist to a top-qu an.

The ma Jonkereh, convert country “with p sutes to main hou to the c

The ho about 30

The re have 140 vews on yards t

A "half winery a with cell designed tegral par attraction

Access will be on Road, wh of the golf able to Toka Ro security c

Too class: d

EDV

Dens and ever ber Garde Be. David

Residents
Chances were 'squandered'.

Political Staff
VALUABLE opportunities in the rationalisation of government development assistance had been squandered through a mass of bureaucratic structures, the Dr Doek committee of inquiry found.

"Unfortunately vested interests have too often prevented sound conclusions and recommendations by previous investigations to come to fruition and often new ad hoc decisions were taken without fully relating them to the impact they might have on existing structures and policies."

The committee, whose report was completed in October 1989 and handed to the government, said that in many of these instances political factors played a dominant role.

Its confidential report has never been published, but the Cape Times obtained a copy.

Its findings show that despite the urgent need for development aid to poor communities, a vast administrative bureaucracy had been established with considerable overlapping and duplication, wasting much of the official effort to deal with the problems of poverty in South Africa.

The committee said that in the first phase of the past 40 years, apartheid was the overriding objective and development assistance was aimed at the attainment of political and economic independence for the Homelands.

The second phase, started in the early 1980s, was an effort to recognise economic realities but apartheid structures remained and were even expanded.

The third phase, commenced in the late 1980s, was non-racial in approach and although many racial structures were still in place, they would probably soon be dismantled.

Inquiry found ‘duplication’

World Bank finding backed

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

A SECRET government inquiry, completed 18 months ago, strongly criticised the “proliferation” of official institutions, funds and role players involved in development assistance.

This, it said, had resulted in the wasteful application of scarce human, financial and managerial resources “because of the overlapping and duplication of activities.”

The report of the nine-person committee of inquiry, headed by former auditor-general Mr. Joop de Loor, was completed in October and handed to the former minister of administration and economic coordination, the late Dr Wim de Villiers.

At the time, Dr de Villiers said that after the report had been studied, further steps would be considered, but little action has been taken since then and the proliferation of government bodies involved in development work has continued.

The overlapping and duplication of activities has gone on, despite the fact that these departments and agencies are at the forefront of official government policy to remove economic and social backlogs and reduce inequalities.

The “confidential” Report of the Committee on Development Assistance has not been published before, and publication of it was “restricted”.

The report reveals a remarkable bureaucratic mess in the provision of development aid to underprivileged communities, much of which could have been rectified regardless of the constitutional changes being negotiated.

The committee even proposed interim steps to address most of the deficiencies it came across and it said that rectifying many of the present problems was not dependent on constitutional development, but few of its proposals have been implemented.

Apart from the present incoherent institutional arrangement of development agencies, a number of other important deficiencies were also identified.

“The most important one in this respect can be related to the lack of a sound system of financial relations between different levels of government.”

The committee said central government departments should, as far as possible, only be responsible for policy advice to the executive, and for macro-planning, financing, monitoring and co-ordination, and that every public sector institution should take responsibility for the total spectrum of the South African population.

It also recommended that development projects and programmes should as far as possible be executed by the second and third tiers of government. That the coordination of development policy be undertaken by a new institution that also accepted responsibility for the facilitation of development, macro-economic analyses, planning, co-ordination and advice.

Golf
development
other kind

An app zone the rail to area has with the Cley local.

This has used, and aged, that says will.

The app takes up months.

Sales of probably next year said the was likely March 10.

Mr. Rete weekend course restricted to the club 0.

Mr. Unc the project signed as development are and golf e.

Future will include of the excess a top-quarter.

The man Jonkeral converted country with pre-suites to main house to the d plan.

The host about 30.

The rest have 140 views by yards t mountain.

A “half-winery” with cell designed, integral par attraction.

Access will be on Road, the golf able to.

Tokai: Rok security e.

Too class di.
ON behalf of The Salvation Army I thank the people of South Africa for their outstanding response to the Red Shield Appeal. The appeal has been overwhelmingly successful, thanks to the generous, hearted, freely giving public.

Over R2.5 million has already been raised towards the R5 million goal. The people who massed the knock on the door are sending their gifts to PO Box 32217 Braamfontein and we believe the goal will truly be reached.

The increase in the 1992 appeal was exemplified in some of the southern areas of Johannesburg where an 80 per cent increase was recorded.

Such giving will enable the Salvation Army to continue feeding the 2 million people annually as it already does and make a vital contribution towards meeting the needs of new people coming to our goodwill centres.

The numbers have increased by between 40 per cent to 60 percent in the first three months of 1992.

We particularly thank the media for their support.

MAJOR DENIS G.
LORIMER,
Public relations
secretary,
JOHANNESBURG.
Bleak winter for rural millions

Ina Perlman . people in the Free State and Highveld die of exposure every year and there could be an unprecedented toll this year.

By Peter Davies

The depression and drought could see more than 2.5 million South Africans desperate for food by the end of the year, and Operation Hunger director Ina Perlman predicts "maximum deprivation" - a combination of severe hunger and cold - for many rural people this winter.

Already, nearly 2 million people are kept alive by daily food from Operation Hunger, but funds are fast running out.

The State recently provided a three-month grant of R10 million, but according to Mrs Perlman, the organisation needs more than R9 million a month to meet its food budget alone.

With winter approaching, Mrs Perlman said in an interview yesterday, a "huge concern" was new squatter camps.

"They have little to eat, and the grant doesn't cover the 100,000 or so blankets (costing nearly R1 million) we want to distribute.

"People in the Free State and Highveld die of exposure every year and there could be an unprecedented toll this year. We hope to distribute blankets, plastic sheeting and corrugated tin in squatter areas, but feeding schemes are our priority."

Operation Hunger has applied for a fresh Government grant to allow feeding to continue.

"I hope the next lot of Government money will come through so there is no break in feeding.

"Our R9 million monthly food budget needs to continue to the end of the year at least, when hopefully rains will come in time to allow us to reduce the level of financial aid needed."

Mrs Perlman has suggested that one way to pre-empt rural starvation would be to introduce a minimum wage for farm labourers.

Chief economist for the SA Agricultural Union Dr Koos du Toit said new labour legislations currently being negotiated would be applicable to agriculture.

"The new budget set aside R1 billion as disaster and fund for agriculture. We are very pleased, but think at least R2-billion is needed, not only for farmers but for the labourers' benefit too."

Last month the Ministry of Health made R20 million available for a food assistance programme to aid drought-stricken farmers and their labourers.
SA, neighbours discuss food aid master plan

PRETORIA — A master plan to fend off widespread famine in southern Africa will be discussed in the Union Buildings today at a crisis meeting of government officials from southern African states.

SA's ports will be the gateway through which much of the huge amounts of food aid from abroad will be channelled, according to government sources.

Chairing Foreign Affairs Africa deputy director general Derek Auret, today's meeting will include senior government representatives from Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana. A commercial official from Mozambique will also be present. Representatives of the donor community have also been invited.

Spoornet chief director of land transport management Len Dreyer will represent Transnet.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman said yesterday that the conference would discuss the extent of relief needed in the various countries, the logistics of transporting the grain from the ports and the vital aspect of determining transport priorities.

GERALD REILLY

A senior Transnet spokesman said yesterday that SA's ports and its rail system could cope with up to 8,2-million tons of imported maize and other grains, including SA's own import requirement of 5-million tons this year.

It is understood the Maize Board will assist by making silo space available for imported maize until it can be loaded onto the grain trains.

The current drought has destroyed most maize and other crops throughout southern Africa. The UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) estimated last week that 11,5-million tons of imported food would be needed to limit the threat of starvation in the region.

The FAO estimated that drought alone had exposed 13-million Africans to possible starvation and whole regions to famine.

Sapa reports from Cape Town that Finance, Water Affairs and Forestry Deputy Minister Japie van Wyk told Parliament yesterday that the SA and Zimbabwean governments were investigating 24-hour shipments of food aid.
Population-growth warning (24-1)

The population growth experienced by South Africa is far too rapid, says the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association.

In its annual report released yesterday, the PMA says the current generation “is indeed the last” one that can do something about the struggle for survival.

Soar

It says the growth rate is “dangerously high” at 2.5 percent per annum.

This in turn means that the country’s current population of 29.3 million could soar to an unmanageable 138 million by the year 2000.

“Scientific research indicates that, in view of socio-economic factors and the availability of natural sources of subsistence, South Africa cannot provide meaningful housing, education, employment and medical care for more than approximately 30 million people,” the report adds.

Education alone, it has been calculated on the 1982 cost index, would cost R1.7 billion a year.

It was vital for South Africa to maintain a growth rate of 5 percent per annum, just to accommodate newcomers to the labour market.

The report says “Taking South Africa’s growth rate over the past couple of years into consideration, we have fallen short — and indeed, miserably short — of achieving this target.”

Referring to statements made by extra-parliamentary groups such as the African National Congress (ANC) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the PMA adds that if South Africa elected for socialism “the chances of a growth rate of the magnitude indicated will never be achieved.”

It also warns that failure to control population growth could result in South Africa facing conditions similar to those in Ethiopia, the Sudan, Kenya and other African countries.

“Famine, poverty, unemployment and total degeneration will be the legacy that the current generation will leave to the future,” says the PMA.

Already in the Southern African region, unemployment and underemployment had reached what the PMA describes as “horrific proportions, particularly if consideration is given to the positions that pertain in the independent and self-governing states.”
2.5 million people face starvation

THE depression and drought could see more than 2.5 million South Africans desperate for food by the end of the year. There will be a combination of severe hunger and cold for many rural South Africans this winter.

Already, nearly two million people are kept alive by daily food from Operation Hunger, but funds are fast running out.

The State recently provided a three-month grant of R10 million, but, according to Operation Hunger's director, Mrs Sowetan Correspondent Ina Perlman, the organisation needs more than R9 million a month to meet its food budget alone.

"With winter approaching, Perlman said this week a "huge concern" was new squatter settlements mushrooming on the outskirts of "virtually every town."

"It's a major worry. Many of these people have moved from a mud hut to a cardboard shack. They have little to eat and the grant doesn't cover the 100,000 or so blankets - costing nearly R1 million - we want to distribute.

"People in the Free State and Highveld die of exposure every year and there could be an unprecedented toll this year.

"We hope to try and distribute blankets, plastic sheeting and corrugated tin on squatter areas but of course feeding schemes are our priority," said Perlman.

Operation Hunger has applied for a fresh Government grant to allow feeding to continue.

"I hope the next lot of Government money will come through so there is no break in feeding. In 1982, 50 per cent of people in rural areas still had some form of migrant labour income to help tide them over.

"Now, 10 years later, that figure has dropped to 20 per cent. Our R9 million monthly food budget needs to continue to the end of the year at least," she said.
Food relief project is up and running

PRETORIA — The massive food relief project to fend off starvation in southern Africa was fully under way with thousands of tons of maize being offloaded daily at SA ports and railed to Zimbabwe and Mozambique, a Transnet spokesman said yesterday.

He assured Transnet’s usual clients that there would not be disruption of normal commercial traffic.

Road hauliers were experiencing congestion at Beira Bridge, but Spoor-net was confident the grain trains would run regularly from the ports with no delays.

Seven trains had offloaded 7,980 tons of maize in Zimbabwe since April 16. Another train was expected to pass through Beira Bridge last night with 2,900 tons of maize, and a ninth was expected later today.

Zambia has received two train loads of maize through Beira Bridge. Another four are in transit.

The remaining loads from two ships with a total cargo of 20,390 tons will be railed at a rate of two trains a day to each of the countries.

Yesterday another 4,000 tons of maize for Zimbabwe arrived at Durban, 10,000 tons of barley was on a ship anchored outside Durban harbor, and 56,003 tons more maize was expected in eastern Cape ports before the end of the month.

Sapa-Reuters reports Zimbabwe’s Grain Marketing Board chairman Cephas Msapa acknowledged that a hiccup in the supply chain could cause serious problems for Zimbabwe “We are still living from hand to mouth, although the situation has improved significantly. But one supply train derailment could upset our supplies completely,” he said.

Msapa said Zimbabwe would have to import 1.6- to 1.7-million tons of maize before the next harvest.

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen said after meeting President Robert Mugabe in Harare yesterday the US would give Zimbabwe substantial drought relief. It would donate 700,000 to 800,000 tons of maize to the southern African region.

Meanwhile, relief workers warned in Harare that in six months southern Africa could be plunged into famine far worse than that experienced in the Horn of Africa seven years ago, Sapa-AFP reported.

Save the Children (US) regional director Gerard Salo is said “This is the megadrought that is going to knock all other droughts and other crises of Africa into insignificance. It’s a Cape-to-Cairo affair.”

Salo is involved in relief work during the 1998 famine in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

Tove Wang of Norwegian relief agency Redd Barna said “We have five to six months of a pre-famine situation. The challenge is to prevent it.” Unless red-tape was cut and donors pledged generously, famine would strike the region in six months.

About 10-million tons of grain are needed by SA, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia to feed about 60-million people during the next 12 months.
Big-hearted Sis Olga – SA’s very own Mother Teresa

By Brian Sokutu

"Mother Orange Farm’s" work to educate the children of the poor rural community of Rietfontein, near Grasmere, has gained her a reputation akin to that of India’s Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa.

Olga Lutu (40) is physically huge and has a heart to match. In Orange and Wheeler’s farms, near Rietfontein, she is popularly known as "Sis Olga" or "Mother of Orange Farm".

Ms Lutu has leased a 325 ha Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) farm on which she has established a residence and community training centre for those desperate to acquire skills in sewing, farming, bricklaying and woodworking.

At yesterday’s meeting held at her home with businesswomen and diplomats, Ms Lutu’s description of the plight of her people so impressed British vice-consul Clive Wright that he promised to look into possible British funding of her training centre.

"For too long we’ve been deprived of development, especially in rural areas. For too long some people spoke for us, but now it is time to speak for ourselves. So we appeal to you for funding to reach our goals," Ms Lutu said.

Mr Wright cautioned that because of Britain’s policy on foreign funding, it would be unable to offer sizable funds to her community projects before an interim government had been installed in South Africa.

Sewing students who work from the Lutu home are remunerated with profits made from the sale of garments.

The Olga Lutu Training Centre is not the only contribution the mother of four has made to the rural community.

She is also the brains behind mushrooming rural community schools near Grasmere, having pioneered the first school in the area while staying at the Wheeler’s Farm in 1982.

Arrested

"As chairman of the civic organisation at the time, I invited parents to a meeting and told them to convert homes into places of education for our children," she said.

Newspapers and books were used to teach children English.

After establishing the first community school at her home, Ms Lutu said she was arrested on several occasions for establishing "an illegal school!" She was, however, not charged.

Her former home – Drezek Plot No 10 – is now a secondary school to more than 300 pupils, and is recognised by the Department of Education.

With the 15 percent subsidy she gets from DET Ms Lutu is able to pay a teacher a R475 monthly salary.

Despite having been burgled last Thursday, the eight-roomed Drezek Plot No 10 continues to be a living hope to many parents and children.

In the burglary, windows and doors were broken and expensive fax and photocopying machines stolen. Ms Lutu has laid a complaint with Orange Farm police, but no one has yet been charged.

"We caught the thieves red-handed at 10 pm on Thursday inside the house and took them to the police station, with the keys of the vehicle they drove, but today they’ve been released.

"The person who guarded the house was arrested and is now out on a R60 fine for assaulting the culprits."

Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said last night that he could confirm that a man had been arrested in connection with the burglary. The man had appeared in the De Deur Magistrate’s Court yesterday and had been released on bail.
National campaign to focus on homeless

Operation Masekane for the Homeless is to launch a national campaign to focus on the plight of millions of homeless people.

More than 1,000 representatives of 700 homeless communities will attend a four-day conference from April 29 to May 2, which chairman Dan Moshugi said would help them to co-ordinate their efforts.

"With winter approaching, many homeless people will die from exposure in their cardboard and plastic shanties," Moshugi warned.

He called for "all of South Africa" to help homeless people to help themselves."
Development & booming business

Special Government Report

The upliftment of SA's underprivileged is a huge industry.

Development consumes between 10 and 20 percent of the government's annual budget, with between R10-billion and R20-billion earmarked for development in the 1992-1993 financial year. Some 10 000 non-government organisations (NGOs) spend about R2-billion annually on development while the private sector also spends huge amounts annually.

One would expect the development industry (public and private sector) to plan with circumspection and co-ordination, but the opposite is true.

De Loor

Spokesmen who have had access to the De Loor Report on the government's development effort, have identified numerous shortcomings. Little wonder the report has not yet been published.

They say in mitigation that apartheid has been responsible for the duplication of functions but inefficient administrative, management and accounting systems have made misappropriation of money so much easier.

At central government level the departments of Regional and Land Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, Manpower, Agriculture and Water Affairs are involved in development.

Then Own Affairs administrators another 10 to 15 development funds.

Institutions and corporations also act as development agents for the government. These include the Development Corporation (IDC), the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC), the SA Housing Trust (SAHT), the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the Oil Reserve Fund.

To add to this the administration of four “independent” states and six “self-governing” territories each with departments involved in development.

There are also the development corporations and institutions like regional services councils and black local authorities which are also involved in development projects.

Senior development officials have agreed on the following “solutions”:

- Central government (government departments) should withdraw from development projects and the State should only give direction to institutions appointed at grassroots level.
- Only two institutions should execute development projects at grassroots — one to take care of infrastructure development (including housing and urban infrastructure) and the other to deal with business development.

For example, the Development Bank can handle infrastructure development and the SBDC and the IDB business development.

Institutions like the SAHT, the IDT, the Oil Reserve Fund and the SADT must go.

The Development Bank, the Industrial Development Corporation and the SBDC should then control development through a network of regional offices in accordance with a national development strategy determined and co-ordinated by the government's Department of Development.

A central treasury should be formed to control all funds earmarked for development.

Codesa

It would then pay off money on the instruction of the government department to one of the two types of development institution.

The money would then flow to regional offices for spending.

However, such a new model should first be put on the agenda at Codesa.

But observers agree that proposals made in the De Loor Report should take place without delay. This would ensure better control over money for development and a better idea can be formed about the total development programme.
Bleak outlook for large poor sector

PRETORIA — A large percentage of SA’s population, now and in the future, would be unable to afford enough food to maintain health and support development, Agriculture Department Deputy Director-General C S Blignaut said at the weekend.

Stressing that the affordability of food was under great pressure, Blignaut said consumer income was low because of unemployment and negative or weak economic growth.

The economy would not recover overnight, he told a Fertiliser Society of SA meeting.

Stellenbosch University’s Institute for Future Research said SA consumers in the year 2000 would be overwhelmingly black and poor — even if the economic growth rate was 5%.

A simple and obvious solution would be to introduce price control on farm products and consumer prices, Blignaut said.

Another option was to open up the country’s borders so that highly subsidised foods could be dumped in SA. This might solve the food affordability problem in the short term, but the unemployment problem and the problem of low economic growth would worsen drastically.

Before the drought struck, the economic growth rate was estimated at between 2% and 3%. Taking the drought into account, no growth or negative growth was expected.

Blignaut said the destruction of agriculture through a cheap food policy would have catastrophic effects on rural communities.

SA’s rapid population growth was placing increasing pressure on agricultural resources.

It was estimated that over the next few decades the area of arable land per capita would fall well below the accepted norm of 0.4ha.

Recent studies showed less than 14% of the total land area was suitable for dry-land cropping and of this only about 3% was high potential land.

Water resources for irrigation farming were already overtaxed. Blignaut said there was little scope for horizontal expansion in the long term. SA had to be careful not to slip into the pattern of most sub-Saharan countries.

Blignaut said many technically correct arguments could be made to explain the widening gap between the PPI and the CPI.

However, the disturbing increase in the CPI could not be laid at the door of agriculture.

He said the incomes of 50% of the SA population were lower than the minimum subsistence level, but in the case of blacks the figure was as high as 63%.

In rural areas, income of 90% of the population were lower than the minimum.

Speaking on poverty and underdevelopment last week, Regional and Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers warned that national, regional and local levels could not be placed on hold while the outcome of political negotiations was awaited.

Opening a session of the KaNgwane legislative assembly, he said SA faced daunting development problems, including insufficient economic growth, poverty and one of the world’s highest population growths.

The economic marginalisation of rural areas was another...
'Ambivalent message on poverty relief'

By Shirley Woodgate

The Budget has failed to meet the demands of the South African Black Social Workers' Association (Sabswa) which claims the crisis in welfare services was not properly addressed.

Sabswa is concerned that no changes have been made concerning the implementation of VAT, and that the zero rating on foodstuffs has not been re-introduced.

The increase in poverty relief indicated an ambivalent message regarding the programme. "On the one hand the Government authorises the relief funds, but the funds do not reach the needy due to bureaucratic hitches," Sabswa said.

Parity in pensions was still not a reality, but Sabswa noted that public pressure had convinced the Government to reduce the deadline from four years hence, to 1993.

Inadequate social workers' salaries were not upgraded, which meant the pay packets were still not market-related.
Mandela says Budget insensitive to the poor

CAPE TOWN — The Budget was a rich man’s Budget and ignored the political process taking place in SA, ANC president Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

“Because the Budget plays such an important role in the redistribution of resources we would expect some consultation, especially with the ANC,” Mandela told a news conference.

“It is quite inappropriate in our view that (government) could bring out a Budget which is so insensitive without taking into account the views of the organisation which is responsible for this process.

“Over the years, we have been faced with the question that the Budget has always been looked at from the point of view of the whites, not from the point of view of the poor. The announcement by (Finance Minister) Barend du Plessis that the zero-rating of basic foodstuffs is going to be lifted is something that is extremely insensitive.”

THEO RAWANA reports that ANC economics policy spokesman Max Sisulu told a seminar in Johannesburg that a feature of the Budget was its “ethnical allocation” and its lack of “transparency.”

The seminar was organised by the Nafeco economic research unit, the Southern Transvaal African Chamber of Commerce (Southaco) and the Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

“The budget was undemocratic in that the people had no part in its planning, it was framed to address apartheid priorities and we have no way of getting a breakdown of allegations and monitoring these,” Sisulu said.

Molefe Mafolo, of the PAC’s economic committee, said: “The Budget comes from corporate and business taxes, our income tax and other sources, but distribution fails to improve the quality of life like social services roads and housing.”

Instead of addressing the allocation of land for farming and housing to those from whom land had been taken, government had given R1bn to farmers who had been hit by the drought.

SAPA reports that Cosatu yesterday described the Budget as “mean and misleading”.

Cosatu is said Du Plessis had often referred in his Budget speech to the need for discussion and consensus, but he had failed to discuss any part of the Budget or his social programmes with representatives of “the people”.
Critical time ahead as famine looms

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

THE financial position of consumers is critical, according to the chairman of the South African Consumer Union, Mrs Lilibeth Moolman. Unemployment, inflation and rapidly increasing food prices create great problems and many consumers actually face famine. The belt can no longer be tightened because, for many consumers, the belt is already at its tightest.

The fact that the VAT rate has remained unchanged is to be welcomed, she says. It is, however, regrettable that the temporary relief on certain basic foods has been terminated.

She said that consumers had not only hoped that the exemptions would be made permanent, but that they would be extended to include all basic foods, medical services and medicine, water and electricity.

It was a pity that the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, did not see his way clear to do this.
MORE than 50 percent of South Africa's blacks are below the age of 20 and about the same percentage are illiterate, thereby fuelling a vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty.

This is the view of the Foundation for Research Development in their latest position paper on "Rural Poverty." The plight of about 13 million illiterate and poverty-stricken people living in South Africa's vast rural areas, the FRD said, was compounded by one of the highest population growth rates in the world.

The FRD outlined major issues on how rural inhabitants could be empowered to create a better future for themselves and their children.

The individual income of blacks in rural communities revealed a depressing scenario, according to the FRD.

"In fact it has been estimated that 50 percent of South Africans live below the minimum living level and in the black population, this percentage rises to approximately 66 percent.

"In rural areas, almost four-fifths of the population live below their survival threshold."

The FRD also revealed that people in rural areas faced serious housing problems

"Poor communities have largely been left to design and build their own houses, often from scrap materials."

For many of the children in rural areas, depressed socio-economic conditions, widespread environmental degradation and an impoverished education system "put paid to what little hope there is for self-actualisation or productive adult career."

The FRD believed that science and technology would play a vital role in the creation of wealth and upliftment of the poor in this country.

Investigations have revealed, however, that only one in every 10,000 black school entrants matriculates with university entrance qualifications in mathematics and science.

"The reasons for this alarmingly low pass rate can again be sought in political problems, poor teacher training, inadequate facilities, overcrowding, inappropriate curricula, and the absence of role models who stimulate interest in science and mathematics."

The FRD's president, Mr. RR Arndt, said most of these 13 million inhabitants were "forgotten people" who were struggling to survive in a degraded environment with minimal empowerment.

He added "The Verwoerdian dream of separate development has been shattered."

"It's a legacy of illiteracy, violent crime, poverty and disease is still apparent in the satellite shanty towns surrounding most of our cities."

The FRD, Arndt said, firmly believed that science and technology had a major role to play, "along with education and training, in ameliorating the impact of poverty on our rural communities and in empowering the people to solve their problems."

The Government's family planning programme, the FRD said, had been a failure in rural areas and had little or no credibility among the black population.

"In fact, less than 26 percent of blacks are even aware of the programme."

The FRD supported the proposal that drastic measures, such as a two-child family norm, be a priority. Contraceptive services, education and counselling must become available to everyone and a nation-wide high quality sterilisation programme should be offered by every hospital.

"These measures should be accompanied by the acceptance of more liberal abortion laws."

The FRD warned that the South African population was faced with potentially grave risks which could result from the spread of the AIDS disease.

"Health services among the rural poor remained critical."

The training of district nurses, the FRD said, should be upgraded to allow them to dispense a wider spectrum of drugs and undertake minor surgical procedures.

Networks of small clinics and district medical personnel needed to be firmly established with good communication systems, the efficient supply of medical materials and the means to cope with emergencies.

The FRD said water was a very scarce commodity in most rural areas in South Africa and the pollution of existing supplies was increasing.

"The whole infrastructure needed to support village life such as clinics, schools, co-operatives and recreation sites, relies on a dependable water supply," the FRD said.

They warned that contaminated water caused illness which further reduced the economic activity of an extended family.

The FRD said their analysis had clearly revealed that science and technology had a major role to play in the upliftment and empowerment of the rural poor.

"There is scarcely any activity among rural people which cannot be improved by introducing appropriate technology."

"Improved agricultural practices, the breeding of new cultivars, manufacturing appropriate machinery for small-scale agriculture, provision of clean water and appropriate irrigation systems, preventive medicine and family planning, improved roads, business opportunities, communications, energy supply and transport are but a few examples."

Children huddle on the floor of a bare classroom in Winderveld.
Trust is ready for battle with poverty

THE Independent Development Trust had to run the gauntlet of a whole series of sniper attacks when it seemed to be slow in waving a magic wand that made poverty and deprivation vanish at a single stroke.

Launched two years ago with R2 billion from Government funds, the IDT was hailed as a main standard bearer in a post-apartheid march across the debris of apartheid to seek solutions to black socioeconomic problems.

Waves of optimism spread about an instant tidal wave of new low-cost houses, new schools, new clinics and health services.

When the wait for a start of actual construction work dragged on into weeks and even months, the snipers started to draw aim. Had the Government merely scored a few political points - and tucked its promises away in the filing cabinets of yet another expensive but ineffective bureaucracy?

Hurling missiles

Was the IDT dwelling because it was making a mint out of the investments it had made with all its cash - more interested in expanding its fortune than in making a start?

Former high court judge Mr Jan Steyn, drawn from the Urban Foundation to head the IDT operation, was even bolder behind the scenes than the critics hurling missiles, however.

Now, he believes, the IDT can show the wait for action was worth it, as more and more robots turn to green on a formidable programme of schemes aimed at black upliftment.

The gathering momentum of the operation is reflected in the steep climb in the supply of subsidised housing sites for homeless black families. The rate of deliveries is striding out towards a target of 8 000 a month on route to a total of 100 000.

The quickening pace has also started to make its impact in the flow of new classrooms, new fresh water and sanitation projects, new clinics, new community services even in the most remote rural villages.

What’s more, Steyn believes, the down-to-earth effectiveness of the whole exercise has been ensured by the mixture of the experts he has assembled to design and handle operations - from politically hardened Robben Island veterans of the ANC to high-browed specialists drawn from academia.

“Without an approach that was totally realis-

critics of the Independent Development Trust of dragging its heels when it was first launched with R2 billion from Government funds two years ago. Chairman Mr Jan Steyn believes he can show the wait was worth it as more and more robots turn to green on a massive programme aimed at improving the lot of underprivileged black families, reports MICHAEL CHESTER.

“...assured of impact at grassroots level, the exercise would have sunk into oblivion,” he says.

“We could easily have taken an easier route - splashing out free hand-outs. We agreed, though, there were no quick fixes. It was going to take time and sweat to make permanent rather than temporary repairs on the damage done to the fabric of society in decades of apartheid.

“Experience all over the world has proved it is utterly useless to assume socioeconomic problems will all be solved simply by throwing cash at all the issues. Blank cheques alone will not provide lasting solutions.

“The evidence shows the key to sustainable development is finding a way to give even the smallest and poorest community a new dignity and confidence that it has a real stake of its own in shaping a better future.

A new spirit

“That is why we aim at schemes in which communities themselves have a hand in planning and which they themselves can take over and run once the ball has started rolling.”

“...inspiring a new spirit of confidence made many communities do not come automatically in a society long torn by divisions caused by apartheid and intolerance, still racked by spasm of violence and political conflict, in communities that poverty has filled with distrust and suspicion.

“We were sometimes accused of dragging our heels. A few critics may have been silenced if we had simply handed out the money on a first-come-first-served basis. It would have made marvellous headlines. By now, however, the cheque book would have been exhausted - and the tragic list of unresolved issues would be longer than ever.

“It could have been equally tempting to hand out largesse to applicants merely because they were able to set down well-articulated reasons why they deserved priority. But where would that leave the 50 percent of the population that is illiterate and unable to spell out elaborate plans about how donations would be spent - often the communities that deserved help most of all?"

Rather than rely on hand-outs as a temporary balm to relieve despair, he says, the aim has been to inspire whole communities to aim at self-reliance - instead of dependence on outsiders to hold a temporary lid on problems.

“We decided a far better approach was to devise radical new ideas to use development aid to build bridges out of poverty and towards peace and harmony on a durable basis."

Experts from all the main political camps were persuaded to join the exercise to achieve as much non-partisan neutrality as possible. The team was also made thoroughly multi-racial to ensure the widest impact.

All shared a fundamental assignment to abandon traditional rituals in thinking and devise brand new strategies to ensure that development funds reached basic grassroot levels.

“We are not seeking headlines with grandiose schemes that risk the fate of firework spectacles that soon vanish without trace,” says Steyn. "However modest its own, each project is being designed to start a sustainable process of community upliftment."

The IDT has moved in on several flashpoints that a more timid team would have preferred to make detours around. Projects that cross political antagonisms have often served to calm tensions and call truces while everyone gets involved in new schemes that promise to benefit the whole community.

That is confirmed by Professor Wiseman Nkhu, the principal of the University of Transkei, a non-nonsense graduate of Robben Island who has been a trustee of the IDT from the start and who at the moment is spending a 12-month sabbatical as a full-time executive director.

Nkhu ensures the trust stays in close interaction with all the key extra-parliamentary groups, such as the ANC, PAC and Inkatha.

“There are still tensions from time to time, of course,” he says. "But it’s clear the IDT is setting its priorities in the right order.”
Trucks of maize jam Beit Bridge

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

BEITBRIDGE — A huge food relief operation has swung into operation as between 1000 and 2000 tons of food a day are trucked from the western Transvaal to Zimbabwe over the Beit Bridge.

The Star found the situation chaotic yesterday, with customs staff unable to cope with the extra 100 vehicles a day.

Clearance agents at the border post said they were dreading the busy Easter weekend and the time when maize imported through South African harbours started to reach the border.

Some agents said inadequate facilities, staff shortages and inefficiency at the border post were causing the delays.

Chief customs officer Des Venter was not available for comment.

All the maize-carrying trucks were clearly labelled "Zimbabwe food relief".

Between 20 and 30 drivers are being forced to sleep at the border post every night because of the long delays. There are no rest areas or ablution blocks, but transport companies have indicated they plan to build facilities.

There is no organised parking area on the South African side of the border, and no traffic control anywhere.

Cargo agent Ian Cooper complained bitterly about his cramped caravan office, which accommodates a staff of five. He said requests to Pretoria for permission to build a bigger office had fallen on deaf ears. Other agents seemed to be in the same predicament.

Two Harare-based truck drivers who arrived at 6 am with their maize load from Schweizer-Reneke were hoping to get across the border by 4 pm, they said.

More reports — Pages 11 and 19
Projects for poor pick up pace

The Independent Development Trust (IDT) has been accused of dragging its heels after it was first launched with R2 billion from Government funds two years ago.

Chairman Jan Steyn believes he can show that the money is being well spent on improving the lot of the underprivileged families, reports Michael Chester.

While the waiting for a start on actual construction work drags on into weeks and even months, the appeal started to take a hit last year when a consultant warned that the IDT was being affected by the slow pace of development.

"We could easily have taken an easier route by upgrading existing housing, but we believe that a better approach is to build bridges out of poverty and towards peace and harmony on a sustainable basis," the IDT says in its annual report.

The IDT has moved in several directions during its first two years of operation. In addition to building houses and schools, it has also been involved in a number of social welfare projects.

"We are reducing backlogs in various spheres but there's still more to be done," he adds.

"It's too early to say if the IDT's performance is meeting expectations, but we believe that we are on track to achieve our objectives," he concludes.

The IDT's success is partly due to the fact that it has been able to attract funding from a variety of sources, including the South African government and international organizations.

"We are glad to see that other organizations are now following our lead in this regard," he says.

"The IDT's performance is a testament to the fact that it is possible to build bridges out of poverty and towards peace and harmony on a sustainable basis," he concludes.

"We are reducing backlogs in various spheres but there's still more to be done," he adds.

"It's too early to say if the IDT's performance is meeting expectations, but we believe that we are on track to achieve our objectives," he concludes.
Push for Beit Bridge post to open 24 hours

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

MESSINA — Telegrams requesting action were sent yesterday to President de Klerk and President Robert Mugabe from a joint meeting, regarding the chaotic situation at the Beit Bridge border post.

The meeting, set up by Messina town council, organised commerce on both sides of the border, and the Beit Bridge Rural Council, decided to appoint a liaison committee to work at problems surrounding the congestion at the bridge and to explore areas of cross-border co-operation.

The liaison committee is to push for customs and immigration facilities at the border post to remain open for 24 hours.

Renewed appeals are to be made to both governments to give attention to the development of a water scheme on the Limpopo River.

"I don't care what the people at the top are saying, all I know is that thousands are starving because of a lack of co-operation across the border," said rural councillor Raymond Roth.

He appealed for a plan to treat the communities on both sides of the river as a single entity.

Mr Roth also pointed out that Beit Bridge village in Zimbabwe had severe water shortages, whereas Messina, 15 km away, had no water problem, to stress the value of co-ordinated action.

Referring to the visit of a low-profile Government delegation from Pretoria to the border region next week, Messina Mayor Jack Klaas said, "this isn't good enough, we are not satisfied with the way we are being treated."

Botswana military chief Colonel Bornman said the private sector and the SA Defence Force had co-operated to clear an area of bush on the SA side of Beit Bridge, for heavy vehicles to park.

He said there was a lot of goodwill on both sides of the river.
Hunger Fund needs R9-m a month

By Paul van Rij

NEWS

The Star Thursday April 9 1992
Operation Hunger needs donations

OPERATION Hunger needs R9 million a month for the next nine months to enable it to feed South Africa's undernourished, organisation director Minna Perlman said yesterday.

A statement from her organisation said the agony facing the country's undernourished children was the result of slave wages paid to their parents.

"We must accept that we will never wipe out chronic malnutrition in this country until there is a minimum wage for farm and domestic workers. Anything less is bandaging open sores,"

With the effects of this year's drought and now winter approaching, the situation had reached crisis proportions, Perlman said.

In an impassioned plea to the public to donate money to Operation Hunger, she said the Government had made a grant to the organisation - R10 million - but this was only a fraction of what was needed.

Operation Hunger estimated it would need over R164 million for feeding until the end of March 1993.

The drought's catastrophic effect on South Africa's 60,000 farmers meant life-threatening repercussions for labourers, who faced reduced wages or retrenchment, she said.

One of Africa's major disasters was the introduction of maize. Crops indigenous to South Africa like sorghum or beans had shown they survived drought much better, she said. Perlman - Sapa
Food or Death

Waiting for

By Sophie Tema

SOUTH AFRICA.

Have the solidarity of the world with us in this fight.
Hunger as drought worsens

By Paula Froy

This is the face of hunger as drought ravages South Africa. Daniel Modise is one of thousands of children in the Free State alone who would have died by now but for help from Operation Hunger.

When nurses first saw the toddler about a month ago with his distended stomach and stick-like legs, they did not think he would live more than two days.

Since then, medical staff at the Theunsen clinic have been checking up on him and his family at the Lusaka squatter camp each week. But conditions are far from ideal.

The family lives in a one-room tin shanty which brings little protection from the boiling heat. Around them, little grows and there is no work.

Nearby, 32-year-old Mapa Makgashane — herself malnourished — is struggling to raise five children who also need weekly care.

The squatter camp, swollen by recent migrants from the farms, has more than 90 percent unemployment, according to Operation Hunger field co-ordinator Anthony Mina.

About 70 percent of Lusaka's children under five years are malnourished.

However, according to Operation Hunger Free State regional director Judith Mokgete, while the incidence of malnutrition is rising in Lusaka, other Free State towns such as Bethlehem and Addington are in an even worse situation.

In the entire Free State, says Mr Mina, about 65 percent of children between five and 15 years are malnourished — most of them from the farms.

More reports — Page 11
Sad days for struggling towns up in the north

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

LOUIS TRICHARDT — Several northern Transvaal towns are threatened with economic ruin because of the devastating drought and recession.

"The profit margins of many businesses here have been decreasing in recent years, and now farmers’ cash flow problems, unemployment due to retrenchments and the closure of some major industries have lowered the buying power of the general public," Len Lemmer, chairman of the Louis Trichardt Sakekamer, said in an interview.

Stringent water restrictions are in force in the town, with the nearby Albasim Dam only eight percent full. It has been confirmed that Tongaat, the countrywide cotton processors, is one of the industrial firms which are closing their Louis Trichardt branch.

"I get depressed when I receive half a dozen sequestration notices a week for publication," said local newspaper editor Johan Du Plessis. The victims were mainly farmers and small businessmen.

Necessity had forced the local business fraternity to devise strategies to survive, Mr Lemmer said.

Special commercials on radio in Zimbabwe, sponsored by the Sakekamer, had attracted many buyers from across the border, and this had kept businesses afloat. He claimed the town was offering some of the best bargains in South Africa. Many shops were cutting their prices by as much as 50 percent to sell old stock.

Meanwhile, the Star found the situation of farmers in the Soutpansberg district was still critical. Cattle farmers had reduced their herds drastically, due to a lack of grazing, while game ranchers had had to resort to providing feed for wildlife on their farms.

The situation is not much better in neighbouring Messina. However, no water restrictions were in force there because the town was well-served by a pipeline from the Limpopo Valley, town clerk Johan Kok said.

Messina Mayor John Gens said businesses in the town were surviving well, mainly due to the settlement of an increasing number of De Beers Company workers employed at the new Venetia Diamond Mine.

In other respects the future of Messina seemed bleak, because its 100-year-old copper mine would soon be closed, businessmen told The Star.

Mr Gens pointed out that unemployment in the area was being complicated by a continuous influx of illegal immigrants. No statistics in this regard could be obtained from police or immigration sources.

Regional Development Chairman Jack Klaaff has put forward a three-point plan to transform the Soutpansberg district into an economically viable entity.

Rebuilding of the border post at Beit Bridge, to streamline trade with Africa,

Urgent attention to the development of an international water scheme on the Limpopo River

The immediate upgrading of the N1 route north of Pietersburg.

"Unfortunately our appeals seem to be falling on deaf ears, despite an undertaking from private sector sources to provide a percentage of the capital needed," Mr Klaaff complained.

Smaller towns such as Allards and Dendron were experiencing their worst ever economic slumps, while Potgietersrus, a major agricultural centre, was particularly hard hit. The Star was told by commerce leaders.

Pietersburg, the region's major town, seemed set to weather the crisis because of its strong infrastructure and established public sector activity, a municipal spokesman said.

No water restrictions were being considered at the town at present, he added.
Aid schemes get R94.5m

Political Staff

ONLY R94.550 000 of the R220 million targeted for aid schemes had been allocated, according to the Minister of National Health, Dr. Rina Venter.

Responding to a question by Mr Ken Andrew (DP Gardens), she said the money had been allocated to clinics, the homelands, various non-governmental organisations, the SA National Council for the Aged and the SA National Council for Child and Family Care.
Major changes needed to address problems

BASIC social challenges facing the black community in South Africa were yesterday identified as housing, joblessness and education.

The guest speaker on Radio Metro's Talkback Show, sponsored by Tribune magazine as part of its fifth anniversary celebrations, was Mr Molatlehi Thale, Azapo's political education commissar. He said the three aspects were a deliberate creation of the Government.

"Fundamental and qualitative changes will have to take place before these aspects can be remedied. And that can only happen if the Government was removed and replaced with that of the people."

Thale's sentiments were echoed by the ANC's deputy head of the welfare department Mr Dali Molofo who, however, differed with him on the methods of combating the problems.

"I agree with Azapo on the challenges facing the black community and I will also like to add that they will plague us for long time."

"However, it needs to be remembered that the ANC had already held talks with organised commerce to address socio-economic problems."

Thale disagreed and said these forums were only addressing the symptoms of the problem.

"These aspects can only be fairly addressed by a government which will accept responsibility towards the people."

He added that problems related to jobs should be left to "people in charge of commerce and industry and bodies like trade unions."
ANC govt ‘would aim to create jobs not handouts’

KATHRYN STRACHAN

An ANC government was unlikely to engage in extensive social security provision in the form of “handouts”, the organisation’s social welfare department deputy head Dali Mpofu said in an interview this week.

It would not have the resources to do so, and there were many other sectors which urgently required substantial funding, he said.

There was a limited capacity for taxation in SA, partly due to the large numbers of unemployed people, and low wages. It had also been projected that there would be a slow return to healthy economic growth rates.

Social security provision was far more likely to occur through employment-creating projects, said Mpofu.

Although the primary aim of his department would be to increase the social assistance net to help more disadvantaged people, Mpofu stressed that assistance would only be effective if, in the process, it “helped people to help themselves”, thus undermining the dependency syndrome.

He criticised government’s welfare system as amounting to little more than providing handouts, and said welfare should rather be seen as a mechanism for “empowering” people.

The issue of welfare had to be rethought, and people had to see it not simply as expenditure but as social investment.

One way of ensuring that welfare became a means to empower people was to ensure involvement of those at the end of the line. The ANC would place far more value on “the voice of the poor” and would try to involve those affected in decision making.

Increasing the skills and market-ability of the unemployed would be a key aspect of an ANC government’s social welfare policy.

Unemployment would not disappear overnight, Mpofu said, and in the meantime initiatives would have to be devised through which unemployed people could be taught skills and brought into employment schemes.

By releasing people from the welfare system, the projects would not only alleviate the burden on welfare but also serve to increase the confidence and marketability of the unemployed.

One of the major problems in dealing with unemployment was that the longer people remained out of work, the more their chances of finding employment decreased, he said.

Welfare would be the biggest challenge for any future government, said Mpofu. The success of the first post-apartheid government would be judged in terms of its concrete performance in ending the extreme deprivation of many South Africans.

Whether a government could ensure that people had homes, schools for their children and access to health facilities would be crucial questions.

All debates on whether to adopt a market-oriented welfare system were relevant to these issues — which many would call alleviating poverty, he said.

Mpofu said the ANC was not sure whether welfare would remain a higher percentage of future government’s budget, as there were many other sectors which desperately needed increased funding. The solution lay in a better allocation of resources.

Fundamental restructuring of welfare systems to eradicate current wasteful administration of 14 departments would dramatically increase the social security budget.

The next step would be to address the huge divide between racial groups in the present system of benefits. In the white community the ratio was one to 29.62. All non-contributory schemes, such as pensioner and disability schemes, pension and old age benefits on racially discriminatory scales, said Mpofu.

Rural areas, where the worst poverty occurred, had been forgotten and the imbalance would have to be addressed.

Special attention would also be paid to the rehabilitation of communities destroyed by political violence, especially in war-torn Natal, he said.

It was a matter of rehousing homes, but intervention was needed to rebuild people’s lives and the sense of belonging to a community.

The integration of thousands of political exiles into society, which involved most of the department’s efforts, had not been achieved.

As the state could not carry the full burden for welfare, the private sector would have to be encouraged to pay more attention to social responsibilities.

Commissions did far too little in extending the social responsibility beyond the workplace, he said, and it was up to companies to alleviate poverty, which contributed to political instability and crime.

The department would also propose that companies employ a certain quota of disabled people, Mpofu said.
Winterveld: the forgotten place

THE road from Pretoria winds for half an hour through lush white suburbs and farms before depositing motorists, with a bump, in a dustbowl of mud shacks stretching to the horizon.

This is Winterveld, a bleak 40-year-old slum of up to one million black inhabitants that is never seen by most residents of the pristine white capital city 50km to the south.

The 500sq km settlement symbolises the daunting welfare challenge bequeathed to the new South Africa after years of apartheid race segregation.

"Winterveld is a forgotten place, a dumping ground, an in-between-land," said Rosetta Simelani of the Rural Advise Centre.

"These homeless people are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. The new South Africa must provide for squatters like these," said local priest the Rev Smanungalo Mkhathwa.

Art workers describe Winterveld as among the ugliest of apartheid's offsprings, the unforeseen product of a policy of forcibly removing blacks from areas designated for whites.

The slum, once winter grazing land for the cattle of white farmers, grew from the 1950s onwards as an overflow area for designated "black" towns which mushroomed too quickly for apartheid's developers.

Child mortality is 50 percent in some parts, unemployment 70 percent, sewage and electricity non-existent.

Local black farmers, despairing of poor soil and lack of water, turned their fields into shacks for squatters, many of them illegal immigrants harassed constantly by police.

Winterveld's warren of shanties is also a notorious hideout for criminals on the run.

South Africa, apparently eager to abdicate responsibility for Winterveld, asked the homeland of Bophuthatswana to absorb the slum as part of its fragmented territory in return for nominal "independence" in 1977.

**Funds**

Bophuthatswana complied, but the homeland, one of 10 tribal territories where more than half of South Africa's blacks live, never lavished funds on Winterveld because few residents are Tsawanas, the homeland's designated ethnic group, residents say.

Farmer Rachel Tsakodu (73) said she walked five km to scrape for water in a dried up stream. Her maize field is withered. "Every Sunday we pray for rain," she said.

Joseph Matona (75) said his crops had failed for years due to the poor Winterveld soil. He earns a total of R15 a month from three squatter shacks on his property.

Welfare agency Operation Hunger says 2 million South Africans blacks in places like Winterveld could be starving by May unless the government speeds up relief to replace food supplies hit by drought.

The agency, which feeds 1.8 million people daily nationwide, says that because of lack of funds it can only help 16 000 people in Winterveld. It says most of the 30 million people qualify for its programmes.

In a clearing, barefoot children watch warily for snakes as they sit under trees to escape the baking 40 deg C heat at the "Eureka" bush school.

Headmistress Ms Constance Gwabeni said most of her charges were children of some of the estimated one million Mozambicans who for years have fled to South Africa to escape war at home.

"In the middle of a lesson some fall asleep because they have had no food," she said.

"Our main problem is the snakes, and the wind which blows the dust on to the children's clothes."

Zimbabweans and Zureans, as well as South Africans from all over the country, come to Winterveld because it is near jobs in the main industrial centres, ignoring the squorial and endemic malnutrition-linked diseases like tuberculosis.

"At least here there is sometimes food in the shops and people are not killing each other," said Musa (49), a Mozambican who bribed his way back over the frontier to Winterveld after police caught and forcibly returned him to Mozambique last year.

He lives with his wife and five children in a three-roomed mud-brick house. A sixth child died at birth.

Late last year, 40 years after the slum's birth, a Winterveld Development Program was formed with the support of the state-backed Development Bank of Southern Africa.

**Political reforms**

Details of the project have yet to be worked out and the possible reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into South Africa under political reforms could complicate the process, experts say.

Aid worker Ms Joan Pearson said blacks were leaving for nearby Soshangwe township in "white" South Africa where they had a better chance of buying land. But a continuing influx from elsewhere kept Winterveld's population stable.

"The residents have always struggled to survive," she said.

"It remains a dumping ground. People throw their old folks away in Winterveld. They come and build shacks, install their parents and then disappear back to Soweto." - Soweto" - Sowetan-Reuters

6 These homeless people are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. The new South Africa must provide for squatters like these.
Operation Hunger, inundated with requests for help as a result of the widespread drought, yesterday received an emergency grant of R1 million from the Liberty Life Foundation.

According to Operation Hunger executive director Ida Perlman, the drought has aggravated the current economic situation in South Africa and there has been increased urban, industrial and mining unemployment.

"Because of the drought, the waiting list of people we need to feed has ballooned to almost 500 000."

"Add to this crop failure, the effect of the scorching heat on irrigated crops and the drying up of perennial rivers and boreholes and you have a disaster of mammoth proportion," said Mrs Perlman.

The R1 million, handed over by Liberty Life Foundation executive trustee Hilton Appelbaum, comes from a R100 million fund established in 1990.
Operation Hunger gets R10 million

THE Government yesterday gave Operation Hunger R10 million to feed needy families throughout the country.

The cheque was presented to Operation Hunger executive director Mrs Lila Perlman by the Deputy Minister of National Health and of Health Services and Welfare, Mr Fanie Schoeman, in Pretoria.

Operation Hunger had initially asked for a R30 million grant from the Government in December last year. Operation Hunger spends about R7 million a month to feed needy people and families throughout the country.

Perlman said she was thankful the Government had been able to help them. Presenting the cheque, Schoeman said the R10 million was made available by the Nutrition Development Programme.
Story: PATRICK FARRELL

"ATLANTIS is vroo," is now a cliche in the town once described as the "boom town" of the working class.

Hailed as the brave new world of the government's decentralisation policy, Atlantis is now facing ruin.

In 1975, Atlantis was the start of a new apartheid system designed to move thousands of coloureds away from Cape Town. Factories set up in the area received massive state subsidies and there were jobs for all.

Now, just 17 years after the establishment of the town, the 66,000 inhabitants face increasing unemployment, disillusion and a nightmare of rent arrears, alcoholism and crime.

Last year R4 million was owed in water and electricity arrears and rent evictions were commonplace.

In 1989 Atlantis had the distinction of being murder capital of the country and these days gangs still run riot through much of the area.

We were told the bottle stores and the off-course tote were the only businesses that were still flourishing. Streets are unpainted, graffiti covers apartment blocks and small groups of the unemployed hang around the street corners. In most households one adult is unemployed, and in some cases more.

No one knows for sure what the future holds, but people are thinking of "85 — that's when things started going wrong.

Slowly the Atlantis dream began to fade as the government began to change its decentralisation policies.

Industries in the area which had benefitted from state subsidies suddenly found they had to compete on the open market. As a result some factories moved out and many of the rest found the going very hard. Short-time and retrenchments became common as businesses cut back to survive.

For those who have lost their jobs there is not much hope of any work in Atlantis and the transport costs — R10 return by taxi — stop most people from travelling to Cape Town to seek work.

"I was retrenched in November last year," said Mr Sean Bowers, a former technician at the Tetex plant. "Since then I've walked this place flat trying to get a job but there is nothing. I can't afford to pay for transport to Cape Town so I just stay here and hope for the best."

He said he was "still lucky" as his wife was working and the family has "some sort" of an income.

Part of the problem is the town's isolation. Mr Dedrick Jansen was retrenched from ADE in September 1990. A former diesel engine assembler, he now relies on selling fruit on street corners.

"My father was also retrenched in 1990 and my mother is disabled so the fruit and vegetables are the only way we get an income," he said.

Despite the disillusionment in the community there are now moves to save Atlantis. A forum, consisting of trade unions, the Small Business Development Corporation and civic associations was formed last year.

So far they have discussed the need for a "socio-economic plan of action that will require outside sources" and last month they submitted a formal application to the Development Bank of South Africa for help.

However, the feeling on the streets is that the help will be too late to halt the sinking of Atlantis.
Operation Hunger gets R10-m fund

By Shirley Woodgate

Operation Hunger yesterday received a R10 million donation from the Department of National Health and Development Programme, ending the row over red tape which delayed payment from the Nutrition Development Programme. The cheque, handed over in Pretoria, was the official response to the charity organisation's request to the R20 million monthly budget.
Govt ‘hunger’ grant enrages rightists

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — The Conservative Party has noted “with dismay” that the Government had donated R10 million to Operation Hunger, CP health spokesman Dr Willie Snyman said in a statement yesterday.

“Apart from the known fact that Operation Hunger has close links with the ANC, it has come to my attention that funds for the organisation are used for purposes other than those intended by its founders,” he said.

“Dr Snyman called on the Government to appoint a judicial inquiry or a commission representative of all parliamentary parties to investigate the activities of the organisation.

“Should the Government ignore this urgent request from the CP, the party will regard this as blatant approval by the Government of the squandering of taxpayers’ money,” Dr Snyman added.

An enraged Ira Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, reacted with an open challenge to Dr Snyman to risk “a very real libel suit" by spilling out, outside Parliament, the so-called “known facts" about her organisation.

She also called on him not to hide behind nuances and hints but to reveal in public his information about funds which Operation Hunger had allegedly used for purposes other than those originally intended.

“Perhaps before Mr Snyman spoke, he should have consulted Werk en Oorleef, a welfare group which is backed to the tune of R30 000 a month by Operation Hunger and where one of the top office bearers is CP MP Kobus Botha,” Mr Perlman said.

She said Operation Hunger was taking legal advice on Mr Snyman’s “scurrilous allegations”.

The South African Agricultural Union in a statement to Sapa said yesterday that overwhelming reaction had been received to its recently announced Emergency Aid Fund for affected farming communities.

Contributions were streaming in from individuals and organisations throughout the country, SAU president Boet Fourie said in Pretoria.

Within days of the announcement of the fund contributions had reached nearly R400 000.

The fund would be used to contribute towards the essential personal expenses of farmers, their families and workers who were in financial need.

Contributions may be sent to the SAU Emergency Aid Fund, Box 1903, Pretoria, 0001. The fund collection number is 022002270005.
A PLAN THAT WORKS

SAY FOREIGN ACTIVISTS,
FILL YOUR OWN PLACES,
THAT SOUTH AFRICA CIVICS IN

[Image and text content of a plan that works, representing the community in South Africa]
Churches fight for no VAT on basic food

By KURT SWART

AN inter-denominational committee of churches opposing the reimposition of Value Added Tax on basic foods started a "Don't Crucify the Poor" campaign this week.

The campaign was launched at St George's Cathedral on Friday with a press conference and a placard protest on the steps.

Other actions will include a protest focusing on mothers and children tomorrow and another focusing on pensioners on Thursday.

The church leaders will participate in the Cosatu/ANC "People's Budget" march from the Grand Parade on Wednesday and the campaign will draw to a close next Friday with an ecumenical service at the Methodist Church on Greenmarket Square.

ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela is scheduled to speak at the service.

The campaign aims to arouse public consciousness to the "injustice of VAT in terms of what its application to basic foods and health care will mean for the poor."

The committee said Christians in the Western Cape had formed the Churches' Committee on VAT and had drawn up a declaration of concern for the poor and needy.

Church leaders had signed the declaration on behalf of their churches and large numbers of ordinary church members had also signed it.

Threat

The declaration included specific demands that the government abandon its threat to terminate on March 31 the zero-rating on the few foods that were presently tax-exempt, extend the list of tax-exempt foods and totally exempt from taxation all health care for the poor.

Said the committee: "We do not dispute that in general VAT may be a better system than GST. Our concern, however, is that VAT as applied in South Africa adds to the already heavy economic burden on the poor."

"Instead of being graded to make the poor pay less and the rich more, it shifts part of that burden of taxation onto the shoulders of the working class."

If the church campaign was ignored by the government, the state would be "blatantly choosing to trample the heads of the poor into the dust."

The imposition of VAT on basic foods and health care would be "fatal" for many of the poor.

According to the Labour Research Centre at least 16 300 000 people in South Africa were living below the breadline and in need of financial help to survive.

The government had set aside R250 million for poverty relief programmes but this would have little effect as the amount worked out at only R2.65 a person.
Call to Tsakane homeless

HUNDREDS of homeless families who have applied for the Independent Development Trust serviced sites in Tsakane on the East Rand have been asked to approach the local town council offices immediately.

The council's public relations officer, Mr Jerry Tsekz, yesterday said that they had interviewed more than 700 families regarding the sites. But only 366 have signed documents.

The council was facing difficulty tracing the rest of the applicants after they were interviewed in order for them to sign the necessary documents before the March 27 deadline.

Mandela Village

Tsekz said that the sites would be made available to families from "Mandela Village" and other parts of the black residential area in need of homes.

He appealed to residents to bring to the local authorities' offices to complete their forms.

Land ownership leading to homes is the biggest threat in the IDT's assault on poverty, the spokesman said, adding, of the R1,5-billion allocated so far, more than R398,7 million has gone to housing countrywide.

About R730-million has been set aside for the capital subsidy scheme, the biggest programme for the development of nearly 100 000 new serviced sites that will accommodate about 700 000 people.

The capital subsidy scheme accounts for over half of all IDT funds set aside so far. It covers 108 projects, of which nearly two-thirds will be new settlements.

The money will pay for the development of serviced sites for a total of 99 000 of South Africa's poorest families. An average cost of R7 500 a site has been set.
Creating new wealth only cure for poverty

Opinion

By HANS MIDDLEMANN

WHY are so many South Africans desperately poor?

One naive answer appears in a recent two-part article by Dr Neva Makgetla (Cape Times, February 1 and 8):

"There are two interrelated causes of poverty in South Africa," she says. "Unemployment and starvation wages both derive from a large part from the extraordinary concentration of wealth in a few hands in effect, a few hundred white men currently own most of the economy."

In other words, the poor are poor because the rich are rich. In particular, the "few hundred white men" are the culprits, which would seem to make them a legitimate, if not mandatory target for liquidation. We are assured, however, that no-one proposes to liquidate them, only to rob them, like Robin Hood, to a reasonable extent.

Wealth tax?

Hence the proposals for a wealth tax, a percentage levied on the assets (regardless of income) of the largest private groups and a similar levy on personal wealth exceeding a certain amount - say R250 000. A further tax is suggested on "human capital" embodied in education.

The question is: will these get us anywhere? The answer is: it is the idea that something significant can be achieved by the transfer of resources from havens to have-nots that has to be refuted.

The picture of a small group of white men holding the masses in bondage has some appeal for uninformed people. But there is no such group of capital assets or wealth, a disproportionate share of which has been grabbed by a minority, leaving little or nothing over for the rest.

The truth is that the poor would be even worse off if no capital assets had been accumulated by the rich. The affluence of the minority is a mitigation of poverty, not the cause of it. It has been said that one thing worse than being exploited by a capitalist is not being exploited by a capitalist.

Robbing rich Peter to pay poor Paul is not a feasible solution to the problem of poverty; because there are too few Peters and too many Pauls.

The solution, is to be found in the fact that the pool of wealth is infinitely expandable. The prime object of policy should therefore be to enable the mass of the people to share in the creation of new wealth.

This is the kernel of the message put out in a paper just published under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) entitled "Economic Policies for a New South Africa".

Simon Barber says in his summary of this paper (Cape Times, February 11) that the IMF will be loath to help the present or any future SA government finance anything that might smack of "instant gratification". The challenge to lay the foundations for sustained, long-term economic growth.

Some sound advice follows: reduce government spending, bring down inflation through monetary policy, be firm with spiralling wage demands, lower protective trade barriers, and so on. We must acknowledge, says the IMF, that redistribution can be achieved only through growth, not vice versa.

This is the wisdom of the modern world, born of disillusion with collectivist experiments. Regrettably, it is not widely understood or emotionally pleasing. "Let the people take over the control of the instruments of production. Let us produce basic goods and services for the poor, eliminating what is unnecessary." So runs the old utopian argument. The former communist countries followed it during the last 70 years. It bankrupted them all quite recently.

Let us see what Dr Makgetla, who teaches at Wit University in the Department of Economics, has to say about this. Although her article is ostensibly about a wealth tax, even she concedes that it has limited usefulness and a number of weaknesses and disadvantages.

"The thrust of her article is rather towards a change in the structure of ownership and management so as to eliminate what she regards as a "misuse of investable assets by the rich," and to give workers and communities a greater say in the overall investment process."

It is not clear how this "input" by the community is to take place, nor how the input by different groups of workers in different industries and regions is to be coordinated. The market economy, in the words of Hayek, creates a spontaneous order, inadequate as it may be, but if one rejects the market as the best available and flexible method of achieving growth and coping with change one is left only with a central directing authority. The authority is made up, not of workers or communities, but of people acting in their name, people who "know" what should be produced, what is unnecessary and what is desirable.

Whatever the faults of existing economic policy - that they are many - a dispensation as envisaged by Dr Makgetla would doom the majority of people in South Africa to deepening poverty and frustration in an unwieldy, unworkable and internationally unacceptable regime.

When Messrs De Klerk and Mandela are exposed to the scrutiny of business leaders at international conferences, they experience reality and tend to react positively and in unison.

When they return home, elements of fairytale intrude. Mr Mandela is confronted by the listing of sanctions, nationalisation, redistribution, people's power and all the rest of it. Mr De Klerk is assailed by accusations of bad faith by one hand and of selling his white compatriots down the river by the other. They share the common South African patriotism when they face the outside world. When they are at home, the lingering international politics of the last few decades seem to demand a public distrust of each other. If they could speak and act in unison at home, too, what rapid progress we would make!

Nucleus of new SA

I am concerned here with the economy which cannot flourish unless the political scene reaches stability. And in the field of economic policy Mr Mandela has the larger role to play. He should be more confident of the inherent good sense of the mass of his constituents who have watched what happened in Eastern Europe and in the African countries that adopted socialist policies.

Everyone wants to be better off and there are those who are succeeding. Most remarkably South Africa does not consist mainly of unpatriotic blacks looking for hand-outs. There is a growing middle class of business and professional people, building up their own stock of assets and operating in a "capitalist" market - running taxis, doing back yard repairs, operating small businesses, or establishing of one kind or another, accumulating some capital.

They are the nucleus of the new South Africa and should be handled as such. They are also the potential employers of the unskilled and uneducated masses who make up the millions of unemployed. Their outlook on life is that the IMF are economists more than the discredited advocates of communism.

Dr Hans Middlemann is a Cape Town businessman.
Millions face hunger

BETWEEN 1.5 and 2.5 million black farm labourers and their families face starvation in the Transvaal alone because of the ongoing drought.

About half of them are being fed by agricultural corporations which are also helping white farmers to remain on their land in the face of one of the harshest droughts to hit South Africa in the past few years.

The chairman of the Drought Crises Committee (DCC) in the Transvaal, Mr Wilco Lewes, said efforts by his organisation and the corporations had so far staved off the exodus of farmers and the resultant retrenchment of labourers.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The departure of the white farmers would spell doom for the labourers on the farm.

Lewes said there were about 400,000 farm labourers in the Transvaal, excluding the Eastern Transvaal, who were affected by the present drought.

He said: "We are trying to keep labourers and farmers on their land. We are aware that there is no other employment and that we cannot leave people without homes and food.

The agricultural corporations are helping with pay and food, but this won't last forever because the corporations also do not have money. When the

To page 2
A fruitless search for work in the city of hope

Some who have fled the land are so desperate they scavenge in the towns, reports PAULA FRAY.

and most recently a struggle for survival on a Free State farm. 

He recalls “Hitler’s war” when he had only three sons and work was plentiful. Farming, he says, always went in cycles, but it has never been so bad.

Now, penniless, he has no possessions left to sell to feed his grandchildren. Of his nine children, only one son is with him in the burgeoning squatter camp outside Hoopstad.

Six months ago he began to feel the drought’s effects. “I had 25 cattle — four of them milking cows. Because of the drought the whole place was bare. There was no place for us no food for the cattle.”

After a brief spell as a gardener, he moved to Hoopstad when all his cattle were sold. “When I left the farm I thought I would get a better life. But is it more difficult here? There are no jobs. My children are not working and I can’t afford to send my grandchildren to school.”

“I see no chance of moving back to the farm now. It’s even bad for the white man. But I can’t even find work here and the pension money is too little.”

“I get mealie meal from Operation Hunger. I used to have milking cows now the children don’t even get milk, just pap.”

Last week he waited with hundreds of other elderly people at Tshwane — a township outside Hoopstad — to receive his weekly allocation of food from Operation Hunger.

Nearby, children waited for their daily cup of soup.

According to Operation Hunger Field Co-ordinator Anthony Milla, Tshwane has a growing population of about 20 000. Most started moving in from the farming areas as early as October last year.

The majority end up with no jobs, and eventually without hope. Each week day the organisation distributes food to about 1 000 people — soup for the children and family rations for those on the operation’s books.

A sewing and knitting project has also been started to make the community less dependent on aid. But even this is hampered by the economic situation as few people can afford to buy anything other than food. And, while Operation Hunger has encouraged the growth of vegetable gardens, even these have wilted in the heat.

The situation is desperate. At the local dump residents flock each Wednesday to forage for food after Hoopstad’s rubbish has been dumped.

Surrounded by dusty roads and houses, Mr Mshawa has no hope for a last-minute miracle for the Free State. “Last year there was a harvest. But this year the meagre rains brought no water and they have died.”

— MADAKANE Mshawa spent his entire life — 74 years — on the Free State farmlands until six months ago when the searing drought began to hit hard and, like thousands of others, he made his way to the nearest town in search of work.

The years etched deeply into his expressive face, the former farm labourer remembers his working years in the fields that feed thousands of South Africans with pride and mixed feelings on his journey to Hoopstad — a city of hope for those suffering on the farms, a city of disillusionment for those who made it there.

“I was born and grew up on a farm,” says Mr Mshawa, brandishing an ID book showing he was born in 1918. The only life he knows is farming.
Farming folk despair as crops wilt

As the sun beats down on the Free State, it is met by the rising heat from the baked soil. And, as the weeks pass without rain, the drought takes a rising human toll. PAULA FRAY reports.

THOUSANDS of farm labourers are flocking to Free State towns in the futile hope of getting work. But, with no hope of a harvest this year, chances are that most will end up in the burgeoning squatter camps where malnutrition is growing rapidly.

Operation Hunger field coordinator Anthony Milia says about 50 percent of children between the ages of five and 15 are malnourished. Most of them are recent migrants from the farm areas.

"Unless help is given, this will definitely rise," he adds.

Not only have farmers been crippled by the drought, but the economic situation has led to numerous retrenchments at factories in the smaller towns.

Throughout the Free State, fields of mealies present the scene of love's gold for the hopeful. Their growth stunted, their green appearance belies one of the worst droughts the country has ever seen.

As more and more farm labourers move to the cities, swelling squatter communities, organisations such as Operation Hunger are straining to cope with the increasing number of malnourished children.

"There is an enormous problem with tuberculosis and malnutrition," says Sister Cockrell.

While the former is complicated by overcrowded conditions, the latter is severely exacerbated by ignorance, she says.

An outbreak of measles has prompted an urgent immunisation programme at local schools.

Most farm mothers are unaware of symptoms of malnutrition and nurses tell of mothers boasting that their children are gaining weight when the symptoms are really malnourishment.

"We find that once diarrhoea sets in that the mothers first use home-made remedies, including an enema, under the mistaken impression that it is something the children have eaten," says Sister Cockrell.

Against the odds... farmer Clement Seape with his stunted crop. Picture: Alf Kumalo

In my entire experience as a farmer we have never had such a dry February, with temperatures up to 35 deg C. "I planted, hoping it would rain. But when it didn't, I was just a drop in the ocean. The soil is as dry as a bone," says Mr Seape.

"The farmers' future is already jeopardised. In the last six years we have had more drought than good years. I planted 200 hectares of sunflowers. But the sunflowers which normally withstand the heat start wilting. The mealies are a write-off. If by March there is still no rain, I will have no stock left by July," he says.

The owner of two farms — one of 140 ha and another of 600 ha — Mr Seape is not only facing the consequences of the drought, but also increased violence and theft against Free State farmers.

"I brought some sheep here the other day — 40 of them got stolen in broad daylight," he says, shrugging.

It is impossible to plant more than even pumpkins, out of eyeworld, he adds, attributing the increase in crime to a breakdown in law and order.

At this stage he has not needed to retrench any of his workers but there will be no harvesting this year and so seasonal labour will not be hired.
the necessary proclamations to implement the provisions of paragraphs 3, 6 and 7 after consultation with the interested parties.

In order to give effect to clause 3 and 6, the South African Police have undertaken extensive research bearing in mind the objects of the Dangerous Weapons Act, 1968 (Act No. 71 of 1968), with particular reference to the powers of the Minister as provided for by sections 2(2) and 2(3) of the same Act.

This research has been finalized, the South African Police decided that the most effective manner to honour the contents of the spirit of the National Peace Accord is to adopt the drafting of an explicit prohibition which will prohibit a person attending or participating in any political gathering in or on any public place from being in possession of any dangerous weapon or any firearm or a replica thereof.

Of paramount importance is the definition of a political gathering which includes any political gathering, concourse or procession which has been organized, convened or held or otherwise brought about with the prima facie intention to discuss, attack, criticise, promote, or propagate the principles or policy of a political party or organisation, whether or not such party or organisation is registered in terms of any law. Excluded from the definition of a political gathering would be any traditional or cultural gathering or any ceremonial gathering.

In order to evaluate the ambit of the prohibition, the attention is drawn to the proposed definition of a dangerous weapon which reads as follows:

"dangerous weapon" means

(a) any object which has been designed or manufactured with the object of inflicting a bodily injury, or

(b) any object which has not been designed or manufactured with the object of inflicting a bodily injury, but which may inflect a bodily injury if it were used to commit an assault, unless a person in possession of such an object is able to prove that with respect to the surrounding circumstances he at no time had any intention of using such object for any unlawful purpose or that he at no time had any intention of using such object to intimidate any other person or persons."

Thus the definition of a dangerous weapon will include, amongst other objects, aseggas, spears and battle-axes.

Members of the South African Police will as soon as the Proclamation has been published receive instructions to arrest persons in possession of dangerous weapons or firearms at any political gathering. Members of the South African Police will, however, not be expected to usurp the functions of the courts in any manner whatsoever.

With regard to the provisions of section 2(1) of the Dangerous Weapons Act, 1968 (Act No. 71 of 1968) which contains a prohibition on the possession of dangerous weapons accompanied by the necessary unlawful intent, members of the South African Police are instructed to ensure that the prohibition is enforced.

Provision may be made for certain exceptions, for example, persons in the service of the State, security guards or bona fide bodyguards.

After consultation with the FJP and the ANC on 18 February 1992, the Government is now in a position to announce the proclamation.

Investigation of poverty problem: working group

15 Mr J J Walsh asked the Minister of Finance (24 Feb)

(1) Whether the working group under the chairmanship of the current Deputy Director-General (Financial Planning) of his Department appointed by the Government to investigate the poverty problem has submitted a report, if not, (a) why not and (b) when does he expect such a report to be submitted, if so.

Number of prisoners previously convicted

16 Mr A J Leon asked the Minister of Correctional Services how many persons in South African prisons as at 31 December 1991 had been convicted of offences previously?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

The precise information is not centrally available and can only be obtained by a costly and manpower intensive country-wide survey. However, a survey undertaken on 24 July 1991 shows that at that stage approximately 14.6% of the prison population were first offenders whilst approximately 85.4% were recidivists. Should this percentage be made applicable to the prison population of 31 December 1991, it means that of 73 214 sentenced prisoners, approximately 10 689 would have been first offenders whilst one or more previous convictions would have been recorded against approximately 62 525. The fact that a previous conviction is recorded against a person does not necessarily mean that he had served a sentence of imprisonment since sentences may include for instance the following: a warning and dismissal, corporal punishment, fines, suspended sentences, postponed sentences, referral to a rehabilitation centre or reformatory, etc. My department is presently undertaking an investigation into the whole question of readmission but due to the extent of this project it is unfortunately not possible to give an indication as to when it would be completed. I nevertheless undertake to furnish the hon. member with more information after completion of the project.

Further allocations, targeted aid schemes

17 Mr K M Andrew asked the Minister of Finance whether any further allocations were added to the R220 million originally budgeted for targeted aid schemes, if so what are the amounts involved?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

None for the 1991/92 financial year.

Interest on deposit made by tenant

18 Mr B B Goodall asked the Minister of Trade and Industry how many persons in South African prisons as at 31 December 1991 had been convicted of offences previously?

The MINISTER OF TRADEx INDUSTRy

(1) Who receives the interest paid on the deposit made by a tenant dealt with in terms of the Estate Agents Act, No 112 of 1976?

(2) Whether it is the intention to amend the said Act in this regard, if so, (a) what amendments are contemplated and (b) when is it anticipated that the amending legislation will be submitted to Parliament?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

(1) Interest on moneys deposited in an estate agent's trust account must, in accordance with the Estate Agents Act, 1976 (Act No. 112 of 1976), be paid by the estate agent to the Estate Agents Fidelity Fund. The Estate Agents Board, however, refunds a portion of the interest to the estate agent concerned in order to compensate him for costs incurred in the regard.

(2) The matter is under consideration.

CONTINUED

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Technologies can avert a nutrition crisis

Africa must increase food production, says World Bank

*Source World Bank official*
Rich states blamed as Third World starves

A former UN director has accused the European Community of pushing poor countries into producing more food to feed the rich in the West, with the result that mass starvation becomes a permanent feature of the economy.

The EC's aid and other wealth is based on the success of Third World countries, which it regards as a test of its own ability to promote development and aid. The EC's aid and other wealth is based on the success of Third World countries, which it regards as a test of its own ability to promote development and aid. The EC's aid and other wealth is based on the success of Third World countries, which it regards as a test of its own ability to promote development and aid. The EC's aid and other wealth is based on the success of Third World countries, which it regards as a test of its own ability to promote development and aid.
Trust is to acquire land for the poor

PROPERTY
However, for the first time ever, the government is willing to give a billion dollars to the people of the country.

The government's new billion-dollar program is designed to help build up the country's economy and create jobs. The government has spent years developing this program, and now it is ready to put it into action.

The program will focus on creating jobs in the manufacturing sector, with particular attention to industries that have been hit hard by globalization. The government will provide funding to help companies invest in new equipment and expand their operations.

In addition to manufacturing, the government will also invest in education and training programs to help workers gain the skills they need to succeed in the modern economy. This will help ensure that the country has a skilled workforce ready to take on the challenges of the future.

The government is confident that this program will be a game-changer for the country. With the right investments and support, the government believes it can help create a brighter future for all Americans.

The program will be funded through a combination of government spending and private investments. The government will work closely with businesses and communities to ensure that the program is effective and meets the needs of the people.

The government is committed to working with all Americans to make sure that this program is a success. Together, we can build a better future for ourselves and our children.
to the tune of R1-Billion

Paul Stober

8 suggestions about why the state is so the Independent Development

BUSINESS
Red tape cited for delaying relief cash

PRETORIA — Government has distributed only R14.76m of the R220m relief programme launched in August, partly to counter the effect of VAT on the very poor.

The money has gone to 14 welfare organisations and two non-profit agencies.

ANC and DP spokesman said at the weekend the figures, released by the National Health and Population Development department, showed that poverty relief was not only financially inadequate, but its distribution was being severely slowed down by bureaucratic procedures.

However a department spokesman said the department was aware of the need for urgency and every effort was being made to speed up the process.

The spokesman was unable to say how many applications had been screened by the department’s regional offices but DP development aid spokesman said the figure had to be in the hundreds.

The department spokesman said to date 201 applications had been recommended to head office by regional offices.

After approval by director-general Coen Slabbert some were still being processed.

National Health Minister Rina Venter has said she would press for a doubling of the R220m in the next Budget.

Applications were coming from organisations and bodies representing all racial groups including whites.

ANC spokesman said the amount made available this financial year was pitifully inadequate to deal with a massive and growing problem.

Not only hunger, but starvation was rife in some townships.

The fact that only R14.76m of the R220m allocated this year had been spent was an indication that bureaucratic processing delays were taking place.

Even a doubling of the amount in the new financial year would only touch the fringes of the problem, she added.

Soal said it was vital that bureaucratic barriers be removed.

He agreed the amount allocated in the current financial year was merely scratching the surface of the problem.

The DP would demand during the coming Parliamentary session that the Budget allocation for poverty relief be increased to a more realistic level.
ANC renews call over VAT aid plan

THE African National Congress yesterday renewed its call for essential goods and services to be exempt from Value Added Tax until a properly structured poverty relief programme was in place.

The movement said in a statement that it was not surprised the Department of National Health and Population Development could not distribute more than R1.2 million of the R220 million relief programme launched in October last year.

"The Government has no proper statistics on poverty. It does not know the size of the population, who the poverty-stricken people are, or where they live. It does not know how to target the poor and has no mechanisms to distribute poverty relief," it claimed.

"While the Government will collect R420 million as a result of GST on basic foodstuffs, it only awarded R220 million for relief, a paltry amount considering the scale of the problem and given that food prices increased by a massive 25 percent in 1991."

It said National Health Minister Rinaas vyger's statement that she would press for a doubling of the budget of R220 million in the next budget rang hollow.

"It is essential that civilian organisations be involved in monitoring both poverty and the relief programmes established to see that the needs of the poor are addressed with the urgency the situation demands," the organisation said.
Poverty relief fails to get off the ground

By REG RUMNEY

THE African National Congress has hit home at the most vulnerable aspect of the government’s implementation of Value-Added Tax.

Even conservative commentators, who believed VAT should be levied on all goods and services virtually without exception, stressed the need for effective poverty relief to offset the wider-based tax.

Now the government seems to have conceded it hasn’t got a sufficiently widespread poverty relief programme in place.

The ANC comments: “South Africa has very high levels of poverty, yet the Pretoria government has no proper statistics on poverty.

“It does not know the size of the population, who the poverty-stricken people are, or where they live. It does not know how to target the poor, and has no mechanisms to distribute poverty relief.

“Therefore it comes as no surprise to learn that the Department of National Health and Population Development has distributed merely R14.75-million of the R220-million relief programme launched in August last year to counter the effect of VAT on the very poor.”

The ANC, however, then weakens its case by claiming in a press release that unnamed “experts” say the introduction of VAT on basic foodstuffs resulted in a three to five percent increase in the cost of living for the poor.

In fact, the cost of living increase for the very poor has been lightened by the zero-rating of two staples — bread and mealie-meal — and interim exclusion of some other basic foodstuffs from the VAT net.

The cost of living for the general population, as measured by the consumer price index, rose only around one percent as a direct result of VAT.

Though the VAT rate of 10 percent was lower than General Sales Tax at 15 percent, more goods were subject to VAT, which also embraces a wide range of services.

Even if the whole 1.9 percent month-on-month increase in October last year as compared to September was due to VAT it pales by comparison with increases in food prices.

Food price inflation rose by a whacking 25.7 percent year-on-year. This was the highest increase since April 1991. The accusation is that business used VAT as an excuse to raise food prices to this level. But food prices rose again in November by a similar amount, while the general inflation level fell slightly.

The Cosatu-led VAT Co-Ordinating Committee’s Bernie Fanaroff has pointed out the effect of the fuel price hike introduced to offset the drop in VAT from 12 to 10 percent has still to flow through. When this happens inflation will rise again.

And when zero-rating for various basic foodstuffs is phased out, the prices of those foods will rise by ten percent.

The ANC says that while the government will collect R420-million as a result of GST on basic foodstuffs, it only awarded R220-million for relief, “a pittance amount considering the scale of the problem and given that food prices increased by a massive 25 percent in 1991”.

The extent of poverty in South Africa is blurred by the unavailability of accurate stats, as the ANC notes.

But since estimates of unemployment range from 20 to 40 percent and higher, it must be so big that poverty relief itself cannot scratch the surface of the problem.
Food aid scheme held up by scam, says Venter

CAPE TOWN — Government's aid programme to help off-set the effects of VAT on poor communities had been held up in one region by a scam, Health Minister Ram Venter revealed yesterday.

The Nutrition Development Programme was now going smoothly and according to plan, she told a news conference.

Venter said Finance Minister Barend du Plessis had indicated that in the coming financial year he was prepared to double the R220m set aside for the programme.

A delay in the payout of funds had been partly due to the need to tighten controls after it was discovered last year that funds allocated to one regional organisation — which Venter declined to name — were being misappropriated for "personal enrichment".

Her department had stepped up quickly and obtained a court order for the funds to be put back in the programme. Further steps were being taken against the organisation involved.

Other delays had been caused by the need to train community organisations to write their own development programmes.

A total of R94.55m of the R220m was in the process of being spent on the programme. Non-government organisations had already been paid R16.95m, while another R9.7m had been approved and would be paid soon.

A further 189 applications totalling R17.5m were being processed. R51m had been allocated for expanding the state scheme, which was run through clinics — Sapa

Govt fears ECC challenge

PRETORIA — Government was afraid to accept the End Conscription Campaign's court challenge on conscription, knowing that if it lost in court, the whole basis for compulsory military recruitment would be shattered, said constitutional lawyer Prof Martin Wieschers.

The state had only about a 50-50 chance of successfully prosecuting men who refused to report for service, Wieschers said at the weekend.

In the event of the SADF losing a case against an objector, the Defence Act would require hasty amendment for the military to continue to meet its recruitment needs.

Because defence was a "general affair" in terms of the constitution, amendments to the Act required ratification by all three houses of Parliament — something Wieschers believed would be difficult to attain. Government knew this and was, as a result, unwilling to prosecute draft dodgers.

The SADF said the number of national servicemen who reported for service last month exceeded expectations by 21%. Military police would investigate the cases of those who failed to report.

Renamo rebels use chemicals

MAPUTO — A defector from Mozambique's right-wing Renamo rebels says the insurgent group uses chemical weapons.

The defector, Victorino Fernandes, told a news conference he had met about 50 Renamo fighters carrying gas masks at a base 40km north of Maputo in January.

Fernandes said the men told him the masks were necessary as protection against a weapon they were carrying — a projectile that could be fired from a heavy machine gun. The weapon released a poisonous substance which, if inhaled in sufficient quantity, could kill. People farther away from the impact would faint or be seriously weakened.

Fernandes said Western military experts said they knew of no chemical weapon designed to be fired from machine guns.

Renamo officials in Europe have denied using chemical weapons in their fight against the Maputo government since Mozambique secured independence from Portugal in 1975. — Sapa-Reuters.
IDT expects to help peace and negotiation processes

CAPE TOWN — The Independent Development Trust believed its development aid programme would make a substantial impact on the negotiation and peace processes, IDT chairman Jan Steyn said yesterday.

He had no problem with the variety of delivery organisations but objected to too many "filters or sponges" which prevented the product reaching its point of delivery.

Steyn said he did not believe political parties could attract development capital from abroad. "Independent agencies with a track record are more likely to be successful," he said.

Steyn said he hoped the IDT's 270 development projects would encourage an ethos of self-reliance among poor communities and prevent consolidation of a culture of entitlement.

It said also there had been a dramatic increase in the problems about access to tertiary education and funding. It urged commerce, industry and the whole community to make bigger contributions to the urgent needs of students.
Govt to double funds for food programme

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter


The Department of National Health envisaged using R110 million of the budgeted R220 million for the programme in 1991. Health Minister Dr Rina Venter said:

Dr Venter confirmed yesterday that funds for the programme would be doubled in the coming Budget.

The department was in the process of paying R34,55 million for the programme, she said.

Up to the end of last month R16,35 million had been paid to non-government organisations and another R9,7 million had been approved and would soon be paid.

Funds have been paid out to 18 organisations.

A further 189 applications, totalling R17,5 million, are being processed by the department.

Dr Venter also announced that R51 million has been allocated for the expansion of the existing Government subsidised protein-energy malnutrition scheme administered by clinics.

Explaning delays in payouts, Dr Venter said the Government has a responsibility towards the taxpayer and delays were caused by the creation of strict financial precautions to prevent the misapplication of funds.

Financial control mechanisms of payouts were reviewed after a regional welfare organisation misappropriated funds.

The money was confiscated and legal steps were being taken against the organisation. Dr Venter would not identify the organisation except to say it was a regional organisation registered for fund-raising.

She realised that many organisations experienced problems implementing the programme. Since many organisations' financial years differed from that of the State, they would not be expected to repay unspent money at the end of the 1991/92 financial year.

The money could be transferred to the next year.

Dr Venter stressed that the emphasis of the programme was on development and not distribution of food.

She said political groups were using the programme for political purposes at grassroots level by claiming responsibility for the programme.

Dr Venter said progress has been made with old-age subsistence payments and 20 percent of the disparity gap had been closed last year.
NATIONAL Health Minister Dr Rina Venter this week voiced her regret that Operation Hunger was using "public pressure" to obtain funds from the Nutritional Development Fund.

The Minister was reacting to a statement by Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman that she had received no reply to several requests for funds to help relieve starvation in the country.

Venter said in Cape Town the same application procedures were relevant to all organisations.

"Officials of the department contacted Mrs Perlman telephonically during January 1992 to point out the shortcomings in her application as well as the procedures for writing a programme," said Venter.

The allocation of funds was planned on a regional basis according to the nutritional status of each individual region. The department was responsible for the co-ordination of a number of large organisations in each region, Venter said.

"Due to the fact that excellent co-operation exists among organisations, the Minister does not understand the attitude of Operation Hunger."

She said funds were available if certain requirements were complied with - Saps
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said this week that poverty in South Africa had reached such critical levels that the redistribution of wealth would not be enough to eradicate it.

The IMF said in a report released in Washington this week that only a higher growth rate would result in meeting the needs of the underprivileged in the community.

The document was drawn up by a group of IMF economists after a visit to South Africa last year.

The report said poverty and the negative effects that apartheid had on the distribution of income between the different racial groups must be overcome through better training and the creation of jobs for blacks.

The IMF said an increase of 3.5% in the growth rate would result in an increase from 8% to 27% in the ratio between investment and the gross national product.

The SABC's correspondent in Washington said the report was the first of its kind about South Africa and would probably serve as the basis for preconditions for future loans to the country.

The Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said the report supported the government's economic approach, and particularly the fiscal and monetary policy.

Mr Du Plessis said the fact that the IMF had drawn up the report was important because South Africa would be able to share in the expertise being gathered worldwide.

He said South Africa had to develop an economy that was in agreement with the principles applied in the rest of the world. — Sapa
Govt launches food aid plan for farmers

CAPE TOWN — Government is launching a food aid plan for farmers and their labourers who are suffering in the drought ravaging most of the country.

National Health Minister Rina Venter said yesterday she had given "urgent" instructions for the programme to be established.

The drought was the subject of a four-hour debate in the House of Assembly yesterday, where Dries Brawe (CP Lydenburg), who is also president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, warned that it was probably the biggest disaster yet to hit SA's farmers.

Wessel Nel (DP Moon River) said the livelihood of SA's 6,000 farmers and their 1,3-milion labourers was threatened.

Venter said in a statement the National Health and Population Development Department would set up the programme to provide "continuous" assistance to those in need. It would draw from the Nutritional Development Programme.

Ad hoc committees would be established immediately on a district level, and farmers who needed assistance for themselves and their labourers should contact their local agricultural extension officer.

See Page 3
More funds on way to uplift poor

This is the fourth of a monthly series on how the Independent Development Trust is using R2-billion of taxpayers' money to bring hope for a better future to the very poor in South Africa. JOLYON NUTTALL, IDT Director of Communications, reports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDT SCORECARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects supported to date ... 262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds allocated .................................... R1 700 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds &quot;in the ground&quot; ......................... R400 000 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE Independent Development Trust has been in business for 18 months. As it heads into 1992, the rate at which funds will flow from its coffers to projects and programmes to uplift the poor will increase dramatically.

The scorecard shows that recipients of IDT support have drawn R400 million so far. That figure will push up towards the R1 billion (R1 000 million) mark by year end.

When the founding sum of R2-billion was transferred by the State to the IDT in August 1990, our Chairman, Jan Steyn, was adamant that the trust would do its homework before it began to spend the money.

That homework — much of which entails in-depth consultation with a wide range of players, followed by the drawing up of funding policies — is on-going. But enough has been done for the IDT executive team, under the direction of its trustees, to tackle its task with an increasingly clear focus and thrust.

Take rural poverty, for instance. Trustee, Dr Mamphela Ramphele and health director, Professor Lee Karlsson, have spent months compiling detailed policy guidelines on primary health care, water, sanitation, energy, welfare and rural development.

Now they can fund a long line of projects from simple clinics to boreholes in the knowledge that, collectively, they will impact on the plight of the rural poor.

Like Constantinople (how do you spell it? answer 1), the Independent Development Trust has a long name. But each of the three words has a growing significance as the jockeying for political power in South Africa increases.

Many people are anxious to control the destiny of development funds. As one writer put it recently, "The party which delivers the goods will be successful in wooing the electorate.”

Development is a specialised field, however, and its funding should be handled by professionals. In no way should it be dispensed as patronage in the hope of winning votes.

When Jan Steyn was asked in 1990 to head the IDT, he sought two assurances:

■ That Government was indeed intent on dismantling apartheid
■ That the funds would be transferred en bloc to an independent trust whose independently selected trustees would have sole discretion over their allocation.

In both cases, the answer was yes. So, as you — the taxpayer — read about the IDT’s activities, you can rest assured that they are founded on independence, development and trust.

The IDT receives a constant stream of overseas visitors, intrigued by the work we are doing. Their positive response and the interest they show in the country are a measure of how far we have come from being "the polecats of the Western world.”
HUNGER now, starvation tomorrow.

This is the stark reality threatening millions of people caught in the grip of the worst drought to hit the country this century.

Welfare workers predict a human catastrophe of enormous proportions as already impoverished rural communities face starvation.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said it would take a miracle to save crops in some areas.

"We are praying daily for our subsistence farmers in Mahlabathini, Ramatlabala, Winterveldt, Nkandla and Lebowa," Perlman said.

She added that her organisation was struggling to find funds to feed the people they already served and were praying they would be able to help the ballooning waiting list of 500,000.

"There is now the need to double and treble food aid while we are desperately trying to find the cash for several hundred self-help projects," Perlman said.

Jannie Momberg (DP Simon's Town) said in Parliament that while at least five million black people would be drastically affected by the drought,

It was calculated that about 1.1 million people were employed on farms in SA.

Each worker had about seven dependents, which meant that about eight million people depended on agriculture.

There was a real possibility that if the farm owner went under, the workers would find themselves homeless, and they and their dependents would stream to the cities with all the socio-economic problems this would bring.

"This is a potential time bomb of people who have no jobs and who are doomed and all we can do is to sit and wait for death," Momberg added.

A subsistence farmer in Winterveldt, Joseph Maduna, said his community needed a miracle to save them from the drought.

"We will have to pray to the Almighty to open up the heavens and send us rain to save the crops that have not yet been burnt up," Maduna said.

"If our prayers are not answered, we will be in the Northern Transvaal, Free State and Northern Cape grazing land is fast becoming wasteland and rivers and dams are down to dangerously low levels.

Food aid organisations have been inundated with appeals for food by thousands of people starving in rural backwaters.

"All the gains Operation Hunger had made over the past 10 years have been used up to help all black farmers and the needy," Perlman said.

SCORCHED EARTH... Winterveldt farmer Joseph Maduna's crop has been ravaged by drought.

Farmers across the land face starvation if rain does not fall soon.
IMF says poverty in SA 'critical'

THE International Monetary Fund has said that poverty in South Africa had reached such critical levels that the redistribution of wealth would not be enough to erase it.

The IMF said in a report released in Washington this week only a higher growth rate would allow the needs of the underprivileged to be met.

The negative effects of apartheid must be overcome through better training and the creation of jobs for blacks, it added.

An increase of 3.5 percent in the growth rate would result in an increase from eight percent to 27 percent in the ratio between investment and the Gross National Product.
JOHANNESBURG — A South African welfare agency said yesterday that 2 million black people could be starving by May unless the government speeded up drought relief.

Operation Hunger, a major private welfare group that feeds 1.8 million people daily and promotes self-help development, said delay in starting the first government funding of its work could turn malnutrition in rural areas into outright starvation.

"We do not use the word starvation lightly. We use it with the full weight of what the word means," said agency director Ms Ina Perlman.

"We are desperately worried," The agency said it had had none of R220 million promised to non-governmental groups for normal hunger relief in the government's budget in April last year.

The money was more urgently needed now because of drought.

"We are feeding wholly or partially, 1.8 million people now and we have almost half-a-million others on our waiting lists," said Ms Perlman. — Sapa-Reuters
Rural electrification this decade 'unlikely'

CAPE TOWN — Substantial electrification of rural areas and informal houses in SA was unlikely this decade, Stellenbosch University economist Servaas van der Berg said at the weekend.

In a paper delivered at the ANC national meeting on electrification, Van der Berg said pressures on financial and skills resources would limit electrification to formal houses in the urban areas.

He foresaw most formal houses having electricity within the next 20 years.

The paper was based on a soon-to-be-released final report of a research project for the National Energy Council undertaken by Van der Berg and J du Toit.

van der Berg said SA did not have the financial resources for full-scale electrification, even if political problems retarding electrification were overcome.

To eliminate the full urban housing backlog by the year 2000 would require 420 000 additional connections per year for the first decade, and to cope with the increase in the urban population, 220 000 connections the following decade. Financial constraints made this unlikely.

ANC science and technology group's LH Napa Maepa said a common feature of all successful electrification projects overseas was that they were undertaken as the result of a conscious decision and commitment by the government of the country.

Another key feature was the total participation by the local population.

He believed electrification projects undertaken by Eskom or the present "unrepresentative" government would be stillborn. Community controlled and sponsored electrification initiatives were the sole viable means of bringing electricity to black communities in SA.

Our Cape Town correspondent reports that the meeting decided to establish a convening committee to call a follow-up meeting before March.
Government warned of large-scale starvation

OPERATION Hunger said yesterday two-million blacks could be starving by May unless government accelerated drought relief.

The private welfare group said delay in starting the first government funding of its work could turn malnutrition in rural areas to outright starvation.

"We do not use the word starvation lightly. We use it with the full weight of what the word means," agency director Ina Perlman told a news conference "We are desperately worried."

The group said it had received none of the R220m promised to non-government organisations for normal hunger relief in government's budget in April last year.

The money was more urgently needed now because of the drought

"We are feeding, wholly or partially, 1.8-million people now and we have almost half-a-million others on our waiting lists," said Perlman.

She said the organisation would need to feed between 2.25-million and 2.5-million people if government did not release funds by the end of April.

The Department of National Health said strict precautions to prevent misapplication of taxpayers' money had led to a delay in payments, but these were now being accelerated.

Perlman said in a statement the "miracle" of rain might still save crops in some areas, but prayers were being said daily for subsistence farmers in Mahlabanyana, Ramatlabama, Winterveld, Nkandla and Lebowa.

She said Operation Hunger was aware that grants had been made to some creches and had read about a clinic relief scheme that had been announced but as yet had seen no signs of its implementation.

Perlman warned that "bureaucratic delay and dilly-dallying" would result in death for many.

Aid workers estimate a quarter of all deaths among blacks are children under five who succumb to malnutrition. Perlman said this rate was rising. - Cape-Reuters

Urgent drought talks scheduled

PRETORIA — Agriculture Minister Krisat van Nierkerk will meet a top-level delegation from the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) on Friday for urgent talks on the drought disaster and its consequences for the economy and agriculture.

Union director Piet Swart is expected to appeal for cash and measures at the Cape Town meeting.

The union said about half the industry's total debt, which could reach R2bn by the year end, is owed to commercial banks. The balance is on the books of the Land Bank and co-operatives, except for 5% owed to government.

Nampo economist Kitie Claes had said yesterday 12 000 farmers in the summer grain areas were responsible for 90% of the country's maize, wheat and oil seed production.

Almost 3 600 of these were in grave financial straits. Almost R1,8bn of the total invested in crops this year — mostly borrowed money — had "gone down the drain with absolutely no return."

Farmers were paying almost R8bn a year to service debt — a burden fewer and fewer were able to carry.

Without a substantial aid few would be able to plant the 1992/93 crop.

Le Claes added that food shortages could not be ruled out.

A "disastrous" situation loomed if farmers had to keep on borrowing to service debt. A long-term strategy to get the industry back on its feet was urgently needed.

Meanwhile, the Farmers' Crisis Action group, which orchestrated the disruption of central Pretoria last year when thousands of farmers and their vehicles clogged city thoroughfares, is threatening another "farmer power" demonstration unless government acts to defuse the crisis:

Sapa reports SAU co-operative council chairman Charles van Vreeden said in a statement yesterday it was clear few farmers would harvest any summer crops whatsoever.

"This situation can have disastrous results for many farmers who are already in a weak financial position due to many years of crop failures and high interest rates, while the rural areas also suffer, making the future of many agricultural co-operatives uncertain," he said.

He said co-operatives played a key role in determining the extent of the losses, and encouraged them to continue to provide all possible co-operation in the search for solutions and further aid actions.

IT'S A CREDIT JUNGLE OUT THERE KNOW WHERE YOUR COMPANY IS
Thousands now face starvation

Paula Fray
and Helen Grange

Thousands of people are facing starvation within the next few weeks as a result of the severe drought gripping the country, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman warned yesterday.

The critical shortage of maize in the country is expected to result in serious shortages of mealie meal, a staple diet for the poor.

Several farmers are already struggling to feed their farmworkers and some have begun retrenching those they can no longer support.

Ms Perlman said at a press conference in Johannesburg that the Government had been "monstrously slow" in responding to Operation Hunger's formal request for money to alleviate the plight of people reeling under the severe drought.

"Such bureaucratic delay will, for many of our constituency, effect the most permanent solution of all —

To Page 3

 Thousands could starve as drought grips country

From Page 1

"It will be a death," she said.

Health Minister Dr Anna Venter recently told Parliament R94,35 million was in the process of being paid out. Of this, about R16 million had been paid out to non-government organisations.

Ms Perlman said Operation Hunger's waiting list of people needing immediate aid was now close on 500,000.

The blazing heat had reduced black subsistence farmers' markets by up to 30 percent.

Ms Perlman said there was "precious little evidence" that money made available on paper by Government was being distributed.

Eastern Cape field worker Glynus Baer added that people in the eastern Cape were also not feeling any effect of the Government's poverty-relief programme.

Agriculture Minister Dr Klaas van Niekerk yesterday toured devastated Transvaal farms following a mass meeting with Free State farmers on Monday.

The SA Agricultural Union yesterday expressed grave concern about the situation, saying it was already clear that fewer farmers would harvest any summer crops whatsoever.

The future of many co-operatives was uncertain.

Mr van Niekerk is expected to report back on possible steps to be taken at a meeting organised by the National Maize Producers Organisation next month.

Meanwhile, Farmers' Union Action has warned the Government that it will launch a protest action if immediate relief measures were not taken.

The organisation demanded that insolvency litigation and sequestration sales against farmers be halted, and interest rates on agricultural debt suspended. President Bok Klerk should also declare the whole agricultural sector a disaster area.

The organisation did not expand on what action would be taken, but it was responsible for the "Siege of Pretoria" last January when thousands of farmers disrupted traffic in the city.
War of words over 'slow' hunger relief

NATIONAL Health Minister Rina Venter yesterday hit back at Operation Hunger for "using public pressure to obtain funds from the Nutritional Development Board."

Replying to criticism by Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman that government was "unacceptably slow" in allocating funds to relief agencies, Venter said she could not approve of the fact that Perlman, together with her committee, "has sole discretion regarding a single amount of R3.5m (the amount the organization is seeking from government) of taxpayers' money.

Venter said she could not understand Operation Hunger's attitude.

In a day of sharp exchanges between the country's biggest relief agency and the Minister responsible for allocating relief funds, Perlman accused government of "reinventing the wheel" during the complex application procedure for government funds.

On Tuesday, Perlman warned that 2-million people could die in drought-stricken areas unless government accelerated its relief allocation procedures.

A spokesman for Pretoria relief agency Werk en Oorloof, which provides food for poor white people in Pretoria, yesterday echoed Perlman's comments saying that government had been very slow in supplying the relevant forms for the agency to apply for aid.

Perlman said that of 158 organizations which had 85 applications for aid approved in the eastern Cape, only eight had received money from government.

She also said she had not yet received a reply to a letter she wrote to the National Health Department on December 11 last year applying for funds.

Perlman said yesterday a department official had contacted Perlman by telephone last month to advise her of the "shortcomings on her application."

Sapa reports Perlman reiterated that no response whatsoever had been received to her letter. "Our communications seem to have been lost in a bureaucratic morass," she said.

Perlman said applications for state funding were regionally co-ordinated to prevent overlapping between different organizations doing the same work.

Government had already earmarked R3.5m for aid and non-government organizations were successfully involved in its distribution and application.

Venter said Operation Hunger had written to the Ministry asking for funds and not the department as it should have done.

"Perhaps the whole procedure needs to be changed because in every area there are dozens of organizations in exactly the same boat," Perlman said.

Another senior relief agency official, who did not want to be named, claimed yesterday that there was "a layer of obstructive, bumbling bureaucracy" in the National Health Department that was slowing down application procedures.
'Bread' drive launched to highlight poverty

By Chris Mabuya

The South African Communist Party (SACP) is launching a “Bread Campaign” to highlight poverty and unemployment.

It will involve marches and the collection of money to buy bread for the poor. And people who cannot afford medical care will be taken to doctors and hospitals for treatment.

SACP general secretary Mr Chris Hani said: "There is a lot of unemployment and poverty in this country. Society is not aware that a number of people go to bed without food."

"The white parliament does not discuss the issue of poverty. Even organisations talk about it in general terms."

"We feel we should highlight the issue and demand welfare for our people from the white government."

"We are now busy collecting money and asking employers to donate so that we can buy bread which will be distributed in squatter camps, rural areas, villages and other areas where there is a need for food."

Hani, who is also Umkhonto we Sizwe’s chief of staff, said doctors had been mobilised to examine the "victims of impoverishment".

The campaign was decided on at the party’s national congress in December last year as the beginning of a focus on the working class.

Hani said Cosatu and the ANC had been informed about the campaign. "This must not be seen as a party thing but should involve all the masses of our people," said Hani. — Elnews
Foreign loans could help poor this year

THE Industrial Development Trust is to acquire financial loans from foreign sources as well as the private sector to "aggressively invest" in providing homes for the poor this year.

It will consult with political organisations, the Government and a wide range of actors and interested parties, according to IDT's communications director, Mr Jolyon Nuttal, in Cape Town this week.

IDT chairman Mr Jan Steyn met a group of the World Bank representatives who visited South Africa on a fact-finding mission last week.

Nuttal said: "We will pay a lot of attention on providing funds not only for homes, but instead of a roof over people's heads, the trust has gone for ground under their feet."

More than a third - R750 million - of IDT funds have been allocated to a capital subsidy scheme under which 100 000 serviced sites would be given to the very poor.

About 700 000 people - an average of seven families - will benefit from the security that land title brings.

Dwellings

"We believe that the people who receive the sites will build dwellings on them, he said. "Some may start with shacks which they will gradually improve. Using the land as surety, others will borrow money to build more substantial homes."

"Yet we know that 100 000 sites are only a beginning, we have in fact received applications to subsidise 640 000. More money must be found," he added.

Referring to education, Nuttal said a model of how community control, and therefore community protection, could be obtained in school management has been developed through a national school building initiative that will see 50 000 additional classrooms constructed in the next three to four years.

"The challenge is to establish community learning centres which could function up to 14 hours a day, seven days a week."

Facilities

"Given proper administrative facilities and inexpensive community halls, the centres would - in terms of the model - provide primary school facilities until early afternoon, and cultural activities and adult education thereafter.

In rural areas, it could be used for primary health care as well, he added."
UK government body slaps Oxfam

LONDON — Britain's biggest overseas charity agreed this week to withdraw or amend booklets which criticised aid to Cambodia and supported sanctions against South Africa.

Oxfam agreed to the move after being told the booklets were too political.

The Charity Commission, a government monitoring body, said last year that Oxfam had exceeded its objectives by carrying out unacceptable political activities.

Oxfam was set up in 1942 to help relieve worldwide poverty and distress.

It operates in more than 70 countries.

The commission's inquiry was prompted by Oxfam's Frontline Africa campaign in 1990, which called for sanctions against South Africa to be maintained until the introduction of a democratic constitution.

The commission said this week Oxfam had agreed to withdraw or amend two booklets in the Frontline Africa series.

The charity also agreed not to distribute in Britain a 1998 book compiled by 31 international aid organisations called "Punishing the Poor; the International Isolation of Kampuchea."

The book argued that people were suffering in Cambodia because of a political logjam and lack of government-to-government aid.

The commission said Oxfam had acted in good faith — but it reminded the organisation that its campaigns must be directly related to helping the beneficiaries of the charity.

An Oxfam spokesman said the commission was not outlawing political activity by charities but had objected to the style and tone of the campaigns on South Africa and Cambodia.
Perlman takes swipe at Rina Venter

By Paula Fray

A bureaucratic bungle appears to be the basis for the controversy which has erupted between Operation Hunger and the Minister of National Health and Population Development over a delay in processing funds for hunger relief.

Yesterday, Minister Rina Venter said Operation Hunger had to apply to the Department of Health and Population Development, and not the ministry, for funds.

But Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman, who said on Tuesday that the organisation had been trying to get verbal clarification on the system since October, was not appeased.

"I sympathise with Dr Venter in her attempts to cover up the blatant negligence in her department, but frankly I find her most recent statement nothing short of pathet-

ic," said Mrs Perlman.

The point remained that there had been a delay in response to their request and that Dr Venter, as Minister of National Health and Population Development, was in charge of the department of the same name. Mrs Perlman said she would make available to the press correspondence from the ministry.

The organisation had hand-delivered a letter to the minister's office on December 11 and received a letter of acknowledgement on January 18.

Operation Hunger was told the matter was being investigated.

In a statement last night, Dr Venter expressed regret that Operation Hunger was "using public pressure to obtain funds from the Nutritional Development Fund."

According to Dr Venter, Operation Hunger's letter of December 1991 was forwarded to the department for processing. An official then contacted Mrs Perlman last month to inform her of the shortcomings of the application.

"The minister cannot approve the purchase of vehicles with money from this fund as well as the fact that Mrs Perlman, together with her committee, has sole discretion regarding the spending of a single amount of R20 million of taxpayers' money," she said.

Earlier, Dr Venter hit back against accusations of "dilly-dallying" while thousands of people were starving, saying it was unreasonable to accuse the Government of delaying emergency feeding schemes when scores of welfare organisations had received funds.

However, Mrs Perlman categorically rejected "allegations and innuendos by the minister" that it had, in turn, failed to respond to requests from her department for schedules and other information.
'Do-gooders' slammed

OPERATION Massadane for the Homeless yesterday criticised Operation Hunger and other "do-gooder" charities for making the needy dependent on handouts.

Ormhle general secretary Mr Basheer Lorgat said the money spent on charitable handouts should rather be invested in programmes to develop human potential.

"The present handout system will only lead to disaster as seen in the rest of Africa and Asia."

Replying to the criticism, Operation Hunger head Mrs InaPerlman said Lorgat had enough experience of Operation Hunger to know that a significant amount of the organisation's work was devoted to development programmes - Sapa
‘Granny’
Leah’s mind
of enterprise

By RAYMOND NXUMALO

A VISIT to “Granny” Leah Mkhlype is like taking a trip back to Johannesburg’s gold-digging days more than a century ago. Her “open cast mine” may not be as lucrative, but it is certainly no less enterprising.

Her grandchildren and their friends come up to help out at her “mine” in Blaauwplaats, near the kwazulas township of Ouwens on the outskirts of Newcastle.

They follow her to the site, a stone’s throw away from her house, where 42-year-old Phumzile Shabanga works with pick axe in hand.

“You know your position, Leah,” recalls one of her little “labourers,” as they arrange themselves into a human chain inside the hole. Nkosishima Smithers (10) lines up the buckets while Shabanga starts digging.

“Bhelele,” Nkosimelani, warms as a home rock almost hot to the touch, is thrown up in the falling soil and fills the waiting queue of buckets.

As soon as all eight plastic buckets are filled, the human chain goes to work. Swoongle Mkhize (12) picks up a bucket, throws it to Zanele Musindo (12), who in turn passes it to Ludwe Msele (13), then on to Nkosimelani (14), Sakele Mncwango, Beauty Mkhize and finally to Granny Leah, who throws the soil into a nearby pool of stagnant water.

Then she throws the bucket back down to Nkosimelani and the whole process begins again.

All this is done with a degree of damage for the mine wall hanging menacingly above their heads.

There is no doubt that the slightest incautious trigger by a blast at the “mine” entrance, some 9km away, could bring down the wall — literally burying them under tons of soil.

What does she subject herself and the children to such dangerous work? The object is to get coal out of the “mine.”

“The coal merchants who come around and check are expensive, and we need the coal. They charge R2.50 for a 20-litre paraffin tin and you can only make five to six or even three times with that,” Mkhlype explains, shaking her head in disapproval. To her, R2.50 is a lot of money.

“I sold it for a long time to reach the coal. It takes less than five hours to dig a groove, and we have the whole day to ourselves,” she says, peeling dry skin from the palms of her hands.

And at the end of the day she usually takes three, sometimes four, bucketsful of coal home.

While Granny Leah’s interest in this process is domestic-oriented, Shabanga’s is more entrepreneurial: he sells the bricks he makes from the yield of the hole.

“I use the clay that I dig here to make bricks. I take the bricks and sell them cheap,” he explains. He charges R1.20 for 100 bricks. Most of the surrounding houses are built from home-made bricks.

There are 19 other holes owned and “mined” by other families, according to Shabanga’s “employer”, Goodness Xamba. She says anyone who has freehold rights to a piece of land with coal just beneath the surface can be an owner. And unlike most employers, she doesn’t have to worry about staff wages.

“These wages are what they dig from that hole.”
Midrand backs call on squatting

THE Midrand Town Council yesterday came out in support of the Urban Foundation's call for a broad-based working group to tackle the squatter problem in the PWV region.

But management committee chairman David Hidden also called for regional forums across the country to solve the problem on a nationwide basis.

"The current perception that the accommodation of homeless people is a North Rand issue only is not merely incorrect, but extremely dangerous," Hidden said in a statement.

The Midrand council had taken on the challenge of housing nearly 120 000 people, he said.

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

Many of these people worked on the East Rand and incurred excessive travel costs to get to their places of employment and back.

"This situation has arisen as a result of the lack of provision of accommodation for workers in established industrial areas," he said.

Hidden said he was concerned that other regions in SA were "simply sitting back and keeping an extremely low profile" during the crisis.

"It is unrealistic to expect that the 7-million people who need to be informally housed could be accommodated in the northern PWV area."

Venter says yes to Perlman

OPERATION Hunger director Ina Perlman said yesterday her organisation had received a letter from National Health Minister Rina Venter granting it permission to apply for aid on a national basis.

The letter brings to an end the public row which erupted this week between Perlman and Venter, during which Perlman accused Venter's ministry of delaying relief aid while people went hungry.

Perlman had accused the ministry of not replying to a letter Operation Hunger had sent in December asking to be allowed to prepare an application to be granted aid money nationally.

Perlman in turn accused Perlman of using public pressure to obtain funds.

Perlman said the organisation's application would be submitted today.

Comment: Page 8
R7-m a month sought in food fund row

Staff Reporter and Sapa

After a week-long war of words between Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman and National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter, the welfare organisation was yesterday granted permission to submit a "consolidated" application for funds to the Department of National Health and of Health Services and Welfare.

Mrs Perlman last night said the application for R7 million in aid per month would be delivered in Pretoria this morning.

Operation Hunger's current needs had increased dramatically since December, she said.

In a statement, Mrs Perlman rejected Dr Venter's "sanctimonious innuendos" that Operation Hunger had not been prepared to give a full account of how it planned to spend taxpayers' money.

"We could not, however, lodge a formal application until she (Dr Venter) had agreed that we lodge one national, and not 14 regional, ones."

"If the minister requires testimonials on Operation Hunger's financial probity, we suggest she applies to the embassies of those foreign governments that have assisted, through us, the people we serve year after year," Mrs Perlman said.

She criticised Dr Venter for her department's "overall slowness" in dispensing urgently needed funds "in a time of national crisis". The debate between her organisation and the minister had reached "judicious proportions", Mrs Perlman said, and it had been "demeaning and distasteful".

Operation Hunger first wrote to the minister on December 11 last year, requesting permission to submit a consolidated application for funds, and not 14 regional applications as was required by the department. The only response the organisation had received was an acknowledgement of the letter, Mrs Perlman said.

Dr Venter has countered that Mrs Perlman had been asked in December to submit a feeding development programme in support of her application to the department, not to the ministry.

Mrs Perlman said this information had never been conveyed to Operation Hunger. She was also unaware that the minister and her department were "not on speaking terms".

A Johannesburg-based pressure group, Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (OMHLE), yesterday criticised Operation Hunger and other "do-gooder" charities for making the needy dependent on handouts.

OMHLE general-secretary Basheer Lorgat said in a statement that the money spent on charitable handouts should be invested in programmes to develop human potential.

Mrs Perlman replied that Mr Lorgat had sufficient experience of Operation Hunger to know that a significant amount of the organisation's work was devoted to development programmes.

"I'm delighted to know that Mr Lorgat has such interesting views on feeding the hungry, and I will certainly remember it next time OMHLE applies to us for assistance, "I'm also delighted to know that Mr Lorgat has never been hungry."

Dr Venter announced yesterday that contributions to the Food Assistance Fund for Farmers and Labourers affected by the drought were coming in from all regions.

Cash donations for the fund can be sent to the Federal Council of Women, Box 40337, Arcadia 0097, or paid into the Volkskas Arcadia account 0810-060-059.

Non-perishable or canned food can be handed in at the local branch of the Women's Agricultural Union for distribution among the needy.

Inquiries can be addressed to J.T. Wolmarans, Private Bag X228, Pretoria 0001, or telephone (012) 325-5100.
POVERTY - 1992

NOV - DEC.
ALMOST one million white South Africans are living below the breadline - more than during the Great Depression in the 30s.

These poor whites are only part of the nine million people being assisted by the government because they have no "visible" means of livelihood.

According to a deputy director of the Department of Health Services and Welfare, Mr J Pienaar, 912,746 whites are economically inactive or have an income of less than R7 000 a year, and the numbers are rising.

Mr Pienaar says that in the 1990 census, 1,962,658 whites were listed as having no income. But of these, 1,464,076 were below the age of 19 - leaving a total of 498,882 adults with no income at all.

A further 414,164 have an income of less than R10,500 a year.

According to the census, the total white population of South Africa was 4,521,000.

The University of South Africa's Bureau for Market Research says the minimum living level for an average family of five is R850 a month.

With unemployment rising as a result of the recession, Mr Pienaar says the number of whites who approached his department for assistance increased from 29,701 last year to 46,034 by March this year.

The nine million destitute catered for by the government's National Nutrition and Social Development Programme include all race groups as well as people living in the TRVC homelands.

The programme, which is co-ordinated by the Department of National Health and Population Development, funds non-governmental organisations or local authorities which have feeding and nutrition programmes.


Dr Joos Hattingh, NNSDP programme director, said about 88 percent of the total black population was experiencing "social need".

According to the 1990 census, there are 17,973,320 black people in the country. Between April 1 and November 21 this year, 1,368 organisations received money from the NNSDP.

"Operation Hunger" director Ini Perlam said her organisation's feeding and self-help projects catered for over 2,1-million people - 100,000 of whom are white.

She added that the unemployment rate in the rural areas was about 50 percent over the past two to three years, but had risen to 70 percent in 1992.
SA Muslims send R1m aid shipment to Bosnia

A SHIPMENT of aid worth more than R1m — from local Muslims to Bosnia — would arrive in Turkey this weekend, organizer Dr Imtiaz Soolman said in Maritzburg last night.

He said the cargo of 620 tons of humanitarian aid would arrive in the breakaway Yugoslav country by November 18.

A shipment of equal value was sent during August. The aid would continue as long as the war lasted Soolman accompanied the first shipment and visited Mostar and the frontlines.

There was not much likelihood of SA Muslims actively joining in the war, as resources in Bosnia, stretched to the limit, could not make provision for foreign volunteers. "Thousands" of Muslim volunteers had gone to Bosnia to give military assistance, but the Bosnians were too undersupplied to make use of them.

See Page 7
UK helps SA to feed

THE BRITISH Government will donate R565 000 to Operation Hunger to be used for the organisations' feeding programme in the Orange Free State, the British Embassy said in Pretoria yesterday.

The funds will be used to buy nearly 16 000 bags of soya soup for the feeding programme, which assists 425 000 individuals, mostly children under 10, in the province, the Embassy said.
Govt: cash to fight poverty too sparse

PRETORIA — The National Health Department responded yesterday to allegations by Operation Hunger that the poverty safety net was not working.

Demand for aid from a growing number of poverty-stricken families throughout SA was far greater than could be satisfied with the funds available to the National Health Department’s nutrition and social development programme, a department spokesman said yesterday.

The great need could be measured by the estimate that there were 9-million people without visible means of livelihood and if the R440m which had been available from April was divided among them, each would receive a mere R4 a year.

Indications were that the R440m would be spent before the end of the present financial year.

The spokesman said the programme would be continued in the 1993/94 financial year with an increased budget allocation of R60m.

Allocated to non-governmental organisations so far from the R440m is an amount of R163m, excluding the TBVC countries and the five homelands. Since April 1 160 non-governmental organisations have benefited.

The spokesman said R175m had been earmarked for the TBVC states and the self-governing territories “for the administration of the programme within their borders.”

GERALD REILLY
and GRETA STEYN

A total of 313 applications are being processed, with the highest number, 80, from the eastern Cape followed by 60 from the southern Transvaal and Pretoria and 47 from Natal.

The spokesman said dictums on mine applications and approval of funds had been delegated to mine development regions.

This had resulted in significantly speeding up the process of channeling funds to the needy.

Asked what steps were being taken to ensure funds were well spent, the spokesman said the programme included an internal monitoring system. Before an organisation qualified for refunding, proof had to be provided that the amount was spent according to departmental guidelines.

An audited report also had to be submitted annually.

The implementation of an independent external monitoring system was under way, the spokesman added.

In terms of the programme, assistance concentrates on the most basic human needs in the short term — “people in serious social need”.

The spokesman said that “organisations who wish to help the needy are invited to apply for funding.”
ANC probes drought relief distribution

ANC president Nelson Mandela will visit the drought-stricken far north-east Transvaal at the end of the month as part of an ANC focus on the failure of relief resources to reach those in greatest need.

The announcement of Mandela's visit and similar visits to areas of the Free State today and the eastern Transvaal in the coming weeks by deputy president Walter Sisulu was made yesterday.

Agriculture spokesman Derek Hanekom said government was hamstrung by "the invidious situation it finds itself in" with 14 ethnic government structures channelling drought relief funds.

"We have refrained from making a political issue out of this, but the reality is that it is a political problem. The fact that rains have now come is no guarantee that the water crisis is over," he said.

Civil engineer Rob McCuechon said at least between five and 10% of the "public purse" — R4,2bn-R8,0bn — should be spent on a public works programme to relieve rural poverty.

McCuechon serves on an employment creation working group of the consultative forum on drought — a joint government/development agency relief structure.

"We have a four-phased public works programme involving education, serious analysis and planning, training, supervision and finally a national employment creation programme that should be embarked on.

He said short-term demands could be met by short-term employment such as street cleaning and rubbish clearing while a national employment creation programme was being built.

"At present only 10% of money spent on road building was spent on wages and this should be increased to between 40% and 50% to dramatically boost job creation.

Kenya, Botswana and Malawi had all successfully implemented such programmes, he said.

McCuechon said employment creation had to become "a major policy objective", and a future government would continue with such a programme if it was initiated now.

The ANC was busy with a pilot project, which involved the building of a dam, borehole drilling and employment creation in the northern Transvaal, he said.

He said the Ciskei government had refused to acknowledge the severity of its drought despite international engineers describing it as one of the worst hit places in SA.
You're fired — workers.

Merry Xmas,

By Downton Wheaton

November 10, 1992
Africa's new hope for the famished

AN American winner of the Nobel peace prize, Norman Borlaug, whose high-yield dwarf wheat changed the face of food production in Asia, believes a solution to Africa's tremendous food shortage is in sight.

Experiments carried out under his guidance in various parts of the continent gave surprising results. Yields have risen, on average, by no less than 2.5 times.

Borlaug has been experimenting extensively in the Sudan, where wheat and sorghum crop yields have increased dramatically. In March this year, the Sudanese harvested no less than 800,000 tons of wheat compared with a previous total of around 160,000 tons. In Ghana maize production has increased by about 40 percent and indications are that this figure will steadily rise in the future.

Other areas where 78-year-old Borlaug's scientists are operating include Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Benin and Togo.

Borlaug, who became famous as a plant breeder in the American state of Iowa, believes African leaders can play a key role in increasing production of food by taking a few simple steps:

- Make it a priority that fertiliser reaches African villages at least six weeks before the planting season starts.
- Provide the farmers with credit to pay off debts.
- Ensure that they receive a fair price for their produce.

Africa has two major problems that inhibit food production. Firstly, its soil is acidic and in great need of fertiliser. Secondly, its farming methods are generally primitive. More than 80 percent of the continent's farming is still done by hand, consisting mainly of slash-and-burn cultivation with sickles, sticks and hoes. About eight out of every 10 farm workers are women.

Only about 16 percent of African farms are cultivated by animal power. If one considers that without animal power only about 2.5 acres can be cultivated by one family, then it becomes clear why most of Africa's agriculture consists of subsistence farming.

A mere four percent of cultivation is done with machinery.

But while Africa has the lowest farm output in the world, it possesses the most unused and uncultivated land.

If farming methods can be improved while more unused land is cultivated, the continent should be able to overcome its present problem of widespread starvation. Combine the foregoing with the knowledge the Borlaug team has built up since its programme in Africa started in 1986 and food production can even increase spectacularly.

New high-yielding strains of important crops are gradually appearing on the scene. With further development and hard work these strains can change the face of Africa.

Borlaug says he has no instant solution to Africa's food problems. But by scientifically marshalling all available knowledge on Africa's crops, the use of fertiliser, insect and weed control, and the optimal use of available moisture a solution is in sight.
Rains bring joy — and hardship...

By FRED KHUMALO

WORDS fall this reporter in describing the effect of pattering rain on the scorched hills of Natal.

It's a very long time since the storm clouds hanging over Natal have brought relief and not hardship.

Thousands of Natalians had no qualms about expressing complete joy over the bursting of the waters.

Natalians had been anxiously scanning white-hot skies for signs of rain clouds for a punishingly long time.

But, reflecting the deep tragedy which underlies the region, the return of the rain could compound the misfortune gripping the lives of about 200,000 refugees.

City Press visited a camp for 78 homeless families who for two months have lived in tents in the Indian suburb of Isipingo on the Natal South Coast.

To these people who fled their township home of Folweni at the height of Inkatha-ANC violence, the rains meant long, wet nights, disease and terrible fears for the many newborns struggling to make it in the camp.

Most of the 400 refugees were women and children: The menfolk stayed behind in the township to protect their homes from marauders. Many have died.

Ebrahim Dawood of the Islamic Relief Agency, which supplies food to the refugees, said: "The situation is saddening. These people are caught between the devil and the deep sea. They can't go on living like this, but they have nowhere else to go."

Children

Fears are mainly for the lives of 60 children ranging in age from one week to two years who are highly susceptible to diseases stemming from squalor and the cold.

In the last two months at least six kiddies have died from diarrhoea, bronchitis and other routinely curable afflictions.

As City Press arrived at the site we were hit by a stench which made one's stomach churn. Clouds of fat, black flies buzzed about. A few landed on the open mouth of a sleeping child and crawled about lazily.

The tents were crammed with the paraphernalia of people forced to suddenly flee.

Privacy was non-existent: families slept cheek-by-jowl. Infants barely a few weeks' old cried for their mother's breasts. Elderly ladies, too tired to wake up even during the day, moaned loudly nearby.

The Natal/KwaZulu Regional Dispute Resolution Committee said the Natal violence had displaced about 200,000 people.

Hardest hit is the South Coast with between 30,000 and 40,000 refugees crammed into different centres.

Zanola Ngobgo, 34, lost her two-year-old to the treacherous living conditions at Isipingo Beach camp.

She said: "When it rains, the water comes in making our blankets wet and we get sick. There are a lot of flies in the tent — which is not good for the newborns. Sometimes when it is hot, I still have to keep the baby in the tent because it gets windy outside. I have already lost a baby who came before this one."

And the violence continues too. Two weeks ago three gunmen fired on two scantly boys but missed...
Rina shocked by poverty

PRETORIA — Shock was expressed at the living conditions of Alexandra residents by National Health and Population Development Minister Dr Rina Venter yesterday.

Dr Venter spent the day visiting the township north of Johannesburg and also inspected community development programmes and feeding scheme centres in the northern Transvaal and in Soweto.

She said most Alexandra residents, especially women and children, were living in shocking poverty.

She was pleased as the community, especially leaders, were prepared to become involved in self-help schemes.

Following discussions with project officers and community leaders it was evident these projects were unifying people in their fight against poverty.

The self-help schemes, recently introduced in South Africa, involve training township families to grow vegetables in their backyards more cheaply and without using expensive chemical fertilisers. — Sapa
Indian delegation visits SA's poor

By CHIARA CARTER

A DELEGATION from three organisations representing homeless people in India visited squatters in Khayelitsha this week. The five-member delegation, which left Cape Town yesterday, was hosted by People's Dialogue, an organisation established last year following an initiative by the Catholic Bishops' Conference to encourage contact and resource-sharing between communities in informal settlements.

The three Indian organisations — the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (Spark), Mahila Milen (Women Together) and the National Slum Dwellers Federation — work together closely in Indian cities with slum-dwellers.

According to Spark representative Ms Celine D'Cruz, the organisations encourage women to assume leadership in their communities without alienating men.

Ms D'Cruz said the organisations were involved in an exchange programme with South Africa and that a South African delegation had visited India earlier this year.

"The programme aims to bring together people from poor urban communities rather than experts. We believe in poor people speaking to the poor."

The delegation visited poor settlements throughout the country.
Mothers clean up garbage for food

By MICHEL MULLER

THE Department of National Health has allocated R50000 to the Linglethu West City Council for a six-month "food development" pilot project, in which residents — mainly women with babies on their backs — collect garbage in exchange for food.

The money is part of the controversial R440-million Nutrition Development Programme announced last year by Minister of Health Dr Rina Venter.

The Fairest Cape Association had "laid the groundwork for the system", its chief executive, Mr. Roger Hulley, said.

The women, selected from the poorest areas of Khayelitsha, work three times a week in Site C, a squatter camp that has a rudimentary infrastructure and a population that is estimated to be 65000.

They are paid with food parcels valued at R21 each. By comparison, it costs the Cape Town City Council R700 a ton to collect garbage.

The council's development officer, Ms. Antoinette Lourens, said food was "the incentive" for the collectors who worked in groups of about 30 or 60, picking up even raw sewage in "very dirty places".

"We see it as that there are a couple of men to do the hard work. "At the end of the day, we aim to feed people who can't feed themselves."

Operation Hunger's regional director, Ms Elna Trautmann, said nutritional development meant providing balanced meals while training communities in self-help.

"Linglethu is feeding in a sectional, elitist way, she said."
Official just gave people their drivers’ licences

**Drought relief bypasses the really needy**

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

**SOWETAN** investigation into drought relief in South Africa has revealed frightening hunger and suffering, with whites getting better treatment than blacks in the mode of old-style apartheid.

Fifteen million blacks share a State subsidy of R200m while 1.2 million whites share R844m.

The figures translate to R13 spent on relief for each of the black victims compared to R703 for every white victim.

The investigation also revealed that:

● Hundreds of thousands of people, mainly children under the age of five, face starvation as a result of drought, while State agencies squander relief in their corruption-riddled bureaucracy.

● White farmers may be pocketing thousands of rand destined for wages of farm labourers and they are paid by the Independent Development Trust and the State.

● Farm labourers, who are theoretically responsible for the disbursement of the funds, are completely ignored by all the agencies, with white farmers playing the pivotal role.

White farmers use their labourers to do usual farm work while they are being paid by the IDT and are supposed to be involved in community projects that benefit society and not the farmer.

● Some farmers have been found to have inflated the numbers of workers employed and have apparently pocketed the balance.

● Also, in many instances, the R7 a day for a worker, which is R140 a month, is more than twice the normal wages for the workers and many farmers are said to be paying regular wages and keeping the rest for themselves.

● The IDT has only six monitors to check access to the country who are in some cases refused entry to farms or chased away, making the task of monitoring abuses difficult.

Apartheid Legacy

15 million blacks share R200m while 1.2 million farmers get R844m.

In the major towns’ informal settlements, trying to survive.

Of the 16.2 million rural people affected by the drought, 15 million are black, comprising 93 percent.

However, only R200 million, or 19 percent, is allocated to blacks, as opposed to R844 million for whites.

**Assistance to workers**

The assistance to black farm workers is limited to wages and training, all done at the discretion of the white farmers. These two accounts for R5 million and R1 million respectively.

About R1.5 million in wages has already been paid. Only R3.742 million has been used by the end of August to train 750 workers.

White farmers, however, get assistance to deal with their debt, avoiding sequestrations, production credit, rebates on transport, drilling of water and storage compensation, among others.

See page 8 and 9.
Sharp increase in rural poor, says UN report

NEW YORK — The number of rural poor in developing countries has jumped 40% over the past 20 years, an indication that many international aid programmes have failed, says a new study released yesterday.

A report on rural poverty in 114 nations with a sizable rural landholding population maintains that the trickle-down theory of economics and attitudes towards the poor prevent them from being integrated properly into a country’s economic structure.

The report by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, a Rome-based UN agency, said most development programmes were too heavy on capital investment and measured results only by a country’s gross national product, which obscured reasons for lack of growth.

"Development is not something that happens in spite of the poor. It is something that happens because of them," it added.

"The crucial point is that speculators will not need massive inflows of foreign aid as farmers will generate their own savings and invest them in local production," the report said.

Of the 4 billion people in 114 developing nations surveyed, more than half lived in rural areas and a billion or 36% were below the poverty line, an increase of 40% over 20 years ago.

About 15-20 million people died each year from starvation or malnutrition-related diseases.

The sharpest increase in rural poverty over the past 20 years occurred in Sri Lanka, Zambia, Malawi, Brazil, and Kenya.

According to an index relating food production, consumption, income distribution, access to education and health services, the worst-off rural poor were in Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Mauritania, and the Sudan.

The five states at the top of the list were Cyprus, Malta, South Korea, Barbados and Mauritius. — Reuters
ANC unhappy with famine relief concert

THE ANC is unhappy about arrangements for a musical festival planned for next year in Harare to raise funds for famine relief, according to an informed source.

The staging of the concert was approved by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) recently and the PAC was mandated by the organisation — to which 10 southern African states belong — to facilitate the one-day event.

A source close to the PAC said the SADC mandate had created the erroneous impression that the PAC had hijacked the concert.

The source said US-based ANC officials were meeting the concert's promoters, Bay Area Promotions, in New York to 'sort out the problems'.

The source stressed that the concert was not 'a PAC thing ... it is an SADC thing'.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus denied that his organisation was involved in a wrangle with the PAC over who should organise the concert.

Niehaus said the ANC was not involved in the planning of the event as it had not been asked.

He was not aware of any meeting between ANC officials and promoters of the concert.

International and regional artists will perform live at the concert, which will be beamed worldwide via satellite.

Proceeds from the concert will go to the Southern Africa Recovery Fund (SARF) for transporting food to famine and drought-strewn areas in southern Africa, business development and farming technique workshops.
NEWS FEATURE  Millions starve but Operation Hunger receives no funding from the State

Babies starve while Government dawdles

MALNUTRITION in children in drought-ravaged areas are facing a starvation because Government schemes to provide food relief are not being implemented due to corruption and mismanagement.

Politics behind logjam

Political reasons are given for the state of depots, between OH and the Government.

Neglect of black communities

All sorts of reasons are given for the state of depots. Many of the people we stopped feeding are faced with famine and are coming back to us for food.

And yet the Red Cross refuses to fund us for famine reasons.

"The last time we were told our applications had been lost in the depots, and this we were only told four months after we submitted it and when we were asking what was happening," Perlman said.

OH argues that the main part of the hunger problem is not drought-related but a long-standing problem due to the neglect of the black communities.

The number of children affected by malnutrition in the country is not clear.

We have children dying at a growing rate because of malnutrition

OH, Chief Executive Officer of Hunger.

"The situation is critical. We are now expecting to work with the same ones that formally accepted without protest and more often in secret, are refusing to continue due to maladministration, inefficiency and neglect. We are not satisfied with the outcome, particularly with the "bureaucrats", who seem to be using the services of experts who are not able to defend the model and give credit to those who contributed to that."

"The State approach is that you give a food parcel to the affected child. But which parent will find one child and leave the other equally hungry amongst those without food?" This approach does not work but they do not know.

Perlman said.

No firm decision

OH met with health and welfare officials last week to discuss funding but no firm decision was made on whether this would be forthcoming, according to OH's officer Mr. Malema-Mashabane.

The Government's 30,000 children are still waiting for food from OH.

A child suffering from the effects of malnutrition is looked after in a Garankuwa hospital. She is better off now but when she is released, she will return to the same conditions for which she was admitted to the hospital.

In Lephalale, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei, OH says it has found no trace of any Government-run feeding schemes despite allegations that these were in place.

This is not the case, but it needs to be told.

Perlman said.

The Government's 30,000 children are still waiting for food from OH.

We have children dying at a growing rate because of malnutrition

"We must continue to provide food relief to the people who need it," Perlman said.

The Government's 30,000 children are still waiting for food from OH.
news
in brief

AWB threatens Mandela

If an ANC government confiscated land from white farmers, meddling with white pensions, nationalised banks and other institutions and did not deliver promised fruits to its followers, Mr Nelson Mandela would be the first to be necklaced.

This was said by AWB leader Eugene Terre Blanche in an address to several hundred supporters at a public meeting in the Durban City Hall on Tuesday night.

He also said his organisation would never accept an ANC government and reiterated his willingness to declare war should “boere” land be touched.

Pitiful drought relief aid

The Government has allocated R2,3 million for drought relief in South Africa - but Operation Hunger says the grant will not last four months.

The organisation also noted drought aid was not reaching remote communities most in need of it.

This had resulted in hospitals crowded with children in various stages of malnutrition, especially in Lesotho, Gazankulu and Transkei.

Distress at Bop march ban

The SA Council of Churches has voiced its “distress” at the Bophuthatswana government’s banning of a planned march by clerics through the homeland capital Mmabatho today.

“A group of unarmed ministers of religion, in their robes, carrying their Bibles, does not constitute a threat to anybody, including the security of the Bophuthatswana homeland,” the SACC said in a statement.

On Tuesday Bophuthatswana authorities took a hardline stand on the planned march, insisting “no such march will take place.”
Shelter for homeless to go ahead

With 2,500 people living on the streets of Johannesburg, the city council approved on Tuesday a city shelter for the homeless. *Star* 26/11/72

Proposals for the management of the city shelter at 80 Albert Street, Marshalltown, will be called for.

A four-storey building there could provide emergency shelter for about 350 homeless and destitute people.

There are facilities for homeless men, women and children, offices for counselling and rehabilitation and job skills training, and an area for a canteen and recreation.

A board of trustees will look after the shelter's interests — Staff Reporter
Africa open to drug cartels – De Miranda

One of South Africa's leading experts on drug abuse, Dr Sylvain de Miranda, believes that poverty, unemployment and other social problems have made Africa a prime target for the world's drug cartels.

In a statement, De Miranda said speakers at a recent international conference on drug and alcohol abuse in Scotland believed that Africa had become a fertile breeding ground.

He said it was necessary for African countries to develop effective drug and alcohol control policies, and to intensify programmes aimed at prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse.

It was important that politicians and red tape not obstruct these programmes.

"It is vital that we direct our efforts towards preventing that. Political expediency and bureaucracy block much needed progress and development."

"If these obstacles aren't removed, it will be impossible to combat increasing alcohol and drug abuse in southern Africa."

De Miranda heads the professional team at Riverfield Lodge, a private rehabilitation centre.
Growth seen as saviour of the destitute

ANGLO-AMERICAN, stout advocate of a market-based economy with minimum government interference, has called for State intervention to help address poverty.

But it emphasises that State intervention should be short-term and serve as an auxiliary action, rather than the main thrust of an anti-poverty programme.

Anglo's contribution to the debate on how best to tackle the problem — and danger — of widespread poverty in South Africa is contained in an article in the latest issue of Optima.

It summarises the chief ideas proposed by Anglo in a much longer document, drawn up in part at least, in response to the challenge thrown down to business leaders by Nelson Mandela shortly after his release from prison in 1990.

Highlighted

In an address to business leaders after his release, Mandela highlighted the inequalities of wealth, affirmed the ANC's commitment to nationalisation as one means of addressing the problem, and challenged business leaders to put forward their own ideas.

Draft copies of the original document were sent to key political actors, including the ANC. But, as Anglo puts it — "political groupings approached did not take up the invitation to debate the ideas and proposals contained in the draft."

Anglo is unequivocal on the importance of economic growth as the best way of combating poverty. It is in the context of that axiom that its advocacy of short-term State action should be seen.

"Economic growth is the only meaningful way to reduce poverty over time," Anglo declares. "It empowers the poor by creating formal and informal jobs, at the same time it promotes the maximum sustainable level of public and private programmes for poverty alleviation."

Economic growth, it adds, generates additional money for expenditure on social services and poverty-reducing mechanisms to address the needs of the "very poor" (as distinct from the poor).

Anglo warns that "direct transfers" — subsidies and handouts of food and services — do not succeed in alleviating poverty.

"They are, typically, not sustainable. They often benefit the middle classes and not the poor because of pressures to extend their coverage, they lead to fiscal and balance-of-payments crises, and a subsequent collapse of growth."

Anglo cites Zimbabwe, noting that country's financial and economic crisis had led to the collapse of many social-economic programmes — including education — which it introduced with high hopes in the 1980s.

One of the best prescribers for economic growth and poverty reduction is a "market-friendly approach" by government, facilitating a situation where the two forces work in harmony.

A positive and powerful spin-off from economic growth is a decline in the population growth rate. Once the process starts, it can be reinforcing as the population growth rate declines, so the economic growth rate can rise and, with it, the average income per capita. Anglo adds: "There is a special obligation on all policy-makers, despite political and cultural difficulties, to energetically confront the issue of population control."

Illustrating the importance of stimulating economic growth, Anglo makes a series of calculations based on growth rates and job creation in the formal and informal sectors of the economy.

The benefits of growth and job creation in the formal sector of the economy would add to the size of, and raise income levels in, the informal sector of the economy.

Anglo notes that the 1990s have thus far been years of negative growth, but says important steps have been taken to stimulate growth, including abolition of a financially ruinous policy of apartheid, and acceptance of the need to negotiate a fully democratic constitution.

Further hopeful signs include steady growth since 1994 in the volume of non-gold exports, and the increase in manufactured exports from 18 percent to more than 30 percent of total exports.

Much, however, will depend on the economic policies adopted by a post-settlement government and, in particular, whether or not it has learnt the imperative need for a "market-friendly approach."

But, while Anglo subscribes to a market-driven economy in general, it accepts and argues for a State-directed programme to alleviate the plight of "the very poor."

It defines the very poor as those mainly rural people who lack access to fundamental resources. People who have jobs in the formal sector, however, badly paid they may consider themselves, are excluded from the definition.

Directed

The Anglo document cites two examples of State-controlled anti-poverty strategies those directed at providing rural people with fresh water and employment.

It envisages the formation of "job brigades" in which the poorest of the poor will be drafted to extend the infrastructure through the building of dams, roads and the like.

Anglo stresses the importance of working closely with people, of listening to them, and of the State and its functionaries not assuming they know what is best.

The contracting economy — the third quarter of this year registered an annualised shrinkage of 3 percent — and the looming budgetary squeeze underline the need for strong economic growth as the motor force behind poverty alleviation.
Meals-on-wheels for road workers

A meals-on-wheels programme to provide hot, nutritious and affordable meals to Johannesburg City Council road workers is to have a trial run. (241)

The programme will be run by the workers on a non-profit basis, and has received an enthusiastic response during field trials, according to executive director of the Roads Directorate, Dr Emile Horak.

It will start on a three-month trial basis, eventually feeding up to 320 people.

Local roads manager Johan van Wyngaard said: "A lot of time — translating into about R600 000 a year — is wasted by workers on buying lunches at cafes en route to their jobs or on cooking meals at the roadside."

The meals will be served hot and sold at R3.50 each.

— Staff Reporter.
Deluge of donations buys millions of meals

THE flow of emergency aid to South Africa’s starving from the Harvest for the Hungry fund has passed the R2.6 million mark.

A third and final round of allocations from the fund has boosted the total number of volunteer feeding schemes revitalised by cash injections to 53.

Nedcor Bank, which launched the Harvest Fund jointly with The Star and sister newspapers in the Argus group four months ago, estimates that the number of meals provided has already run into tens of millions.

The funds have been spread out to keep supplies flowing to as many destitute families as possible, at least over the Christmas season and until the summer rains enable new crops to be harvested.

“We mobilised the special programme as soon as the full toll of the drought devastation became known,” said Nedcor chief executive Chris Liebenberg.

“A long catalogue of successes has been achieved so far, but weather patterns are still critical in many areas. “Our ambition has been to help relieve the malnutrition suffered by poorer families during the peak of the drought crisis. We have been overwhelmed at the response from the general public to our appeals,” he said.

Among the latest beneficiaries from “Harvest” funds is Operation Hunger, which has been given R500,000 for its longer-term programme. Ina Perlman, executive director of the organisation, estimated that the number of malnutrition victims could reach 2.5 million, but even Operation Hunger has been alarmed at the ultimate dimensions of the crisis.

The main thrust of the “Harvest” donation will be the provision of more meals in Venda, Lebowa, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and the eastern and north-western Cape.

Funds will also be used to supply seed and fertiliser to families.

It was the supply of vegetable seed that was added to food supplies by volunteers of the Salvation Army that earned a R500,000 donation from the “Harvest” fund.

Also listed in the latest round of “Harvest” allocations are:

- Rural Advice Centre (R100,000) to construct water supply systems in villages in and around Mafefe in Lebowa;
- Islamic Relief Agency (R44,000) to distribute food parcels in Lebowa and Gazankulu, particularly to squatters near Punda Mara, and to drill three boreholes;
- Followers of St Francis of Assisi (R21,000) to relieve destitute children at the St Martin de Porres nursery school near a squatter camp at Ksomo-Ksomo in Bophuthatswana and expand feeding schemes in Johannesburg and at Hammanskraal;
- Ziphakamisa (R20,000) to provide funds to volunteer social workers delivering food parcels to at least 1,000 needy families near Port Shepstone in Natal;
- Catholic Church at Waterfall (R10,000) to sink a new borehole in Gazankulu’s Mhala district;
- Diphagaseng Community Development Project (R6,000) to increase food supplies and boreholes and hand-pumps in the Nebo district of northern Transvaal;
- Martie Hughes Soup Kitchens (R5,000) to expand operations with feeding schemes at Langlaagte and on the West Rand;
- Mahlatjane Ilithsheng Women’s League (R3,000) to increase the supply of food parcels to preschool children at Mafefe near Petersburg.

Liebenberg paid special tribute to The Star and its sister newspapers for active support and contributions from income from the TeleStar 076 telephone service run by the Argus group and Parrot Publishing.

There were also congratulations to more than 15,000 staffs in the Nedcor group for a wide range of fund-raising activities and personal contributions.

Also, every time there was a transaction at a Perm or Nedbank ATM, the Nedcor group chipped in with 10c until the total swelled to R1.2 million.
Fish for the starving

A TON of fish was donated to Operation Hunger by I & J at a ceremony at the Johannesburg City Hall yesterday. The fish would be distributed immediately in the PWV area where the food was urgently needed by Operation Hunger feeding schemes, the organization's director Norma Cohen said yesterday.
Living without a life

ULIUS November, 21, has no home apart from a self-made kennel under the shade of a tree. He walks alone for much of the day trying to get his hands on food for food and drugs.

On the run from police, November, a youthful face masks the wraiths of street reveries learnt from his seven years of "strolling" between Mussenburg and Woodstock in his months in Pollenroe for drug possession.

He was looking for pairs of metl near Salt River station when I met him on a Thursday morning. After prompting him food in two days' time, he readily agreed to let me live in his shadow for the next couple of days.

So, without a cent in my pockets and only the clothes on my back, my destitute journey began.

As a smoker, my first concern was the prospect of living without a supply of cigarettes. I need not have worried. Everywhere we went, people smoked — and if they had any to spare, they gave without protest.

I soon learnt that to share was an unwritten law of the streets. Keeping anything extra for yourself is considered a crime.

"It's the only way to live," says Julius. "If I give something to that chumme today, then I know that if I need something tomorrow, or whenever I think again, it's his duty to give it to me."

This continued to amaze me throughout the day. On one occasion, someone asked Julius for a cigarette. Although Julius didn't have any, he gave the stranger his last 50c to buy some.

"Ja, so now I've made a new friend," Julius explained at the time. "Next time I see him, I'll ask him for something." Obediently, we walked to Mussenburg where Julius showed me his old stomping ground, including treeless open spaces.

With no money for a train ticket, we were always changing carriages at stations to avoid the wrath of train conductors.

It was on the train where I discovered how the more privileged treated strangers. Everything we sat down, women with shopping bags would get up and move to the other end of the compartment, nervous that we would steal from them. Julius, who told me he never slept, found this amusing but I never became used to it.

It was for this reason that he had gotten up door-to-door begging a long time ago. It was far easier to earn from other vagrants than asking from "somebody" in Mussenburg. Julius soon bumped into his closest friend, Raymond, who was also just walking around near the beach.

Raymond, who was very unruly, looked too, took a look at Julius' worn-out shoes and promptly took off his clothes, which were in mint condition, and gave them to his friend.

"Ag mal juan, you can't just summer walk around as those it's embarrassing man. Here take these, it was for this reason, later, Raym- mond assuaged.

Raymond, a full-time thief, had stolen the talchus the previous evening from a car that had already been broken into.

"Now the police will come and choke your neck, ek sh," Raymond said jokingly, "but let me have your cap, I shan't look better on it."

We spent the rest of the morning together, drinking cheap alcohol on the beach.

S FAR as Raymond was concerned, I also lived on the street. Regardless of who we met, I never told anyone my true identity — except for Julius, who willingly played along.

But it meant a lot of pestering, which seemed to work. Later even Julius questioned my install story about being a journalist.

Yet there were times when I felt close to showing my middle-class roots — like when we drunkenly drank the bottle of cheap alcohol Raymond bought for our beach breakfast.

We sat on the sand among a sprinkling of 15 people, all of who moved within a minute of our arrival. With the beach to ourselves, we took turns downing a filled paper cup of spirits.

After five minutes, we were near to finishing the bottle and it was Raymond's turn to "mack gout" with the cup.

After drinking his share, his face contorted and he brought it all up again — back into the cup. After a few moments of recovery, he threw the second-hand contents back into his mouth.

"Ye this is like happy hour, ek sh! Two for the price of one. Value for money, my broer," Raymond laughed, before giving me the same cup to drink the next round.

Afterwards, Raymond left (walking in his socks) saying he had to get back to work.

"OK, bye!" I must go and steal my mother a handkerchief now. It's her birthday tomorrow and her hair looks a mess!"

Before leaving, Raymond gave me enough money for a packet of cigarettes, a half loaf of bread and some polo.

It had been a successful morning and now Julius wanted to show me his "hokkie" in Salt River.

After catching a train back, the rest of the day was spent walking from Salt River to Paradek to Observatory to Rondebosch and then back to Salt River. During their walks, which were, for visiting purposes, Julius told me more about his life and thoughts.

He used to have a family, but he left his Mussenburg home because of gang warfare. He feels safer on the streets of white suburbia than living with this continual threat.

Living at home would also make him an easy target for the police. They are out to arrest him after he failed to appear on charges of dagga possession earlier that year.

After he was sentenced for his pamphlet with a harbour two years ago, Julius lost any hope he had for the future.

"Sometimes I sommer get this feeling in my heart, ek sh! I'm telling you my broer, one day I'm going to get to seek — you know, with one of those diseases where the government men pays for you — and then I'll sommer die!"

"You know, I can't remember when I last had some little cooked food. It's all just scraps and bread. Sometimes I just like to lie down and think about my life. I get very sad when I think how lonely I am. "Christmas is coming up and I don't even have a job or a girl-friend," he said.

When Julius feels down, he smokes dagga and medicine.

Dusk began to fall, and after sharing an orange which was given to us, we settled for the night. There was no space under Julius' stoep so we went to a nearby park.

With my head still a bit dizzy from the day's alcohol, I tried to get to sleep, using the inner tape of a five-litre wax box as a pillow.

I felt vulnerable and lonely. My dirty clothes were beginning to stink and I covered for a bath. But I know that the next day I could return to a warm house that had electricity, hot water, cooked food and most of all, a nice comfortable mattress.

But for Julius, this was as good as it gets.

Pavement with a view

Some advice I received and some thoughts from people who live on the street:

Louis: Ag, you know. It's not good to think about problems all the time. If I did, then aikik sh, I wouldn't be able to cope. I'm telling you something for nothing, my brother — just concentrate on getting some food and a place to sleep.

Florence: My child is now four years old. My sister is looking after her, but one day she will tell me that she can't anymore. Aikik don't know what I'll do then.

Frans: I've been down like this before, but you watch, I'll pull myself up again. I just need to sort out a few things in my head first and then I'll be OK.

Victor: All you can do is wait until you get really sick and then die (laughs). Maybe things will be better the next time.

Lynette: Just have a shop of that tape,بذلة. It will make your troubles go away for a while. One day, ek sh.

Peter: People just don't care, boy. Like today, I went to this one house to ask for some money and she grabbed my necklace and started running away.

Most people treat you funny, man, because they are so scared. They understand, nothing.

Is an adult making you feel unhappy, confused and sad?

Are you being forced to do things which make you feel bad?

Are you suffering from the effects of your childhood abuse?

There are ways you can be helped to cope with your past hurts, anger and guilt.

WHO CAN YOU TELL?

SAFELENS OFFERS, TO BOTH FEMALE AND MALE SURVIVORS:

- Group sessions
- Individual Therapy
- Telephone counselling

Phone: SafeLine: 26 1100 24 hrs Telephone No. 26 1111 00 or anyone you trust!
10-year slide from poverty to ruin

Economy is wrecked:

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar - Her name means "A Sweetness People Love" But there is a look in 13-year-old Manitra's coal black eyes that says she doesn't believe in names.

Her father deserted her one night last month in the streets of the Madagascar capital, leaving her in charge of three sisters and two brothers, one six months old.

She begged for three days and nights, then walked into a haven run by a priest called Pedro who has heard stories like hers four thousand times.

Ragged children pleading for money

It's impossible to stroll through tumbledown Antananarivo without attracting a tramp of ragged children pleading.

"Monseur, give me money" 

Visitors and residents all talk about the "quatre murs" - an ironic name for the homeless. It means "four walls".

"Some nights I drive down this street to the office and I just can't look," said a Malagasy resident.

"I don't want to see them sleeping on the pavement or begging in doorways. I can't bear it but I just can't change the world on my own." 

Nor can Pedro. But his eyes say he will try.

Two years ago he came to Antananarivo and found 400 families living from the compacted rubbish of the humus pal dump. They burrowed in, found bones and sold them for animal feed.

He got land from the government and created a village called Mananantara - "A Better Life" His organisation now provides four real walls for 4,000 of the "quatre murs".

And they keep coming. "We get 25 more families every month. It never stops. I reckon there are 250,000 people in this town who don't even get enough to eat," Pedro says.

"It's a disgrace. This isn't Somalia. Somalia is a desert. But this is a rich agricultural country. It used to exporting food. But these people have been abused for years. It's a crime."

The reason is not just the influx of job-seekers from the countryside that has created shanty-towns around cities all over Africa.

From poverty to virtual ruin

Madagascar has gone in the past decade from poverty to virtual ruin. Slash and burn farming has wrecked the land. The collapse of prices for coffee, vanilla and cloves has made the crops scarcely worth growing.

Soviet-style central planning, grandiose but unproductive projects and big military expenditure by President Didier Ratsiraka have brought the economy to its knees, diplomats say.

"We hope that one day Antananarivo will build factories. That there will be jobs. That this will be industrial town. But until then..." Pedro's attention is distracted by a new arrival seeking the comfort of a broad arm round his small shoulder.

"This town has doubled or trebled in size in the past few years. But at the same time only a couple of hundred houses have been built," said Pedro, a Slovene who worked in the Madagascar countryside for 20 years before attacking the capital.

The United Nations' World Food Programme, World Bank and Madagascar's transitional government announced a five-year R364 million plan last month to ease the plight of the urban poor in Antananarivo, where some 50,000 are thought to be homeless.

Pedro's Akamon organisation provides shelter and food in return for work in nearby quarries or on handicraft projects. Parents come with entire families, sometimes a dozen people.

Others have not heard of the bearded priest and abandon their children or worse. "A woman walked up to our night guard the other day and tried to sell her child. It was wrapped under a shawl. When we lifted it, the child was naked," said a businesswoman.

The arrivals are rehabilitated, educated, helped to overcome frequent drug or alcohol problems and given the opportunity to go back to the land if they have relatives with cooking and farming implements, a bus ticket and minimal pocket money - Sapa-Reuters
Nedcor drought relief

NEDCOR raised more than R2,5m for SA's drought victims through its Harvest for the Hungry campaign, CEO Chris Liebenberg said. Funds raised had been allocated to 23 relief agencies.

A Nedcor spokesperson said the project would continue although the drought might be breaking.
Town's door at Relief Clinic -

Christmas cheer: Happiness is etched on the faces of Argus Food Campaign students.

CHRISTMAS CHEER: Happiness is etched on the faces of Argus Food Campaign students.

For more than 2000 needy people in the Peninsula, the Argus Food Campaign means festive cheer for poor families.

Food Parade Salvation

Christmas means festive cheer for poor families.

ARGUS CAMPAIGN

SHARES ISACS, Staff Reporter

Food Parade Salvation

Christmas means festive cheer for poor families.

ARGUS CAMPAIGN

SHARES ISACS, Staff Reporter
"Crowding and undernutrition..."

"Christmas is a time for considering the needs of others and giving. The campaign helps the needy and poverty-stricken to rise above their circumstances at this time and to realise something of the true meaning of Christmas."

Readers rallied to aid the fund throughout the year and reserves now stand at R135,000.

Among the latest contributions was R700 from the Southern Life Staff Charity Fund. Other gifts were from Y C Jappie (R150), P O Wanda (R120) and anonymous gifts totalling R150.

Cash contributions should be sent to The Argus Food Campaign, Box 15999, Vlissingen, 6016, or Box 290, Cape Town, 8000.

Cheques must be made out to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Offers of food may be made to the office at the MOH at 2400 2862.
Mother Teresa to visit SA

By ROY RUDDEN

MOTHER TERESA of Calcutta is due to arrive in Durban early next year to establish a refuge for victims of violence, and the poor and homeless.

This was confirmed this week by Mrs Margaret Callus, international co-president of the Co-workers of Mother Teresa which has six million members throughout the world – 29 000 in South Africa.

Mrs Callus, who shares the movement's presidency with her husband, David, said a new community of nuns would work in the Durban home. It will be the second in South Africa, the first was opened by Mother Teresa at Khayelitsha in the Western Cape in 1988.

Her organisation hopes that Mother Teresa will be in Durban as early as next month, but this depends on the 82-year-old Nobel Peace prize-winner's many commitments.

Two previously planned visits to South Africa had to be cancelled at the last moment.
Aid groups seek long-term gains

Major relief agencies would be more critical of funding in the future, shifting emphasis from short-term gain to long-term "community-building development", World Vision Southern Africa director John Allwood said at the weekend.

He said the development aid organisation had realised relief programmes could not work if structures were not in place and strong enough to continue improvement and sustain development. Immediate and relief increasingly created a dependent society, Allwood said.

Donors were focusing on receiving some sort of return on their investments, preferring to establish productive infrastructure and to impart expertise rather than handing over cheques for the "starving millions".

"Development organisations such as World Vision want to be involved in long-term upliftment and growth programmes to ensure a future labour force and productive workers for ongoing improvement and progress," Allwood said. Aid should be invested so communities could eventually support themselves.
PROFILE

51 TIMES 27/11/92

BOUNDLESS ENERGY... Ina Perlman. 'I have loved every minute of it' Picture: ANDY KATZ

Her staff believe she does not know the meaning of the word tired. On field trips in remote rural areas she goes for hours without eating or drinking.

But one thing that never fails to move her is the sight of a hungry child.

"The day I get used to human suffering is the day I know I must quit," she says. "I am lucky I do not weep I just get very angry, which makes me even more determined to do something about the unnecessary hunger being suffered by so many in this country.

From boardrooms around the world where she raises funding for self-help projects to dusty, drought-stricken areas she is greeted with the utmost respect and love — but she is in her element in a place where Operation Hunger has given a community the opportunity to take their lives back into their own hands.

She first became conscious of the poverty and hunger she has devoted her life to fighting as a young girl growing up in Port Elizabeth. She became aware that there were children being raised in "rags" and people who were "in one hell of a condition basically because they were black and for no other reason."

"I knew that I had to work with the disadvantaged, and from the beginning I have loved every minute of it. I have seen many changes over the years, especially in the attitudes of white and black South Africans," she says.

"Since Operation Hunger began 12 years ago we have gone forward in faith. We have faced difficult times, often with only enough money left to last for about three months.

"I knew that I had to work with the disadvantaged, and from the beginning I have loved every minute of it. I have seen many changes over the years, especially in the attitudes of white and black South Africans," she says.

"Since Operation Hunger began 12 years ago we have gone forward in faith. We have faced difficult times, often with only enough money left to last for about three months."

"I knew that I had to work with the disadvantaged, and from the beginning I have loved every minute of it. I have seen many changes over the years, especially in the attitudes of white and black South Africans," she says.

"Since Operation Hunger began 12 years ago we have gone forward in faith. We have faced difficult times, often with only enough money left to last for about three months."

Those who work closely with her also know she has a "wicked temper" and can be "incredibly stubborn."

But the staff who are often driven to despair by her anger unashamedly consider her the "greatest woman alive."

During the first six years of its existence Operation Hunger had a fairly low profile. In 1986 continuing drought and unemployment brought a surge in demand for help, and the organisation had to double its budget.

The launch of the first R10-million Gold Rush made Operation Hunger a household name, and changed the face of fund-raising in South Africa.

"That year, for the first time, 50 percent of our money came from South Africans, and since then people have supported us generously."

But malicious rumours have cost Operation Hunger — which feeds 1.6-million people — money.

These range from urban legends about the organisation paying for cosmetic surgery for Zula Mandela — who works with Mrs Perlman — to the most recent rumour that Operation Hunger footed the bill for her lavish wedding in October.

Despite repeated public denials, the stories continue to do the rounds at dinner parties in South Africa's most exclusive suburbs.

"It's all garbage — all of it. If I could get to the source of these malicious rumours I would take legal action immediately," Mrs Perlman says.

"Far from Operation Hunger footing any bills for the Mandela family. Nelson Mandela is one of our most faithful donors and it comes out of his own pocket, not from the ANC coffers. He would..."
Ina sheds no tears, but rages at hunger

"But, somehow, a small miracle has occurred each time, and the goodwill of many South Africans has saved us and the hungry people we feed."

Happily married for the past 45 years with four children, she is not afraid to speak her mind, and be the last person on earth to take money out of the mouths of starving children."

Financial control of Operation Hunger's funds is stringent. No cheque for more than R200 is issued without Ina Perlman's signature, while those for R500 or more require not only her approval but that of the financial director as well. Regular audits are also carried out by a highly reputable international firm.

Retirement is something Ina Perlman is preparing for, though she has no plans to step-down yet. "When my deputies tell me they are ready to take over, I'll know it's time—but I don't want to go out with a whimper. I still have a lot to do, and even when I retire as executive director it doesn't mean I'll stop doing what I love most, which is helping those who are in need."

Jocelyn Maker
Blacks 'still bear brunt of hardship'

BLACKS continued to bear the brunt of social and economic hardships throughout 1992, the SA Institute of Race Relations said in its latest report.

A compilation of statistics by the institute contained a "chilling reminder" that blacks suffered more than other population groups from political and criminal violence and economic decline.

The institute said racial imbalances were still evident in key areas such as education, employment prospects, housing, public amenities and health care.

Education statistics showed, for instance, that in 1991/92, racial per capita state expenditure on school education was: blacks R1 248; coloureds R2 701 and whites R4 468.

More than 1,7-million children aged between six and 17 were not in school, and only 41% of blacks passed matric, compared with 96% of white pupils.

While black enrolment at technical colleges had increased 230%, they still only made up a quarter of the student population at technical colleges in 1992.

Employment prospects for black matriculants in 1993 were bleak, with predictions that the only sector offering job opportunities next year will be the informal sector.

The institute quoted National Manpower Commission figures showing that there were about 5,4-million people without formal employment in 1991.

Of these, about 2,5-million to 3-million earned a living in the informal sector, while similar numbers were unemployed.

Black incomes continued to lag far behind those of whites, with 88% of black households earning below R700 a month and 51% of white households earning more than R4 000 a month.

Overall, 66% of the black population and 50% of the total population lived below the poverty datum line, the institute said.

Between 3,5-million and 10-million people were currently living in informal settlements and backyard shacks and, to eliminate the housing backlog, 189 000 new houses were needed each year for the next 10 years, the report said.

In 1992 there were 694 000 beds in hostels, but estimates were that in some hostels there were up to six residents per bed.

The institute added that 22-million blacks had no access to domestic electricity, 4-million people have minimal water supply, and 7-million had little or no sanitation.
POVERTY
1993
JAN - SEPT.
Bop accused of hindering drought relief work

DROUGHT relief workers were being refused access to areas of Bophuthatswana by the homeland's government despite severe water shortages affecting thousands of people there, northern Cape relief worker Junior Nkabo said yesterday.

Nkabo said Bophuthatswana government officials regarded with suspicion the Consultative Forum on Drought — a joint government-development agency initiative — because ANC-aligned organisations were involved with it.

The most critical areas were the Kudumane district and the Dithakaeng area, which had been designated "red areas" by the forum as they were in need of urgent intervention, he said.

A Bophuthatswana Water Supply Authority spokesman denied yesterday the forum had been refused access to the homeland.

He said it was "advised to liaise with the office of the governor (of Kudumane district)."

But Nkabo said the governor's office had consistently refused the forum permission to begin emergency water supply operations through its Water Supply Task Force.

The only sources of water for about 2,000 residents of Dithakaeng were shallow wells, used by livestock, which dried up from time to time and had become health hazards.

The Bophuthatswana spokesman said water supply problems in the area had been attended to, with five pumps being installed to supplement existing resources.
Ford to merge with Amcar

By DAVID FURLONGER

FORD and Anglo American have agreed to merge their motor manufacturing operations into SA. The new company — combining Ford SA and Amcar Motor Holdings — will be known as the South African Motor Corporation (S.A.M.Co.), according to Mr. Les Boyd, chief executive of the new company. The shareholding of Ford SA will be 60%, while Amcar’s will be 40%. The merger is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Boyd said that the merger was necessary to remain competitive in the South African market, which is highly competitive and dominated by foreign companies. He also noted that the merger would allow for the sharing of resources and expertise between the two companies, which would benefit both parties.

On the other hand, Mr. Sammel, CEO of Amcar, said that the merge would allow for a more efficient and streamlined operation. He added that the new company would be better equipped to deal with the challenges of the South African market.

The merger has been welcomed by the South African government, which sees it as a move towards increased industrial concentration and efficiency. The government has also expressed hope that the merger will lead to job creation and economic growth in the country.

Egoli refutes Sammel claims

By BRENDAN RYAN

EGOLI has refuted the allegations made against it by Mr. Horace Sammel, the company’s chief executive. The company has stated that its merger with Anglo American is a move to strengthen its position in the South African market and that it has no intention of damaging the local economy.

The merger has been welcomed by the South African government, which sees it as a move towards increased industrial concentration and efficiency. The government has also expressed hope that the merger will lead to job creation and economic growth in the country.

The merger has been welcomed by the South African government, which sees it as a move towards increased industrial concentration and efficiency. The government has also expressed hope that the merger will lead to job creation and economic growth in the country.

Egoli has also been criticized for its recent decision to close its Port Elizabeth truck operation and move to Silverton. The company has been accused of not taking the local community into consideration and of not providing adequate compensation for those who will be affected by the closure.

The company has defended its decision, stating that it is part of a wider trend in the motor manufacturing industry, which is facing increased competition and pressure from foreign companies. It has also denied any claims of not taking the community into consideration.

The merger has been welcomed by the South African government, which sees it as a move towards increased industrial concentration and efficiency. The government has also expressed hope that the merger will lead to job creation and economic growth in the country.

The merger has been welcomed by the South African government, which sees it as a move towards increased industrial concentration and efficiency. The government has also expressed hope that the merger will lead to job creation and economic growth in the country.
**KPMG to monitor food aid**

The network of KPMG accounting firms in southern Africa has secured a contract to monitor the delivery of 640,000 tons of food to drought-stricken countries in the subcontinent.

In a statement from KPMG Allen and Peat in Johannesburg yesterday, the firm said USAID had committed $430m for food for Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Angola.

KPMG's role is largely to review consignment accounting and monitoring systems and to recommend improvements that would help cut losses and ensure the food reaches its correct destination.

Most of the food will be arriving at SA ports, while some is destined for Mozambican and Angolan ports.

The monitoring effort will be overseen by KPMG Peat Marwick in Nairobi (Kenya) and will involve the group's branches in SA, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. — Sapa
Relief aid is needed, says Operation Hunger.
Finding the value in all that junk

For the growing subculture of ragpickers municipal waste dumps present mounds of possibilities.

By ROSE TELELA

A RAGGED but neatly dressed man walks among piles of debris, glancing here and there and poking into mounds with his stick. He picks something out, examines it and throws it away shaking his head. Then he kneels, scoops up an empty Coke bottle and puts it in his plastic bag — the first item of his day’s treasure.

Kos Roberts, a rag picker who operates at a dump between Kliptown and Chawelo, is a slightly built man. He wears brown pants that are too big, tied tightly around his waist with an old belt, and a clean white T-shirt. When he picks, he trudges around in old white takkies that have become brown with dirt and age. But he smiles often and when he does, he reveals two missing teeth.

Roberts lives in a run-down house in Kliptown with his family of five. He has been out of work for four years and survives by rading the dumps and begging. “The stuff I pick up sometimes does not help much, but most times it is very helpful,” he says. “Old shoes and clothes I can take home to my family or have my wife wash so I can sell them to squatters.”

Other items in his picking catalogue include bottles that can be sold, old toys, broken chairs and utensils that can be fixed to use or sell. “Sometimes there is a bottle of alcohol that is half full. This is when I think of myself as lucky,” he says.

Dumps in the township are less regulated than city dumps and therefore a picking heaven for people like Roberts. Municipal dump sites have strict regulations about dumping and scavenging. A city dump in Turffontein is surrounded by a high wall and guarded by municipal police. At another dump near West Park Cemetery, people hang around outside, but say they are not rag pickers. Municipal police say pickers are not allowed into the dump. Others say pickers are let in after 5-8 pm on weekends.

Township dumps are little pockets scattered throughout the vast expanse of the different areas. Dumping is done by both residents of townships and squatters. Roberts benefits mostly from the refuse of township residents. “What the squatter residents throw out is generally stuff that cannot be re-used or sold.”

Rag picking can be a highly territorial occupation often resulting in fierce duels for prime dumping ground. Some pickers claim certain spots as their best, but if there is nothing of use on a certain day they move on to other pieces of land. Often squatters erupt.

“Veteran picking often win the fight,” says Thami Dlamini, a 50-year-old picker from the nearby squatter camp. He remembers how yielding dumps were for the enterprising rag picker before people built shacks. “It was just one big mountain of ash and rubbish,” he says. “Now all you find are small dumps everywhere. You have to work from one to the next and there are always people at each dump you go to — too many people,” he adds.

For Dlamini, it is easier to live off other people’s cast-offs than to beg. “I can’t find a job and these days people are stingy with food and money. In e mathabathwane (the dump) everything is for free.” He says it not hard to find things among all that rubble. “If you have been in this as long as I have, you would know exactly where to find things you can use or sell.”

Nevertheless, this kind of life is not easy. There are times when there is nothing worthwhile to pick. “And people look at you as if you’re mad. Others give you a pityful look, as if you’re an orphan and ridicule you — especially children,” he says.

There are special difficulties if you are a woman. “They (men) think they can either claim you or take you under their wing. They don’t consider the fact that you are married and you are doing this because your husband is an esidagwa (drunkard) and you have to feed your children,” says Joyce, who also lives off the refuse. She is obliged to live off cast-off’s in order to survive.

“I’m not ashamed of it. What else can you do if you can’t find a job and your husband is not working?”
Govt extends drought relief

DROUGHT assistance to stock farmers in the summer crop areas had been extended by a month until the end of January, Agriculture Department relief spokesman Mike Walerters said yesterday.

He said the decision to shift the December cut-off date was a "special concession" aimed at tidying farmers over after a year of severe drought.

The concession affected disaster aid in the maize triangle, which included areas of the northern Free State and southern Transvaal, he said.

The present relief scheme has enabled farmers in the triangle to claim a 75% rebate on stock feed costs if their farms are located in districts declared drought disaster areas.

If no rain fell this month, crop and stock farmers would be in serious trouble and the department would review its position, he added.

In another development, the Rand Water Board reported that rainfall recorded in the Witwatersrand this month was significantly below average for the area.

Only 23.9mm had been recorded to date, while 79.2mm was recorded during January last year and the long-term average for January was 141.5mm.

Dam levels were this week measured at 47.3% — significantly down on 57% at the same time last year. The Vaal Dam stood at a low 15.8%, but Sterkfontein was at a healthy 90.5% of its capacity, the board said.
Africa think-tank begins

CAPE TOWN — Statemen attending the Interact Council summit have called for a conditional cancellation of Africa’s foreign debt and have emphasised the need for a free press to check rampant corruption on the continent.

The council, a think-tank of eminent international leaders, yesterday began three days of talks on Africa’s marginalisation and ways of re integrates African states into the mainstream of the international system.

Former British prime minister Lord James Callaghan is chairing the summit. Other former heads of state include Nigeria’s General Olusegun Obasanjo, Zambia’s Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Portugal’s Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo and Angola’s Lopo Fortunato do Nascimento.

President de Klerk, ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu, Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Nobel Peace laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mr Justice Richard Goldstone will brief delegates on the political transition in this country.

The Cape Town summit, the first to be held in Africa, is mandated to discuss problems such as Africa’s economic decline, poverty, illiteracy and ethnic tensions, and to recommend viable measures to bring about changes for the better.

The summit’s findings and recommendations will be communicated to government leaders.

At yesterday’s session speakers emphasised the need for stability and security. They concurred that the welfare of the continent’s people — not weapons — was the best guarantee for security.

The improvement of basic, secondary and tertiary education and the need for regional training were also stressed.

Speakers expressed alarm at the incidence of AIDS in Africa. By the year 2000, health officials expect to have more than 6 million registered AIDS cases compared with the current 1.7 million — Sapa.
Food aid for Malawi, ‘critical’

KATHMANDU, Nepal — The World Food Programme said Tuesday it was providing food aid to Malawi, citing severe drought and food shortages in the country.

The WFP said it was providing food aid to about 100,000 people in Malawi, where drought and food shortages have been a major issue this year.

The agency also warned that food aid could run out as soon as next month.

"The situation in Malawi is critical," said WFP spokesman Jeremy Cox. "We are providing food aid to about 100,000 people, but it's running out and we need more support soon.

"Drought has affected people's livelihoods, and food shortages are a major issue. We need the international community to step up and provide more support to Malawi.

"Without food aid, people will suffer and the situation could worsen. We need more support to keep the food aid going and to help people through this difficult period.

The WFP said it was working with local authorities to distribute the food aid, but it needs more support to continue.

The agency also called on donors to provide more funding to support its operations in Malawi.

"We need more funding to keep the food aid going. We're working with local authorities to distribute the aid, but we need more support from donors," Cox said.

"Without more funding, we won't be able to keep the food aid going and help people through this difficult period.

The WFP said it was providing food aid to about 100,000 people in Malawi, where drought and food shortages have been a major issue this year.
Placing the Tural Economic Agenda on the Poor of SA
White hands take to begging bowls

BILLY Moore's heart is not worn on the sleeve of his nearly pressed shirt — it hangs around his neck in the shape of a placard proclaiming his adversity: Unemployed. Please help.

This is no meth-soaked hobo on the make. Billy is a presentable young man with three years' experience in the hotel trade. The recession robbed him of his job and pride, and forced him into a parking lot outside the Rosebank Mall.

"I'm dying of embarrassment. It took me days to pluck up the courage to do this but I really have no alternative," he says.

"I've tried everything to get a job but, short of working in an escort agency, there's nothing available."

At least Moore (27) is a bachelor, although he has had to support two younger children since his father committed suicide last year. A self-inflicted bullet wound ended his financial stability.

"Look, standing here takes guts but I've been through worse and I'm positive something will turn up," he says.

A few metres away, the entire De Araujo family depend on the generosity of the public.

Last year, both Francisco de Araujo (29) and his wife, Billy (45) were retrenched from the same firm where they had worked as machine operators.

To top it all, Francisco's wife lost her job as a computer operator, and with three children — two at a Model C school — it became impossible to make ends meet.

"We're not begging. We're advertising unemployment," quips Francisco, who wears his sense of humour like a bullet-proof vest. "We used to live in luxury but gradually we had to sell everything off just to keep a roof over our heads."

"Standing here like beggars is nerve-racking, but it's better than starving. We're honest men just looking for an honest job."

The public is generous. One young man buys the De Araujo family a bag of groceries. Another presses R5 into Moore's hand, but some appear visibly shocked.

"It's embarrassing to see white people begging like this. But if this is the new South Africa, we'd better get used to it. The scary thing is knowing that this could happen to any of us," commented one Rosebank resident who did not wish to be named.

Anyone who can offer any of these people employment can write to 2 Model Street, Forest Hill 2991.
Aid streamlined to help the poor

PRETORIA — Existing social and emergency aid schemes had been rationalised into one programme in a bid to relieve the distress of the growing poverty-stricken population, National Health Minister Dr N. Venter said yesterday.

The aim was to provide primary health and social care through "one-stop" services at community level.

The country needed a social security network that would make a meaningful difference to the lives of more than 12-million poor people, said Venter.

"The nutrition programme, the nutrition national social relief programme and drought relief programmes had been merged to form the National Nutritional and Social Development Programme, to be implemented without discrimination."

Speaking at a Cape Town Chamber of Commerce function, Venter said a priority of the programme would be alleviation of acute malnutrition and improvement of the nutritional status of the population.

The new programme would also aim to provide cash relief to people in dire need that they were unable to provide for themselves and their families with the most elementary necessities.

Relief for drought-stricken farmers and their workers was also on the agenda.

She said the R440m set aside in the current budget for poverty relief, R19,55m had been "made available" to the programme. Of this, R10,3m had been allocated to various organisations while applicants...
Food aid demand increases

DROUGHT, political violence and economic woes had swelled the number of families seeking food and from Operation Hunger, executive director Ina Perlman said in her report for the financial year.

Mounting demands for relief aid had forced the organisation to reverse its principle of independence and accept financial assistance from government, Perlman said.

Under government's R220m hunger relief programme, Operation Hunger had received R16m "after a five-month battle."

Perlman said a steady slide in the economy, increasing unemployment, refractions on the mines, violence and the return to rural areas of people fleeing warfare had swelled numbers seeking assistance.

"It is worse, much, much worse than we anticipated," she said.

"Field trips are journeys of discovery into previously uncharted depths of misery, human suffering and want,"

Perlman said the organisation would have to halve its rations in September, knowing this would affect more than 2 million people.

In the northern Transvaal, which has been devastated by drought, 260 000 people were receiving food aid. "Prospects are frightening," regional director Johan Risse said in his report.

Risse expected an increase of between 20% and 60% in numbers seeking relief from Operation Hunger.

The organisation was feeding 250 000 in the Free State, 350 000 in the eastern Cape and Border region and 102 000 in the western Cape.

In Transkei, Operation Hunger was feeding 70 000 children at 750 schools and creches.

About 60 000 people threatened with starvation were waiting to be placed in feeding schemes in the eastern Cape and Border, said regional director Glynnis Beer.

The drought had also affected vegetable-growing schemes started by the organisation in Hammanskraal, Mafikeng, Rustenburg and the Free State.

Deputy director for relief and development Mpho Mashumun said that of the large-scale agricultural schemes started a year ago, only 1 900 farmers in KwaZulu had a chance of yielding 30% of their harvest.

"It is no longer a case of partial intervention. All intervention must now be 100%," he said.

Perlman said "Central to all our thinking these past 12 months has been that hugely increased relief must be linked to long-term development." — Sapa

---

Public transport revamp facing many challenges

PRETORIA — Lack of development finance and an urbanisation strategy were two barriers in the way of solving the problem of an adequate public transport system in the PWV, TPA MEC for roads Ahmed Arbee said yesterday.

He said a public transport study by a consortium appointed in 1990 by the TPA was on course and more than 200 problem areas had been identified. Among them were the poor quality of public transport services and facilities, lack of co-ordination, unplanned development, and the fact that only certain public transport modes received subsidies.

Arbee said the challenge facing transport planners in the PWV area was to provide public transport for a population of 12-8 million people in an urbanised area of 210 000 hectares by the end of the century.

The population of the PWV increased from 7-million in 1985 to 9-million in 1991. A projected rate of increase of 3.8% a year would increase it to 12.8-million by 2000.

Provision would, therefore, have to be made for an increase in the transport requirements of 3.8-million people over the next eight years.

"The picture looks bleak if all the associated social costs are taken into account," Arbee said and it was important to acknowledge transport was as

---

Fruit and greens earned R1.51bn

SA farmers sold 2.9 million tons of fruit and vegetables worth R1.51bn at 15 markets across the country in 1991, producer representative Phile van Zyl said at the SA Agricultural Union fresh produce conference yesterday.

This represented an increase in volume of 1.65% a year.

About 20 000 producers traded at fresh produce markets, generating about 17-million transactions a year.

Producers wanted fresh produce markets "in every centre" and existing markets expanded.

Johannesburg City Council informal trading chief officer Dnike Pillay told delegates the informal sector accounted for 15% of GDP and employed about 35% of the labour force.

Phile said the informal sector provided significant opportunities which could be exploited by business and farmers.

Meanwhile, the Milk Producers' Organisation decided at its annual meeting in Port Elizabeth yesterday that the industry needed selective deregulation.

MPO chairman Roy Blackenberg said a working committee had been established to investigate the long-term effects of deregulating the industry.
Drive to rout hunger moves into top gear

Computer link tracks food across world

RORY CHANNING

A huge drive to stave off famine in southern Africa is moving into top gear, oilied by high-tech computers keeping track of a food supply line stretching round the world.

With the region hit by the worst drought this century, the operation has South Africa and its black-rulled neighbours working together on an unprecedented scale.

"If you look beyond the project to what it could mean for regional co-operation and use of infrastructure, the sky is the limit," project spokesman Jacques Pienaar said.

"The operation, roughly halfway through its expected life-span, is the biggest of its kind when measured by the amount of food to be delivered and the 10 countries involved.

"Relief grain is tracked from its origin to its final destination using computer technology which helped rebuild Kuwait after the Gulf War."

Pienaar expects the operation, launched in time to prevent mass starvation across the region, to hit top gear next month.

"We have not had widespread famine. We have prevented that, except for parts of Mozambique," said Pienaar, spokesman for SpoorNet.

Since the project's first food shipments arrived in South Africa in April, more than 3.3 million tons have passed through the ports of Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and the enclave of Walvis Bay, still administered by Pretoria.

A million tons of this has already been taken north by train into neighbouring states, the main lines snaking hundreds of kilometres through Mafeking into Botswana, or via Beit Bridge into Zimbabwe.

"Project advisors estimate the region's food import needs are at 10.83 million tons over the year."

"But a million tons of this will be handled by South Africa's ports, which will reroute more than 3.8 million tons through the so-called Southern Corridor to landlocked neighbours Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho and Swaziland."

"Food is also reaching the needy through three other rail corridors — from Walvis Bay, Dar es Salaam, and Beira and Maputo."

"The Southern Corridor's nerve centre, the so-called Grain Operations Control Centre (GOCC), is in the Johannesburg headquarters of SpoorNet. Resembling a war operations/command post, with large maps tracking sea and rail shipments, it is staffed by officials from Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and SA's port and rail networks and its Maize Board."

"The Southern Corridor strategy group, which meets monthly, also includes an official from the 10-nation Southern African Development Community and the UN World Food Programme."

"South Africa is expected to import 6 million tons of grain for itself and for neighbours such as Lesotho and Swaziland this year."

Challenge

"Industrialised nations, however, have pledged more than $252 million (about R1.47 billion) as drought relief."

The logistical challenge..."
Scream

The newspaper was in my hands. I looked straight into the eyes of a dead two-year-old. I walked into the light and saw something under pieces of newspaper lying on the ground. I lifted the newspaper and walked into the light, and saw something under pieces of the Mozambican Refugees in Ganznikau.

I came to Philomathia from Sumbala. The newspaper was in my hands. I looked straight into the eyes of a dead two-year-old. I walked into the light and saw something under pieces of newspaper lying on the ground. I lifted the newspaper and walked into the light, and saw something under pieces of the Mozambican Refugees in Ganznikau.

Violence

May 1992, a month of anger and frustration as the people in our area made it clear that they would not accept the crimes of the apartheid regime.
Government 'using hungry to buy votes'

PRETORIA. — Operation Hunger, South Africa's biggest food aid charity, yesterday accused the government of playing politics with the nation's hungry in a bid to buy votes in future elections.

Bishop Peter Lee, deputy chairman of the 10-year-old charity, accused the government of denying Operation Hunger funds as part of a political struggle for black votes in future elections.

He said the charity had received none of the R400 million the government had allocated in the current fiscal year to feed the poor until next March.

Bishop Lee said the government had told the charity that funds were being disbursed on a regional basis, which included the 10 homelands. Operation Hunger should ask the tribal territories for the money to feed people in those areas, the government had said.

"The money which is being withheld from us by the South African government is being used as a bribe to try to make us deal with the homeland governments," he said.

Preторia's aim, he said, was to prop up the homelands for a future electoral alliance with the ruling National Party.

Drought relief a success — minister

PRETORIA. — There has been success in the drought relief effort in southern Africa, but the sub-continent cannot be satisfied that all its people have been spared the effects of the disaster, Minister of Transport Piet Welgemees said on Thursday.

He was speaking at a ministerial meeting on drought relief co-ordination in southern Africa.

The vice-president of the Free State Agricultural Union, Mr. Japie Grobler, said yesterday worsening agricultural conditions and increasing financial pressure were expected to force about 2,400 farmers in summer rainfall regions to quit.

However, the first good rains of the season, which fell on Wednesday have made farmers in the Transvaal more optimistic. — Sapa

He said Operation Hunger's soy product needs were being funded by Germany and its development projects by the United States.

Operation Hunger executive-director Mrs Ina Periman said: "We are unable to take further government funding under the conditions that have been set to us."

Mrs Periman also appealed to the international community for funds. — Sapa-Reuter
Operation Hunger lashes out at govt

PRETORIA — Operation Hunger, SA's biggest food aid charity, accused government yesterday of playing politics with the nation's hungry in a bid to buy votes in future elections.

At a briefing for diplomats and journalists, Operation Hunger officials said the charity was "responsible for the survival of 3-million people" hit by drought and poverty.

Executive director Ina Perlman, who appealed to the international community for funds, said government was failing in its responsibility to feed the country's needy.

Operation Hunger needed R1m a month to buy maize meal for six months from January after EC funding for maize purchases expired.

Anglican Bishop Peter Lee, deputy chairman of the 19-year-old charity, accused government of denying Operation Hunger funds as part of a political struggle for black votes in future elections.

The charity had received none of the R400m government had allocated in the current fiscal year to feed the poor until next March.

Operation Hunger's soya product needs were being funded by Germany and its development projects by the US, he said.

Government had told the charity that funds were being disbursed on a regional basis, including in the 10 homelands, he said.

Operation Hunger should ask the tribal territories for the money to feed people in those areas, government had said.

"The money which is being withheld from us by the SA government is being used as a bribe to try and make us deal with the homeland governments," he said.

He noted a large proportion of the people the charity assisted were in the homelands.

Pretoria's aim, he said, was to prop up the homelands and thus lay the foundations for a future electoral alliance with the NP.

Operation Hunger rejected this.

The charity, like the international community, did not recognise the homelands, Lee said.

Perlman said "We are unable to take further government funding under the conditions set for us."

Operation Hunger, after years of private funding, approached government for money for the first time last year and received R10m on a national basis.

Lee said the international community, like Operation Hunger itself, should consider homeland residents as South Africans, and thus deserving of aid, while continuing to reject the independent or autonomous status of the homelands.

"Help us with cash to stop people from dying for a political purpose," the bishop said — Sapa-Reuters.
Striking it rich — A woman fresh from Woolworths donates R10 while another digs into her purse

White women can beg — and they score too

OK, white folks can't jump so good — but man, are they learning to beg. "Collecting", as Durban's growing band of white beggars prefer to call it, is not an easy way to earn a living.

In 75 minutes one morning this week, I made R30.95 standing with a polystyrene cup outside a cafe in the Durban city centre. It's exhausting, boring, humiliating work...

The first 20 minutes no one paid the slightest attention to me. I felt like another advert on the shop window. To be honest, I discouraged eye contact, trying to settle my own ambivalence about being there.

An elderly man walked past and hesitated, reaching into his pocket. But his wife marched him away.

My luck changed after 40 minutes with the first R1.

Who gives money to desperate white women? Mine came from eight people: two gave R10, one person R5, one R2, three Rs and 95c from a woman who poured coins into the sticky hands of her three-year-old to "put into that lady's cup". Most "donors" looked well off; six were white, half were men.

Few said anything. Most poignant was an elderly woman who shuffled past in broken slippers, a plastic bag with a couple of groceries over one arm. She held out an empty hand and said: "Nothing for you today I'm afraid, my dear. Things are very bad this week."

Moments before the first R10 I felt seriously scared. A good-looking young man walked past me twice, then came up close. I braced for insults, propositions or worse. Instead, he squashed a note into the cup. "Ta," he said, and carried on walking.

A woman fresh from Woolworths, plump plastic bag of groceries over her arm, donated the second R10. As she walked away, she noticed the photographer, lens trained on the "beggar", and began to chat. "What a shame," she said. "My heart goes out to these people. She seems a really decent woman."

CARMEL RICKARD tried her hand at begging this week. She made more money in 75 minutes than she does as a journalist, but found it's not an easy way to earn a living...

(Thank you ma'am.)

After an hour and a quarter, my body ached and I decided to find out how professional "collectors" manage.

Most of the half dozen I spoke to stand for two or three hours in the morning. That's all they can bear. "Lucy", when books into a place that rents old rooms for the day. Aged 46, she looks closer to 60.

Lucy was the only "collector" who sits on the pavement instead of standing. She said she had worked in the laundry of a Free State hospital until she lost her job because of a back problem.

"You feel very sad doing this work. It is not nice. You get a lot of horrible things said to you. Sometimes people give me money and say, 'Now you'll go and spend it on drinking.' But I don't drink at all. A lot of people come and pray with me. They stop and ask if I am a believer. When I say I am a Christian woman, they kneel down next to me and pray."

Cecilia and Albert "collect" two blocks apart, constantly worrying about each other and earning R18 to R30 a day between them. Albert is 46, Cecilia 55.

He worked for a Johannesburg firm that went bankrupt, then they moved to Durban, hoping their luck would change.

Albert "collects" on bad days; on good days, he replaces striking workers. He has Department of Manpower contacts who tip him off about strikes. "I have worked on strikes since we got here. Dux, the railways, Union Flour Mills and a drum company. All the big strikes and the little ones — I'm there."

Like all the other women "collectors" in town, Cecilia presents a brave face: clean, neatly dressed — and sober. A qualified credit controller, she hates "collecting" but has been unable to find a job. "I would be happy to work behind a counter or even sweep the floors. But when I apply for a job, they say I'm too old or they want Indians."

"Sleeping on the beach" is the worst fear of all the women. They aim each day to get enough for a room, and only then do they think about food.

Rickard's R30.95 was handed on to other "collectors"...
Grain operation is hi-tech

By FRED KHUMALO

WITH many parts of the country in the throes of one of this century's most severe droughts, Spornet has started a massive project to transport food - maize and other cereal - to drought-stricken areas.

The operation is to bring 5.4 million tons of grain to SA and another 5.4 million tons to 10 similar drought-affected countries in southern Africa to help fight starvation.

It is estimated that 11 million tons of grain will be needed to stave off the looming food crisis.

So far, four million tons of grain have been brought to these shores. The programme is expected to end in April 1993.

"A lot of the food has safely reached its intended destination. Distribution will soon start - but our role is just the transportation to the recipient areas," said Portnet's grain operations control centre manager, Simon Swanich.

The operation initiated by the United Nations World Food Programme is being co-ordinated by Spornet in conjunction with representatives from Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The massive operation has been made possible by satellite technology and sophisticated software systems, used in post-war Kuwait, which facilitate the speedy offloading of thousands of tons of grain on to railway trucks which then transport the grain as far afield as Malawi.

About 8.5 million tons will be routed through the South African ports of Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and Cape Town, with the balance going via the Mozambiquian ports of Maputo, Beira and Nacola as well as the Tanzanian port of Dar-es-Salam.

Much-needed food

"We believe the food will reach the people in time," said Portnet's Willem Burger.

But he warned that bad weather, possible labour unrest and port and border bottlenecks could cause delays.

At least 3 000 railway wagons have been taken out of mothballs to provide sufficient rolling stock as ships from countries as diverse as the US, Canada and some parts of Europe keep coming to local ports to deliver the much-needed maize and other cereals.

The railway authority expects 6 000 trainloads to be used in the year-long operation. Combined, these trains would be 3 000 km long.

To guarantee professional efficiency, a 20-man team, with the aid of computers linked by satellite to a mainframe in the US, monitors on a 24-hour basis the movement of every ship from the time it leaves port, mainly in the Americas, until it arrives in SA.

The same computer-based monitoring applies to every trainload and truckload until the shipment reaches its destination.

"In the cases of countries such as Malawi this can be up to three months from the arrival of the ship (in Durban harbour)," said a Portnet spokesman.

Malawi has received 126 000 tons of grain; Zimbabwe has received 812 000 tons; Zambia 195 000 tons; Namibia 82 000 tons; Botswana 93 000; Swaziland 33 000 and Lebombo 70 000.

Angola has received only 2 000 tons - and these have been delivered only in the Unita-dominated southern part of the country.

"Our job is to transport the food. We can't take decisions as to the amount of food to be sent to different destinations," Swanich said.
Charred by the sun and the system

By JENNIFER GRYFFIN

SYRING on an empty 25-litre water container in the scorching midday sun, Elissia Vikula snatched her young daughter while they waited for their turn at the water tap. They had been waiting since 5 am.

Dozens of other women with babies and children queued behind Elissia in Canadina Local council’s remnant dry and dried vegetable gardens bare on the parched earth – testimony to the worst drought to hit the region in 100 years.

Malnutrition is on the rise and some 2 million Gisax are food aid. Critics say the government’s lax attitude and bureaucratic inefficiency have conspired to slow the helping impoverished rural blacks.

Black farmers have been evicted from white-owned farms forcing them to form squatter settlements. In Jekesani, 100 farms exist. The mines are not hiring and rural villagers cannot sell their livestock because prices have fallen too low.

SA’s maize harvest was down by 60 percent this year, forcing the former exporter to import almost 45 million tons of maize.

Those who can afford food often lack the water needed to cook.

“Even though they can buy maize meal, they may not eat for two or three days because there isn’t water,” said Star Motowe, a fieldworker for the Transvaal Rural Action Committee.

The first signs of potential drought came in September 1991, said Alpho Machapu, deputy director of Operations Hunger. Yet the government only began addressing the problem in February 1992 when it voted to allocate $440 million to drought relief that has benefited mostly white farmers, he said.

But the government says it wasn’t late.

“One can’t say the government in September should have known there would be a drought,” said Mike Walters, executive secretary for the government’s Drought Action Co-ordinating Centre. “The first indications were when the January and February rains failed.”

According to Machapu, African farmers were helped first. The government concludes most of the 26,000 farmers given drought assistance were white, but claims $130 million was given to homestead farmers.

Motowe reckons drought relief money never reaches the black farmers it targets. “In some areas you find that the white farmers are the chairmen of the committees for allocating drought relief money,” he said.

Overseas engineers have withdrawn from the government’s Water Task Force because they alleged the drought emergency has been brought about by long-term neglect.

Les Abrams, director of the Consultative Forum on Drought, said the State was handshard to administer public drought relief funds, and those handshard local authorities are responsible for the infrastructural decay that has allowed the drought to become a disaster.

According to Machapu, “If hunger wasn’t being used as a political weapon, we could cope.”
North, east desperate for rain

By Clyde Johnson and Dirk Nel

Many northern and eastern Transvaal communities face economic ruin if it does not rain this month.

Although welcome rains fell in the Warmbaths and Nyilstroom districts at the weekend, and over many parts of the lowveld last week, more is desperately needed to break the drought.

Over the past few months, drought reports by government officials, organised agriculture and conservationists have described a bleak picture.

Several factors which have brought the rural northern areas to their knees include:
- Thousands of cattle have died in Lebowa, Venda, and Gazankulu. It will take years for livestock farming to be re-established in these areas.
- Most districts in the far north had only 20 percent of their average annual rainfall in 1991/92. This resulted in dam levels dropping to below 20 percent of their capacity.
- Stringent water restrictions are in force in most towns, and thousands of people in the homelands are receiving daily or weekly water supplies by road tanker.
- The drought has caused an increase in unemployment, as farmers and businesses have been forced to retrench workers.
- City markets have suffered drastically due to cuts in the irrigation quotas of fruit and vegetable farmers in the fertile Tzaneen district.

Conservation officials and game farmers are involved in the extensive feeding of wild animals which can no longer be sustained by the land.

- Fires have destroyed valuable plantations, indigenous vegetation and grazing. The ongoing danger of fires remains a constant cause for concern in the region.

The timber industry has been hard hit by the loss of up to 30 percent of the trees in State and private forests, because there simply is no dampness in the ground anymore.

"It's purely a matter of survival, one day until the next. God only knows how long we can hold out," a desperate lowveld farmer told The Star.

The Kruger National Park, grouped in its worst drought, had between 12 mm and 35 mm on Thursday — just enough to get grass growing.

But just as quickly as the tender young leaves make their appearance the hot lowveld sun searches them.

The Braam Raubenheimer Dam is presently at a dangerous 12 percent level and unless water flows into it soon, all irrigation supplies to farmers will be stopped.

Nelspruit inhabitants, already subjected to strict water restrictions, will face even sterner measures in the weeks ahead unless it rains.
Rains must not mark end of aid projects.
18-million face starvation in southern Africa

NJELELE — The mighty Limpopo River is dry, a broad belt of dust snakes through a landscape ravaged by a drought that has pushed millions of people to the edge of starvation.

Where a torrent of green water hundreds of metres wide should be flowing, there is dust. People say they remember nothing like it. "You can't grow anything. The earth is dead," said peasant farmer Hans Mkansi.

Across southern Africa, the worst drought in 100 years has stripped many areas bare. Villagers in some places eat mud to stave off hunger pangs.

Fields are patches of windblown dust, hundreds of thousands of cattle are dead or dying and millions of desperate people depend on food from aid agencies.

Up to 20-million people, or about a fifth of the population, are struggling to survive in the 10 nations of southern Africa. But aid workers do not expect a repeat of the disaster ravaging Somalia to the north, except possibly in Mozambique, where the UN says 3-million people face death from famine.

"With less than 50% of average crop yields anticipated during 1992-93, at least 18-million people face the spectre of starvation," said a UN report.

A quarter of Zimbabwe's 10-million people get food aid, but almost as many have been turned away. Large parts of Swaziland depend on 21 overworked government water trucks.

In SA aid groups feeding at least 2-million people have been forced to cut food allowances because they are overwhelmed by demand. "It is worse, much worse than we anticipated," said Operation Hunger head Ina Perlina.

 Everywhere, the drought's impact has been made worse by incompetence and bureaucratic red tape, politics, corruption and violence.

Millions of tons of food must be distributed across southern Africa to help keep people alive until next March and April, when the first crops normally bloom. Average summer rains are expected in many areas, but many impoverished farmers need seed and fertiliser to raise a new crop.

Haunted by past African famines, Western nations have been sending food. But some aid has been delayed by lack of transport or tardiness by some donor nations in meeting promises.

"Physical condition can deteriorate quickly. Almost overnight, you can reach a situation where people are beyond the point of no return," said John Hicks of the US Agency for International Development.

The problem is exacerbated by the inefficiency of many area governments.

Bureaucrats in some areas make hungry people apply in writing for food, aid is sent to areas with food surpluses while famine areas are ignored; and theft takes a daily toll.

Zimbabwe sold off 2-million tons of maize in 1991 that was held as food reserves. Now it is importing maize at three times the cost of local crops, putting huge strain on its economy.

Food aid in Malawi has been diverted to the north in an effort to calm opposition to the authoritarian government of President Ramazu Banda.

Some European nations cut aid to Namibia after President Sam Nujoma spent almost $30m on an executive jet. Nujoma said the jet was needed for trips to seek drought aid.

In SA, the worst suffering has been in the homelands. "It's been a mess for years, now it's a lot more critical," said Johann Rissik, an Operation Hunger worker in Lephalale. "It's desperate. People are fighting over water." — Sapa-AP
White poverty at its highest since the 1920s

By CAROL GALES

HOW serious is South Africa's modern “poor white problem”? According to statistics and anecdotes from relief workers, the recession is pushing more whites out of work and into hunger.

- The number of whites fed by Operation Hunger has grown from zero in 1984 to about 100,000. In Pretoria, the number of whites fed by the programme jumped 100 percent between July 1990 and July 1991.
- Whites are taking menial jobs formerly held only by blacks. “We haven’t seen the white work force suffer as deeply as it has in this recession,” says John Dawkins, president of the National Association of Personnel Service Organisations.
- The amount paid out in social relief and unemployment benefits rising nearly every month this year, the government’s welfare programme for whites is way over budget. “This situation hasn’t been anticipated,” says Piet Le Roux, spokesman for the House of Assembly’s Department of Health Services and Welfare.

Today’s level of poverty among whites is the highest since the government created social welfare to solve the “poor white problem” of the 1920s, according to Brian McKendrick, head of the social work department at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The system gave whites education and health care at little or no cost, non-contributory old age and disability pensions, subsidised housing, plenty of jobs with the government and its businesses, and other support.

In the past five years, that system has largely been dismantled and government businesses privatised. As a result, “the helping network that primarily aided whites is disintegrating,” McKendrick says.

Still, the extent and severity of poverty among whites remains small in relation to the plight of black South Africans. Ina Perlman, Operation Hunger’s director, points out that five percent of her cases involve whites though they make up 17 percent of the population.

“Certainly, the impression we have is that with the majority of whites affected it has been rough, but one hasn’t yet seen the gross malnutrition one sees among blacks,” Perlman says.

With the shortage of government welfare funds, whites—including conservative political groups—have mobilised over the past year to help their own. The Conservative Party created Volkskuit 2 000 to co-ordinate welfare for white people, says spokesman Johannes van der Berg. The programme hands out donated food and helps whites find jobs. It also encourages white farmers to replace black workers with whites.
Churches feed the starving

CONCERNED churches in Pinelands are daily feeding scores of destitute and starving people at a soup kitchen at the Western Cape Training Centre in Epping.

Over a hundred unemployed people queued up at lunchtime yesterday to receive a quarter of a loaf of brown bread, a cup of soup and 500 grams of mince meal from Mr W A McDougall, a volunteer worker from the Pinelands Baptist Church.

Mr McDougall said it cost the churches about R50 a day to feed the unemployed.

"Members of the congregations of the Methodist, Baptist, NGK and the Brethren churches in Pinelands make contributions," he said.

Many of the people who came to the centre were desperate. Their families were starving and they were forced to look for work in the cold and rain while wearing threadbare clothes, he said.

The unemployed desperately needed clothes and shoes and he appealed to the public for assistance. Those wanting to help could leave them at Howard Motors in Pinelands, he said.

Mr Andrew July, 30, originally from Port Elizabeth and now living in New Crossroads, said he had come to Cape Town in 1987 with his wife and two children because there were no jobs available in Port Elizabeth.

He has been unemployed for two years and he battles to feed himself and his family.
ETHIOPIA ON OUR DOORSTEP

By SOPHIE TEMA

These pictures were not taken in Somalia or Ethiopia - they were taken right here.

Skanky people may be the envy of shamming-beautiful Japan, but in this hunger-ravaged homeland of Goundah the truth is that hunger hurts, if not kills.

More home truths: Starvation catastrophe is staring SA in the face. Hundreds of thousands of children are being starved physically - and mentally - by acute protein deficiency.

Existing child death, disease and malnutrition is being recorded in the forgotten settlements behind the hills, down the urban back alleys and, more often, in open, public sight in SA.

Unemployment and drought have pushed matters to the brink.

Who cares? - such as the mental illness which also threatens a country marked by political warfare and massive violations of human rights.

Yet, it's the job of Operation Hunger to make sure that violation by starvation does not go unnoticed, that somewhere starving people are given a glimpse of hope - and food.

Operation Hunger director Ian Ferreira says more than two million people are in need of this glimpse. Ferreira warned earlier that economic depression and drought could see more than 2.5 million South Africans desperate for food.

She predicted "maximum devastation" and said her organisation was already feeding more than one million people a year. And funds were fast running out. Nevertheless, in such a crisis, the army has not reached critical proportions, but in rural areas the situation has become far worse with children being admitted to hospitals suffering from malnutrition and kwashiorkor. Some died there.

Others were simply killed off by exposure to cold in their "homes".

Urgent appeals from starving communities - both black and white - are pouring in daily to the offices of Operation Hunger "for funds," organizers report.

This week Ferreira said "Hunger now, starvation tomorrow - that is the stark reality that threatens thousands upon thousands of our people before many more weeks have passed."

Crops had been wiping out, there was no seasonal labour and the urban economy had still not been able to supply employment and income.

She said "Operation Hunger has received government funding, but even that will only last a few more weeks."

Ferreira appealed to every South African to give what they could.

The disaster that stares us all in the face

SO YOUNG ... Most of the victims of hunger are defenseless innocents - such as these suffering youngsters (above and right) pictured in Goundah recently.

NONE SO BLIND ... While issues of power and wealth are fought out in a battle of publicity, people seem oblivious to the fact that two million South Africans are starving to death.

Dreaming of Bopan

By THEMA KHUMALO

Bopan Mzimba's dream is that Bocharatewana will one day become the Japan of Africa.

The gift of Bop president Louis Mzimba has impressed with Japanese methods and techniques that he wants to model the homeland's economic system on that of Japan.

His father wants to convert Bop into a model federal state in a new SA, but the American-educated Eddie has other ideas. His burning ambition is to transform the homestead's faltering economy into one of the most flourishing capitalist systems on the continent.

Eddie has been described as a man of contrasts with a credit of MBA degree from Waseda University in Tokyo in the early 60s, then worked as a banker for eight years in the US. Later he returned home to head the Bocharatewana National Development Corporation (BNDC) as its general manager.

As an Expatriate businessman, he recently led a delegation of 100 Bocharatewana to seek advice and get first-hand experiences from Japan, Singapore and Taiwan.

We were particularly struck by the people culture, the Japanese - I’ve never seen such workaholics in my life. It’s absolutely true."

According to the people of Bocharatewana, Bop could be a model for other small-scale businesses.

"The government has been biased in its bid to industrialize Bop and it is not doing a good job," said one, who described the government as "the most discouraging force in the area."

However, Eddie painted a glowing picture of the homestead's economy under his leadership and said unless something is done, Bop could soon fall into an "economic abyss".

ENTER THE DRAGON ... Eddie Mzimba is a Japanese fan.

Business Week begins on September 26 and aims to introduce small businessmen to the community to improve their image.

The week's programme includes workshops on retail, radio and television talk shows and advice on how to start a business.

BNDC public affairs manager Soltry Malibya said Business Week had been sponsored by the tune of R300 000 by among others: Sasol, Bopem, Bocharatewana Breweries and Bop Radio Services.
S Army comes to aid of starving thousands

The Harvest for the Hungry

By Michael Chester

The Salvation Army plans to expand its emergency feeding schemes by more than 100,000 meals a month to prevent thousands of rural black families from starving because of the drought.

Public relations secretary Major Denis Lorimer said the special programme would run for at least two or three months until expected spring rains hopefully came to the rescue.

He said the boost to feeding schemes had been made possible by a R500,000 injection of new funds from the "Harvest for the Hungry" campaign launched by the Nedcor group and The Star and its sister newspapers in the Argus group.

The Salvation Army was among the foremost beneficiaries in the first batch of allocations from the "Harvest" fund, created to rush food to families suffering the worst impact of the drought.

Major Lorimer said the additional meals would be distributed immediately to families in most desperate need in areas where crops had been devastated — from the northern Transvaal and Venda, down through KwaZulu and Transkei, and into the Cape.

"The contribution from the 'Harvest' fund will provide a lifeline to thousands of families trying to escape starvation," he said.

"It means we can increase the number of meals we distribute by between 25,000 and 30,000 every week. That will be highly significant in worst-hit areas.

"We have been able to plan far bigger operations with our soup kitchens and feeding schemes with mealie meal and powdered milk — even sugar too if budgets can be stretched."
Ministers to discuss funds

NEW YORK - Against the background of a world economic slowdown, 46 Commonwealth foreign ministers met yesterday to discuss how to keep development funds flowing to poor nations.

More than 250 delegates are expected at the two-day British Commonwealth finance ministers' conference, held before next week's IMF and World Bank annual meetings.

Commonwealth delegates will discuss better cooperation between its London-based secretariat and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, which promotes development in poorer countries.

World Bank and IMF topics will be discussed, as some Commonwealth nations are worried about getting IMF loans.

The Commonwealth Secretariat said in a news release there was concern about difficulties some of the fund's traditional borrowers continued to have in gaining access to resources.

The secretariat said continued impediments to development included high real interest rates, weak commodity prices and difficulties in debt servicing.

Sapa-AP 6/06/71 9/72
Water the key to rural revival

F

Water is vital for anything to grow, so a drought can be critical for the rural poor. This year’s drought has made a razor of survival’s sharp edge, but programmes supported by the health, rural and community development (HRCD) portfolio — particularly in the provision of clean water, sanitation and clinics — are building a basis for recovery.

Two further R186-million will be spent in 1992-93 on building clinics and improving supplies of potable water.

HRCD is also administering a R100-million IDT relief development programme in drought-stricken areas.

With the Kagiso Trust, the IDT has drawn 68 organisations into a consultative forum which, supported by a rapid-response operations room at the IDT’s Johannesburg offices, is planning water projects, community public works and institutional capacity-building in affected communities.

Public works, including road-building, soil conservation and repairing schools, will take 60 percent of the funds.

Community participation — for example the formation of village committees for health, water, electrification, or agriculture — has been an important feature of IDT-funded initiatives.

This can be a painstaking process but experience shows that these are the institutions that ultimately determine development outcomes, without them programmes mustil.

Only 53 percent of South Africa’s rural population of 16.6 million have access to so-called “improved water supply”, and only 14 percent have access to individual adequate sanitation. So interventions here are an important thrust for HRCD.

Water and sanitation programmes will get R55-million and should reach two million people in the next three years.

In the “grossly neglected” area of primary health care, planning for a R50-million programme to build or upgrade clinics is complete, and building will begin soon, says Karlsson.

People must be helped to work to support their families," says Professor Len Karlsson, who directs the HRCD portfolio.

With a limit of R330 000 per clinic, applications for 306 clinics have been processed from all parts of South Africa. Regional health authorities must guarantee to staff and supply these clinics before the IDT will build.

The IDT will spend R16-million on improving communications between clinics and base hospitals, and R10-million on the training of clinic personnel.

Energy provision, including the planting of woodlots as a renewable fuel source, and the provision of solar power for rural clinics, will get R20-million.

Other major funding commitments have been made, among them:

- R40-million for welfare, to be channelled into up to 20 national councils, for the empowerment of disabled groups or the elderly;
- R11-million for a three-year national AIDS programme by the Progressive Primary Health Care Network;
- R6-million for a tuberculosis project in the Western Cape, where the incidence of TB is four times higher than the national average;
- R5-million for the Medical Research Council’s GOBI-FFP programme, based on a “well-woman” concept which places the health of the mother at the centre of her family’s wellbeing.

HRCD started later than the other portfolios because several months were spent on fieldwork establishing needs and priorities.

"It’s only really been running about a year," says Karlsson. "But since the groundwork was done, there has been an exponential increase in the portfolio’s output and disbursement of funds."
World Bank backs Eskom-ANC plan

By KEVIN DAVIE: Washington

THE World Bank has thrown its weight behind the Eskom-ANC initiative to electrify low-income households.

A position paper by the bank estimates that a three-to-five-year programme to electrify 8-million houses could result in 150 000 to 750 000 new jobs.

The paper follows the visit of a bank household energy fact-finding mission this year.

The mission says 24-million of SA’s 7-million households have electricity.

The proportion of electrified households is rising, but so is the number without electricity.

The bank supports the national electrification forum and would help if asked.

Pilot

The World Bank’s Alun Morris says electrification is an area where the consensus-building process is farthest down the road. Successful development will need agreement on the issues plus an institutional framework.

Other bank projects in SA include a training programme for potential public servants.

A pilot study has been completed at the University of Cape Town and more are to follow countrywide.

Four universities – UCT, Stellenbosch, Western Cape and Wits – are establishing the first, quantitative profile of poverty in SA. The three universities and others will undertake a national household survey which can be updated periodically to track poverty and its alleviation.

Mr Morris says the project, which has financial backing from Norway (the Netherlands and Denmark are also ‘seriously interested’), will cost about R1.5-billion and is ‘ready to go’.

The bank has also offered its expertise in the amalgamation of local authorities. It will study SA’s urban areas, describe scenarios and their cost-benefits.

The bank is constructing several macro-economic scenarios facing SA.

Mr Morris says the bank can offer its experience in many other countries which have faced similar problems to those now being dealt with in SA. The bank intends developing tool-kits for these problems.

The bank has increased its internal budget for its SA programme.

A year ago this budget was minimal, the bank’s SA activities being funded to some extent by countries such as Sweden, the UK, Norway, Denmark and the Swiss and by ad agencies like the UNDP.

Now the bank’s SA effort is significant compared with other African countries, though still not on the scale of Latin America, says Mr Morris.

The bank intends opening an office in SA when “internal and external consensus has been reached”.

The bank’s annual report makes brief mention of SA, saying: “Growth performance has deteriorated over the past 15 years and real per capita incomes have fallen by about 1.5% a year over the past decade.

“The challenge facing a new government will be to revive economic growth while facilitating a more equal income distribution and access to publicly provided services.”
Meals for thousands on the way

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The Ark Christian Ministries Church will soon be providing daily meals to thousands of people in three Natal areas ravaged by drought and unemployment — thanks to a R300,000 emergency donation from the Harvest for the Hungry disaster fund.

The Ark was among the first five distribution agencies to benefit from an initial R1 million wave of cash allocations from the special fund launched by Nedcor and Argus group newspapers The Star, the Daily News in Durban and the Argus in Cape Town.

Marius du Plessis, the Ark’s public relations officer, says we recently defined four rural areas and 12 peri-urban areas as acutely poor communities in need of emergency help, with a total population of 578,000. With the resources available, we have narrowed these down to three, which are among the worst hit.

The areas finally selected are Piesangsrivier informal settlement, bordering Inanda/Newtown, north of Durban, and the two southern Natal rural areas of Malangeni and Bhakajane, inland from Pennington.

The Ark will be able to provide 300 meals over a period of three months to 4,355 people in its three selected areas.

Mr du Plessis emphasised that the Ark’s primary mode of operation was to help make people and communities self-sufficient.

“It’s not just the drought. It’s also the unemployment. In the Piesangrivier community 65 percent of the 5,000 adults are unemployed, and there are 600 children. The majority of the people have no form of income.”

“Surely they can’t survive on no money and no food? That is why you have people storming food relief agencies in the cities.”

When Ark workers took out some soup and bread to Piesangrivier for distribution recently, 1,100 women joined the queue — but there was enough for only 300 people. For the next three months, the Harvest fund will ensure a nutritious meal a day for 2,500 people there.

Mr du Plessis said, “We want to express our deepest gratitude for those who have taken the bold step of getting the emergency fund going.”

The Ark’s main centre is in the Durban Point area where it provides a vital service for hundreds of destitute urban people of all races. It provides shelter, food, clothing, child care facilities, skills training, life-skills training and spiritual education for about 500 people at any given time.

The Government has made available a grant of R180,000 to assist in the Ark’s urban feeding programme, including distribution of food to some 260 street children a day.

The Durban City Council has made available a grant of R500,000 for the purchase of brick-making machines and other equipment to assist informal-settlement communities to build low-cost houses.
COMMUNITY BUILDER In Kimberley the community helps provide for a local feeding scheme

Vuyo Lindela - giving food to hungry kids

By Pearl Majola

A group of boys wearing torn and dirty clothes queue a few blocks away from Kimberley’s city centre waiting eagerly for their only meal of the day. An energetic woman rolls up her sleeves and prepares to dish out food for the boys.

This is an ordinary lunchtime scene at Victoria Park in Kimberley. The boys are either runaways, destitute or victims of abuse. The woman is 36-year-old businesswoman Mrs Vuyo Lindela.

Every morning 10 of the 35 girls and boys sheltered at Sebusi Mahanyele Children’s Home leave for school. Their shelter, food and the chance to go to school would have been impossible without Lindela’s efforts. Over 70 kilometres away, 30 other children from Xholaseng township in Warrenton are assured of at least one meal every day. Another group of about 60 children from Vryburg is also fed, all of this due to Vuyo’s hard work.

Lindela’s feeding project started in 1990 when three boys asked her money for food. Before she knew it, the number of boys waiting for her to give them R1 each day had grown to 10.

“I decided to cook food at home and take it to the park for the children,” says Lindela.

By 1991, 60 boys ate in the park and the project was beginning to attract the attention of influential people. The local judge’s wife helped raise funds for the project.

National Sorghum Breweries donated fully furnished premises in industrial Kimberley to shelter 30 children. The Sebusi Mahanyele Children’s Home was officially opened this year.

Children at the home who do not attend school remain at the shelter all day and are taught informally by volunteer teachers. Their ages range from six to 17.

During weekends and on school holidays the children are taken on outings by local volunteers.

Lindela has worked her way up to being a successful businesswoman, while being a wife and mother of three.

Her own childhood experiences of living in a one-roomed house with her parents and five siblings and surviving on a tight budget inspired her concern for street children.

“But at least we had a roof over our heads and one another. Some of these children don’t. They sleep on the pavements and don’t have anybody to share their problems. Thus is the least I can do,” she says humbly.

Mrs Vuyo Lindela.
High cost of cheap foods

The recession is hitting people in all wage brackets, but poor families are taking the blows where it hurts most - essential food and clothing.

To see how food prices are affecting poor people, Trends attempted to help a Soweto family of five spend R150 - a third of its joint income - on food.

The basket consisted of 15 ems - including mealie meal, samp, beans, powdered milk and vegetables - which is family consider the most basic and essential for their daily needs.

The shopping list did not include bread (also considered essential for the children but not daily) and meat, which the family buys every Sunday.

The food was bought from small traders and the vegetables from hawkers, where most low-income people shop. Dorah Dubazane, one of the family's breadwinners, says the list would sustain the family for only two weeks.

Her children have tea and read for breakfast and lunch every day. The family eats no leaves of bread a day. The upper consists of porridge and vegetables.

Tinned fish is substituted for vegetables, and on Sundays the family lunches on um and beans and occasionally cheap cuts of meat or fish, chicken necks, gizzards, and liver for R10.

Ms. Dubazane, who does part-time domestic work, sees the misery of many poor families when she says she sometimes feel that "I only work for food. It takes up a slice from my income."

Sister Jeannette Molele, field service manager for the African Children's Feeding scheme, says many black families cannot even afford 15c for "malebe" - two slices of bread with peanut butter and skimmed milk that her scheme supplies to township folk.

She encourages people to buy cheap but nutritious foods with a high protein content, such as split peas and soya mince. One source of these foods is Imakwali, a non-profit organisation serving low-income groups.

Noma Fupholo, president of the National Black Consumer Union, says the Government needs to use churches, clinics and schools to identify families in need, and to feed people who can't afford to buy food.

She has suggested a coupon system to accommodate individual family needs.

Concern over runaway food costs has prompted members of the Food Forum, consisting of consumer bodies, retailers, farmers and manufacturers, to appeal to the Government to consider exempting some foodstuffs from VAT.

Forum members believe that if the Government zero-rates basic foods, food inflation (which is more than 30 percent at present) could be brought down to 10 percent.

The fight against food inflation has been joined by two powerful Congress of South African Trade Unions affiliates, the SA Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union and the Food and Allied Workers' Union, who will monitor certain food prices.

The unions blame "monopolistic food retailers", the Government's introduction of VAT and the removal of food subsidies for increasing prices.

Finance Minister Derek Keys says he might consider zero-rating some foods in next year's Budget.
Inquiry into Lebowa poverty food scheme

THE Department of National Health is to investigate claims that emergency food supplies intended for the poor in Lebowa were piling up in storerooms at Jane Furse Hospital since March.

Operation Hunger Northern Transvaal director Mr Johann Russk said while his organisation was battling to feed 260 000 hungry people daily, food provided from funds allocated by the South African poverty food relief programme to the Lebowa government was unused because of lack of transport.

In a stinging attack on the incompetence of the self-governing State’s relief organisation, he claimed there was no practical basis for delivery of food once it was off-loaded at the hospital.

Further problems arose in the actual allocation of food parcels bought with the R5,3 million allocated to Lebowa in the last financial year.

While the food was wasted in hospital storerooms, Russk said he had proof that once children suffering from kwashiorkor were discharged from hospital, the families were advised to come to Operation Hunger for further help.

Labelling the situation “a complete fiasco”, he said not only was there no proper basis for delivery of food once it was off-loaded, but packing was wasteful.

Distribution was farcical, with one food parcel allocated to a malnourished child who was part of a family of eight or 10 people.

This was the case at the HC Bosloff Hospital near Burgersfort.

“It is ridiculous to expect the family to watch while the malnourished child dips its fingers into peanut butter,” he said.

Russk added that the relief programme was aimed at preventing malnutrition, but food was only being handed out to those who had already been diagnosed as being malnourished.

Director of National Health Dr Coen Slabber said once the poverty relief funds were handed over to the self-governing or TBVC States, they were responsible for the distribution.

He was unaware of the problems in Lebowa but said appropriate steps would be taken to investigate the claims.

A total of R10 million had been allocated for poverty relief to the TBVC States via the Department of Foreign Affairs in the last financial year.

The self-governing states had received R14 million last year.

Reports on the expenditure of the funds had to be delivered quarterly and he had ordered that no further funds would be handed over until reports covering the use of money allocated last year were received, he said.
'Farmers could go hungry'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Hundreds of farmers, their families and workers will go hungry unless donations to the SA Agricultural Union’s emergency aid fund are speeded up.

Union president Boet Fourie said yesterday contributions so far amounted to R1.7m and the target to supply desperately needed aid for the next 12 months was R12m.

The amount donated so far would last three months to aid 1,963 farmers’ families and 10,000 workers and their families. By the time more distressed farmers were identified the need would have grown. He said the first payment of R351,000 had been made to provincial unions.

Fourie said the union was “deeply touched” by the donation of R3.91m from the SAP.
The ANC recognises that many of the social
problems where solutions are societal

In the economy

stories in the democratic process and as workers
people are empowered, for active mobilisation as
goods it has not been achieved "unless all

Fighting fire is out, says Welfare Plan
Hijack hampers Salvation Army food drive

By Paula Fray

An attempt by the Salvation Army to stem the growing tide of hungry people in Johannesburg was almost thwarted last week when the organisation's bakkie was hijacked in Soweto.

However, the Army's much-needed night emergency feeding programme, launched at the weekend, may now have to be delayed until the vehicle — needed to tow the food trailer — has been recovered.

Salvation Army public relations officer Major Denis Lorimer said Army worker Kenneth Mthombeni was taking a load of building material to a children's home in Soweto on Thursday when he stopped at a service station.

Four men armed with knives approached him and asked for his keys.

"At first he refused, but when he saw the knives he had second thoughts," said Major Lorimer. The men drove off with the 1989 Isuzu bakkie and canopy, registration N170740T, filled with building materials.

"We went ahead with the launch, but the loss of the vehicle is hampering us from developing the scheme."

The mobile unit will complement the many feeding programmes already being run by the Salvation Army across the country.

"The trailer will be used primarily for night-time feeding of the thousands of homeless people who assemble at various points in the city, such as Johannesburg station," said Salvation Army southern Africa territorial commander, Commissioner Roy Ockers.

"We will begin by handing out bread and soup and, as soon as resources are available, we will also distribute blankets and clothing. This unit will also be deployed to any part of southern Africa in the event of disaster, such as a flood," he added.

*Any donations or contributions can be made to The Salvation Army Nightly Feeding Programme, Box 32217, Braamfontein 2017, or volunteers can contact Major Lorimer at (011) 463-3814*
‘Illegals’ fear repatriation

DURBAN — Hundreds of Mozambican refugees are living in fear of arrest and deportation from northern Natal after fleeing across the border to escape the ravages of drought and war.

So says Operation Hunger’s Natal director Philip Yarker, who said destitute men, women and children were arriving in the Maputaland district.

She said the refugees — many of them members of the Tembe/Tonga tribe seeking shelter with relatives in Natal — were being arrested by the SADF and sent back via Swaziland.

"Something needs to be done to care for these people. A lot of them have been living here for years and have no homes to go back to."

A spokesman for the SADF in Pretoria, Colonel John Roll, said he was unable to comment on whether there had been an increase in the number of refugees as a result of the drought in southern Mozambique.

"All I can say is that any illegal immigrants picked up by our border patrols are handed over to the civil authorities and the Department of Home Affairs for repatriation."

Dr Murray Short, deputy director of the KwaZulu Health Services said the situation was "potentially very serious" because of the drought.

He was unable to say whether there had been an increase in Mozambican patients at hospitals and clinics in the Maputaland district.

A spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs in Durban could not be reached for comment.
WASHINGTON — Substantial shipments of emergency food aid to southern Africa will be needed in the next eight weeks to avert widespread hunger and suffering throughout the region, the US Office of Foreign Disaster Relief said in a report released this week.

And US relief experts warned that the drought could soon begin to threaten peace efforts in Angola and Mozambique as well as moves towards democracy in countries like Zambia.

There was also a risk of a sudden escalation in AIDS because of deterioration in health of the 30 million people already being affected by the drought, and the lack of water, could soon threaten up to half the livestock in some countries.

"Large numbers of people will be at serious risk of under-nutrition by August if food is not delivered regularly and in sufficient quantities," the report said.

An urgent meeting is to be held in Geneva next week, at which the US will seek to co-ordinate an international relief effort under the auspices of the United Nations, officials said.

At that stage, they added, the US was committed to supplying a million tons of food aid out of the 16 million tons which a team of US experts have calculated will be necessary to ward off disaster in the 11 bone-dry countries of the region.

The European Community has agreed to supply 800,000 tons, and a further 6 million tons would probably be purchased by countries on the commercial market. The bulk of such purchases being made by South Africa and Zimbabwe.

This means that at least 2.5 million tons of food will have to be provided from other sources and at this stage there is no indication that the additional food will be forthcoming.

The US is not expected to increase its assistance beyond a million tons at this stage; because of budgetary constraints.

About 98,000 tons of US food aid was shipped to countries in the region during May, but officials say this amount will have to be vastly increased to meet the quantity needed before August.

The country worst hit by the drought is Mozambique, where Renamo continues to bedevil relief efforts.

Officials fear that even if sufficient food is delivered to Mozambican ports, Renamo attacks and the general lack of transport and infrastructure would prevent delivery to many thousands of people who are close to starvation.
IDT earmarks R100m for poverty, drought aid

PRETORIA — The Independent Development Trust has earmarked R100m for short- and medium-term projects to relieve distress and poverty in drought-affected areas.

A spokesman said at the weekend the trust aimed to establish a national drought relief and development programme incorporating all agencies and networks already involved in relief.

It was vital that all efforts be co-ordinated to make the best use of funds, the spokesman said.

The short-term aim of the programme was to contribute to bringing about immediate relief to fight off the threat of starvation.

The trust's main focus, the spokesman said, would be to try to bring about a lasting solution to the causes of poverty.

Meanwhile, a US Embassy spokesman said the US would give southern African countries 1650-million tons of emergency food at a total cost of $250m and would consider further donations.

He was unable to say what percentage of the food and aid would go to which southern African countries, saying that this would be determined by the US Agency for International Development Aid.

EC representative at Pretoria Tim Sheehy said the community had allocated 800 000 tons towards drought aid for the whole of Africa.

This was in addition to the normal food aid programmes supported by the EC.
Food train exercise no piece of cake

Imagine a train so long that the locomotive would reach Harrismith before the last truck left Johannesburg station. Obviously there is no such train, but that is how long it would be if Spoornet had to transport this year’s drought-ravaged maize in one go.

Out of the 11 million tons of grain, some of it bought, some of it supplied by the United Nations’ World Food Programme, 6.5 million tons are the biggest transportation exercise in food and aid relief in the world. Even the Ethiopian drought relief effort involved only 0.2 million tons of food.

South Africa gets 4.7 million tons, Zimbabwe 2 million, Zambia 600 000, and Malawi 300 000, while small amounts are going to Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland.

This adds up to a total of 5 700 trains, each with 58 trucks, with each truck carrying 39 tons of grain.

The only exercise that comes close in the Kuwait Emergency, Recovery Programme, the restocking of Kuwait with everything from food, rubber boots and generators to fire engines and syringes after the country was devastated in the Gulf War.

In fact the American logistics company that organised the recovery programme has been called in to assist Spoornet’s logistics subsidiary, Viamax Logistics.

The Americans say that in this operation the volumes are far bigger and the multiple destinations complicate the issue.

The logistics are staggering. At any time, about 20 ships from Argentina and the United States are on their way to South Africa, carrying grain in ports that are geared for loading and exporting.

Machines that pump grain into ships or stand idle, while cranes lift the huge loads on to railway trucks to be carried to silos all over South Africa and neighboring countries. Suctioning the grain off the ships would be easier, but that damages it.

In fact, this is what makes this exercise different from other Spoornet operations. Spoornet transports between 50 and 60 million tons of coal a year, but that is comparatively easy to load and unload.

"You have to be more careful with maize and wheat. It’s going to land up on somebody’s plate," said Viamax projects manager Shaun McCormack.

The grain that is not going through South Africa is being landed at Walvis Bay in Namibia, Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and Beira, Nacala and Maputo in Mozambique.

Getting the food from the ships to the countries that need it is not easy.

Malawi, for instance, is just not geared to unload consignments of loose maize, so contractors have to put Malawi’s grain into 50 kg bags.

A third of the Zimbabwean and Zambian consignments also have to be bagged — a total of 36 million bags.

Spoornet has to know where its trains are at any given moment, whether they have been unloaded, whether they are waiting at Beit Bridge or which trucks can be brought back for reloading.

At the moment, it is all being done by hand. In the grain operations room at Spoornet’s headquarters in central Johannesburg, ships are marked as arrows heading steadily across the map from the United States and Argentina.

Once stationed just above Cuba, is marked "hijacked". The crew mutinied over a pay disagreement while sailing through the Caribbean and diverted the ship to Cuba, where its cargo of about 39 000 tons of maize is rotting in the tropical heat and humidity.

Other charts show exactly how many tons have been transported so far by ship and by train, where the loads in transit are, and how much each train and ship is carrying.

Twenty shiploads have arrived so far at Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London. About 230 are still expected.

People sit working on charts and watching the boards, keeping track of every movement, and co-ordinating the exercise for the least possible waste of time and transport.

The American logistics company is going to computerise the whole system for Spoornet. From the moment a purchase contract is signed, before any grain is loaded from silo to ship across the Atlantic, it will be logged on the computer.

That will give three to six months' planning time, as opposed to the current 14 days — the time it takes for a ship to sail between the Americas and Africa.

Spoornet will also be linked to satellite and UN input to keep track of trains and the unloading beyond South Africa’s borders.

The huge operation started in April and has yet to hit its peak.

And what if the drought carries on?

"We'll just have to do it all again," said Spoornet communications adviser Jacques Pienaar.

The Star Africa Service reports that the supply of maize in Zimbabwe has improved dramatically and the long queues have disappeared.
Farmers giving away avocados to the hungry

Avocado pear farmers in the Tzaneen area, who normally export 80-90 percent of their crop, have found that this year — because of the drought — many of the fruits are too small for export.

With tens of surplus avocados on their hands, the farmers have decided to give them to the hungry.

The farmers emphasise that the fruit, of the popular American Hass variety (which turns a purplish-black colour when ripe) is in perfect condition and contains all its nutritional value.

The Star, in conjunction with the Paradise Fruit company in Tzaneen (which represents a large number of farmers) and with the help of Allied Publishing of Johannesburg, is arranging for the free distribution of avocados, starting tomorrow.

Trucks are picking up the first load of 6 tons from Tzaneen today and will transport it to Johannesburg. Depending on the demand from organisations and the public, The Star will continue to help with distribution of the free avocados.

Charitable organisations wishing to collect fruit will have to arrange transport to pick it up. They are asked to phone The Star's Promotions Department on 633-2724.
Govt 'dithering over food aid'

CAPE TOWN - Government has distributed little more than one-sixth of the money allocated to its feeding scheme since the 1990/91 financial year in spite of the deepening drought.

It was disclosed yesterday that only R124.7m of the R660m freed from the sale of strategic stockpiles since 1990/91 and earmarked for government's Nutrition Development Programme (NDP) had been distributed to date.

The announcement by National Health Minister Dr Rufina Venter was immediately slammed by the DP, which said that "with more and more people affected by the drought, a system of speeding up the distribution process is essential".

It has been predicted that the drought could force up the cost of basic foodstuffs by an additional 10%-45% this year.

DP health spokesman Mike Ellis said the system used to distribute the money "is far too cumbersome on the one hand and yet strangely short of manpower on the other".

All requests for money had to be referred back to the National Health Department and "this obviously is causing serious delays, particularly since the department admits that it has a shortage of manpower", he said.

He asked why provincial administrations had not been given greater authority to distribute the money. They have the infrastructure to handle the scheme and are more likely to be aware of the needs of the people in the region." Venter said R116m had been distributed in the 1991/92 year and R14.7m in the current financial year.

A total of R260m was given to the NDP in 1990/91 and R440m this year.

Venter said "misapplication of funds by a non-governmental organisation" had caused problems in distributing funds.

This resulted in the introduction of "stringent financial control measures". Approval for these measures was granted by the State Expenditure Department only in December 1991, which delayed payments.

"These delays should, however, be overcome shortly," said Venter.

"Shortage of sufficient manpower, especially at regional level, has also jeopardised the progress of the NDP. This matter is receiving urgent attention," she said.

DP Trade and Industry spokesman Brian Goodall said yesterday SA faced an unprecedented food crisis which could stoke unrest and violence in urban areas to even higher levels, reports GERALD REILLY.

The crisis was aggravated by growing unemployment and the inability of tens of thousands of black families to pay for even the most basic foods.

Goodall said the warning by Foodcorps CEO Dirk Jacobs that the price of some staple foods could rise by up to 45% this year underlined the urgency for publishing the Board of Trade and Industries food price inflation investigation report. If rip-offs were taking place along the food price chain they had to be exposed.
SOUTH AFRICA'S hungry millions are being ripped off. A Weekly Mail probe of the government's R660-million food relief programme has revealed:

- A company extensively used by state health clinics and recommended by the Department of Health, is charging three times as much as non-profit organisations for relief food.

- A private company, Lebor Foods of Potgietersrus, has been slammed by food experts as nutritionally inadequate.

- Lebor has been involved in clink-and-dagger-generous operations supplying food to rebel armies in Angola and Mozambique.

- A core group of organisations given national grants by the Department of Health is run by Dr Louis Pasques, a man with Military Intelligence links. Pasques has not previously been involved in

The Weekly Mail has exposed six other provisions and submitted the reports to the Department of Health.

The Department of Health is charged with feeding an estimated 3.6 million people. But the Weekly Mail has been told that it is impossible to estimate the number of people fed by the government in the last year.

The Department of Health, in its role as a government-funded organisation, is supposed to be responsible for ensuring that the food relief programme is run efficiently and effectively.

The Weekly Mail has been told that the figures given by the Department of Health are misleading and that the Department of Health has not provided the necessary information to enable the Weekly Mail to verify the figures.

The Department of Health has been accused of mismanaging the food relief programme, resulting in millions of people going hungry.

The Weekly Mail has also been told that the Department of Health is not providing adequate support to the non-profit organisations that are responsible for delivering food relief to the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of failing to monitor the food relief programme properly and of not ensuring that the food provided is nutritious and safe for consumption.

The Department of Health has been accused of not providing adequate funding to the non-profit organisations that are responsible for delivering food relief to the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not providing adequate training and support to the non-profit organisations that are responsible for delivering food relief to the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of high quality and is free from contaminants.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is distributed fairly and equitably.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is culturally sensitive and respectful of the diverse cultures within South Africa.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is environmentally sustainable and does not contribute to further environmental degradation.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is available throughout all seasons, including during times of drought and other natural disasters.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is consistently available and does not run out frequently.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient quantity to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient quality to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient variety to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient nutritional value to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient palatability to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient condition to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient packaging to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient distribution to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient storage to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient transportation to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient production to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient procurement to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient processing to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient identification to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient labelling to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient packaging to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient transportation to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient storage to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient distribution to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient production to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient procurement to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.

The Department of Health has been accused of not ensuring that the food provided is of sufficient processing to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry.
Govt accused of ‘callous disregard’ for the starving

THE ANC yesterday accused government of showing "callous disregard for the millions who face famine" as a result of the drought.

It was reacting to a report yesterday which said government stood to make R400m from wheat imports.

"Increasing the price of imported wheat under these circumstances is totally unacceptable."

"The expected 20% increase in the price of maize meal will make food unaffordable for millions of South Africans. With the price of basic foodstuffs expected to rise 48%, they face the real threat of starvation."

The situation was exacerbated by government’s feeding scheme having allocated only a sixth of its budget.

Our political staff reports that National Health Minister Rina Venter told Parliament yesterday that R124.7m of the R660m feeding scheme budget had been distributed.

GERALD REILLY reports that Deputy Agriculture Minister Tobias Meyer yesterday told eastern Cape farmers in Dohne that end of the drought crisis was not yet in sight. Inflation of retail food prices and declining real incomes not only affected demand for food and market size for farmers, but had serious consequences for feeding the nation.
Tomatoes dumped as market slumps

By Bronwyn Wilkinson

Representatives of more than 30 charities yesterday lined up in Johannesburg to fill their boxes and shopping carts with undersized avocado pears transported by The Star from the lowveld.

At the same time, discarded tomatoes littered fields near Tranea.

Johan Strydom, who travelled in the area at the weekend, said tons of tomatoes had been discarded in the fields where they had been picked.

"It looked like a red carpet had been rolled out on either side of the road," he said.

He believed the fields belonged to Bertie van Zyl, a large tomato producer. However, a spokesman for Mr. van Zyl's company, Zet Zet Twee, said he was not aware of tomatoes being discarded.

A spokesman for the Northern Transvaal Co-op, who asked not to be named, said he knew tomato farmers dumped undersized fruit when the market price was too low.

Avocado pear farmers in the lowveld approached The Star last week about donating their surplus fruit to charity. The fruit, they said, was too small for export.

The second load of 8 tons was handed out to charity workers in Jan Hofmeyr, Johannesburg, yesterday.

Letitia Potgieter, of the Department of National Health and Population Development, who collected the fruit for squatters at Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg, said the donation was "great."

The Star will continue to publish details about the distribution of future avocado pear consignments.
The times they are a-changing for whites

IN THE land of white supremacy, a black church minister doles out food to destitute whites.

His congregation is a dusty pile of some rands together each month because "Christians don't have apartheid!"

A black businessman makes up aid parcels for whites who sleep under the trees in the smoggy smokestack city because he wants to contribute to racial harmony.

Times are changing in South Africa, whose name, for white people, was long synonymous with golden riches.

Many whites, born of 300 years of privilege, are struggling to cope with the worst recession since the 1930s as well as the gradual erosion of their economic preserves as nonracial democracy approaches.

Here in the old industrial belt south of Johannesburg, help is coming from a surprising quarter - the people whom apartheid long kept underfoot to guard the white man's superior place in the sun.

The Rev John Mgcina, minister of the New Ethiopian Church in the township of Bophilong near Sharpeville, runs a soup kitchen in a dusty park for more than 100 homeless, including 20 whites.

"There are rich white people but they turn their heads away. Black people give us food. My attitude to blacks has definitely changed," said Mr Piet Scholtz, 30 years a miner.

He has lost job, home and family and sleeps under a tarpaulin near the FW de Klerk bridge over the Vaal River.

"He and other blacks and whites, united by adversity in a deeply rent country, breakfast in the bare park at the bottom of town. Tucking into vegetable soup and porridge, largely made up from tins donated by black businessman Mr Simon Mofokeng.

"I wanted to do this because blacks and whites are suffering together," Mofokeng said. "If I care, I don't want to discriminate. That's what's needed for peace in South Africa."

The 250 members of Mgcina's congregation chip in 50c, R1 or R5 each depending on closeness to pay day. He says he usually gathers R70 to R100 a month.

Is the money not more desperately needed in the township?

"It's a challenge to us as Christians," said the quietly spoken, silver-haired minister.

"The people in the township are poor, but they feel they must share what they have, and when you share you don't separate. Whether white, yellow or blue if you need help we will help where we can."

There is a special impact when whites get help from blacks while their own kind turns away, he added.

Down-and-out businessman Mr June Jordan, squatting with black friends around tin plates, said: "I used to think I was better than these people. Like this, you realise you're all the same."

Mr Durk Potgieter, a former bricklayer, smiled in agreement. "Colour doesn't matter here. We're all together, we sleep together under the trees. We're friends."

The Development Bank of Southern Africa says more than 200,000 of the 4.7 million adult South Africans without a formal job are white. That is about 10 percent of the economically active white population - a major blight for a preferred community to whom full unemployment had become a virtual birthright.

Analysts say that for a white to lose his job the fall is steeper and the psychological impact much greater than for a black, long familiar with conditions at the bottom of the heap.

"If you're unemployed in South Africa you're better off being black," says economic analyst Azar Jammie.

The Rev Bennett Brazer, a white minister, runs a refuge for scores of destitute black families in a closed school at the other end of Vereeniging, near a country club whose Mercedes and BMWs are better filled with South African stereotypes.

Numbled men and women wander half-castes waiting for better times. Some scratch chalk pictures of happy families on blackboards in classrooms cruelly converted into homes.

"It's hard for whites," said Brazer, "the black community is used to helping people in need. White South Africa is not geared for destitution."

State aid for the unemployed is meagre.

Mr Boet van Heerden, (41) his wife Veronica, (34) and their four children aged between two and 14, moved to the refuge after they lost their home and had to sell their furniture when his security company employer went bankrupt.

"I've worked in black locations, I've been inside houses there. Compared to this, they live like millionaires," he said. - Sapa-Reuters

---

Sowetan 18/6/92
Noxious gas level above average

KARIN FRANKEN

SA accounted for 1.6% of the world’s carbon dioxide released through the burning of coal and other fuels, an Environmental Affairs report said at the Rio de Janeiro Earthlife Summit last week.

The report said SA emitted about 308-million tons of carbon dioxide a year which was about twice the world per capita average. However, the amount of CFCs dropped from 13 195 tons in 1996 to 10 223 tons in 1998 forming 1% of the world total.

Total emissions included 3-million tons sulphur dioxide and 890 000 tons of nitrogen oxides annually.

The report also referred to socioeconomic problems and unviable farming lands, high malnutrition levels, increasing poverty and a 27% increase in food demand in the coming decade.

Of the 101-million ha used for agriculture, only 17-million were considered arable. Of these, 14-million were cultivated and only 1.2-million were under irrigation.

There were only 250 000 ha of indigenous forest, mostly in small scattered patches and SA was threatened by desertification.

Karoo scrubland had expanded more than 140km during the century. Scrubland growth was aggravated by overgrazing and the invasion of Karoo vegetation.

"Invasive plants have infested about 4 million ha and pose serious threats to the ecosystem stability in some areas."

Statistics gathered by the department indicated soil was being eroded at a rate of 360-million to 400-million tons annually.

The report expected waste disposal would become a major concern of municipal and mining authorities. SA produced 428-million tons of waste annually. Mining contributed the most while domestic refuse totalled 6-million tons.

Marine resources and coastline conservation had suffered severe harm during the past three decades.

The report warned that frequent oil slicks and spills on SA’s coastline constantly threatened its ecosystem. Stormwater run-off from metropolitan areas was another major source of pollution.
A hungry country is an angry country

By REG RUMNEY

The government's food policy is under attack from all sides, in a contradictory way.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions-led VAT Co-ordinating Committee (VCC) this week called on the government to stabilize food prices and zero-rate all staple foods "until adequate safety nets exist for the poor".

A call was also made this week by food giant Premier's chief executive, Peter Wrighton, to reintroduce food subsidies.

At the same time, the revelation that milk producers were pouring away millions of litres of milk because the Dairy Board could not help mop up the surplus called into question the efficacy of South Africa's control board system.

This comes after a judgment in the Cape Supreme Court in favour of milk distributors and against the Dairy Board.

And red-meat producers this week lashed out at the import of 5 000 tons of red meat from Zimbabwe while the drought is forcing increased slaughtering of cattle in South Africa.

Wrighton's call came after a media conference where he defended Premier's role in food production. It was a reaction both to criticism of supply concentration in the processing part of the food distribution chain and to "hysterical" forecasts of soaring food prices.

His main point was that 70 percent of food-price inflation came from the meat, fruit and nuts category of the official inflation rate. Premier's products, he said, fell almost entirely into the balance.

So meat, vegetables, fruit and nuts increased by 41.5 percent in March, compared with March 1991. The balance of food inflation, in items such as maize, was 17.4 percent.

While the call for the reintroduction of food subsidies may be welcomed by consumer organisations, it runs counter to the government's public commitment to making agriculture more market-oriented.
PHILIP E. FITZGERALD, Secretary of the Treasury of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia

The national government's failure to act on the recommendations of the report of the national health and welfare committee is a matter of concern to both the Commonwealth and the States.

It is clear that the Minister of Health, Mr. John Smith, is not taking the matter seriously enough.

The report calls for immediate action to address the issues raised in the document. The government must act quickly to ensure the health and welfare of all Australians are protected.

The situation is unacceptable and must be rectified immediately.
The Ministry of Education and Training

的需求和期望，为学生提供支持和指导。

(1) 教育部将实施全面的教育计划，包括基础教育、职业教育和技术教育，以满足社会对高质量教育的需求。

(2) 教育部将与各地方教育部门合作，确保教育计划的实施。

(3) 教育部将加强与国际组织的合作，引进先进的教育理念和方法。

The Ministry of National Health

(1) 国家卫生部将实施全面的卫生计划，包括公共卫生、疾病预防和健康促进，以提高国民的健康水平。

(2) 国家卫生部将加强与各地方卫生部门的合作，确保卫生计划的实施。

(3) 国家卫生部将加强与国际组织的合作，引进先进的卫生理念和方法。

The Ministry of Works and Public Services

(1) 建设部将实施全面的建设计划，包括城市规划、道路建设、桥梁建设、建筑施工等，以促进社会的发展。

(2) 建设部将加强与各地方建设部门的合作，确保建设计划的实施。

(3) 建设部将加强与国际组织的合作，引进先进的建设理念和方法。
These Vaal 'Christians don't have apartheid'

A BLACK church minister in a poor black township in Vereeniging doles out food daily to destitute whites in the area.

His congregation scrounges money together each month because "Christians don't have apartheid!"

A black businessman makes up and parcels for whites who sleep under the trees because he wants to contribute to racial harmony.

Times are changing for white people in South Africa. Many are struggling to cope with the worst recession since the 1930s as well as the gradual erosion of their economic preserves as non-racial democracy approaches.

In the industrial belt of Johannesburg, help is coming from a surprising quarter — the people apartheid long kept underfoot to guard the white man's superior place in the sun.

Mr John Mgcana, minister of the New Ethiopian Church in Bophelong near Sharpeville, runs a soup-kitchen in a dusty park for more than 100 homeless, including 20 whites.

"There are rich white people but they turn their heads away. Black people give us food. My attitude to blacks has definitely changed," said Mr Peter Scholtz, who worked as a miner for 30 years.

He has lost his job, home and family and sleeps under a tarpaulin near the FW de Klerk bridge.

He and other blacks and whites, unified by adversity, breakfast in the bare park at the bottom of town, tucking into vegetable soup and corn porridge consisting of the contents from tins donated by black businessman Mr Simon Mofokeng.

"I wanted to do this because blacks and whites are suffering together," Mofokeng said.

Sapa-Reuters
ARRIVES

the maize

Relief as

Yellow maize meal is

ive to win.

world peace people prefer to show

in most parts of the

the Peace Band

expressed a preference for

with weather forecasts.

that is reason to believe

"Yellow maize meal is

irreversible reaction and cannot

least as spectacular, and will

will be available in all the

the daily menu across

a day.

Some shops

is secured as it is in

once again being recognized

Yellow maize meal is

arrives

the maize

Relief as

EFECTION TO PRINTING

By Pearl Maula

28/4/81
SA 'must avoid poverty trap'

Business Editor

SA needs economic policies that will save it from being caught in a permanent poverty trap with low savings, low investment and low growth after the next upswing. Amalgamated Banks of SA (Absa) economists warn in their latest Economic Spotlight.

They say the upswing expected to start next year will last until 1988 raising the levels of personal incomes, corporate profits and government revenues in real terms — which will mean that "some improvement in the overall savings performance will also occur."

"From then on, however, investment spending is projected to rise at an accelerating pace over a broad spectrum of economic sectors and looks set to exceed domestic saving by a wide margin into 1986.

Repeat of slump

"Assuming only moderate growth in exports during this period the current account of the balance of payments will, in all probability, move into a deficit by about 1985."

This, they warn, would "generate domestic financial pressures similar to those of 1961, 1964 and 1968 and push up the prime lending rate. Inevitably another cyclical downturn would commence in about early 1986. "Thus the low-savings, low-growth, low-investment trap which has entrenched itself over the last decade would forcefully and relentlessly be re-imposed upon the SA economy."

But this could be avoided if SA could achieve an inflow of foreign capital, rapid export earnings growth, a more productive utilisation of existing fixed capital stock, more optimal allocation of funding flows and investment spending and the balanced promotion of higher saving.

The economists stress that it is therefore "of paramount importance" to create a clear, stable and positive political and economic framework.

Long-term emphasis

Policy and other measures to attract foreign capital "could include positive tax policies, assurances against nationalisation, the phasing out of exchange control and the financial rand system, and an over-all commitment to a market-oriented economy."

"Specifically the emphasis should be placed firstly on direct long-term equity investments and secondly on long-term loan finance rather than short-term loans from the world banking system."
Operation rooibos, beans and tomatoes

By Justin Pearce

AMID RUMOURS about the dumping of dairy products, Operation Hunger received a donation last week of 15 tons of rooibos tea, R240 000 worth of green beans and 49 728 tins of tomato paste.

Regional director Mrs Elina Trautmann said the donations were not basic foodstuffs, but the donors had set an example which other producers could heed.

The tea was donated by the Rooibos Tea Board, and tinned goods by Langeberg Foods.

Proponents of dumping claim that giving away surplus food decreases profits, and allows unscrupulous people to sell the food for their own gain.

Trautmann said the recent donations demonstrated that giving away surplus food need not upset the market.

"The people we are feeding are too poor to cause an imbalance in any market. These people are so desperate they will definitely drink the milk and not sell it."

Part of the foodstuffs was distributed from a depot in Philippi to 136 community organisations. The rest will be delivered to organisations in the Western Cape, Southern Cape and Namaqualand.
UN sets up SA office to aid huge food shipments

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has opened an office in Johannesburg to help co-ordinate the flow of desperately needed food aid in Southern Africa. Ten countries with a combined population of 18 million have been targeted by the WFP, which estimates that 6.1 million tons of maize will be needed to prevent famine from blighting the sub-region.

SA, which is expected to import about 4.5 million tons of grain at a cost of about R1.5 billion, is excluded from relief programmes because it can pay its way. It has not asked international agencies for help.

The operation to beat famine is co-ordinated in SA by Portnet and Spornet.

Portnet’s Simon Swanpoel says 23 shipsloads of grain are now on the water. Another 12 ships have arrived in SA ports.

About 300 shipsloads are needed as part of the overall import programme.

Alert

The WFP’s Brenek Szylnaski said in an interview with Business Times in Johannesburg this week that $200 million had been pledged by donor countries, but much of the relief money had to be translated into shipsments.

“We need to send an alert to donors,” Rome-based Mr Szylnaski said. “There should be more food moving now.”

The WFP estimates that the 10 affected countries will need to import 6 million tons of maize, of which about two-thirds will come through SA ports.

Mr Szylnaski said about 200 000 tons of maize had been landed in SA or was on the water. Another 200 000 tons was due to arrive.

Donors had pledged 1.3 million tons of maize in total, about half of non-commercial needs of the 10 countries of 4.1 million tons.

Mr Szylnaski said the drought affected more people over a wider area than the disastrous one in the early 1980s which caused considerable damage in North Africa.

He said the operation was the largest tackled by the WFP in terms of numbers of people affected.

By KEVIN DAVIE

“...But we’re getting involved much earlier, we’re better prepared and the people are in much better shape...”

The WFP’s Representative in SA is Artur Brevik, who is head of the WFP’s logistics unit.

Brevis praised the efforts of the SA team co-ordinating the import of maize to South and Southern Africa.

“There have been testing problems, but SA has taken the lead. They’ve put up an operations room and they’ve put up the right people...”

“They’re doing a good job...”

See page 3
Welfare services are under 'severe strain'

FAR-REACHING political and economic changes, employment, health and housing problems had placed unparalleled demands on welfare services, deputy chairman of Sandile, Mr Perne Steyn said last week.

Speaking at a function at which he donated R65 000 to a Cape-based welfare organisation, Steyn said comprehensive political and economic changes provided massive challenges.

"Unemployment, health problems such as tuberculosis, AIDS and malnutrition, as well as a shortage of housing, have placed unparalleled demands on the already shrinking resources of the Government and also on every individual.

"Already the Government is unable to meet the growing requirements of welfare institutions, yet the demand for provision of welfare services continues to grow," Steyn said.

He said while in the past the emphasis had been on specialised services to specified groups of people, such as the disabled, the elderly and needy children, the focus in future would be directed towards the general welfare.

"The provision of basic needs such as shelter, security and nutrition would increasingly become the task of welfare organisations because they had access to the community, Steyn said..."
Helping others to help themselves

By PEARL MAJOLA

A GROUP of men and women sat in a circle, listening as a woman demonstrates how a mixture of melted candle wax, cooking oil and perfume can be turned into vaseline.

The woman is 49-year-old, Ms Martha Lebetha of Lenyele in the Northern Transvaal, who co-ordinates the village's health workers under a project started by the Ithuseng Community Association.

Lebetha was in Johannesburg recently for a week-long workshop organized by the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre where she gave lessons to community workers and ordinary people on self-help skills.

“I will take any opportunity to learn a skill and go on to teach other people because I believe it is the only way that unemployed people are going to survive,” Lebetha said.

“My main concern is for the illiterate and unemployed people, especially women. Most of the skills I teach can be applied at home and no sophisticated machinery is needed.

“We don’t know what the new South Africa has in store for us but we must be prepared. We should be able to manufacture our own soap, clothes and household goods.

“Besides arming them with the skills, the people also gain self-confidence. The feeling of helplessness because of lack of education is overcome because of the knowledge acquired.

“I encourage everyone I teach to spread the knowledge so that we can reach more people. In that way people can even start cooperatives and make a living,” she pointed out.

Born and bred in Sekhukhune in the Northern Transvaal, Lebetha’s dream was to become a teacher but she could not achieve her ambition because of financial problems. She did, however, manage to do a stint as a part-time teacher at the local Mankgane Primary School in 1966, during which time she started literacy classes for adults.

A few years later she lost her teaching job when the education department did away with part-time teachers. She joined the retail industry as a cashier.

A committed community worker, she soon resigned from her job, left her seven children in the care of her mother and joined Ithuseng.

“I go home once a month I miss my children a lot sometimes,” she explained. “I’m better off as I get a salary from Ithuseng and my children don’t go hungry. But the people I work with have nothing and they need me most,” she concluded.

Lebetha is a nominee for the Sowetan/ ESKOM Woman of the Year Award.
Poverty relief: 241

Speed urged

Business Editor
CAPE Town Chamber of Commerce has called on the government to speed up its poverty relief programme, intended to relieve hardship following the imposition of VAT on basic foodstuffs.

In a strongly worded statement issued yesterday the chamber's president, Herbert Hirsch, said: "SA has more than enough challenges to overcome without these being further undermined by maladministration."

He called on the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Rina Venter to "ensure that the limited funds are allocated without further delay."

Hirsch points out that it was "as long ago as March 1991 that the government announced its intention to implement the programme to offset the impact of VAT on the poor."

"On a number of occasions in 1991 my chamber urged the President and several ministers to ensure that the relief programme was in place in good time."

"Although some basic foodstuffs are still exempted, this in no way meets the need."

"In the current year the government has voted R440m for a nutrition development programme - and indicated that it will consider further allocations if necessary - yet it appears to be incapable of allocating funds already voted."
EC told to do more for starving Africa

STRASBOURG — The EC must do more to relieve the African famine which is threatening 60 million lives, the European Parliament said yesterday.

"The huge scale of the approaching famine in Africa constitutes a challenge to the conscience of the governments and peoples of all member states," the EC assembly said in a resolution.

It said the EC should free emergency aid from its development fund for drought-stricken countries in the Horn of Africa and parts of southern Africa. It called also for armed protection of relief convoys and workers.

The situation is especially serious in Somalia, where civil war has aggravated the famine and huge numbers of children are afflicted with severe malnutrition, it said. The EC should continue providing assistance to Yemen, so it can take in Somah refugees, it added.

The parliament, whose opinions on such matters have no legal effect on EC policy, said rapid help was also needed in Kenya, where one million Kenyans and about 500,000 refugees were suffering from a severe drought.

EC ministers should put pressure on the Renamo rebels in Mozambique, whose "violent acts make the relief of famine so difficult in that country," it said.

In Munich this week, the seven wealthiest industrial nations heaped advice on developing nations as they ended their annual economic summit on Wednesday, but failed to match this with concrete promises of fresh cash.

But senior French officials cited progress on one particular point of concern to some of France’s heavily-indebted African partners. Reaffirming the current debt strategy, the Group of Seven (G-7) leaders welcomed the "enhanced debt relief" extended to the poorest debtors by the Paris Club of creditor governments, chaired by France.

Since last year’s 50% debt write-offs granted to Poland and Egypt, after American pressure, France has argued that Cameroon, Congo, Ivory Coast and Gabon, which owe two-thirds to three-quarters of their debt to governments rather than commercial banks, deserve similar or better treatment.

At the 1991 summit in London, some key creditors, including the US and Japan, rejected such aid.

"We have had a breakthrough," a French delegate said. "The summit has got things to move, and the Paris Club now has a more precise mandate." The summit declaration promised "best efforts to increase the quantity and quality of official development assistance" but said this would be directed "more towards the poorest countries," and in particular "those countries that undertake credible efforts to help themselves." — Epa-Reuters-AFP.
Planners must change minds

A NEW state of mind will help town planners design townships in the new SA, according to University of Cape Town architect Revel Fox.

In a speech titled "New townships for old", Fox told the winter school at the Grahamstown Arts Festival that "designing for the poor has often been neglected".

"What exists are dormitories, hostels that don't cater for the needs of the community."

He said the apartheid regime had consciously isolated townships from the white communities in town.

Calling for more accessibility, he said when planning townships an architect must bear in mind that most people rely on trains and buses.

Ownership of the land by the tenant must be taken into consideration so that the house can be extended to accommodate boarders.

Fox pointed out Bisio in Ciskei and Lilongwe in Malawi as typical old townships which have been transformed into new ones.

Skilled architects, ideas from the community and financial assistance from the State formed the best approach to planning new townships. – ANA
South Africa is fast becoming reliant on imported essential foods.

So say economists who believe that this situation is the result not only of the current drought but also of the Government's economic policies and administrative bungling.

As a direct result of the drought, they say, a maize surplus has been converted into a shortfall and, far from being the continent's granary, South Africa now has to rely on grain imported from America and Argentina.

And this situation, they continue, has been aggravated by the Government policy of keeping the rand at a higher international exchange rate than is warranted by its internal value.

A spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) said yesterday that the point had been reached where it was often cheaper to import food than to grow it locally.

This had led, among other things, to the importation of large quantities of out-of-season fruit from Europe, much of which is flown out at great expense.

And this, the spokesman said, had caused a situation where the competitiveness of South African fruit, canned food and other agricultural exports had been severely damaged.

The policy of protecting industry supplying agriculture stood in the way of any effort to lower production costs of farm products, the SAAU said.

Two weeks ago, the Government established a "hush-hush" inter-departmental committee to look at the uncontrolled importation of foodstuffs.

The departments of Agriculture, Finance and Industries, as well as the SAAU and various control boards, are represented on the committee.

The SAAU also accused the Department of Industries, Commerce and Tourism of issuing "general food permits irrespective of existing surplus stocks", and said the relevant control boards had only been consulted where it was laid down by law.

According to market research done by the Diary Control Board, about 8000 tons of milk powder products annually enter the country — either through the use of fraudulent customs declarations or through loopholes created by the Department.

The countries of origin usually pay a subsidy of about 50 percent.

The customs service does not have sufficient manpower to inspect a containerised cargo which has, according to sources, become a major channel of import duty evasion.

The SAAU recently set up a special committee to deal with the irregular importation of vegetables, potatoes and other foods.
The mighty Limpopo River is dry, a broad belt of dirt snaking through a landscape ravaged by a drought that has pushed millions of people to the edge of starvation, writes Sowetan Correspondent Barry Renfrew.

The devastating effects of drought

Millions of tons of food must be distributed across southern Africa to help keep people alive until next March and April when the first crops normally bloom. Average summer rains are expected in many areas but many impoverished farmers need seed and fertilizer to raise a new crop.

Haunted by past African famines that have claimed millions of lives, Western nations have been sending food. But the arrival of some aid has been delayed by lack of transport or tardiness by some donor nations in meeting promises.

Aid officials warn that the situation could deteriorate rapidly if there are unforeseen problems or if the rains fail again.

"Physical conditions can deteriorate quickly. Almost overnight you can reach a situation where people are beyond the point of no return," said John Hucks of the United States Agency for International Development.

The problem is exacerbated by the inefficiency of many area governments. Bureaucrats in some areas make hungry people apply in writing for food, aid is sent to areas with food surpluses while famine areas are ignored, and theft takes a daily toll.

Zimbabwe sold off two million tons of corn in 1991 that was held as food reserves. Now it is importing corn at three times the cost of local crops putting a huge strain on its precarious economy.

Food aid in Malawi has been diverted to the north in an effort to calm opposition to the authoritarian government of President Kamuzu Banda.

"The government is trying to pacify people in the north but at the expense of the lives of people in the south," said an aid official who would not be named for fear of government retaliation.

Some European nations cut aid to Namibia after President Sam Nujoma spent almost $30 million (about R84 million) on an executive jet. Nujoma said the jet was needed for trips to seek drought aid. In South Africa the worst suffering has been in the rural homelands created under apartheid as separate nations for blacks and located in barren areas.

"It's been a mess for years, now it's a lot more critical," said Johann Rissik, an Operation Hunger worker in the homeland of Lebowa. "It's desperate. People are fighting over water.

By contrast, the drought has had little impact on white areas in South Africa where water is plentiful. Food is delayed because inefficient governments have not maintained railways. Emergency grain for landlocked Zambia has been stranded in harbours in neighbouring Tanzania because there are no railway freight cars."
Juicy delight... this wide-eyed youngster from the Takalane Home for Handicapped Children in Diepkloof, Soweto, got the first taste yesterday of 1 000 bags of oranges, 1 000 bags of nartjes and 300 kg of mealie meal donated by farmer Hendrik Schoeman to Operation Hunger, the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society and the SA Vrouefederasie.

Picture: Joao Silva

Southern Africa 'facing catastrophe'

By Shirley Woodgate

A hunger catastrophe is unavoidable in southern Africa unless massive international help is forthcoming, a leading German food emergency aid group warned in Johannesburg yesterday.

Addressing a press conference after touring drought-stricken parts of the northern Transvaal with Operation Hunger, Weltungerhilfe spokesman Bernd Hoffmann warned that all stored supplies would be exhausted by September and the next rains in the region were expected only in November.

He said his German government-backed emergency aid agency, responsible for pumping significant aid into the region, would appeal for assistance for the areas.

Spelling out the extent of the crisis after a fact-finding visit to countries in southern Africa, he said the crisis had affected 18 million people in the region.

Operation Hunger chief executive Ias Perlman confirmed that the drought, together with the economic depression, had caused a crisis of such severity that neither Government nor private-sector funds would be enough.

Her organisation, which had received an initial R10 million injection of funds from the Government, now awaited a positive response to its second application for assistance.
World Bank to study SA poor

THE World Bank is to undertake the most extensive study on poverty in SA to date.

The project, which will involve many of SA's major universities and research institutions, could take as long as two years.

European governments have expressed willingness to fund the project. It is still in the design phase, but could begin by the end of the year.

The World Bank intends the study to provide an accurate profile of poverty. It wants to assess the efficacy of poverty-alleviating policies.

The study will update and extend the Carnegie report on poverty by Francis Wilson and Mamphela Ramphele in the 1980s.

Whereas that report relied largely on qualitative data, the World Bank study will provide a quantitative poverty baseline for SA.

Infancy

One researcher says "There have been huge population movements since the Carnegie report, so we need up-to-date information."

One source suggests that as many as 10 000 households may be surveyed. But unformed sources stress the project is in its infancy and no hard data conclusions have been made.

The study will be conducted on non-racial lines and cover both urban and rural poor.

A World Bank poverty mission will visit SA in late August when the detail of the proposed project is expected to be discussed.

ANC economics head Trevor Manuel says that on visits by the ANC and Cosatu to the World Bank in April concern was expressed that it was not giving the study of poverty sufficiently high priority in its exploratory work on SA.

Mr Manuel says the bank identified poverty alleviation as an area of study, but the ANC asked that it be given key priority along with one of the macro-economy.

Mr Manuel says a poverty mission which visited SA a few weeks ago indicated the bank was willing to undertake "a massive household survey to establish levels of poverty in SA."

"There is tentative agreement for funding from one of the European governments."

Mr Manuel says the bank has agreed to involve SA researchers, including ANC members, in its research work. The ANC is also to send interns to the bank "to try to enhance capacity in SA."

Finance deputy director-general Etienne Caillet says the government welcomes the World Bank's involvement. The bank is gathering background material for future involvement.

Everything the bank does is designed to reduce poverty, one source says.

"To do this the bank does poverty profiles to understand who is poor and what factors make these people poor."

Many developed countries have banks of statistics about the poor, but this data is inadequate in SA. Unemployment is, for example, not known.

The source says the bank will not fund this project because it "has had no lending programme with SA since 1990."

The poverty study is further evidence of the quickly developing relationship between the bank and SA. The bank, the world's primary development institution, has had almost no relationship with SA since the 1960s.

It is keen to raise its profile in SA, but says financial support depends on an inter-ministry authority being installed.

Bombed

Mr Manuel says the ANC "recognises the wealth of experience in the bank. Its comparative analysis is important. We also realise the bank may have reasonably lowcost strategies which can have a rapid impact in helping to achieve an upturn."

He says there are vast differences in the ANC about its future relationship with the bank. Bank-backed structural adjustment programmes have "bombed out badly in Africa."

The ANC is prepared to take part "on equal terms" with Reserve Bank Governor Chris Stals who is drafting a structural adjustment programme.

"There is no question that we need to restructure the economy," says Mr Manuel.

Economic policy needs the integrity of domestic formulation, but he agrees that SA "will have to interface with the bank and the IMF."

By KEVIN DAVIE
Food aid drive gets huge response

By Michael Chester

Public response with offers to contribute to the new "Harvest for the Hungry" drive launched by Nedcor Bank and The Star has been overwhelming.

Telephone switchboards were jammed with calls from donors and volunteers yesterday — within 24 hours of the announcement of the campaign to rush urgent food aid to an estimated 2.5 million desperate victims of malnutrition in the drought crisis.

Nedcor Bank chief executive officer Richard Leabscher said the immediate response made the success of the emergency operation look assured.

"We were aware of the degree of concern about the plight of families made destitute by the drought disaster. We have been astounded by the eagerness of companies and the general public to translate concern into action."

The organisers were already compiling a short-list of expert relief agencies that would be used to trigger the start of food deliveries as soon as possible.

Queries on details of the scheme should go to Nedcor Bank Public Relations Department at (011) 639-2714. Faxes can be sent to Jodi-Ann Jones at (011) 831-1768.
1

FRANCES WILLIAMS IN GENEVA

Planned for poverty
Schemes unjustly
Economic austerity

18th 30/7/14
New drive to feed our drought-stricken nation

 Preserve water. Use it wisely.

MORNING FINAL
Tuesday, July 2, 1992

TOC PWY (Go outside the PWY) and

THE Seat

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 17, 1992

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Cazankuyu Nears State of Emergency

By DLR ND

The daily need to return positions on whales is
not unique, given distances to places where there is
people for non-military purposes. The area
occupied by the whale now shows up to 60
amphibious craft, which includes the
whaling vessels in the area. The
recovery effort in the whale's
home region is also prioritized.

In discussing the measures and
strategies to ensure the sustained
recovery of the whale, two
implications are particularly
important. First, the
protection of the whale's
habitat is critical. This
involves the identification
and management of critical
areas where the whale spends
most of its time. Second,
the role of the
whaling industry is also
considerable. It is necessary
to ensure that the
whaling activities do not
further endanger the
whale's population. Efforts
are underway to find
sustainable solutions
that balance the needs of
the whaling industry with
the protection of the
whale's habitat.
Poverty hits children first

POVERTY and unemployment were impacting more severely than ever before on the well-being of South African families, and because of their vulnerability, children were the first to suffer, said Mr. Pierre Steyn at the launch of a book, entitled Child Abuse and Neglect by the SA National Council for Child and Family Welfare.

The assurance company's head said irreversible damage could be done to children's physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Steyn said the book's main purpose was to assist social workers and educators to identify problem areas and to take preventive action.

- Sapa
BLOEMPONTEIN — The withering drought is driving black peasants from the dusty brown veld into rapidly growing shacklands around cities.

Here, people like Leah Mokguthu live in every sense, on the fringes of society, virtual refugees in their own country, dependent on handouts.

Ms Mokguthu and many like her have been laid off by white farmers, themselves facing bankruptcy. They now scratch for a living in city rubbish dumps.

The Urban Foundation says by 1988 about 7 million South Africans were living in shacks, some 2 million of them around Johannesburg and Pretoria.

MS Mokguthu, "retrenched" earlier this year after 25 years' labour on a Free State farm, spends her days competing with rats and dogs to scavenge food from Bloemfontein dumps. On a good day, she earns R5 from selling plastic or glass to recycling firms.

Her family of eight depends heavily on Operation Hunger, which feeds some 2 million people.

"Some shack settlements outside Free State towns have doubled in size since December," said Operation Hunger deputy director Mpho Mashumi. "All because of the drought."

"It is anticipated that there will be major flows out of the homeland rural areas into the metropolitan areas," a recent study by the Urban Foundation said. The foundation estimated more than a million people would move from the homelands to the cities in this decade.

Its figures show Durban nearly doubled its population from 1970 to 1980, making it one of the fastest-growing cities in the world.

"The extent of Durban's squatting problem is second only to Mexico City's," said Anthony Minaar in a study of squatter settlements around the city. — Sapa-Reuter.
Food Stockpiled As Poor Store

Because of the lagging economy,
meat is being hoarded in cold storage.

In Stockpile Shock, Town of Red Sox

Sovenin Correspondence
World Bank study of SA poverty

The Argus Foreign Service
WASHINGTON. — The World Bank has approved the biggest and most detailed study of poverty in South Africa.

It will involve research and continuous monitoring of almost 10,000 households across the political spectrum and research on more than 700 of the poorest communities in the country.

The aim will be to give the bank and the international community, the information needed for the designing of foreign aid and economic development projects and to provide continuous data on the impact which international relief and investment efforts are having.

It will vastly expand the poverty investigation co-ordinated by the University of Cape Town's Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru) in the 1980s, a project funded by the Carnegie Endowment.

But unlike the Saldru study, it will be specifically aimed at providing economic and financial analysis for the banking and investment community.

Like the Saldru study, the World Bank investigation will be headed by Professor Francis Wilson of the University of Cape Town and will tap the resources and specialised manpower of all of South Africa's 22 universities.

There will also be strong technical support from World Bank specialists and from an advisory group of researchers and non-government organisations.

An initial budget of more than R3 million has been set aside, but the eventual cost of the new study is expected to be far greater.

Norway and Denmark have indicated that they will be willing to cover a substantial part of the costs, but the World Bank itself will also contribute to the budget and other foreign donors will be sought.

Preliminary work is expected to begin later this month and by January the organisers expect to begin recruiting and training supervisors and enumerators to undertake the huge study of between 8,000 and 10,000 households and 729 different communities.

The Saldru study, which led to the Second Carnegie Report on Poverty and Development in Southern Africa — the first Carnegie report was published in the 1890s and dealt largely with the poor white problem — will be used in part as a model for the new study and many of the researchers who worked on the Saldru investigation are expected to join the World Bank project.

The bank has insisted on a credible, scientific and politically neutral investigation. Its purpose will be to assemble facts and analyse them professionally for a specialised audience.

The study will proceed independently of any ideological premises or economic dogmas.

The Bush administration's top Africa expert is on a trip to Southern Africa and will be in Pretoria on Monday when the two-day strike by the African National Congress, Communist Party and Congress is set to begin, Sapa-Reuters reports from Washington.

A State Department official said the trip by Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen was one of his regular visits to Africa and the timing was coincidental to the alliance's strike.

Mr Cohen left Washington last Tuesday and was in Angola yesterday. He is due to visit Zaire today and will be in South Africa on Monday.
A minister, a mission and missing money

OFFICIALS of the Department of National Health and Population Development are investigating allegations that a Bloemfontein Anglican church misused funds allocated for food relief.

But the church has denied the allegations, saying that a former priest had used its name in an application for funds from the department.

The Weekly Mail travelled to Bloemfontein to investigate the alleged misappropriation of funds at the Holy Cross Church.

"We are still looking into the matter, and therefore nothing can be divulged to the media as yet," the department's communications officer, Anette Richter, said this week.

The Weekly Mail found that a former minister, Goodwyn Sondiyana, had allegedly used the church's name in an application for funds from the Department of National Health.

According to records of payouts by the department the Holy Cross Church received a total of R10 150, while two church projects — the Khanyiso pre-school and the Thambo Square squatter camp — received R3 700 and R9 850 respectively.

However, national hunger relief organisations like Operation Hunger alleged that the money, a total of R23 600, had not been used to feed the squatters nor the children at the pre-school.

"The Sondiyana only gave us food twice," said Mamam Moloi, who is in charge of the Thambo Square soup kitchen. "This was confirmed by a cook in the soup kitchen, Rose Maletehela, who added that "we only got food in April and in June but since then nothing."

The Weekly Mail was unable to contact Sondiyana but did manage to speak to his wife, who denied the allegations of misappropriation since they had not "been informed by the department" that the money had been deposited in their account. "So we did not feed the squatters for a month," she said.

She said she was embarrassed about the whole incident.

Amid allegations of a former priest's misuse of money destined for food relief are claims that the system is wide open to abuse.

By JACQUIE GOLDFING

However, the money was made available to them at the end of March this year.

She could not show The Weekly Mail any receipts or duplicate copies, but said that "due to our inexperience we never kept any of the slips as proof of purchase. Nor did we give any duplicates to the soup kitchen committee." She does, however, claim that she sent "all relevant receipts to Pretoria."

According to the Bishop of Bloemfontein, Thomas Stange, "the rector was reprimanded for not informing the diocesan office and hierarchy at the time of his application."

Hunger relief agencies have complained that often large payments by the department are not adequately monitored, making abuse of funds easy.

The deputy director of the department of national health, George de Klerk, asked that "the old dirty linen about corruption be left in the past and that corruption on the part of the church or any other organisation be seen in the light that the evaluation always took place on a national level."

De Klerk, who also heads the Nutritional Development Programme, added that the running of such a social programme was open to corruption. The department recently set up a regional monitoring committee to evaluate how money was being spent by the different organisations.

This was in addition to the requirements set by the department that each organisation complete and sign an undertaking that funds will be used for the purposes requested before any money was paid.

For what they are lucky to receive ... Children in Bloemfontein pray before being given food

But "despite the monitoring and evaluation, one cannot always be sure that there is no corruption," said Miss Botha, an assistant director for the department of national health.

Operation Hunger's Natal regional director, Philip Yarker, added that it was strange that the organisation received "tons of calls from people who are starving" while "so many non-governmental organisations in Natal receive money from the Department of National Health."

Where these non-governmental organisations are feeding seems to be a mystery."

In another claim of misuse of department funds, it has been alleged that women were forced to work at the D culpang Clinic in Hobhouse, Free State, in order to qualify for a food parcel.

Mahiti Mokone and Elizabeth Booyens, patients at the clinic, allege that "we have to work on a regular basis in order to receive the food."

This was denied by a Sister Swanepeol, who runs the clinic.

"Whatever contribution is made by the people who receive the food, shows their appreciation for the parcels. The non-European women come in twice a week to clean, showing how grateful they are for the food."

Photo: GUY ADAMS
78 starve to death

From starvation because crops had failed in the area and the supply of relief food had ceased.

Sister Michelle Ben of the Ihutu Mission said 400 local people had been identified as needing food but no food had arrived in the area since May. Emergency supplies donated by Italy had run out.

A spokesman for the drought relief committee said this week that 350,000 people in the country needed food aid but supplies only reached 70,000.
Sanitation needed for 18-million

Half the population does not have access to adequate sanitation, the Water Research Commission said yesterday.

The commission found in its investigation into sanitation that in urban and rural areas, 18-million people lived without proper sanitation.

In urban areas a third of the people do not have adequate sanitation. In addition, about 8-million people (one in every four) do not have access to a safe water supply.

“This involves major health hazards as diseases relating to human waste and impure water are the cause of the majority of infant deaths in developing countries,” the commission warned.

Gastric disease was a major cause of death and permanent disabilities among infants.

The commission said it was engaged in a programme aimed at addressing the problem of inadequate sanitation.

Its objectives included:

□ Establishing the number of people with access to safe sanitation,
□ Testing the efficiency of current systems and;
□ Developing a strategy to improve the situation and developing guidelines for the provision of sanitation.

The investigation has found the cost of providing urban dwellers with waterborne sewerage by 2000 to be R1bn—Sapa.
Helping hand for needy on farms

Organised agriculture is now dispersing an average R500 000 a month in emergency aid to the needy on farms in drought-stricken areas. More than two-thirds of the money is spent on helping black farmworkers and their families.

"We do not make relief contributions available for the purchase of food. There are other organisations, including The Star and the State, that provide such funds," said SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) director Piet Swart.

The SAAU emergency relief fund has now received about R3 million in contributions — Agricultural Correspondent
Project aim is power to the poor (244)
A DUTCH-FUNDED R1.5-million research project will focus on broadening access by South Africa's rural and urban poor to energy.

The project, launched in Cape Town this week, will be carried out over two years by researchers involved with the University of Cape Town's Energy Development Research Centre (2411-3017192)
PEOPLE'S LIVES Female activist reflects on her switch from doctor of medicine

SELF HELP

Ithusheng project has helped form
15 independent child-care centres

By Mpho Mantjui

With its headquarters on the outskirts of the town of Lenyeve, outside Trancan, the Ithusheng Community Childcare Programme is making a significant impact on the lives of children and their families in the area.

The programme, established in 1977, was founded by a group of concerned parents who wanted to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children. Today, the programme operates 15 child-care centres, each run by a local caregiver who received training from the programme.

The centres provide a range of services, including childcare, nutrition, and education. Children attend the centres during the day, where they are taught basic life skills and encouraged to develop their full potential.

The programme is supported by a community of volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that the centres are well-stocked with essential resources. They also work to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood development.

Ithusheng's success is a testament to the commitment and hard work of its supporters. As the programme continues to grow, it is expected to have an even greater impact on the lives of children in the area.

MAMPELETA Ramphele

Age 46

Place of birth: Bophelong, Free State

Mother: Lutsho Ramphele, father: Lutho Ramphele

Qualifications: BSc in Nursing, MA in Public Health, MSc in Health Policy and Management

Work experience: Head of the South African National Health Laboratory, senior research fellow at the University of Cape Town, and consultant for several international organisations.

Awards: The_iffentury Award for Public Service, the Global Health and Development Award, and the Africa Prize for Health Research.

The project

Ithusheng

Established: 1977

Administrators: Mr Lekgolo Ramphele, Ms Dennis Tooley

Staff: one medical doctor (comes once a month) two assistant nurses, two registered nurses and one enrolled nurse.

Location: one house

Aims: to provide childcare services to children aged 0-6 years in rural areas of South Africa.

Objectives: to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children, to promote good health and hygiene practices, and to support parents in their role as caregivers.

The programme

LEARN TO TYPE IN 4 WEEKS

Increase your earning potential

Kelly-GreenOCKS offers a unique typing programme designed to teach you to type with confidence.

The range of courses are designed for the beginner who needs to learn the keyboard for typewriters or personal computers.

Classes run evenings or Saturdays, you choose the best time for you!

(011) 880-4805 (Rosebank)
(011) 337-1648 (City)
1,1 billion live in abject poverty

WASHINGTON - More than 1.1 billion people live in poverty, according to a World Bank report. However, the number of people living in poverty has declined in recent years.

The percentage of people living in poverty varies by region. In South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the percentage has continued to decline steadily. The percentage has increased in Latin America.

The majority of the poor are concentrated in two regions: South Asia, with more than 500 million people, and sub-Saharan Africa, with more than 200 million people.

Most of the poor live in rural areas, where access to basic services is limited. They have extremely low incomes and few assets.

Poverty is most severe in rural areas, where the land is scarce and drought is common. Floods and environmental degradation are also common.

The World Bank's World Development Report 1992 points out that about half the world's poor live in rural areas that are environmentally fragile.

Overcrowded slums

Poor people living in urban areas generally have higher incomes and better access to social services than rural families. However, they often suffer from other aspects of poverty, such as overcrowded slums and squatter settlements.

As in rural areas, water and air pollution often contribute to problems in urban areas. Sanitation is inadequate, and many areas are vulnerable to flooding and landslides.

The ranks of the urban poor are expected to swell rapidly as cities throughout the developing world expand.

$100

African needs a strategy to address poverty both as an economic and social phenomenon

The young from poor backgrounds are susceptible to disease and malnutrition.

Afica needs a strategy to address poverty both as an economic and social phenomenon. The young from poor backgrounds are susceptible to disease and malnutrition.

Helpful assumptions about economic recovery, there will be more than 50 million more people poor in the year 2000 than in 1985. But if economic growth is low and recent trends in poverty continue, there could be 200 million more - a total of about 1.3 billion - poor people by 2000.

The outlook for the rest of the 1990s is that the number of people in Asia would decline, and the adverse poverty trends in Latin America and East Asia as a whole would be reversed. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where the situation is expected to deteriorate.

With an increase in the proportion of the Sub-Saharan Africa's population in poverty, the number of poor in the region would rise by about nine million a year on average. By the end of the 1990s, about one-half of the world's poor would live in Asia and one-quarter would live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Social services

The main objective of the Bank's lending and advocacy work is to help its borrowers reduce poverty. The World Development Report 1990 outlined a two-part strategy for reducing poverty by promoting sustained economic growth to generate income-earning opportunities for the poor and improving their access to social services such as education and primary health care so that they can take advantage of opportunities.

Additional, instrumental part of the strategy is the establishment of a system of targeted transfers and safety nets to assist people who are not able to take advantage of new opportunities.
Countdown to food aid drive under way

By Michael Chester

Nedcor Group and The Star today began the countdown on the start of emergency food shipments under the new “Harvest for the Hungry” disaster programme to rush aid to hundreds of thousands of families suffering from malnutrition as a result of the drought crisis.

The countdown began as volunteer offers of assistance continued to surge higher in a dramatic response to the appeal for funds or contributions in kind — from food parcels, to help with transport to distribution centres.

The first allocation of funds to set shipments rolling will be made as early as August 31 — within less than six weeks of the launch of the campaign.

The urgency of the timetable from an initial planning phase to actual action with fund allocations promises to make the “Harvest” exercise one of the speediest of its kind on record.

Relief agencies anxious to share in the first allocation of funds should submit their proposals on how they plan to handle distribution of aid by August 15 to the Editor of The Star, 47 Sauer Street, Johannesburg.

The deadline for written proposals will be extended if necessary to make allowance for the shipments that will go out in a regular flow after the first allocation.

However, both Nedcor Group and The Star, along with the Nedcor Chairman’s Fund, stress their insistence that proposals from agencies must meet a strict set of criteria aimed at ensuring the optimum impact. The rules:

• The programme will concentrate on the poor — irrespective of gender, race, colour, creed or political affiliation.
• Relief support will be directed to the areas of priority need.
• Where possible, all affected parties must be involved from the outset on issues such as the identification of projects.
• Assistance will avoid reinforcing any particular power group and will concentrate on actual beneficiaries alone.
• The aim should be equity — total openness with systems and budgets.
• Assistance will be implemented by agents at local level wherever possible.
• Efforts should aim at co-operation at community level and a prevention of duplication.
• Projects should complement rather than compete with support from other sources.
• Proposals must be sound in administrative, physical, financial and social terms.
• Financial control must be seen to be clean and open.
• Agencies must agree to accountability to the “Harvest” fund on meeting the criteria.

Drought still critical despite heavy rains

By Louise Marsland

Despite recent heavy rains in some parts of the country, the drought remains critical in the far northern Transvaal and eastern Cape, Department of Water Affairs officials said yesterday.

Disaster conditions are threatening in the far northern Transvaal where stringent water restrictions have already been implemented because most of the State dams are low, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry says in its latest review of the drought.

Severe restrictions are in force in Lous Trichardt and Potgieterus and to a lesser extent in Pietersburg and Trannet to ensure that supplies last until the next rainy season.

The flow in the Komati River is very low.

No restrictions are envisaged in the foreseeable future for the PWV, nor for the supply area on the eastern Transvaal highveld or the lower Vaal River.

“We are still in dire straits in these areas,” Water Affairs director of hydrology Stefan van Biljon said.

“Despite the recent rains, there has been no appreciable difference. The levels of crucial dams have not risen significantly. We need rains to increase catchments and increase soil moisture.

“But we must be optimistic. There are indications that we may be returning to normal seasons with the wane of the El Nino weather phenomenon,” Mr van Biljon said.

Water Affairs planning manager Dr Paul Roberts said another year of drought could mean moderate restrictions in metropolitan areas.

At present, the Government’s Drought Assistance Programme was implementing measures to relieve the current problem “If the drought persists, these activities will have to be intensified,” Dr Roberts said.

The drought is aggravated by the high degree of utilisation of water resources in many areas because more people are dependent on them now than in previous drought years, the department says in its review.

The present drought has affected the rural communities and wildlife more than the urban areas.
Evita joins campaign for drought victims

By Michael Chester

The South African ambassador to Bapetikoswet, the famous Evita Bezuidenhout, has joined the "Harvest for the Hungry" campaign launched by Nedcor and The Star to relieve the plight of victims of the worst drought to hit South Africa in living memory.

Pieter-Dirk Uys, whose parodies of the eccentric diplomat have earned applause from TV and theatre audiences at home and abroad, has pledged profits from charity performances to the fund.

Latest estimates have warned that 2.5 million impoverished South Africans may be unable to escape the devastations of food and water shortages unless assistance arrives soon.

Nedcor and The Star
Food for thought at nutrition conference

![Conference Image]
Lack of water threatens people of Daggafontein

A COMMUNITY of 15 000 people in Daggafontein could suffer serious health problems because water resources were running dry, Transvaal Rural Action Committees (Trac) fieldworker Sipho Motswagae said yesterday.

He said a request for emergency water supplies made to the TPA a week ago had been ignored, forcing the community to queue at a spring which serves as a live-stock watering hole.

Sapa reports that already an old woman has died in the area after queuing in sub-zero temperatures to get water.

Motswagae said the TPA had been asked also to get money allocated to the Development Aid Department for the drilling of boreholes to supply the community with water. He said the remaining 70 000 Daggafontein residents were relying on 39 litres of water a family a day from private boreholes.

Meanwhile, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said yesterday the scheme was spending R5m a month feeding about 2.3 million people across the country. She told a news conference to announce the launch of Gold Rush 13 that about 5 million people were without independent food sources and that figure could grow unless action was taken to promote subsistence farming and fight poverty.

Perlman said government and business should intervene to help establish and maintain subsistence farming with borehole water as an interim measure to combat widespread hunger.

"There's got to be serious awareness of the link between chronic malnutrition and the effect it has on productivity," she said.

A minimum wage for farm workers should be considered to reduce rural poverty. "One of the worst features of agriculture in this country is the non-participation of farm workers in the productivity of farms. They have no stake in productivity," she said.

Requests for feeding for between 1 000 and 2 000 people a day were pouring onto Operation Hunger offices and 20 schools had asked for feeding schemes in the past two weeks, she said.

There was no shortage of food in SA, unlike the rest of Africa, but there were no funds to buy and distribute it.

Operation Hunger was thinking of appealing to other organisations to help it in its commitment to giving the hungry at least one meal a day, Perlman said.

She slated homeland governments for not maintaining and repairing water pumps in rural communities.

Gold Rush 13, the original instant millionaire game, will be launched on Friday and will now include R500 in monthly draw prizes. Perlman said.

The closing date for entries would be February 6 next year with the draw on March 2. The winner would be decided at the running of the FNB 1 800m at Turffontein on March 6.

The monthly draws begin in October with tickets bought before October 16 eligible for the first prize.
POLITICAL violence and instability have failed to put the lid on multibillion-rand projects that are providing jobs, housing, education and social services to the desperately poor in South Africa.

Tens of thousands of impoverished people are daily regaining self-confidence and reaping the benefits of extensive consultation between development organisations such as the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the Urban Foundation on the one hand, and political organisations from the extreme Left to the far Right on the other.

Of the R2 billion earmarked by the Government two years ago for development through the IDT, R1.9 billion has been allocated to 340 projects, with R700 million of this already in the ground all over the country. Currently the IDT spends an average of R3 million a week.

In the Western Cape, the Urban Foundation will spend R3 million during the next 12 months on support services for an estimated 1 million squatters. The foundation will teach building skills and methods, negotiate affordable materials for shack-builders and encourage companies to award subcontracts to unemployed communities.

On a bigger scale the IDT — and partners including the Urban Foundation, Kagiso Trust, Joint Education Trust and the Development Bank of Southern Africa — will be turning sods in South Africa and the homelands to provide beacons of hope such as schools, serviced sites and clinics.

Writing in the IDT's recent second annual report, communications director Jolyon Nuttall says the founding of the IDT from a surplus of taxpayers' money in the 1990 Budget was "clearly part of a series of bold initiatives to do things differently" after more than 40 years of apartheid.

IDT chairman Jan Steyn puts it like this: "It's much more difficult for violence to take hold where development has played a role in bringing people together. No time is more opportune than now for a massive increase in development."

But where the Government and the private sector have made a commitment to eliminate socio-economic backlogs, development agencies are confronted by suspicions about the role of corporate and civil do-gooders. Nuttall says that only a few years ago the word "development" was hardly mentioned in socio-economic or political vocabularies.

"Indeed, it had negative connotations arising from the imposition of apartheid as separate development. Now it is regarded as a driving force underpinning political transition in this country."

Sharon Pollentier, the Urban Foundation's assistant regional director in the western Cape, says: "Development is anything that promotes justice, equity and changes of attitudes. You cannot eliminate poverty unless there is also commitment to social justice."

Breaking the tensions

Gavin Wyngaard, manager of the Urban Foundation's informal settlement support programme, says: "An example of how we should try to defuse conflict is the Masapatsane Project, where we have brought about a relationship between the heads of community organisations and representatives of the private sector."

Nuttall quotes the IDT's projects at Soweto-on-Sea, in Port Elizabeth, as another example of development breaking through political tensions. There the IDT is providing 10,000 families with freehold title to serviced sites.

Reporting on the project, Georgina Hamilton says that although there is a strong African National Congress presence in the PE resettlement, other political parties or groups are not excluded.

At Langa, near Uitenhage, Unfound Housing is developing a site-and-service scheme in a place where 21 people were killed in 1985 when police fired on a funeral crowd. A year later, local authorities forcibly relocated the Langa shack community despite pleas for upgrading.

Today, the ANC, Pan Africanist Congress, Azanian People's Organisation, the SA Communist Party, the Uitenhage municipality and development organisations are jointly involved in establishing a motivated, self-contained community.

"There are countless other examples," says Nuttall. "If you give people hope, you diminish the potential for violence. In a time when there has been so much violence, there has also been amazing development news — which unfortunately spreads more slowly than bad news."

Development projects ease conflict in the urbanised province

Hope: remedy for violence
Projects
give hope
to the poor

Trust spends R4,5 m a week

Giving people hope diminishes the potential for violence, South Africa’s major development agencies are reaffirming as, based on consultation across the political spectrum, they spawn housing, education and job creation projects in towns and cities wracked by conflict.

TYRONE SEAL
Weekend Argus Reporter

POLITICALLY motivated violence and other forms of instability have failed to put the lid on multi-billion rand projects that are providing jobs, housing, education and other social services to the desperately poor in South Africa.

Tens of thousands of poor South Africans are daily regaining self-confidence and reaping the benefits of extensive consultation between development organisations such as the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the Urban Foundation on the one hand, and political institutions from the extreme left to the far right, on the other.

Of the R2 billion the government earmarked two years ago for development through the IDT, R1,9 billion has already been allocated to 340 projects and of these, the IDT is already working on projects worth R700 million all over South Africa.

At the moment the IDT spends an average of R4,5 million a week.

In the Western Cape the Urban Foundation will spend R3 million during the next 12 months in support services to the city’s estimated 1 million squatters.

The foundation will teach building skills and methods, negotiate affordable materials for shack-builders, and encourage companies to award subcontracts to presently unemployed squatter communities.

On a bigger scale the IDT — and partners including the Urban Foundation, Kagiso Trust, Joint Education Trust and the Development Bank of Southern Africa — will be turning some of the sods around South Africa and the homelands to provide schools, serviced sites, clinics and other beacons of hope.

Writing in the IDT’s recent second annual report, communications director Mr Jolyon Nuttall notes the creation of the IDT from a surplus of taxpayers’ money announced in the 1990 budget speech was “clearly part of a bold series of initiatives to do things differently in South Africa after more than 40 years of apartheid rule.

“In the process it was hoped to legitimise anew the processes of development in this country, with full opportunities available to all and an emphasis on redressing historical disadvantages.”

IDT chairman Mr Jan Steyn puts it this way: “It’s much more difficult for violence to get hold of a situation where there has been development and where development has played its role in bringing people together.

“Now time is better for a massive increase in development than ever before.

But where the government and the private sector may have made the commitment to eliminate the apartheid era’s socio-economic backlogs, development agencies are continuously confronted by strife-torn communities and suspicions about the role of corporate and civil do-gooders.
Joining hands to feed the hungry

The last of two SA Air Force Hercules C-130 supply planes returned to the Waterkloof air base near Pretoria on Sunday after a 8200 km round trip to northern Kenya to deliver 30 tons of relief supplies.

The operation was a joint effort of the African Muslim Agency (AMA), the Department of Foreign Affairs and the SA Air Force (SAAF). The Government paid the transportation bill.

Emergency relief supplies were delivered on Saturday evening to Wajir in northern Kenya, which borders strife-ridden Somalia.

Included in the consignment were cereal, powdered milk and medicines to be distributed at 13 centres housing 15,000 child refugees in and around Wajir.

The success of the first phase of the relief operation — the second takes place on September 19-22 when a further 200 tons will be shipped to Mombasa en route to Wajir — was a commitment that transcended political and religious boundaries in South Africa.

Contrast

After a 10-hour flight from Waterkloof air base to Wajir, the reception accorded to the South Africans was in stark contrast with the country's years of political isolation.

When the aircraft landed, Kenyan aid workers rushed on to the military airstrip near Wajir and offloaded the consignment donated by South African Muslims.

More than 300,000 refugees have spilled over the borders into Kenya, escaping the civil strife in Somalia and, to a lesser extent, the drought in Ethiopia.

Some 1.5 million to 2 million people in Somalia are at immediate risk of starvation in what is now recognised as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

"This is an operation that has to succeed. We are among this consignment at children. There are 13 feeding centres in and around Wajir with about 1,000 children each. Their plight is the most desperate," said Moula Shabur Saloojee, who is coordinating the South African side of the relief operation.

While South African Muslims had donated the aid, the feeding project was for all, not only Muslims, he said.

Moula Saloojee had high praise for Foreign Affairs and the SAAF "Without them, this could not have been successfully concluded.

The aid was transported free of charge after several Muslim agencies, having collected the goods, approached the Government for assistance.

Foreign Affairs communications and marketing (Africa division) spokesman Roy Sherwood said he was overwhelmed by the response of the Kenyan government.

"It shows a further normalising of relations with the Kenyan authorities. Although we do not have a full diplomatic mission in Nairobi, the Kenyan authorities assisted as to their best ability.

"With regard to the members of the SA Air Force, the Kenyan authorities' attitude was outstanding. Our men in their air force uniforms did not raise any eyebrows, were not questioned and went about their duties as normal.""
Draw cash and feed the hungry

The HARVEST

for the hungry

By Michael Chester

More than 1 000 high-tech bank robots have started ploughing huge donations into the "Harvest for the Hungry" disaster fund launched by the Nedcor Group and The Star and sister newspapers in the Argus Group.

They form the nationwide network of automatic teller machines (ATMs) operated by Nedcor banking giants Nedbank and the Perm.

The silent robots have set themselves a combined target of providing no fewer than 3.5 million meals in the emergency campaign to rush urgent food shipments to relieve the malnutrition plight of tens of thousands of families in areas hit worst of all by the severe drought.

Nedcor chief executive Chris Liebenberg has set in motion a scheme in which every time a Sowitch cardholder uses one of the ATMs, the group will make a contribution into the "Harvest" fund equal to the cost of a meal for a drought victim.

"We estimate the ATM scheme alone — at no cost to cardholders themselves — will sponsor more than 3.5 million meals by the end of next month," he says.

The Nedbank and Perm branch networks also provide customers with special deposit slips that can be used to send in personal contributions.

As an extra bonus, the Nedcor card division has undertaken to donate 15c for every R500 spent by customers on their credit cards.
NOTICE

It is hereby published for general information that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in terms of section 4 (c) (ii) of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, 1989 (Act No. 74 of 1989), has granted to the WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (hereinafter referred to as the WFP), the principal United Nations Agency to coordinate the food and import programme on behalf of the countries of the Southern African Region, the following immunities and privileges for functional and administrative purposes only.

PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

1. The Government shall, for functional and administrative purposes only, extend to the WFP, its staff and property in South Africa, and to services and goods procured in South Africa, the privileges and immunities of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 February 1946, as set out hereunder.

2. "WFP staff" means all members of the staff of the WFP employed under the Staff Regulations of the United Nations, excluding locally recruited staff.

3. Staff of the WFP shall—

(a) be immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity, such immunity to continue even after termination of employment with the WFP;

(b) be accorded the same immunities and facilities, in respect of their official baggage, as are accorded to diplomatic envoys;

(c) be immune from any military service obligations or any other obligatory services;

(d) be exempt, with respect to themselves, their spouses, their dependent relatives and other members of their households, from immigration restrictions and alien registration;

(e) be exempt from taxation in respect of salaries and all other remuneration paid to them by the WFP;

(f) enjoy exemption from any form of taxation on income derived by them from sources outside South Africa,

(g) be accorded prompt clearance and issuances, without cost, of visas, licences or permits, if required,

(h) be permitted free movement within, to or from the country to the extent necessary for the carrying out of WFP relief programmes,

(i) be permitted to hold or maintain within the country foreign exchange, foreign currency accounts and moveable property and the right upon termination of employment with the WFP to take out of South Africa their funds for the lawful possession of which they can show good cause;
be accorded the same protection and repatriation facilities with respect to themselves, their spouses and dependent relatives and other members of their households as are accorded in times of international crises or national emergencies to diplomatic envoys,

be permitted to import for personal use, free of duty and other levies, prohibitions or restrictions on imports—

(i) their furniture and personal effects in one or more shipments and thereafter to import necessary additions to the same, including automobiles, in accordance with the regulations applicable in South Africa to diplomatic representatives accredited in South Africa and/or resident members of international organisations,

(ii) reasonable quantities of certain articles for personal use or consumption and not as gifts or for sale.

4. The premises of the WFP shall be inviolable. The property and assets of the WFP, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action.

5. The archives of the WFP, including all the papers, documents, correspondence, books, films, tapes, registers, databases and computerised documentation belonging to or held by it, shall be inviolable.

6. No restriction shall be placed on the WFP introducing foreign currency into South Africa to fund its operations nor on the repatriation of any such funds to any countries abroad. The same privileges in regard to movement of funds related to their activities shall be accorded to the WFP as are made available to all foreign embassy bank accounts in South Africa.

7. The WFP shall buy and sell foreign exchange at the commercial rand rate of exchange as quoted by the authorized dealers in South Africa.

EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION, CUSTOMS DUTIES, PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

1. The WFP shall be exempted from all dues and taxes, direct or indirect, personal or real, national, regional or municipal, other than such as represent payment for specific services rendered. Thus, the Government shall exempt the WFP from excise duties, sales tax and value added tax, and from taxes on the sale or purchase by the WFP of movable and immovable property in South Africa. The WFP and Government shall agree on the appropriate administrative arrangements for the disposal of movable and immovable property and for the remission or refund of the amount of duty, tax or levy where it is not feasible to make direct exemption.

2. The WFP, its assets, income and other property shall be exempt from—

(a) all direct and indirect taxes provided that the WFP shall not be entitled to exemptions for charges for public utility services;

(b) customs duties, prohibitions or restrictions on articles imported or exported by the WFP for their official use provided that the articles imported under such exemption shall not be sold in South Africa, except under conditions agreed upon with the Government,

(c) customs duties, prohibitions or restrictions in respect of the import and export of its publications.

3. Any materials, articles or goods imported or purchased locally by the WFP in connection with the discharge of its functions as principal UN Agency to co-ordinate the food aid import programme on behalf of countries of the Southern African Region shall be exempt from all customs and excise duties, prohibitions or restrictions.

COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

1. The WFP shall enjoy, in respect of its official communications, treatment not less favourable than that accorded by the Government to any other government, including its diplomatic missions, or to other inter-governmental/international organisations in matters of priorities, tariffs and charges on mail, cablegrams, telephoto, telephone, telegraph, telex and other communications, and rates for information to the press and radio.
2. The Government shall secure the inviolability of the official communications and correspondence of the WFP and shall not apply any censorship to its communications and correspondence. Such inviolability, without limitation by reason of this enumeration, shall extend to publications, photographs, slides, films and sound recordings.

3. The WFP shall have the right to use codes and to dispatch and receive correspondence and other materials by courier or in sealed bags, which couriers and bags shall be accorded the same privileges and immunities as those accorded to diplomatic couriers and bags.

4. The WFP shall have the right to erect and operate radio and other telecommunications equipment, on UN registered frequencies that have been co-ordinated with the Government and on frequencies allocated by the Government, between its offices, within and outside South Africa. Provided that this right shall not, without the consent of the Government, extend to point-to-point radio communication.

ENTRY, RESIDENCE, DEPARTURE AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

1. The staff of the WFP shall have the right to enter into, reside in and depart from South Africa from agreed points of entry and exit UN laissez-passers held by the WFP staff shall be accepted as valid travel/identification documents by the Government, and holders of such documents shall be granted facilities for speedy travel to, through and from South Africa as promptly as possible.

WAIVER OF IMMUNITY

1. Privileges and immunities are granted to WFP staff in the interests of the United Nations and not for the personal benefit of the individuals concerned. Accordingly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, or any other person authorised thereto, may waive the immunity of any of the WFP staff where, in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice, and it may be waived without prejudice to the interests of the United Nations or the WFP.

---

DEPARTEMENT VAN KORREKTIWE DIENSTE

No. 2517 11 September 1992

STAAATSDIENSBEURSJEKMA: 1993

DEPARTEMENT VAN KORREKTIWE DIENSTE

1. Die doel van die Beurskema is om voltydse beurse aan applikante beskikbaar te stel ter verwerwing van die volgende kwalifikasies:
   • BA (MW)-graad
   • BSc Rekenaarwetenskap/B Comm Inligtingstelsels.
   • MA Kliniese Siekkunde. (Alle registrasiekategorie.)
   • B Pharm-graad.

2. Algemene maatsstawwe en vereistes:

2.1 Die aantal beurse in elke ngting word bepaal deur die Departement van Korrektiewe Dienste se behoefte aan opgeleide personeel in die onderskeie ngtings en die beskikbaarheid van fondse, en applikante ding volgens menete om beurse mee.

2.2 Applikante moet—
   • van voorneme wees om 'n loopbaan in die Departement van Korrektiewe Dienste te volg en aan alle aansprake vereistes voldeel,
   • Suid-Afrikaanse burgers wees;

---

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

No. 2517 11 September 1992

PUBLIC SERVICE BURSARY SCHEME: 1993

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

1. The purpose of the Public Bursary Scheme is to make full-time bursaries available to applicants to attain the following qualifications:
   • BA (SW) degree
   • BSc Computer Science/B Comm Information Systems.
   • MA Clinical Psychology (All registration categories.)
   • B Pharm degree.

2. General criteria and requirements:

2.1 The number of bursaries in each field is determined by the requirements of the Department of Correctional Services in regard to trained staff in the various fields and by the availability of funds, and applicants compete for bursaries on merit

2.2 Applicants must—
   • intend to take up a career in the Department of Correctional Services and to comply with all appointment requirements,
   • be South African citizens;
POVERTY - 1993
news brief

Body helps the starving:

The Department of National Health and Development in Pakistan, during the current financial year, managed to help 300,000 people. The plan was implemented by the government.
IDT defends its development role

AFTER coming under the spotlight in recent weeks, protesting university students calling for its disbandment, the Independent Development Trust (IDT) is fighting back.

The SA Students Congress claims the IDT has failed hopelessly to meet students' funding needs — and its criticism is echoed by other organisations which say that despite the R70m of taxpayers' money used to set up the trust two years ago, housing and education backlogs are still staggering.

But IDT communications director Jolyon Nuttall said in an interview that most of the trust's projects aimed at assisting "the poorest of the poor" were well under way.

While the trust itself could not be the solution to SA's housing, education and unemployment problems, it had exceeded its original brief by setting up community structures to take projects forward well after the trust's funds had expired.

"Sound development is not the speed with which you dispense money, but the sustainability of what is developed," said Nuttall.

The success and durability of projects — such as preschool care, school building, primary health care and the capital subsidy scheme — were dependent on the lengthy process of getting community involvement and acceptance.

"It is more important that communities have a sense of ownership of projects, rather than that they have development projects thrust on them," he said.

However, where the quick deployment of funding was crucial, such as for drought relief projects, the IDT could and did act with speed, he said.

The trust had also found that its masson — due to end in mid-1995 — could become permanent.

Nuttall said because so few organisations had the IDT's capacity and expertise to administer such large amounts of money and to set up necessary community structures, the trust's new policy was to make its ventures permanent, using funds from initiatives such as the national housing forum.

He said that by the start of this year, R2,1bn had been allocated to 450 projects ranging from massive school building to teaching patchwork to prisoners' wives in KwaZulu. Of this amount, R100m was already in use.

The IDT's capital subsidy scheme would result in 110,000 poor people, each with an average of seven dependants, owning a piece of serviced land. However, this R300m project will meet only 10% of total need.

Nuttall said that through a R300m venture, the trust hoped to reduce the backlog of 50,000 classrooms over the next two to three years. It also aimed to fund the building of 100 new clinics in rural areas, and to grant R120m over three years to welfare projects related to development.

The IDT had earmarked R70m over three years for pre-school facilities in the absence of government funding. Drought relief received R100m and tertiary education loans R80m.

By January, 92% of the projects were off the ground, and the 8% still to be activated were in "unreachable war-zones" such as Phola Park and areas near Nelspruit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call for export policies probe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADRIAN MADLANI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERTORIA — The export policies of multinational corporations now doing business in SA should be investigated by government, the SA Consumer Union has resolved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union chairman Lindsay Moolman said the dumping of harmful or shoddy goods into SA could be detrimental to the health and safety of local consumers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There was the possibility that some &quot;global companies now operating across national boundaries may be infringing consumer rights&quot;, Moolman said. This was likely where a company's export policies did not comply with the stringent laws operating within the country of origin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Among problems identified by the union were multinationals exporting substandard technology with poor environmental and health effects, together with a lack of &quot;genuine motive&quot; to create jobs and stimulate production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;All governments must be sufficiently alert to the possible situation where ethics are sacrificed for profits and when long-term consequences prove to be detrimental to the environment,&quot; Moolman said.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The consumer union called on governments to apply and implement the 1995 UN guidelines for consumer protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;We need fair rules and minimum standards to be established to promote the good conduct of transnational corporations, to preserve our natural resources and to safeguard the health and safety of consumers,&quot; Moolman said in a statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The union recently resolved to request Trade and Industry Minister Derek Keys to urge governments to sign the UN guidelines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poverty threatens reform

Stephen Fidler

America: The Story of the 1980s, published by the World Bank Human Resources Division in Washington underlines the deterioration in social conditions in the '80s. It suggests the number of people in poverty — defined as a monthly household income in 1985 dollars of $60 — in Latin America grew from 27% of the population in 1970 to 32% in 1989. Other estimates suggest a more dramatic increase in poverty through the decade from 100-million to 180-million people, two-fifths of the population. The study also suggests income inequalities grew in all except four countries - Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Uruguay. In the '80s, the study indicates, poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean became a mainly urban rather than rural problem. More of the poor now live in cities (65-million) than in the country (64-million), in 1980, most of the poor lived in rural areas (53-million) rather than in urban areas (35-million).

Most poverty is concentrated in a few countries. Brazil alone, with one-third of the population, accounts for 44% of the poor. Mexico had 11% and Peru 9%. A further 19% lived in a small group of countries including Bolivia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua. As much as 44% of the total increase in poverty in the '80s was in Brazil, and 14% in Peru.

Resolving the poverty issue is on the face of it simple, but in practice hugely complicated. Wealth is so concentrated in Latin America that a relatively modest sacrifice could apparently address the problem. As the World Bank's 1990 World Development Report suggested, "Raising all the poor in the continent to just above the poverty line would cost only 0.7% of regional GDP — the approximate equivalent of a 2% income tax on the wealthiest fifth of the population."

Even if such taxes were levied — and, even less likely, paid — social programmes would still have to be implemented. These fall into two categories: trying to provide support to alleviate immediate suffering, and aiming at longer-term objectives, such as improving education and health standards to provide a way out of poverty.

Yet Latin American experience has been that little of the money aimed directly at the poor reaches them, raising the question of how to manage poverty programmes. Furthermore, attempts to deal with issues such as health and education usually founder against the opposition of powerful vested interests such as teachers' and health workers' unions. — Financial Times

Books
NEWS  Rector, lecturers accused of racism ● Parties agree on procedures at ‘Codesa 3’

Plea for business to aid violence victims

More than R2.5 million has been allocated to about 15 organisations by the Social Relief Fund since September last year, the fund’s vice-chairman, Dr Boet Schoeman, announced yesterday.

The fund, established in 1992, is managed by a board appointed by the Deputy Minister of National Health and provides short-term aid in the form of food, clothing, blankets and in some cases funeral expenses to victims of violence and unrest.

It also provides financial help of up to R300 a month for a family of five for up to three months after the incident.

He said about 25 000 people were being helped.

At a news conference in Johannesburg, Schoeman said the fund worked closely with peace organisations such as the National Peace Secretariat, the SA Red Cross, welfare organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Because of a lack of funds, however, it could provide only short-term aid for crisis intervention.

He urged church groups, welfare organisations and others involved in curbing violence to take over the process of giving aid and to reintegrate victims into their respective communities.

Piek said it was also the responsibility of the private sector to help the fund.

Sapa.

Sit-in over closure

CLASS BOYCOTT  Demands for the reopening of college of education:

PARENTS and students attending the East Rand College of Education in KwaThema yesterday started a sit-in at the regional offices of the Department of Education and Training in Springs.

The students and their parents presented a memorandum at the regional director’s office demanding the opening of the college which was closed a week ago.

Lecture boycott

This followed a lecture boycott by the students, who were demanding the resignation of rector Dr Davide Gerke and two white lecturers, Mr Sarel Roos and Mr RJ Short.

The rector has been accused of a having a racist attitude, while the two lecturers have been accused of racism and incompetence.

The demand for Gerke’s resignation has been going on for the past three years, according to a college lecturer who did not wish to be named.

“He was kicked out for eight months in 1991 and for a month last year,” the lecturer said.

Parents are now tired of disruptions and have decided to intervene. They have made it clear that they will settle for nothing short of the resignation of the three,” the lecturer said.

Parents at a meeting on Sunday asked the Nat MP for Springs, Mr Piet Coetzee, to raise with the DSI Minister Mr Sams de Beer to open the college. About 1 000 students and 400 parents took part in yesterday’s action. The sit-in comes in the midst of rising tensions in education.

Fort Hare University has been closed and several colleges throughout the country are staging boycotts.

The National Education Coordinating Committee yesterday said it would disrupt education, including white schools, if the Government did not address grievances identified by the community.
VAT increase a burden to the poor

By Mziwakazi Nqulile

Government corruption is the reason why the poor should now shoulder the value added tax increase. Sowetu Radio Metro Talkback Show guest speakers said last night.

Ms Nomia Ramphomane, president of the National Black Consumer Union and Ms Jean Tham, president of the Housewives League, confirmed that VAT increase would be a heavy burden on the poor.

Ramphomane said it was very difficult for black consumers to cope, especially since there was a high rate of unemployment in the country.

"The increase is exorbitant. It is wrong for the Government to collect money from the poor."

"The increase is an insult. Inflation is too high."

Leshabe said community activities should be used to bring down the deficit. He felt strongly that VAT must be scrapped. He said:

"The money would be used to bring down the deficit. It must be down because it is the only way to do it."

"Union says don't do anything. Why does Government stand up and fight the Government?"

Left lying down

"The matter cannot be left lying down," he said in response to a caller who had suggested that tougher action be taken against the Government.

"We call for an independent audit commission to probe expenditure as well as a tax commission to evaluate the whole tax system."

"There's widespread corruption in this country. We have seen it."

"We don't want VAT. Please it goes, it will be good for the poor."
A program is on for the workers. The purpose is to help the workers understand their rights, the importance of union, and the need to stand together. This is a crucial time for the workers, as they prepare to demand fair wages and better working conditions. At this time, the organizers are calling on the community to support the workers and demand justice for their plight.
Organizations unite to fight poverty
Hunger spans every divide

KATHRYN STRACHAN

INCREASING unemployment, continual violence and the aftermath of the drought had forced millions of South Africans onto the treadmill of destitution, Operation Hunger CEO Ina Perlman said yesterday.

"The country is facing a massive hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions," she said. "There can be little doubt that the situation today is worse than the depression of the '30s."

Poverty was affecting people across the divide of colour and politics, she said. The organisation spent R4m a month feeding two-million people.

Operation Hunger's deputy director Norma Cohen said shrinking donations were also a factor. The organisation's budget was falling short and the number of people seeking assistance was growing daily.

Perlman said this year's budget had provided little relief for the poor in real terms.

However, the solution was within reach, she said. "There is one lack only — the money to buy the products we need to save human lives."
3,5-m eggs for poor likely to rot

By Ncebed Kotelolo
Pretoria Bureau

More than 3.5 million eggs set aside for the needy are likely to rot through lack of adequate means to distribute them.

Egg Board general manager David Gouws yesterday confirmed the board had a surplus stock and wished to distribute the eggs among the country's needy people, but transportation was a problem.

The confirmation follows a call to The Star by an angry, unidentified caller, saying millions of surplus eggs were stored at the Egg Board instead of being distributed among the needy.

"Something tells me that if nothing is done, they will be kept there until they rot," she warned.

Gouws said distribution was time-consuming, adding: "Last year it took us about four months to distribute the same amount."

He said that a few weeks ago the board offered the eggs to the Department of Agriculture for distribution among the country's various feeding schemes.

The board had also approached the Department of National Health to subsidise a process to reduce the eggs to powder for easy storage and distribution as an alternative.

Besides distributing the eggs, the board would have to keep them in cold storage for a period not exceeding six months, which cost it 7c a dozen per month, he said.

Gouws added it would be easy to store egg powder which could be kept for more than a year before being used.

Spokesmen for the departments of Agriculture and National Health confirmed the board had approached them for assistance, but said the matter had still not been finalised.

But a National Health spokesman said although there was great need for food, the department did not have funds available.

She said the total R410 million budget for her department had already been allocated to different regions in the country.

Meanwhile, Operation Hunger's Ina Perlman said her organisation had been approached with the offer. "But we are still awaiting confirmation from the board."
Japie Jacobs strikes gloomy note

IT WOULD be straining optimism to expect a positive growth rate this year, special economic adviser to the Minister of Finance Japie Jacobs said yesterday.

Depending on the extent of the disruption caused by the weeks of threatened mass action, the consequences could contribute to the "demise" of the economy.

Jacobs said business confidence had taken a severe beating recently. Production losses like those inflicted in previous stayaways would never be recovered.

There was an attitude and an expectation among many workers that they should be allowed to take part in mass action without being penalised by employers. "You cannot manage an economy with any degree of efficiency if there is mass and frequent worker absenteeism," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said mass action could accelerate the spread of poverty and unemployment, when job creation was crucial. There seemed, too, to be a lack of understanding of the consequences on a fragile economy.

Other economists said production losses could amount to several billion rand if the stayaways persisted during May.

They agreed there was a need for a more acute understanding of the damage which could be inflicted on the economy by irresponsible and politically motivated action.
New housing strategy urged

Let poor live in city centres

By Joshua Raboroko

SOUTH Africa's cities should be restructured to enable poor people to live close to their centres, the Institute of Race Relations says.

In its 1992-93 survey on housing and urbanisation, the institute points out that civic associations are also urging that land for the poor be found close to city centres.

The survey reports on a number of innovative initiatives which concentrate on existing housing stock in the inner city areas of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Turning to housing delivery, the survey emphasises the need for a clearly articulated housing policy, a single housing department, community participation, access to credit and building advice, and investment in public infrastructure.

According to one estimate recorded in the survey, 550 houses at an average price of R20 000 for a house and stand need to be built every day to eradicate the 1.8 million backlog by the year 2020. This would involve an investment of R11 million in low-cost housing each day.

Against this, the survey reports that the government has provided only about 3 000 houses in the last two years, while a sample of 101 builders surveyed in 1991 built fewer than 25 houses in that year. Some 75 percent of the builders surveyed had built fewer than 100 houses.

Builders interviewed believe that the factors inhibiting the provision of low-cost housing were current interest rates, political uncertainty, political unrest, bond boycotts, and the limited availability of mortgage bonds.

The survey records a certain amount of progress during 1991-92 in the provision of formal and informal housing by non-profit utility companies, for example:

- The Independent Development Trust financed more than 100 site-and-service schemes, providing serviced sites for some 700 000 people countrywide.
- The South African Housing Trust provided finance for more than 100 housing projects, including the provision of some 10 000 formal houses and as many serviced sites, and
- The New Housing Group - initiated by the Urban Foundation - provided more than 200 residential stands, 3 000 serviced sites and 5 000 starter homes.

According to official estimates, some 3.6 million people are living in informal settlements countrywide, but the
Stals calls for changes to beat poverty spiral

RESERVE Bank Governor Chris Stals said the economy had fallen into a perpetual poverty trap and major structural changes were needed to combat low economic growth, high unemployment and declining standards of living.

He was speaking at the conference on SA's international economic relations in the 1990s, which is being held at the Mabula Game Lodge under the auspices of Ideas and the Aspen Institute of the US.

Stals suggested continued cautious monetary policy to keep inflation down, saying the temptation to supplement domestic sources by the creation of more money should be resisted as more money provided more inflation.

"Whatever the source of financing for poverty alleviation, there are limits on what can be achieved," he said, adding that SA had no option but to generate more resources through a higher rate of economic growth.

He suggested financing social uplift programmes, partly from external sources through foreign finance such as aid transfer. He said SA was relatively under-borrowed — in 1990 foreign debt interest payments absorbed only 4.2% of total exports — and that care must be taken as the country could very easily fall into an overborrowed situation.

"Foreign funds are not freely available and could, if attainable, eventually lead to debt servicing problems. At this stage, SA should, however, gladly accept foreign funds available for the financing of poverty alleviation," he said. Redirecting domestic resources through the channelling of cash flows would reduce resources available for other purposes.

"The challenge is to strike a balance between poverty alleviation and alternative applications of our scarce resources to support maximum growth," he said.

Stals said a statement regarding current negotiations with creditor banks on extending SA's foreign debt arrangements was likely to be made in London by today.

Earlier, he confirmed that a Reserve Bank delegation was in London negotiating with creditor banks to reschedule about $5.5bn in foreign debt. — Reuter
Long-term prospects for inflation brighten

By Sven Linsche

Although the inflation rate is expected to show a VAT-induced rise above 10 percent in April, economists are convinced that it has decisively broken the 10 to 17 percent range of the past 18 years.

The Central Statistical Service reported on Friday that the March inflation rate increased to 9.7 percent compared with 9.2 percent in February. On a monthly basis, the consumer price index (CPI) rose by 1.5 percent despite a 0.8 percent decline in the cost of food.

The larger-than-expected rise was mainly due to soaring education costs. The CPI for education surged 6 percent between February and March this year, reflecting an increase in Model C school and university fees.

The increase in VAT from 9 to 14 percent, higher excise duties, more expensive fuel and rising postal rates are expected to return inflation to between 10 and 11 percent in April.

Nevertheless, economists expect a continuation of the longer-term downward trend once these short-term effects have been absorbed.

In Southern Life's latest Quarterly Economic Comment, economist Mike Daly says inflation was expected to average about 10 percent this year compared with 14 percent in 1993.

"Once the impact of VAT falls out of the year-on-year comparison in April 1994, the rate is expected to fall quite sharply to seven percent.

"Inflationary pressures are not expected to pick up significantly until the latter part of 1994 at the earliest," Daly says.

Sanlam economist Johan Louw says the factors that contributed to the sharp deceleration in inflation in the past nine months will still be present this year.

Labor costs

These factors include:

- The increased recession.
- The lower rate of increase of real labour costs as a result of slower wage rates and higher productivity.
- Improvements in agricultural conditions, leading to lower food prices.
- The reduction in bond rates.
- The moderate inflation rates of SA's trading partners.
- The steadiness of the real effective rand exchange rate.
- Continued financial discipline, as reflected in the moderate expansion of the money supply and credit granted.
Operation Hunger has expressed grave doubts over the administration of the millions of rands allocated in the Budget to feeding schemes.

Finance Minister Derek Keys announced that more than R600 million would be spent this year on food aid by the National Nutrition and Social Development Programme for food aid and (supplemented by any funds left over from the R400 million allocated from nutrition schemes in last year's Budget) a further R40 million would be paid to the Protein Energy Malnutrition Programme.

These organisations fall directly under the umbrella of the Department of National Health and Population Development.

Operation Hunger executive director Ira Perlman said the funds were welcome, but her major concern was that the money allocated to feeding programmes was not reaching the proper target.

--- Staff Reporter
Health sector's R11-billion in 1993-4 Budget

R400m on feeding:

HEALTH services are getting more than R11 billion in the 1993-4 Budget and more than R400 million is to be spent on feeding schemes.

The Budget Review says that, "the strained economic circumstances necessitate a drastic improvement in the cost-effectiveness in health care delivery on the part of all health authorities.

Legislation is to be introduced to establish a new management model for academic hospitals to give them greater management autonomy. Poverty and the drought have increased the demand for food aid and the government is to spend R400 million this year on the National Nutrition and Social Development Programme.

This will be supplemented by funds from the R400 million allocated for nutrition schemes in last year's Budget.

Furthermore, the allocation to the Protein Energy Malnutrition Programme, also administered by the Department of National Health and Population Development, is to be raised from R400 000 — last year's allocation — to R40 million.
HoR to pay rent for the jobless

By NORMAN WEST, Political Reporter

UNEMPLOYED coloured people are to get help — the House of Representatives is to pay their water bills and rents or rates for three months.

All unemployed coloured people throughout the country who can prove that they have been registered "unemployed" by April 1 will have their water bills and rates or rents paid for them at the end of April, May and June.

This was announced yesterday by Mr. J. C. Rabie, chairman of the Ministers' Council and minister designate of Population Development.

He said that because the trimcynonal parliament system was still in force and there were still separate "own affairs" budgets, the HoR could not help constituents of the other houses.

"It was with regret" that he was announcing the relief measure was limited to "coloureds".

He anticipated that people would try to make political capital out of the aid scheme and describe it as a "political gimmick" to catch votes.

Gimmick

"The genuinely destitute will have another view. "It is not a gimmick, for no one is forced to make use of the relief — and not everybody will qualify."

"To qualify, a breadwinner will have to show proof to the municipal and regional offices that he or she has been registered as unemployed."

"The Ministers' Council has instructed the local authorities to process applications without unnecessary red tape so that those who are genuinely seeking work but are temporarily unemployed can enjoy a respite of three months from rent and municipal obligations."

Mr. Rabie confirmed outgoing-Minister of Health and Welfare Andrew Jules's statement this week that parity was to be introduced in social pensions and grants. This is to be announced by Minister of Finance Derek Keys in his budget on Wednesday.

At present white pensioners receive R185 a month, compared with R18 for coloured and Indian pensioners and R193 for Africans.

Mr. Rabie said that in addition to parity, he expected Mr. Keys to announce a 10 percent increase to R375.50 for all social pensioners.
R420m allocated to help needy and poor

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — More than R420m had been allocated to 1,614 non-governmental organisations this year to aid the needy and destitute, it was announced yesterday.

National Nutrition and Social Development Programme manager Joos Hattingh said the organisations, from welfare and religious groups to luncheon clubs, were involved in almost 5,500 projects in 367 magisterial districts.

"The plight of the needy, living below the minimal subsistence level, has been exacerbated by drought, unemployment and other factors," Hattingh said in a statement.

"Out of a total population of 38-million, the programme has succeeded in reaching 15.38% of the estimated 9-million people who are surviving without any visible means of livelihood," he said.

Of the R444m allocated to the programme for the 1992/93 financial year, less than R20m remained to be distributed.

Hattingh said that approval for projects and the allocation of funds had been devolved to elected local, district and regional committees.

It was up to these committees to distribute food and other commodities to assist the needy, destitute and "poorest of the poor" to meet the basic human needs. Hattingh said.
Help for needy

THE state is to budget R440-million in the next financial year to help needy people, according to Dr Joos Hattingh, manager of the National Nutrition and Social Development Programme (NNSDP). Spending will be co-ordinated by the programme in conjunction with the Department of National Health and Population Development.
THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The Minister of National Security, Mr. Andrew, MK, M.O.P. has offered the following statement in response to the recent events:

[Text content]

The House of Assembly

February 14, 1993

WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 1993

HONORABLE [Name]

[Other text and page numbers]
The People Power MARKET

EXPLORE

Economists agree that one of the greatest problems facing our society today is the lack of employment opportunities. Many people are left without the means to support themselves and their families.

One solution to this problem is the concept of the People Power Market. This market is a place where people can come together to trade goods and services. By doing this, they are able to support themselves and each other.

The People Power Market operates on the principle of mutual support. People who are unable to work are able to receive goods and services in exchange for their labor. This creates a cycle of support that helps everyone in the community.

By encouraging this type of exchange, we can end the reliance on a money-based economy. This will allow us to create a more equitable and sustainable society.

BY CHEESE FESTION

MR. MAKING

the people power
Scant hope for city's homeless job seekers
By Shirley Woodgate

Eight months ago Hester Pretorius (45) and Kokkie Enslin packed their clothes, took to the nearby freeway and hitched a lift from the Free State's dusty Vredenburg to Johannesburg.

They turned their backs on homelessness, poverty, joblessness and utter despair.

Things could only get better, they believed, as they stood on the side of the road. What had worked for thousands of poor whites flocking to the Big J in the depression of the 1930s would work for them.

But in the summer of 1983 the new South Africa offers them scant hope.

“We got a room with my sister, then moved in with people who drank.”

Then Hanie van Loggerenberg, who helps needy people in Jan Hofmeyer, found temporary work for Kokkie which turned into permanent employment as a boiler maker. Instead of sleeping on the floor, the couple bought a mattress to put in the room they rent in Vrededorp for R120 a week. “But the house is being demolished and we must be out by Friday,” she said.

Now they face homelessness again — and Hester, a mother of three grown-up children, is four months pregnant.

Van Loggerenberg, who supplies 190 families with groceries every week, said “Out of the 184 houses here, this kind of tragedy is being played out in every second home.”
Bill aims at banking for the poor

CAPE TOWN: The main objective of the Mutual Banks Bill was to create banking institutions which would attract the custom of members of the lower-income communities, Deputy Finance Minister Dr Theo Alant said in Parliament yesterday.

Introducing the second reading debate on the Bill, he said the corporate constitution of a mutual bank would be structured so as to facilitate its membership and greater participation by members in the exercise of control in a general meeting.

Jasper Walsh (DP Pinelands) said that nowhere was the lack of suitable credit facilities more obvious than in low-cost housing and small business development.

While welcoming the Bill, the DP cautioned that South Africa could not afford a failure in the banking sector as this would lead to a loss of credibility; and nothing would hasten the demise of these institutions more speedily than political action such as boycotts and bond instalments being withheld. — Sapa.
Destitute whites the target of reverse racism

CAPE TOWN — St George’s Mail, Cape Town’s showpiece of historic charm for foreign visitors, has become a showground for white poverty in the country.

Whites rendered destitute by the recession and the politics of transition, frequently line the walkway with their cardboard pleas for help.

Their plight is a sorry one, partly because it has also elicited reverse racism. White poverty is colour-blind, social perceptions and charity are not so indiscriminate.

In another struggle between the black-employed and the white poor in the city centre, a newspaper seller was accused by two white beggars of stealing the plastic milk containers they used to sit on to display his newspapers.

"It is apparent many blacks think there is no excuse for whites to beg in the light of their history of privileges and protected employment. Furthermore, charity is emerging as a scarce resource triggering conflict among beggars."

So, an itinerant black man in his worn blue overalls castigates a white beggar for "pretending" to be poor. "Get up man, I know you have money in your pocket," he said in fury.

On another occasion, a black man, obviously employed, confronted a white beggar and asked him why he did not do some work.

There has also been conflict between white and black beggars staking their respective claims to turf.
Plea to make room for poor

BY DIANA STREAK

THE people of Cape Town cannot close their eyes to the needs of the poor, says deputy director-general of community services Mr Carel du Preez of a court order preventing the Cape Provincial Administration and Milnerton Town Council from going ahead with the Du Noon informal settlement (2.4.4).

A joint press conference was cancelled on Friday because of "imminent legal proceedings."

Mr Du Preez said that by shutting out the poor "we make enemies of them, we invite conflict and we'll end up in a no-win situation."

"We should accommodate the realities of urbanisation in a balanced way by creating structures for constructive discussion."

"We should reach out to communities where poverty is the greatest enemy and resources are very limited."

The Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View, CRAVOT, which supported the court application, said it had been refused permission to hold an open meeting at Table View High School Hall because it was "too political."

Document

The meeting is to be held instead at the Leibrandt van Niekerk Hall on June 30.

The Du Noon site was earmarked as the most suitable for the resettlement of squatters in the area, particularly those from the Marconi Beam site near the Milnerton Racecourse.

According to a document produced for the Milnerton Municipality by the Planning Partnership in 1991, the council decided that the Marconi Beam site could not be considered a possible site because of its value.
THE POOR

**Starting small**

The **guru** of people’s banking, Muhammad Yunus, flew back to his native Bangladesh last Sunday having spent 10 days in SA promoting the idea of credit-assisted self-employment—a cause for which he is internationally renowned.

A kind of capitalism from below, it is a strategy for economic self-reliance that has achieved great success in Bangladesh and is now copied in 65 mainly developing countries. The vehicle for this success has been the rural Grameen Bank, founded by Yunus over 10 years ago. Grameen offers credit services to the landless poor—those who have no collateral and therefore no access to commercial bank loans.

He argues that credit should be treated as a human right: “We talk of the right to food, shelter and so on. But how do you implement these rights?” Credit can translate that resource into tangible things and produce an income floor. If that can be done, the right to food and so on will immediately be estab-

---

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**FM 16/7/93 (241)**

**Inked**

“It begins with slight disbelief, that maybe there’s a trick involved,” says Yunus of his meetings with SA commercial bankers, economists and activists, who wanted to know in great detail how Grameen works.

He defines development as “changing the lives of the bottom 50%.” Experience, he adds, shows that “trickle down” theories do not deliver.

Rejecting what he calls the textbook approach to banking, Yunus believes that “banking should be for everybody. You have to design a mechanism by which this can be done. Credit is like getting a rope into the hole and if you work hard it enables you to get out of the hole.”

Prof Yunus (53) taught at Chittagong University before being drawn into the need for finding credit facilities for the very poor.

Poor people, he says, need small amounts of money to change their lives. In 1976, with his own money, he tried out a scheme in a village next to the university. Happily it worked, and he expanded it in an attempt “to convince conventional bankers that they did not need collateral.” They remained unconvinced.

Hence his decision to set up a separate bank altogether concerned with only the poor. Government was loathe to give its permission and the legal framework, but after two years of lobbying Grameen eventually

---

became a bank in 1983 by a special Act of parliament. This does not make the usual requirements as to capital loan ratios necessary “because we are not working with depositors’ money, it’s almost equity banking.”

“Today it is a pretty large bank. It works in 32 000 villages (50%) in Bangladesh, serving 1.6m borrowers. About 93% are women who have gradually improved their lives as a result of small loans. It has an excellent repayment rate of over 98%—which seems not unconnected with the fact that 92% of the clientele are women.”

“We introduced housing loans in 1984 in addition to the tiny loans aimed at income-generating activity. Everybody predicted the end of Grameen Bank, because these were bigger loans and long-term. But they were surprised. People continued to pay back. We have so far given 180 000 housing loans, which grow by 10 000 a month. We have now set up a financial system which lends money to the poor for things they know how to do.”

The bank not only works for the poor, it is also owned by them. Any Grameen borrower can buy shares (at $2.50), which entitles the borrower to vote and choose the board.

The average loan is about $80, paid back in weekly installments within a year. Housing loans are generally paid back in 10 years in weekly installments. A typical housing loan is $300, which builds a tin-roof house with four concrete pillars and a sanitary latrine.

“Where people are living in shacks, in a monsoon country, this makes a tremendous difference and increases productivity.”

An essential feature of Grameen loans is that they are made to groups of five people. Each member must agree to the loan and understand the loan process. These groups offer support to their members and constantly monitor repayments. Everybody is open and that “keeps us very clean and fair.”

Grameen does charge interest (which to its Islamic Bank critics is explained as more of a service charge than usury, which is banned under Islam). The rate is 20% (compared to 15% charged by the commercial banks) for its income-generating projects, and 8% for housing loans.

The project includes two types of savings—the group savings fund and an emergency insurance fund—which appear related to the high loan repayment rate.

International funding has helped. The first loan, $3.4m, came from the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), in 1982. Since then it has borrowed $118m from Ifad and Scandinavian development agencies.

Research has found that over a 10-year period, nearly half of Grameen families have lifted themselves above the poverty line, with a quarter close to doing so. The rest either had no male member of the family or a chronically diseased member.

In SA, he suggests, local banks should create a special project, using a small fund out of their profits as a social service. He proposed to the Development Bank that it open a separate window akin to the World Bank, which charges market rates to First-World borrowers but only 1% to a country like Bangladesh.

He was impressed by programmes similar to Grameen’s that have started here—such as that of his hosts, the Women’s Development Bank (run by Zanele Mbeki, wife of the ANC’s Thabo Mbeki), the Group Credit Company in Cape Town and the Small Enterprise Foundation in Tzaneen.
Hungry blacks, whites in one queue
‘First tackle South poverty’

MUCH of Africa is in the process of one form of transition or another. In order for both the transition to multi-party systems and transition to market orientated economies to succeed, economic justice has to be attended to.

This is the view of Professor Bas de Gaay Fortman of the World Council of Churches.

"Market economies may be efficient in establishing mechanisms to deliver the goods, but they do not possess inherent corrective mechanisms towards social justice," Fortman said.

"In countries where there was progress in the direction of social justice, it was as a result of social struggle and collective action.

"Fortman says while socio-economic inequality will always be with us in one form or another, it threatens the process of reconciliation and cause major disintegration, other factors must also co-exist.

"One of these is the overlapping of socio-economic class, distinctions with ethnic or religious division."

In the context of Southern Africa, this means that the gap between black and white must be seen to be narrowing.

A second factor is absolute poverty. To prevent disintegration, those at the bottom of the income scale must have some sense that progress is being made to their benefit.

Fortman mentions that mechanisms to achieve economic justice have to be international in character.

"It is a real shame to the North that there is still a net annual flow of money from South to North (around 50 billion US dollars)."

He recommends producer action in the South together with consumer action in the North to redress this injustice.

"An example of the latter is the 'Max Havelaar' action of the non-governmental organisations in the Netherlands where only those brands of coffee get the Max Havelaar stamp that can show that a fair price has been paid to the rural producers (in the South)"
Help those shivering as you snuggle up
Urgent call to invest in future

LINDA ENSOR

CITY TOWN — An urgent call for business to forgo expectations of short-term returns and to invest in the reconstruction and development of the country was made by Liberty Life vice-chairman Dorian Wharton-Hood at the annual conference of the SA Property Owners' Association on Friday.

"We must forget the idea that the criteria for investment should only be optimum, immediate, direct return. If we do not forgo the expectation of short-term gain in favour of potential long-term returns, in a few years we shall no longer be able to expect any returns at all," he said.

SA's impoverished communities could not rely exclusively on the political system for their welfare and progress. While creating wealth, business also had a crucial role in redistributing that wealth, particularly by redistributing opportunities.

Wharton-Hood urged business to adopt share option schemes to enable employees to become shareholders and to support affirmative action programmes.

"Only when we have fulfilled these obligations to help the disadvantaged help themselves do we have any legitimate right to insist on our rights to a free market, little government interference, low taxation, freedom of exchange to unbundle our corporations as and when we see fit," Wharton-Hood said.

SABC chairman and Idasa policy director Van Zyl Slabbert said the forces in SA seeking the centre in the areas of stability, growth, redistribution and legitimacy outweighed those fleeing from the centre, giving cause for optimism.

However, there remained a threat of violence and militancy on the outer flanks, which made negotiation with the right wing urgently necessary. There could be no prospect of holding elections unless ways were found to marginalise violence.
Health development

The progressive primary health sector development is a priority of the Department of Health, which is now the Ministry of Health. This department is responsible for improving the health of the population. The Government of Prime Minister John Major has committed to improving the health of the poor and to reducing the number of deaths and illnesses.

The TB project aims to fight tuberculosis, the leading cause of death in the world. The World Health Organization estimates that 8.5 million people are infected with TB, and 1.7 million die of the disease each year. The project is supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which provides funding for TB control programs in the countries where the disease is most prevalent.

TB is one of the world's biggest killers. It costs the lives of millions of people every year. The project aims to reduce the burden of TB by providing early diagnosis, treatment, and care to those affected.

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with local communities and NGOs. The government has made a commitment to allocate funds for the project, and private sector partners are also involved in providing support.

In summary, the TB project is a priority for the Government of the country, and it aims to reduce the burden of the disease by providing early diagnosis, treatment, and care to those affected. The project is supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and it is implemented by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with local communities and NGOs.
Access to legal help for deprived people

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

A NEW BILL It provides for law graduates to work among the poor:

OOR people and those in squatter communities will have greater access to lawyers when a Bill which has been tabled in Parliament becomes law later this year.

The Attorneys Amendment Bill also provides for a major incentive for law graduates to work in deprived areas and among poor communities, because of high legal fees, have no access to legal help.

Law clinics and community legal work have traditionally never been regarded as adequate training for lawyers and were never a criterion for qualification as attorneys.

The new Bill provides for entry to the Bar after a period of this "community service" and is aimed at easing the problems of law school graduates who cannot find jobs.

When it is enacted, law graduates could, for example, work for two years in squatter communities or poorer areas of any black township, after which they would qualify as lawyers.

They will have to work in these communities full-time. There are presently more law school graduates each year than can be absorbed by the legal profession. The provisions of the Bill are that law graduates could become lawyers once:

• They complete a training programme of at least four months and do articles or community service for at least a year;
• They serve articles for a year and then community service for a year;
• They do community service for two years, and
• They gain five years' experience in an "appropriate" legal practice.

A memorandum to the Bill explains that, once it becomes law, it would ensure that "vast numbers of persons who appear in court daily will have the benefit of legal representation."
Inflation is on the uptrend, according to the latest reading from the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut’s (AHI) Inflation barometer.

The barometer registered its first uptick in almost two and a half years in the second quarter, with a reading of 11 percent — up from 10.9 percent in the first quarter.

As the barometer is a leading indicator of underlying inflation, this suggests 11 percent as a reasonable expectation of inflation over the next 6 to 12 months.

April’s figure, however, is likely to be over 12 percent, says chief economist Nick Barnardt.

He attributes the higher reading to the inflationary impact of a surge in government spending, a high fiscal deficit, balance of payments (BoP) difficulties and exchange rate depreciation.

“If improved fiscal and BoP data emerge in coming months, inflationary pressures could subside quite perceptibly, bringing a return to single-digit CPI inflation in the course of 1994.”

Barnardt says that despite a huge outflow of net foreign reserves and a ballooning fiscal deficit, official lending rates were not increased, but were in fact reduced, and the exchange rate was allowed to absorb part of the pressure.

“This is in line with international practice when a domestic recession is in sway, as embo-

The AHI’s inflation barometer reading for the second quarter of 1993.

...ed by M3 growth falling below the official guideline range.”

But real interest rates are still high in relation to the depressed economic conditions, he says.

Consequently, as soon as the net foreign reserves begin recovering and the fiscal deficit shows signs of subsiding, interest rate levels can be expected to fall.

Bank rate

Given this scenario, the bank rate could be cut by one percent around September.

“If inflation falls back into single digits during 1994, a further bank rate cut could occur around the middle of next year.”

This would bring prime rate to 14.25 percent, probably representing the nadir of the declining phase which began early in 1991.

“After this, interest rates will probably remain flat for some time, possibly followed by the commencement of a renewed upward phase during 1995.”

Barnardt warns that the major risk factors are a sharp appreciation in the US dollar and a renewed upsurge in domestic violence around the 1994 SA election.

“This could change the entire picture and result in severe short-term capital outflows on the BoP, which will exert upward pressure on money market interest rates and put a floor under any further decline in official lending rates.”

The AHI notes that South Africa’s consumer price index (CPI) has been on a rollercoaster ride in recent months and years, as has the relationship between the CPI and producer price index (PPI) inflation rates. After a fall in the CPI to 13 percent in mid-1990, the rate shot up to above 16 percent in 1991 in response to fuel price increases, soaring food prices and VAT. At the same time, the PPI rate dropped towards single digits.

Late in 1992 and early 1993 the CPI rate fell sharply to 9 percent on the back of lower housing costs, the favourable response of food inflation to improved rainfall, and the fading effect of VAT, almost eliminating the CPI/PPI gap of the preceding year.

April’s inflation figure, however, could come in close to 12 percent, given increased education costs, fuel prices and VAT. This would imply a renewed widening of the CPI/PPI inflation gap.
Rise in April inflation may be muted

THE WEEK AHEAD

By Simon Wilson
Low pressure

March producer inflation figures, released by Central Statistical Service, show a surprisingly small rise in import prices. The import component of the production price index rose only 5.6% over the 12 months to March, or 0.3% in the month, at a time when the trade-weighted rand depreciated by a 12-month 8.5% and a monthly 2.5%.

This was expected to be reflected in figures for the manufacturing sector, which relies heavily on imported inputs. But prices rose only 5.3% year-on-year and 0.7% in the month. A breakdown shows components with a large weighting rose at a modest rate.

- Nonelectrical machinery (6.2% year-on-year), and
- Electrical machinery (5.3%)

Only transport equipment rose sharply (10.6%), especially the sub-component motor vehicles, parts & accessories (10.7%).

In the months ahead, the index will also feel the effect of higher international oil prices. Over 12 months, the futures price for the benchmark Brent Crude rose about 14.5% to US$19.53 a barrel, on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Presumably the oil received at SA ports in March was purchased earlier at forward prices. So the March figure could be reflecting the oil prices of January, for instance, when Brent was at $17.12 a barrel.

Locally produced commodities grew by 8.5% over 12 months (0.2% February-March), down from 9% in February. This was largely thanks to declines in the month in the stem agriculture food, which dropped 1.3% in the month to a year-on-year increase of 14.4%.

There were falls in the indices for
- Grain (0.3%),
- Meat (0.8%),
- Vegetables & dried beans (0.1%), and
- Fruit (24.9%)

The index for the stem food manufacturing grew only 0.1% in the month to a year-on-year 9.6%.

The overall index rose 8% annually (0.2% in the month), from 8.3% in February.
By Zingisa Mkhuma

Food prices apparently have not increased as much as expected following the rise in value-added tax from 10 to 14 percent on April 7.

Prices were slightly up from March at two of the four supermarkets surveyed in our April Consumer Basket of 16 listed items — and surprisingly had dropped at the other two.

The price of the items went up by only 26c (0.26 percent) at the Eloff Street branch of OK Bazaars, from R92.82 in March to R93.08, and by 86c (1.1 percent) at Pick n Pay West Street, from R88.63 to R88.90 in April.

The total cost of the goods at Spar and Checkers dropped by R4.41 and R5.39, respectively. Checkers advertised more specials than the other supermarkets.

The stores claim credit for the low prices and attribute them to decisions taken to absorb the 4 percent VAT increase.

But Econometricx director Tony Twine said the lower food prices — at the time the survey was taken on April 23 — could be the result of the big retailers introducing specials at month-end, when most people are paid.

Twine said the real answer could not be provided by comparing these figures with those of the Central Statistical Services for supermarket food inflation. The figures will be available after the end of the month.

A report in The Star on Tuesday incorrectly stated that an SAP statement on a meeting between Western Transvaal farmers and security forces on Monday was issued by Major-General J P Nienaber, and Wehrmann merely faxed the statement on his behalf. The Star regrets the error.
Producer prices stabilise

By Sven Lunsche

The monthly increase in overall prices can be attributed in part to more expensive imported commodities, which, as a result of the weaker rand, rose by 1.6 percent in March.

For the year to March, however, the PPI for imported commodities still showed only a modest rise of 5.6 percent (February: 5.4 percent).

Locally produced goods have risen by 8.3 percent in the 12 months to March (nine percent) and by 0.7 percent year on year.

The rise in VAT from 10 to 14 percent and particularly the hike in fuel levies will lift producer prices in April, with an inevitable ripple effect.

A first indication of the tax increases on prices will be provided next week.

Central Statistical Services (CSS) said on Friday that the producer price index (PPI) rose by eight percent in March, compared with the same month last year. In February, the PPI showed a 8.3 percent year-on-year increase.

On a monthly basis — between February and March this year — producer prices were up by one percent, despite a 1.3 percent decline in agricultural food prices, which was led by a 25 percent slump in the cost of fruit.

Electricity costs eased by 1.8 percent in March.
Institutions miss boat as golds run on the JSE

By JULIE WALKER

The JSE had one of its best days since 1997 on Friday as the gold price continued to rise.

Gold peaked on Thursday at $399.50 an ounce before retreating. The second London fixing on Friday was $393.50 — more than $10 up on the week.

A London trader said “Volatility is the outlook.” He said trade had been thin as investors waited to see whether gold’s bull run would end in tears.

The JSE All-Gold index hit a peak of 1,668 points on Friday, 14% up on the week and more than double the November low.

Stockbrokers reported interest from abroad, especially New York. Opinion was that SA institutions — for long bearish about gold shares — had missed the boat.

A dealer said, “They want to buy when the market comes off a bit, but it’s never for long enough and there aren’t the sellers.”

Another reported strong interest from private clients, but no rash of roofers.

“It’s not like 1997 when all three telephones rang all day long,” he said.

Foreigners’ favourite Vaal Reefs jumped from R28 a share to R34 on the week, R16 of the gain coming on Friday. Other big movers were Impala up R25 at R525, Gold Fields of SA R16 and Anglo American R11 to R137 — all year’s highs.

Many tickers stocks scored big percentage increases, although tripling in absolute terms. Gazgold put on 5c, or 3.8%, to R1.80 in spite of the theft of a bakkie containing 2kg of its gold near Pretoria. Batting Joel gained 35c to 235c after announcing a possible merger with thriving Beatrix. Loewer Doornfontein gained 50c to 245c — it was 45c in January.

Golds pulled platinum shares up in spite of little change in the metal price. Rusutsu put on 50c to R83 — there was a bear sale at R65 — and Impala and PPL that edged higher.

De Beers added R2.25 to R13.

The financial rank behaved unpredictably, swinging by 18c a day. Technically, it should have appreciated in the light of foreign demand and rising share prices. It closed at 460c to the dollar.

— Weaker than last Monday.

The World Gold Council publication, Gold Demand Trends reported that demand for gold was 632 tons in the first quarter of 1993 — 24% greater than the 1992 figure.

Reuter reports that Hungarian-born billionaire George Soros said he would stay in gold for at least six months. But he warned that the price could be rising too fast.

Peak

“I think the trend is upward, but perhaps it’s going up too quickly,” Mr Soros told French radio station Europe 1.

“Could start to attract the interest of the authorities, who would step in to brake it.”

If too many speculators piled into gold, the price would correct itself — “but I’ll stay invested at least six months in gold.”

Gold has risen steadily since early March on the back of record world buying and peaking output.

It took off at the end of April after news that Mr Soros had bought about 10% of leading producer Newmont Mining Corporation from Sir James Goldsmith.

Mr Soros said Asia was the main new source of demand for gold. Chinese investors in particular were worried about inflation, he said.

But the gold market was wrong if it expected a jump in global inflation — recession was the problem. Mr Soros said the Bundesbank should have the courage to cut short-term rates to 3% or 5%.

— See Page 6

Belt-tightening time

PEOPLE are eating less as the recession gobbles up their disposable income.

Food sales have dropped by more than 20% in real terms since 1991. They fell 19% in the past few months alone.

“The period since January has been the worst for food sales across the board,” says Econometrix economist Tony Twene.

“Since the recession, the pressure on disposable income of families is greater than in the past. Jobs are lost at an accelerated pace, people are faced with little or no disposable income.”

Food sales have fallen at a greater rate than other retail goods. Mr Twene suggests that this shows the greatest squeeze is being felt by those at the bottom of the income scale.

“Families with enough money to spend on goods other than food have not cut their spending as much.”

However, Mr Twene says the figures are distorted because more families have switched their purchases from the traditional retailers to informal dealers.

He says that buying down — for instance, eating potatoes instead of meat — will be reflected in a fall in the value of food sold.

— See Page 6

Pick up our March issue of "Talk of the Town" and be prepared to be entertained. Our team of experts have researched and selected the best events and activities for you. Don't miss out on the fun!"
PPI rises by 0.2% for March

By AUDREY D'ANGELO
Business Editor

The producer price index (PPI) rose only 0.2% between February and March after the shock 1.2% rise between January and February. Figures released by the Central Statistical Service yesterday show the year on year rise was 8%, slightly below the 8.3% rise in February.

The index for locally produced goods rose by 8.5% year on year compared with 9% in February. But the index for imported goods edged up to 5.6% year on year compared with 8.4% in February. The month on month rise was 0.5% compared with 0.3% in February, reflecting the weakening of the rand against the dollar.

Economists said these figures were encouraging, and the PPI was likely to stay below 10% for the rest of this year. Nedbank Chief Economist Edward Osborn said it was "of interest that a bit of upward pressure is showing itself in the imported component, reflecting the fairly recent depreciation of the rand."

"This will continue to push through, putting upward pressure on the imported component for the rest of the year."

"But I think the domestic component is stable, mainly due to the good behaviour of wage rates."

Osborn said he expected the PPI to have a slow upward trend, to reach 9% towards the end of the year.

Old Mutual economist Johan Els said the figures were "surprisingly good" and showed inflationary pressures were still very low and the underlying trend was still downwards.

Although the index could jump in April he expected the PPI to remain below 10% this year. But Els warned that although imported inflation was subdued in March, exchange rates were very volatile.

Boland Bank chief economist Louis Fourse said it was good news that the weakening rand exchange rate had so little effect on the PPI. "The rand has weakened quite a bit and it is fortunate the effect is not spilling through into the PPI."

"The low increase in the domestic component is very encouraging. It is a positive indication for the consumer price index (CPI) for the next few months."

Fourse pointed out that PPI figures overseas had also remained low. "That is keeping the imported component of our PPI low, in line with what is happening in the countries supplying us."
Crude oil’s stain could stay on PPI

FOR the first time in almost a year oil has surfaced as a major factor swaying import prices, and the oil price may extend its influence to cover the producer price figures for March due at the end of this week.

Headline producer inflation surged to a five-month high of 8.3% in the year to February from 7.4% in January, propelled mainly by a jump in the import price component of the producer price index (PPI). After falling 0.4% in January import prices leapt 1.3% in February, and a rundown of the usual suspects brought in the weaker rand and higher oil prices.

However, the rand has an allib in the form of a real effective depreciation in January of only 0.1% from December. Putting the rap on the oil price, however, looks an open and shut case by comparison. The evidence is far less compelling nevertheless.

The main chart shows the correlation in the past three years between the price of North Sea Brent blend, the oil market's most traded crude, and the annual percentage change in the import PPI, which has a 19.5% weighting in the overall PPI basket. The chart shows a very strong positive relationship for one month's lag. Brent to the first quarter of February was at $21.40 a barrel, and the chart projects it to $21.90 a barrel by the end of March.

In the second half of the year, the oil market tightened again when the market recovered back an expected demand for higher production quotas, and accepted an extension of output limits agreed among oil producers the previous February.

Brent was boosted in the second half of the year to a high of $21.40 a barrel in mid-June last year, and set up the oil price movement that is now affecting the PPI.

Overproduction and cheating on quotas by oil producers, combined with slowing growth in the G-7 countries excluding the US, served to undermine oil prices in the second half of 1992. From its June high, Brent dived to a low of $15.00 seven months later, dragging the import PPI lower. It is Brent's current recovery from its January lows below $17 that seems to be prodding up import prices higher again.

As the chart inset shows, Brent rose $2.06 (or 12.5%) in the last nine trading days of January — just in time to hit a PPI survey in early February. The bad news is that Brent did not gain a month later, jumping $1.93 (or 11%) in the 12 days to March 4 — just in time for the March PPI survey. As the inset indicates, Brent has calmed down and should not be so prominently in PPI for much longer.

The twice-yearly Opec meetings have been the main movers of the oil price. An effective cut in Opec output at the February meeting boosted prices in the same month, Opec meets again in June.

A repeat in the March PPI of the oil effect that propped up the February estimate should be mitigated by a relatively high base for the March 1993 year-on-year percentage change The PPI rose 1.2% between February and March 1992 — the year's second-highest monthly increase.

Internationally, data due for release this week may determine whether the stalled US economic recovery is sustained by the result of freak winter weather in the first quarter or a sign of deeper structural problems. Key US indicators this week cover the activity of both industry and consumers.

On Thursday US retail sales for April are released. The 1% fall recorded in March sales was the biggest drop in 26 months, but was attributed to the US eastern seaboard's worst winter storms in a century keeping shoppers off the streets. For this theory to hold good, there will need to be an appreciable uptick in April sales arising from both last month's purchases and those postponed from March.

US industrial production data for April follow on Friday. Output failed to rise for the first time in five months when it stagnated flat in March, and the weather was again partly blamed. The lengthening in April's average manufacturing workweek released with the US unemployment rate on Friday is a good portent for the month's factory output, as it suggests overtime was required to fill orders US industry ran at 83.9% capacity in February — the first time it had topped 80% since 1990/91 — but the rate fell back to 79.9% in March. The US recovery will not really be rolling until there is less than 20% idle capacity.

Inflationary inputs to the British economy from the fall in sterling since last September may be shown to have peaked in the April UK producer price figures due today. Sterling had a good April, rallying to break up through the DM2.50 level near the month-end from its record late-February low of DM2.2129.

Headline UK producer inflation in the year to March was unchanged at February's 2.7%, but led a surge in March's annual imported inflation to a five-year high of 5.7%. In view of sterling's subsequent ascent, the March high may yet prove to have been the peak.
Consumers likely to spend less in '93

ALIDE DASNOIS Business Staff

Signs of an upturn in consumer spending early this year were more than neutralised by the March budget, says Stellenbosch Bureau for Economic Research director Dr Ockie Stuart.

He says consumer spending, which fell 2.6 percent last year, is likely to drop another 1 percent in real terms this year, as incomes shrunk further.

Retrenchments, a fall in real wages in 1993 and 1994, higher indirect taxes and "bracket creep" will continue to erode personal incomes, which have already fallen 1 percent a year in the 1980s and 2 percent a year in the 1990s.

Though interest rates are likely to continue falling, Dr Stuart does not expect this to have much effect on consumer spending this year.

He predicts that sales of durable goods and semi-durable goods (particularly clothing and footwear) will fall this year in real terms before rising slightly in 1994.

Food purchases will probably stabilise this year, sales of food, beverages and tobacco have already fallen by 4.9 percent in real terms in 1992 and there is probably not much scope for further reductions in household spending on food.

The restrictive March budget will tend to prolong the recession, says Dr Stuart. No impetus for an upturn can be expected from domestic demand, and any upswing will now have to be export-led.

He is optimistic about export prospects, though demand from industrialised countries for South Africa's traditional exports is likely to stay low, the rand will probably depreciate by more than 10 percent against the dollar this year and this will boost export earnings.

Next year, the situation should improve as the upswing in the world economy gets under way. Merchandise exports are expected to increase in value by 8.6 percent in 1993 and about 13 percent in 1994.

The relative importance of gold exports is likely to drop further, predicts Dr Stuart.
Getting to the polls on time

A comet is coming to Earth! In the next few months, a comet will pass very close to Earth, and astronomers are predicting a spectacular display of meteors. The comet will be visible for several weeks, and the peak of the meteor shower will occur on the night of July 10th.

Watch the comet on July 10th, and you'll see thousands of meteors streaking across the sky. The best place to see the comet will be from a location with little light pollution, such as a dark mountain or a remote beach. If you live in an urban area, you may need to use a telescope or binoculars to see the comet.

To prepare for the comet's arrival, you should start planning your viewing schedule now. You can find information about the comet and the local meteor showers on websites such as NASA and the American Meteor Society. Be sure to check the local weather forecast, as bad weather can ruin your viewing experience.

Make sure to have all the necessary equipment, such as a telescope or binoculars, and a comfortable place to sit. You may also want to bring snacks and drinks to stay hydrated throughout the night. With a bit of planning and preparation, you can enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event.

Remember to spread the word about the comet to your friends and family. This is a great opportunity to share your love of astronomy with others and inspire them to explore the night sky.
Mummy' comes to Phola Park

Phola Park squatter camp now has water. It will soon have a school — not as the result of development agencies but because of the work of Winnie Mandela.

Ferial Haffajee

There are no statues and tire jokes about Winnie Mandela in Phola Park to the thousands of residents of the East Rand squatter camp she is not a "Winnie" — she is "mummy." "Hai, hai, hai, when she comes here, she won't even go to speak to reporters," says Sally Peterson, Mandela's representative in the squatter camp — illustrating how throng of Phola Park people crowd around Mandela when she visits "two or three times a week.

She undoubtedly has a political agenda — being it was worth pushing her church of development consultants seems to have failed to do.

They are simple things, but to people who have few material possessions and no power, they appear the work of a saint. She has, for example, organized with Telkom to put in a few more telephone lines. Now the caravan Clare has a phone and so has the hardware store, which the residents' committee uses as a meeting place.

She pays half the store's telephone bill, "so that the community has a phone."

Her meetings with the Alberton Town Council have yielded trips to each of the camp's eight sectors, as well as 300 portable toilets.

Through her organization, the Co-ordinated Anti-Poverty Programme (Capp), she plans to start one school. Phola Park has no schools — and already talks are under way with the Department of Education and Training to supply teachers. And while school hasn't started, myriad k kicking stands stand sentinel in a muddy open space.

Mandela has won hearts and minds by responding to bread and butter needs — she's helped resolve a shooting in the community and bought a medium of peace to heated Phola Park.

The camp's 30,000 residents have been hard hit by war surrounding hostel dwellers and an internal struggle between the former residents' committee and a notorious so-called new which put an end to any development work.

Mandela started a new residents' association which represents the African National Congress. the ANC Youth League, the ANC Women's League, and the Pan African Congress to ensure development. But her absence of drama and that she is always around — there is no ready meal's visit to Phola Park this week, Peterson pointed to a shaming about Mandela being 'gone."

Peterson runs the Phola Park branch of Capp from a house in Ziphezi but on the borders of the camp. The organization's head office is in Germiston and Mandela is its director, but beyond that Capp is a bit of a mystery. Its attorneys, Werner Kerssenberg, who work, said "We are not at liberty to discuss any matters at this stage."

Reports of large international funders for Capp appeared in the sky, but the Independent Development Trust is considering working with Capp. The IDT's policy is hush-hush — whether it's for developing Phola Park.

"Capp clearly now has an important role," said IDT consultant Mike Morris.

"And if it emerges that the present structure has a high level of participation, we will work with them."

A Capp representative said they "often" met international delegations, but had not yet secured funds.

By investing a little money and time, Mandela has won the uncontainable support of residents of the Phola Park residents. And all indications are that the Phola Park programme is one that takes effect and is spreading across the East Rand, stretching as far as Bafatana near Delville.

Last those who support her, Winnie Mandela clearly intends to phola her — to stay here.

CRAVEN "A" MENTHOL FRESH TASTE

Available in 20's and 100's

Winnie Mandela appeals against kidnap

Winnie Mandela's appeal against a five-year jail sentence for kidnapping began in the Appellate Division in Bloemfontein this week with none of the drama of her Johannesburg appearance.

She did not attend court, although it was packed and police maintained a high profile.

The state will ask for a full bench of five judges to confirm her conviction on kidnapping and to also find her guilty on four counts of assault.

Mulan's plea will focus on the argument that there is insufficient evidence to support the state's case.

He reiterated his controversial argument that Mandela could reasonably have assumed that there was homosexual activity at the Methodist church service of Paul Verryn, where the youths were being held.

He added that the trial judge had erred by not calling Verryn to give evidence.

Appealing against her are her co-accused, Koliswa Fatari and John Morgan.
Govt is blamed for high infant mortality

GOVERNMENT was impeding hunger relief and was directly responsible for the growing infant mortality rate, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said yesterday.

She said government was playing "political games" with relief funding, and getting in the way of other organisations that were trying to assist starving people.

Perlman said in some areas infant mortality had jumped by up to twice their mid-1990s levels as a direct result of government interference.

For instance, it was preventing relief organisations operating in areas where state poverty aid was functioning, to prevent "unnecessary duplication".

However, the state's efforts were inadequate and often carried out by officials who had no interest in their tasks, other than safeguarding their jobs. As a result, she said, aid was reaching only a selected group - specifically those who were already ill from malnutrition instead of reaching families before their health was destroyed by hunger.

"Where government assistance was available, it usually came with "unacceptable conditions". For example, homeland governments may be allowed direct control over funds administered by aid organisations.

"Under the pretext of not duplicating services, or of people not looking after the money available, elaborate structures were set up," Perlman said. "This has led to a huge deterioration in services."

Perlman said R50m was needed to fund present feeding schemes, excluding Operation Hunger's various self-help programmes.

She estimated the number of families living under the bread line at 80% of the population.

Perlman said the latest Budget would make the situation worse, as any relief from the extension of VAT exemptions would be negated by a rise in the fuel price.

Operation Hunger would launch Gold Rush 14 at the Rand Easter Show on April 10, with one of the biggest fireworks displays yet seen in SA. Perlman said the pyrotechnic display would take place on three different nights, after the concerts by British group Duran Duran.

Police eyes in the sky are here to stay

RESIDENTS on the Reef will have to get used to police helicopters circling suburban areas if they want a relatively crime-free society. Witwatersrand...
Hunger needs R60 million for this year • Gazankulu leader dies

More kids die from hunger

By Ruth Bhengu

OPERATION Hunger is alarmed at the rapidly increasing number of children under five years who are ill because of starvation.

Executive director of Operation Hunger Mrs Ina Perlman told journalists yesterday that the biggest cause of infant deaths in the country was malnutrition and starvation.

The children, from urban and rural areas, whose parents had sought help from her organisation, needed not only food but medical attention as well.

"We are terribly worried about the dramatic deterioration of children's health countrywide. The reports we are receiving from our regional directors are cause for concern," she said.

South Africa needed a massive fam-

me prevention programme to help the increasing number of people who could no longer afford food, she said.

According to Perlman, when Operation Hunger was started in 1980, 55 percent of all black deaths were children under five years of age, compared to 7 percent among whites.

"By 1986, when we were feeding a million children, the number of deaths had dropped to 26 percent. Now that figure has shot up to 40 percent," she said, adding that it was a disgrace.

"The situation is critical as compared to that of 1992 and is becoming worse by the day with a 40 percent increase in clinically diagnosable malnutrition," said regional director of the Orange Free State, Judith Mokhetle.

Statistics of child deaths from one hospital are at 45.7 percent, the main cause being gastro-enteritis, malnutrition, TB, measles and upper respiratory diseases," she said.

The number of people needing food was increasing at a shocking rate and Operation Hunger was finding it almost impossible to cope.

Perlman said her organisation needed at least R60 million this year to feed people who are starving all over the country. She said the Government had given her organisation only R10 million, instead of the R27 million they had asked for.
Government must regulate prices, demand squatters

Soweto 5/10/92

ESCALATING COSTS Food prices have soared by 30 percent in just a year.

By Joe Mdhlela
Consumer Reporter

QUATTERS DO NOT UNDERSTAND a rise in food price inflation in academic terms. They are a living experience of what abject poverty is all about.

Mrs Shirley Molepo of Mandela Squatter Camp in Kallehong described that for her the 30.4 percent food price increase failed to get to the heart of the matter.

"To me that is meaningless. That is how white people relate to increases. They use percentages, something that most of us are not familiar with. For me, I know that a 25lb bag of mealie-meat I used to pay R18 for, now costs R22.

"It's diabolical what the white man does. Three months ago the price was R18, and now this big increase to R22."

Her neighbour, Ms Nelly Radebe, also joined in the conversation.

"What this sister is saying is true. The prices have gone up and we can no longer cope. We survive because of good neighbourliness. If I don't have mealie-meat I share hers. Similarly I help her if she runs out of mealie-meal.

School-going age

"We share if one of us runs out of either money or food. That is how black people live," Ms Radebe said.

Ms Radebe (25) has three children, one of whom is of school-going age. But little Wilfred (7) has neither been to a pre-school or a school.

"He should have been to school but this has not happened. We do not have money to take him to school."

However, Ms Radebe is hoping that her employer will intervene and help take "my little Wilfred" to school next year.

Her husband Themba is unemployed after being retrenched a year ago.

"It is tough, I only earn very little and have to support my children and my unemployed husband.

"He was good to me. I cannot just be funny and not support him. He used to give me money when he had a job," she said.

"With all these increases in food prices we cannot survive."

Shirley (31) who trekked to the Mandela Squatter Camp from the Crossroad camp two years ago at the height of inter-fractional skirmishes has a two-year-old child.

She complained that with her husband's wages of R160, it was barely possible to eke out a decent existence.

"We live from hand to mouth," she said.

She blamed the Government for the high price increases.

"Why, the Government has the power to cut down the prices. They would be reducing the prices if whites were affected. Now, because whites earn a lot of money, the Government is doing nothing to help the poor people."

She said even though they were not paying rent, the R160 her husband was earning was not enough.

"We hardly go to town to buy groceries," she said.

"What would be the point of going to town to buy cheap items when you are faced with high taxi fares?" she asked.

That is how Shirley and Nelly relate to the food price inflation which has rocketed to its highest point in more than 10 years.

The Central Statistical Services reported this week that food price increases have hit the 30.4 percent mark during the past 12 months, with vegetables prices rising by a staggering 88.7 percent.

Business leaders, including Mr Raymond Ackerman, this week reiterated that basic foodstuffs should be zero-rated from Value Added Tax, a view that was not shared by Finance Minister Derek Keys.

Mr Keys said he did not see how zero-rating would bring about the reduction of food prices.

However, a spokesman for Co-ordinating Committee on VAT Dr Bernie Fanaroff, warned that the Government needed to be wary of the anger that could be unleashed by disgruntled consumers.

In their simple ways, to the women who are the hardest hit.

Their basic concern was that the Government should provide more jobs so that they would be able to afford to live.
Mrs Nelly Radebe and her children Glen, Given and Wilfred.
As the recession bites deeper, more and more white families are struggling to feed their children and are forced to look to feeding schemes for help.

By PAT SIDLEY

BLOUNT PRETORIUS is the principal of Langtang Technical High School in some places of Johannesburg where many white families have fallen below the breadline. Like other educators in once-prosperous schools and communities, he feels the strain of hunger among his pupils.

"We can no longer feed all the children," he says. "But we can help them to eat."

Many of the pupils come from homes where food is scarce. But their teachers say they are determined to continue their education. "They are very brave," says one teacher. "They go to school empty-handed, but they learn."

The school has opened a canteen where pupils can buy food at a reduced price. "We don't want to turn them away," says the principal. "We want them to stay in school and learn."

Many parents are also struggling to make ends meet. "We have to choose between buying food and paying for school fees," says one mother. "It's a difficult decision." But she adds, "I want my child to learn."
'Hunger threatens lives of millions'

MORE than 4-million people in SA were completely destitute and facing life-threatening malnutrition, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said yesterday.

Speaking in Durban, Perlman said recent figures released by the Drought Co-ordinating Committee were staggering.

About 17-million South Africans were living in extreme poverty.

While the National Health Department said 9-million of these were too poor to eat properly, Operation Hunger estimated the figure to be nearly 12-million.

"Of those, 4-million plus must be classified as the ultra-poor, the completely destitute, whose children in particular are in a hunger situation that is life threatening," she said.

Only about 10% of malnourished people died of starvation, the rest were killed by secondary infections which would not be dangerous illnesses in a well nourished person.

Worldwide, 35,000 children died of hunger and hunger-related diseases every day.

But many more battled against malnutrition, she said, and even if they reached adulthood, their nutritional deprivation left them unable to be educated and reduced their productivity and capacity to contribute to their communities.

Perlman also hit out at development experts who criticised Operation Hunger for responding to demand rather than to need and for creating dependency among communities.

"We do not obey the dictate of experts who would have us say, according to the law of 'need' feeding 'Come back when your child is below the third percentile'," said Perlman, adding that the phrase "prevention is better than cure" angled to malnutrition as well.

She also criticised the national nutrition development programme, with its policy of targeting only the most destitute, for failing far short of the real need.

The "famine prevention situation" would continue for another two years, and the future offered no instant solutions.

Despite the major changes expected, the next few years did not hold much hope for an improvement in the level of malnutrition, she said. Even with change, such as increases in the minimum wages of farm and domestic workers, job creation and land redistribution, there would not be an overnight turnabout.

It took at least five years for any community to turn itself around economically.
The emperor has stripped for the poor

BENETTON's boss has bared his bod in a bid to collect apparel for the needy. MANDY JEAN WOODS reports.

CLOTHING emperor Luciano Benetton has been caught without his clothes — by more than 150 daily newspapers and 100 magazines on four continents.

For in his newest — and of course, controversial — campaign for his family-owned company, Benetton, the recently elected Italian senator posed nude.

The 58-year-old Italian clothemaker's decorum in the full-frontal shot is saved by the words "I want my clothes back" superimposed across his body.

The ad is the first of two — the second to be published worldwide late next week — and in black and white only, unusual for Benetton.

It launches perhaps the most innovative of Benetton's advertising campaigns ever: to collect hundreds of thousands of garments from all over the world to pass on to the poor.

"Empty your closets. Be generous towards yourself and others. Give away the clothes you no longer wear to those who need them most," Benetton urges readers.

Benetton's Clothing Distribution Project will see 8,000 containers with 80,000 collection bags placed at all Benetton stores worldwide (including the 31 in South Africa) from February 2 to March 13 to collect the clothing.

It will then be channelled to Caritas centres in Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, Mexico, Switzerland, Turkey and to Red Cross/Red Crescent centres in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, France, India, South Africa, Switzerland and Turkey for distribution to the needy through local charity organisations.

In an exclusive interview, the outspoken Benetton said it should come as no surprise that he was ready to make Benetton conspicuous.

"Not for the love of scandal or provocation, but because if Benetton wants to assert its basic values through the precise behaviour and social actions, it is only right that I put myself on the front line, that I am the first to promote the cause we believe in," Benetton, he said, was perhaps the first company to institutionalise social responsibility through advertising campaigns which underlined the basic values of the Benetton identity as a business, multiplicity, tolerance, plurality and solidarity.

Initiative

"We are sure that people will understand that, for a definite social act, like our clothing redistribution project, I, both as businessman and speaking for Benetton, could not draw back and leave this testimonial to any other image.

"The more people talk about it, the more they will also talk about our initiative, and more clothes will be collected and redistributed," he said.

"I think it is marvellous to discover social objectives which are worth creating a scandal for, even if the real scandal is the millions of people who have no clothes to put on. With my deliberate nakedness, I wish to draw attention to the scandal that, in 1993, a part of mankind is still basically condemned to a nudity which offends every sense of humanity."
Feminisation of poverty, illness

By Justin Pearce

Women's health cannot be addressed without addressing women's empowerment, agreed speakers at the women's health session of a recent primary health care conference in Cape Town.

Dr William Pick of UCT's Department of Community Health reported on progress made by the Women's Wellness Initiative (WWI), a project set up to address health needs of women in the Griffiths Mxenge area of Khayelitsha.

The project takes what Pick described as a "developmental approach to health", involving not only addressing illness from a medical perspective, but also the social and economic conditions at the root of physical and mental ill health.

The WWI was established after a survey examined the economic and social oppression of women in Khayelitsha. Nearly all women said they would like to work outside the home and earn money. But of those who earned money, only a third had sole control over how their earnings were spent.

Women's lack of control over their own lives could be one reason for the ignorance surrounding specifically female health problems.

For example, more women knew about AIDS prevention than about Pap smear tests, which are essential to the prevention of cervical cancer.

The survey found gynaecological illness and especially infections were rife.

Pick noted a particular need for a women's health focus, otherwise female health would be ignored amid issues affecting women — such as the provision of child care.

He argued that women in recently-settled areas such as Khayelitsha endured not only race, class and gender oppression, but also "urban alienation", the upheaval in changing from a rural to an urban lifestyle.

A consequence of urbanisation was a change in the composition of family units, away from traditional father-centred units. About 40 percent of Khayelitsha households were headed by women.

Anthropologist Dr Mamphela Ramphele suggested that many women opted for single parenthood since it gave them more control over their lives than if they lived with men.

But households led by women tended to be economically disadvantaged in comparison to male-headed households, in line with an international trend that Pick described as "the feminisation of poverty".

As poverty was an indirect cause of ill health, a developmentally-based primary health care programme had to work towards increasing women's earning power.

The WWI has therefore made links with other organisations working to foster income generation in Khayelitsha. In this way women learn skills they can put to use in the township's informal business sector.

Ms Cheryl Carolus, head of the ANC's Department of Health and Social Welfare, linked women's education levels and their ability as caregivers.

With women almost totally responsible for child care, women's health awareness has implications for whole communities.

"Black women get the worst slice of the proverbial cake when it comes to education, and this has implications for the health of a community."

Carolus referred to research done in Alexandra township, which found children's health was closely related to their mothers' level of education.
Townships take pity on white tramps

By CECILE ANTONIE

DERELICT whites have taken up residence on the banks of the Vaal River, ironically under the FW de Klerk bridge.

They are kept alive by compassionate blacks from the nearby township.

Cathy and Peter Storm, along with five other unemployed, barely survive. They avoid seeking aid from the "place of refuge" as Peter is an alcoholic.

Two tattered tents serve as a "home". They survive by catching fish in the river and selling Christian cards. (241)

"I don't want to go to jail so I don't steal," says Peter.

Braising his fish over the coals, he states that God gave him supper for the night and his stomach can be "happy" for the evening. Of his life he says: "I've done my best, but something went horribly wrong."

Further down the river banks, just across from the luxurious Riviera Hotel, Albie and George have taken shelter. Most days they walk the streets aimlessly in search of work.

During the winter months of last year Rev John Mgicina from the New Ethiopian Church in Soweto, together with township shopowner John Mofokeng, funded a feeding scheme in the park in Vereeniging for the white homeless. Mgicina said: "We want to practise living in the New South Africa."
Famine disaster looms, says Operation Hunger

By Michael Sparks

The number of children dying of starvation could increase to unprecedented levels, Operation Hunger representatives said at a Johannesburg press conference yesterday.

The organisation's national director Ina Perlman said the emphasis needed to change from nutritional development — with one month food packs for one person costing R37 — to famine prevention. In the latter case a month's food for one person would cost R12.

Operation Hunger field workers' reports from around the country told of widespread crop failure caused by the drought, creating more people who would become dependent on food assistance to survive.

Perlman said an added burden on feeding agencies was returning exiles, whose financial grants from international organisations had largely dried up.

The large number of people without any food assistance was forcing relief organisations to change their approach from developing good nutrition to trying to keep people alive.
Horrendous' state of poverty in South Africa

Operation Hunger appeals to Government for more aid:

By Mzimasi Ngudle

OPERATION Hunger has appealed for more relief aid to avert a "horrendous norm of poverty and destitution throughout the country of which last year's drought was the last straw."

This is contained in the annual report released by executive director Mrs Ina Perlman in Johannesburg yesterday.

Operation Hunger has to feed over two million people throughout the country and all regional directors have painted a bleak picture for the current financial year following last year's drought, violence and dismal failure in government feeding schemes.

On waiting lists are more than 750 000 people in life-threatening situations who need urgent "famine prevention pro-
**Pickets are never much fun when you are the target.** Sit-ins are worse. Your space — and your privacy — are invaded, yet modern practice requires that you grin (or, slowly) and bear it.

Politicians may become used to this sort of thing but when it happened to us at the IDT, it cast a shadow over what the Trust is trying to do, namely, to work with the community in breaking the cycle of poverty in this country.

The demonstrations were mounted by two student organisations, Sasco and Pato, to lend weight to their call for "the disbandment of the IDT, as it is apparent that it has failed dismally on resolving the financial crisis engulfing tertiary institutions".

As our director of education, Professor Merlyn Mehle, a deeply dedicated educationist, reminded the students, the IDT was not established to resolve the financial crisis at universities and technikons. Its primary thrust is to alleviate the plight of the poorest of the poor in four major areas: housing, health, job creation and education.

The major focus in education by the IDT is on pre-school and primary and secondary schooling, where massive backlogs exist.

Close to R400 million has been allocated to these areas. To children at primary and secondary level, education is a right.

Tertiary education, while vital to the country, remains a privilege. However, because Mehle looks at education in an holistic way, he consulted a host of interested parties — including student organisations — on how the IDT could best serve the disadvantaged in this field.

Back came the answer: Establish a loan scheme to improve access to tertiary education by academically deserving and financially needy students.

**Catalyst**

Thus the IDT has done. The scheme is managed by an interim committee of the Tertiary Education Funds of South Africa on which a wide range of organisations serve.

At no time was the IDT seen as more than a catalyst in the matter, ready to help with loan funding but certainly not to shoulder the responsibility for what is a severe funding crisis. That is, for the Government and the universities and technikons to sort out.

As proof of its readiness to assist, the IDT has committed R80 million to the programme in three years.

In 1991, loans were made to 8 425 students at 17 universities and technikons, 56 percent of "historically black" institutions. Last year, 10 003 loans were made, 63 percent at "historically black" centres.

This year, over R30 million has been made available, and the "historically black" percentage has risen to 67 percent among a total of 26 universities.

Almost 100 percent of the students receiving loans at both the "liberal white universities" and the "historically black" institutions have been black.

In contrast to the students' demand for even more money, Professor Wiseman Nkuhlo, new chief executive of the IDT, expressed concern this week about the growing emphasis on loan funding for tertiary education. He believes that only in exceptional cases should students turn to loans.

"Otherwise," he says, "they will carry a terrible burden with them when they graduate.

"The Government must meet its obligations in terms of a subsidy formula, parents must make a contribution and the universities and technikons must reach an accord with students over their fees."

In truth, the IDT was made the scapegoat this week for a crisis not of its making. Four decades of apartheid and deep cuts in university subsidies, coupled with economic recession, are the major culprits.

Which is why, when the sit-ins were over, we dusted off our chairs, removed the posters from our walls, and went on with our jobs.

The scoreboard shows that the IDT has supported 508 projects so far. My colleague, housing director Ben van der Ross, points out that the tally is much greater if we count the projects within projects.

He's right, in that sense. For example, our massive R800 million capital subsidy scheme for serviced land is counted as one project, but in fact it is being implemented at 104 different sites around the country.

The same applies to the building of clinics and to educate facilities, not to mention classrooms and schools.

Looked at on that basis, the total is well over R1 000 — and mounting...
One in five lives in poverty

LONDON. — A fifth of the world's population lives in grinding poverty and the number could rise to 1.5 billion by 2000, says the British charity, ActionAid.

A report on world poverty trends by ActionAid painted a grim picture of a growing "global underclass" of people barely subsisting and vulnerable to disease and early death.

It said that 1.1 billion people of a world population of around 5.5 billion lived in "absolute poverty" — defined by the World Bank as living on $420 (R1 339) a year or less.

The problem was particularly acute in Latin America and Africa, it said.

The poverty figure could reach at least 1.5 billion by the end of the century unless there was a "massive global effort" to boost the economies of developing countries and ease the Third World debt burden, ActionAid said in its report.

Sub-Saharan Africa was said to have the bleakest prospects, with the number of poor expected to rocket from 184 million to 304 million on what the charity called optimistic economic growth forecasts.

ActionAid is Britain's fourth largest development charity and was founded 21 years ago. — Sapa-Reuters.
High demands on relief scheme

The spread of poverty and hunger was clearly illustrated by demands on government's poverty relief programme, economists said yesterday.

They were commenting on National Health and Population Development Department figures which showed nearly 3-million people had been targeted between April and December last year for aid from the national nutrition and social development programme.

Of the programme's R440m budget allocation for the current financial year, R288.5m had been allocated so far to non-governmental organisations, department director-general Koen Slabber said.

But, budget allocation fell far short of what was needed to meet demand, he said.

About 8-million people were without visible means of livelihood, he said. If the R440m was divided among them, each would receive R48 a year, "not enough to sustain life".

Of the allocations made so far, about R50m had been channelled to the TBVC states and the six homelands.

The amount actually spent from the allocations would be known only at the end of the financial year on March 31.

Slabber expected a similar amount to be budgeted for the programme in the 1993/94 financial year.

He said the department was generally satisfied that funds were being used wisely and effectively.
By Mathatha Tsedu

The African communal life style of extended families has always meant that no one could go hungry.

In fact, there is an African saying that hunger has no grave, which, as we all know now, is untrue as Somalis can bear testimony. As that lifestyle crumbled in urban townships, leading to many elderly people turning into vagrants and hobos who sleep on park benches, the rural areas always stood out as a saving grace.

Even work seekers who left their rural homes would eventually turn back home if things were not working out, knowing that no matter how low things have sunk, there would always be someone out there to lend a helping hand.

But as the economic situation of black people, in particular, goes deeper and deeper into depression, even the rural areas are losing that quality that made them special.

Deep in the rural areas of Venda, away from the madding crowd, children are being dumped in hospitals under false names by mothers who have no intention of ever returning.

Child abuse, which was unheard of in many rural settlements, has also reared its head. Social workers say this is also due to frustrations caused by unemployment and poverty.

Moved by this situation, a group of men, mainly church elders, started the Takalani Children’s Home at Sitole in the Nzehelele district.

Sitted in thorn tree bushveld, Takalani, which literally means “be happy”, provides a home for children who would otherwise be roaming the streets or wandering around in hospital wards without any hope of ever becoming anything in life.

Opened in 1988 with four children, including a three-month-old orphan whose mother had died after giving birth, the center serves as a referral for the nearby Sitole Hospital and Tsulilzim and Donald Fraser hospitals.

The center consists of six rondavels and a kitchen. It is run by a staff of 10, which includes two night watchmen, the director Mrs Mukondeleli Phaswana (32) and her assistant.

“Social workers who find cases of extreme need also refer them to us and thus, with our present register of 35 children, is way above our capacity of only 20 toddlers.

“The overstrained cash situation means the spectre of retrenchment hangs over staff members in this area where unemployment is higher than 50 percent,” Phaswana said.

Today its register includes children who are attending school at primary and secondary level. The cost of caring for these children is borne by the centre. That includes clothes, food and transport for those who need it.

“Dutch church donors have kept the Takalani home firm. Since its inception it has been the center of support. The cost of living, the change in the mood of the community, and the changing world have been a challenge, but the center has never been a center for children. The board secretary Mr Paul Tshindane said.

But the needs of the center are increasing by the day and directors have had to rely on local fund raising to keep the place going.

“In 1992 the center ran an overdraft of R20 000 which we are still trying to deal with,” Tshindane said.

For this year the center’s budget for running costs alone amounts to R325 000. Of that amount, R125 000 still has to be raised.

“On top of that the centre needs an additional R300 000 for expansion to handle the present enrolment as well as the many others who have had to be turned away because of overcrowding,” Tshindane said.

The children themselves look a happy lot, learning house chores in a non-sexist environment where all share in all duties.

The centre can never replace the parents who either dumped them or have died, but for many of the children it is a home from no home that cannot be matched by anything else.

It would be a pity if this institution, the only one of its kind in the region, was to close down because those who have the means will not save it.

Its closure will mean closing the book on the future of these children, for whom Takalani not only means joy, but is the only home they can call their own.

Director Mrs Mukondeleli Phaswana and Awelani Mukwevo, a seven-month-old boy whose mother died while giving birth to him and whose father is too old to look after him.

“Child abuse, which was unheard of in rural settlements, has also reared its head.”

Contact info

Those wishing to assist can contact Mrs Phaswana at telephone (01595) 30273 or Takalani Children’s Home, PO Box 226, Nzehelele, Venda.
Misery at end of trek of hope

FAVOURITE SPOT... unemployed Cornelius van Rooyen ponders the future

Picture: HORACE POTTER

By RYAN CREESWELL

In scenes reminiscent of John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath, destitute whites are leaving the hinterland and heading for the right-wing enclave of Richards Bay in search of a better life.

But their hopes are dashed almost on arrival. Jobs are scarce in and around the North Coast harbour town as they are on the Highveld, and the unemployed are ending up in a white squatter camp.

Situated in a bush clearing next to the Greenhill police station, the camp consists of 10 tents, two small caravans, a plastic table and a make-shift kitchen. About 30 people, including a number of children and babies, are living in the camp, which is served by a single tap. Some distance from the camp are a few outside toilets.

Kitty

Residents pay nothing to stay in the camp, but are expected to work on the farms by day. Some of them find employment - at best on a casual basis - they would have to put 25 percent of their earnings into the communal kitty, but so far, no one has had any luck.

Welfare and church workers are frequent visitors to the camp, bearing food parcels and clothing.

Resident Die van Wyk and a group of fellow citizens calling themselves the Richards Bay Special Workers' Association leased the land from the Richards Bay town council some months ago, when they became aware of the plight of the families.

Jobless find refuge in Natal camp

ACTING-town clerk Deon Rossouw rejected any suggestion that it was a white squatter camp, including the "squatters" were staying there legally.

"This land was leased to a local committee and this is just a transit camp where people stay while they look for work," he said.

But some of the residents have been there for several months and have run out of everything but hope. They are indignant that townsfolk have taken to calling them squatters.

"The real white squatters sleep in the bush at Palm Beach at night," said one.

Electrician Joe Herrens, 32, who lost his job in the middle of last year and moved to the coast from Durban in search of work, was one of the first to arrive. He hasn't worked since.

"But we have a good camp here. At first we had a few problems with troublemakers but we sorted them out," he said.

"Provided new arrivals agree to follow the rules, we let them stay. We can't turn people away. "If a person can't find work on the street, he needs somewhere to stay.

"Most of the residents are looking forward to the new homes, and we are sure that these will provide a better living for them than the present situation."
Assault on poverty at heart of city's Olympic blueprint

JOHN YELOD
Environment Reporter

AN "UNASHAMED" goal of Cape Town's bid to host the Olympic Games in 2004 is socio-economic development, says the co-chairman of the planning committee, Mr Raymond Ackerman.

Addressing a packed "green" breakfast for the business community, hosted by The Argus and Fairest Cape, Mr Ackerman said such development would be based on holistic environmental planning, taking the Cape's "extraordinary" natural environment into account.

The three cities vying to win the backing of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (Nocsa) must present their bids on December 17, said Mr Ackerman. The winner would be named on January 26.

Should Cape Town be awarded the South African bid, a full-time environmentalist would be appointed to a senior position on the bidding team.

He or she would establish an environmental forum to work closely with the "green" community to guide the bid, Mr Ackerman said.

One of the first products of such collaboration would be a Cape Town Olympic Environmental Charter.

"We're going to treat this as the greenest of green games — those are not just words, that's a promise," said Mr Ackerman.

He added that there had been "an enormous amount" of community support for the city's Olympic bid.

Those doubting the wisdom or the reality of South Africa being awarded the 2004 games should "just think back". He said.

"We're moving towards a totally new society that none of us thought possible three years ago."

The goal of hosting the Games could support South African society during the difficult years ahead.

"The Olympic Games is the sort of dream and objective that can unite our country more practically than the politicians can," he said.

Planning for Cape Town's bid had been based on the principle of sustainable development, an environment of caring and of social upliftment — including the eradication of poverty and the creation of housing.

"You can't just talk about the (natural) environment in isolation — you have to think of the human side."

Mr Ackerman said initial planning for the Games bid was being financed privately, but if the city became South Africa's official choice, all local authorities in the metropolitan area would be asked to contribute part of their normal capital expenditure.

"In essence, we'll spend money that would have been spent anyway — and possibly spent in the wrong way," he said.

Mr Ackerman said he wanted to dispel the myth that hosting the Olympic Games meant an automatic financial loss.

"All the games since Los Angeles have made money," he said.

President De Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela had expressed support for a South African Games bid. "They are right behind us."

The next Argus-Fairest Cape breakfast will be on November 25, when Dr Guy Preston of UCT's environmental evaluation unit, will speak on practical ways of conserving water and energy.
Relief on way for Atlantis

Staff Reporter

Relief is on the way for socio-economically depressed Atlantis, with a moratorium on arrears-related evictions, summonses and electricity and water disconnections.

That was the result of talks between the Western Cape Regional Services Council and Atlantis community organisations yesterday.

All arrears are to be considered frozen and negotiators have agreed to create a working group comprising community and RSC representatives to address the issue.

The moratorium is effective until January 31, according to a joint statement by the RSC and the ANC/Atlantis Residents’ Association after the meeting.

In a separate statement issued on behalf of the ANC, the ANC Youth League, Cosatu, the Communist Party, the Islamic Trust, the Islamic Society and the SA Democratic Teachers’ Union, ANC Atlantis information chief Gert Wubben said the breakthrough had been a long time coming.
DURBAN. — Seventeen million South Africans are living “within the international definition of extreme poverty”, says Operation Hunger executive director Mrs Ina Perlman.

More than four million could be classified as the ultra-poor, whose children were in danger of dying of hunger.

In a statement yesterday Mrs Perlman said Natal’s feeding programme alone had risen in nine months from 35 000 fed a day to 180 000. She said more than 600 new applications for participation in self-help programmes had been received this year.

Operation Hunger conflicted on this issue with development experts “who lay down rigidly the criterion of ‘proven, long-term, economic sustainability’, and tell us that many of our self-help programmes are continued aid in another guise’.

“We accept the partial validity of their accusations, but we also maintain that in the past and current situation in South Africa we have often had to look at second best.”

Mrs Perlman said the proof of the validity of this view was the number of vegetable-growing groups which, after a proven first success, had been able to get additional land and move from minimum survival to something approaching real economic sustainability. — Sapa
Atlantis needy turned away

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 400 Atlantis residents queuing for their welfare food coupons were turned away yesterday after being told abuse of the scheme had led to its cancellation.

The House of Representatives' intermediate emergency relief was cancelled after complaints that people not entitled to assistance had been given coupons.

Atlantis Democratic Party chairman Mr Geoff Leonard said the HoR had "kicked the community in the face" by not telling them of the cancellation.

Queues had formed outside the Atlantis Civic Centre since 5am yesterday and people were only told of the department's decision five hours later.

Another 400 people were to claim their coupons today at Atlantis's Rebeccas van Amsterdam Hall, he said.

"How many parents had told their kids before they went to school 'there will be some bread when you come home'?"

One woman told Mr Leonard she had borrowed flour at the weekend to bake bread, confident she could repay her neighbour when the money came.

The coupon system was established as immediate relief for people waiting for their welfare applications to be processed. Application forms were distributed by community organisations, local authorities and churches.

The HoR has denied in the past the system was being abused.

Holt director of social services Mr Schalk Broderick said the intermediate relief was cancelled because of reports from the community that some people not qualified to receive coupons had been given them.

The department had been "overwhelmed" by applications when the fund was established and it was suspended last week because of reports of "abuse and misuse", he said.

The system had been operating for about six weeks.

Local authorities were told of the cancellation, but given the time constraints it "probably wasn't possible" to tell everyone.

"Checks and balances" were being built into the scheme to prevent abuse in future, he said.

"We are not unsympathetic to their plight and will expedite the money as quickly as possible."

Mr Broderick expected it would take about two to three weeks for welfare to reach those denied their coupons yesterday.

He conceded there were "probably individuals" who had had their welfare approved in May and were still waiting for their first cheque.
Red Cross helps 15,000 families with relief aid

THE spiral of unrest-related violence remained a major threat to true reconciliation in SA, International Committee of the Red Cross in SA head Toni Pfanner said last week.

Pfanner said some 15,000 families and 19,000 individuals had been assisted through a Red Cross emergency relief programme for victims of unrest-related violence in 1992.

Most of the aid had been distributed in Natal, followed by the Reef and the eastern Cape/Border region where food, blankets and kitchen sets were donated to people whose houses had been burnt down or who had been forced to abandon their homes.

Families who lost a breadwinner were also provided with funeral expenses.

Pfanner said the persistent need for assistance for victims of unrest was a tragic indication of the human cost of violence.

"The Red Cross deplores the continued attacks on unarmed civilians, of whatever race or ethnic group. The spiral of violence, however its perpetrators are, remains a major threat to true reconciliation and peace."

"The Red Cross cannot resolve the political problems standing in the way of peace, but it hopes that its action can help to foster a practical attitude of peace and tolerance among all South Africans."

The Red Cross was the only organisation systematically providing assistance to township residents, squatters and hostel dwellers, and its first aid teams provided what was often the only emergency medical structure at rallies and funerals.

Pfanner said the Red Cross wished to encourage more people to learn first aid and to form local intervention groups to save lives when violence occurred.

The Red Cross had conducted unannounced visits since October 22 to over 50 police stations in the PWV, the Transvaal, Natal, the Cape, the Free State, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, KwaZulu and Transkei, to check on the treatment and conditions of detainees.

"Our visits, which have a purely humanitarian purpose, fulfill an important function in overseeing detainees' treatment and conditions, and in a wider sense, in contributing towards a lessening of tension in areas of unrest," Pfanner said.

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz
No quick fix for hunger and disease in rural areas

New South Africa faces old dilemma

**BY CYRIL MADLALA**

In the remote villages of Sokhuluhuneland, hopes and expectations are running high as April 27 draws closer.

Rose Mazibuko, director of the Hluleka Nutrition Project in the eastern Transvaal, said in a soft, clear voice, filled with faith, that the villagers' dreams of an escape from abject poverty might soon materialise.

One's heart went out to her and those who work and live in the many deprived rural communities where children die of hunger in a land of plenty.

Her quest is for tillable land, clean water, electricity and a share of the greenery that is all around on white farms.

They hope April 27 will deliver them from their misery.

But are the people in the pin-striped suits at the World Trade Centre listening?

If they are, rural communities are not aware, and the Kaiser Family Foundation recently assembled the media and health workers at a game lodge in the eastern Transvaal to learn a few truths about life in rural areas.

At Thabiswa Hospital in GaZankulu, non-immunised children are dying of preventable diseases. Some have diarrhoea because they have no access to clean water.

The thin legs and swollen tummies and heads mirror TV images from Somalia.

On a bitterly cold and wet day, principal Evelyn Mbisi does not have all her 177 pupils at the Mpisi Lower Primary School.

Normally, the seven classes that don't have rooms of their own meet in the shade of the trees to escape the searing heat. On rainy days like this, the pupils stay at home.

Not far away, at the Nase nursery school, 106 young boys and girls play on a bare cement floor.

The R20 per family raised by the community to build the school is not enough to buy any teaching aids, let alone toys.

The litany of suffering in rural areas is endless and bears mute testimony to the dismal state of health services.

This is in a land that has pioneered heart surgery. This is in a country to which a head of state recently flew to receive the best treatment at a Johannesburg clinic. And some South Africans would rather close their eyes to the reality.

In rural Lebowa, Gazankulu, northern Natal and Ciskei, the story is much the same.

Yet, as Mazibuko says, immense hope and expectation is everywhere.

Hope that when Nelson Mandela becomes president the days of poverty will be ended and the fruits of the country will be distributed equitably.

If only Mazibuko's villagers knew that for a long time to come, the new South Africa might as well be the old.
World must fight deep poverty

By Mzimkulu Malunga

One in every six people in the world sleeps hungry every night, says the World Bank. Be it the shantytowns of Latin America, rural parts of Africa or Asian slums, hunger still prevails, many people from living normal, healthy lives.

Two weeks ago, the world's poverty issue brought international figures together in Washington DC at a major conference held under the auspices of the World Bank to look into ways of tackling the problem.

Speakers included United Nations secretary-general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former United States president Mr Jimmy Carter and World Bank president Mr Lewis Preston.

Sustainable

In a lengthy interview published in World Bank News, the bank's vice-president for environmentally sustainable development, Mr Ismail Serageldin, who was also a speaker at the conference, said all international development agencies should work together to fight poverty.

"Clearly, hunger is not something we can resolve in a day, a week or even a year. "But the world should still be committed to its elimination," he argued.

Extreme poverty is found mainly in South Asia and sub-Saharan African countries, says Serageldin.

Though the poor as a percentage of the developing world's population appear to have declined from 36 to 20 percent over the past two decades, in actual terms the numbers of people living below the poverty line has not decreased as the world population has also increased, says Serageldin.

Policy reforms

He said the World Bank's own contribution in the fight against hunger and poverty was its support for policy reforms and scrapping of income tax on farmers as well as other players involved in food production in member countries.

"The bank also finances a large number of human resource based interventions and nutrition projects which have been very successful," Serageldin said.

To keep the issue of war on poverty alive, another conference will be held in Europe next year under the banner of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
WASHINGTON — Unicef says in its annual "State of the World's Children" that while some progress has been made in battling deadly diseases, one-fifth of the world's families still live in absolute poverty and are increasingly desperate.

The United Nations Children's Fund said "dramatic progress" had been made in recent years against some of the worst aspects of poverty, particularly against common diseases which were the primary killers of children.

It said in a report that immunization and oral rehydration therapy alone saved more than four-million children a year.

But unless action was taken, the numbers of absolute poverty would quadruple and in only 40 years the population of sub-Saharan Africa would almost triple from about 600 million to more than 1.6 billion.

Unicef said deaths from measles were down from 2.5 million a year in the early 1980s to about one-million in 1993. Deaths from diarrhoeal disease have fallen to less than three-million from more than four-million in the same period.

It said whooping cough deaths had dropped from 700,000 to 400,000 and the number of infants killed by tetanus had been reduced from one million to just over 500,000 between 1980 and 1993.

Polio cases had also dropped dramatically to an estimated 140,000 in 1992 from about 500,000 in 1982, it said.

Unicef said progress had been made in family planning. Over half of all married women in the developing world now used some form of family planning, up from 10 percent a generation ago. This had sent the average number of births per woman down from 6 to 3.7.

Unicef executive director James Grant said it would cost an extra $25 billion (R32.5 billion) a year to eliminate many of the problems.

He said the answer would be for governments in the developing world and international aid givers to double to 20 percent their spending for meeting basic human needs — Sapa-Reuters
Destitute whites get a taste of squatter camp life

PRETORIA — While South Africa's homeless blacks swell squatter camps throughout the country, in the thorn scrub near here a whites-only settlement is mushrooming for destitute Afrikaners.

Although the country's recession is showing signs of bottoming out after nearly four years, retrenchments continue without respect for South Africa's dying notion of white privilege.

"I know what it's like to have a house with a swimming pool and a Mercedes," said boilermaker Hannes Olivier "But my life has taken a dive."

Mr Olivier is camp supervisor at Genadeplaas (Mercy Farm), a neatly laid out, church-sponsored settlement at the end of a dusty farm track 60 km from here.

He lives in one of the few dozen tents that house about 120 homeless whites, some with babies, some crippled, many with the vacant gaze of a broken spirit.

They have no electricity or telephone and three horses provide their only transport.

"If someone is sick we have to ride 4 km to neighbours' and beg to use their phone," said Mr Olivier.

"We're running out of space. Every day we get more people. Already we have seven or eight in one tent."

Mr Olivier and a few others in the camp have part-time jobs, but most are unemployed and spend days tending the settlement's vegetables or stargazing into space.

"We were thinking of starting some light industry, for example welding — like a kibbutz. But it's tough without power," said Mr Olivier.

Mercy Farm residents have no luxuries apart from a twice-weekly donation of tobacco. On a recent Sunday they were treated to ice-cream, which they jealously measured out.

Camp resident Martinus used to be an electrician on the coal mines in Witbank, but was laid off six months ago.

"I've looked everywhere for work, but there's nothing."

Last year the public service, long a provider of sheltered employment for whites, retrenched 12,900 people.

Thousands more have been laid off by mines and industry.

In Danville, a working class white suburb near a giant iron and steel works, a church group hands out twice-weekly food parcels.

Blacks remain the biggest recipients of food aid — 2.6 million.

— Sapa-Reuters

[241]
The town where the poor go to jail

A NORTHERN Cape municipality and its lawyers have been accused of callously squeezing money from destitute people they help put in jail.

Mothers and pensioners are among those rounded up in dawn blitzes in the town of Vryburg and driven to Kuruman jail 140km away - leaving starving families to find the cash to free them.

The municipality insists people are not jailed for debt, but for contempt of court - refusing to heed court orders to pay their debts.

"People are being pulled from homes and jailed without knowing they had to go to court," claimed schoolteacher Mr Edwin Visagie, of the coloured township of Colridge.

To regain their freedom, debtors must arrange to pay not only their arrears to the municipality, but also all the costs of the legal process which put them behind bars.

This includes the fees of the attorneys who secured summary judgments against them and the costs of transporting them to Kuruman jail.

Bitter residents of Colridge - unemployed and is over 50 percent - struggle to pay municipal charges they claim are grossly inflated by the substantial perks of Vryburg officials.

They point out that the town clerk, Mr Isador Eis, drives an Audi 500, bought under a subsidy scheme.

By BILL KRIGE

EDWIN VISAGIE ... 'people a being hauled from their home'...
EASING THE SQUEEZE . . . the mayor of Vryburg, Chris Opperman, would like to end the jailings and start a work programme for the jobless

Pictures: COBUS BODENSTEIN

S. Times  14/2/93  241
Contempt

He said he had been told 300 households owed money, only some of them to the municipality.

However, Mr Els said in a statement that 22 debtors had been jailed for contempt of court in the 10 days to January 21, but only eight had owed money to the municipality.

But in Colridge, and nearby Floradene, it is clear the axe has fallen on enough residents who have been deported to Kuruman jail as early as January 3.

In some streets, virtually every fourth household has lost its nominal head to what people wryly call the "holiday home".

In a two-roomed shanty, a tearful and anxious Elizabeth Démurgo, 20, held her 17-month-old brother and

Her mother was subsequently arrested. "We have no income. The neighbours give us a handful of flour when they can, and sometimes a meal," she said.

She produced a letter written by her mother: "Elizabeth," it read, "you must see if you can't get money to pay the attorney. The debt is R500 and if I can't pay it I can't get out for a year. Elizabeth, are you satisfied that I must be here for so long with my illness? I close with tears in my eyes. Thank you."

On the wall hangs a faded religious exhortation: 'God is Love, God is Faith, God is True, God is Right'. Not far away farmers were giving thanks for rain which, although it broke the drought, clogged township sewers and turned the streets into slimy quagmires.

In another dwelling, jobless Sylvia Finnis supports two children, both sickly, after her daughter, who had a job, was jailed for debt. The money was paid by her fiancé and she was expected home at any time.

According to Mr Fanie Wentzel, of the legal firm Du Plessis-Vinners, which has the Vryburg municipality account, the judgment had nothing to do with municipal debt. But Mrs Finnis' new municipal account showed her arrears cut from R740 to R29, thanks to her daughter's fling.

In an interview Mr Wentzel was unable to say how many people had been jailed for debt. "It could be 10. It could be 10 000", he said. He refused to disclose his fee for each case except to say it was according to scales laid down by the Law Society of South Africa.

"Yes, they must pay the costs of the sheriff for transport to Kuruman, but the amount varies. It depends if there are 10 in the van or one," he said. "A jail has been built in Vryburg, they are tar roads and a tennis court, but it has never been used," he said.

Mr Opperman defended the vehicle parks available to municipal officials as being in line with those stipulated by provincial ordinance for a municipality of Vryburg's grade.

"We are going to see what we can do to help. I would like to get a programme started for the jobless people here," he said.
Feeding the hungry

OPERATION Hunger executive director Mrs Ina Perlman has called for the re-introduction of a compulsory feeding scheme for primary school children throughout South Africa.

Speaking in Durban, Perlman said the scheme, which was abolished in the 1940s, should be accompanied by free and compulsory education — Sapa
Returned exiles left destitute by alleged corruption in the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of Refugees (NCCR)

The desperate people involved, most of them members of the ANC, are bitter that their contribution to the struggle for freedom has been forgotten by the leaders of organisations who now live in luxury while the cadres sleep in communes and railway stations.

Since October last year, when the fraud at the NCCR became public knowledge, over 200 people have been referred to Operation Hunger by the NCCR and the ANC.

“Our mandate does not extend to cases of this type. Initially we just helped but there is now a flood of people coming into our offices every day and we can’t cope,” Operation Hunger’s deputy director for relief and development, Mr Mpho Moshane, said.

_Hungry returnees_

We spoke to several returnees who told heartrending tales of the hunger, homelessness, deprivation and loss of dignity that have become their lot.

There was no escaping the feeling of regret that oozed from their attitude, regret at having given their all to a nation that finds it so easy to forget them.

They told of large-scale corruption within the NCCR, of officials who bought houses for cash in upmarket suburbs, coupled with cars to match the standard.

While this happens, desperate returnees have been denied the R4 250 grant meant to help them resettle. There are many who did not receive even a cent of the money, they said.

Mrs Grace Mokgadi (36) said she had seen the corruption while doing part-time work for the NCCR in Pretoria. She had returned to South Africa in August 1991.

_Homeless returnee_

“My status as a former exile works against me when I look for a job. I have nowhere to stay. I have two children whom I left with my mother when I went into exile.

“I am a woman and it is not right that I should sleep at different places every night. Exile was much better because the ANC did everything for us.”

Mrs Grace Mokgadi - returned exile and mother of two children

R6 000 loan promised him before he came back, he said.

_Cheque stolen_

His R2 000 grant cheque was stolen in the NCCR offices, he was told. It was never replaced and he has now been told that there’s no more money left.

Mr Samuel Mangwisa (42) said he had been trying to get a loan to start a plumbing concern but the NCCR had told him there was no longer any money for loans.

“We are trying to lead a straight life and to avoid resorting to crime. But if people who are supposed to assist us are misusing the money and leaving people destitute, many are going to turn to crime,” he said.

The NCCR was approached for comment on the allegations and we were referred to either South African Council of Churches secretary general, the Reverend Frank Chukane, or Mr Mohammed Dangor. Both were approached but calls were never returned.

_Charges of fraud_

But a check through files reveals that several officials in Johannesburg have been arrested and charged with fraud following the disappearance of over R300 000 ANC regional co-ordinator for repatriation, Mr Jabulani Dumane (42), said the ANC was doing everything in its power to assist its returnees. He blamed the plight of the returnees on the economic slump, general unemployment and employer bias against former exiles.

Dumane, a returnee who also serves on the NCCR committee that screens loan applications, said loan money was still available and disputed the assertion by the returnees we spoke to that they were informed that the money had run out.

He said he had never heard anyone criticising ANC leaders for living in luxurious houses while their cadres lived in squalor.

As the haggling goes on, Operation Hunger struggles to feed the victims of drought and the returnees who came back to the system they had run away from, following the reform rhetoric.
Relief for poor blocks budget will tidy up social spending - Front page containing a comic strip and text.

Several people found dead.

Budget will tidy up social spending.
Appeal to combat poverty

A STRONG appeal to the Government for urgent and decisive action to combat poverty and malnutrition in South Africa has been made by Independent Development Trust chairman, Mr Jan Steyn.

He was speaking on behalf of the Nutrition Society of Southern Africa and the IDT.

Steyn urged the Government to adopt a concerted and co-ordinated approach to malnutrition on a short as well as long-term basis.

"The present ravages of the drought and rapidly escalating levels of unemployment are the recipe for a nutritional catastrophe of unprecedented proportions," he told the congress.

Steyn pointed out that the most basic survival needs of food and safe shelter, including safe water and sanitation, were inadequate for a large proportion of the black population.

At least 12 per cent of black pre-school children suffered from chronic protein energy malnutrition, while 31 per cent of rural children and 10-15 per cent of children in urban areas were underweight, Steyn said.

He said certain key issues which had to be addressed included:

- The establishment of a directorate of nutrition within the health department, and
- The appointment of an advisory council to advise the Government.
FOOD companies report an alarming drop in sales of basic foods in January, raising fears that hunger is spreading rapidly among the poor.

Tiger Oats, South Africa's leading manufacturer and distributor of staple foods, says sales in January—a traditionally poor month—were the worst in years.

Premier Group deputy chief executive Gordon Utan confirms the drop.

Mr Utan says: "January was much like hitting a brick wall. We've tried to analyse the reasons and have concluded that January can't be looked at in isolation. Sales must be coupled with those of December—when Christmas came too late to move stock and there was a huge carryover in stores.

"February sales recovered slightly and this carried through to March, although it was by no means a great recovery."

Luxury

OK Bazaars confirms that January was "very tough" on the retail side, the poor sales extending to February.

OK marketing director Arthur Solomon says: "The 40% increase in VAT and 45% increase in petrol are expected to exacerbate the problems of the poor and unemployed."

A JDMS marketing information service analysis of its sales for the year to December shows a drop in "luxury and value-added items", such as condiments.

But there was a pick-up in products like pasta (11% higher in volume terms) and dry-packet sauces (up 23%).

Manufacturers believe they are being used as substitutes for meat.

Soya substitute sales rose 13%.

Cheewing gum sales were off 16% and potato chips 7%.

An earlier analysis showed a huge increase in dog-food sales, heightening manufacturers' suspicions that impoverished people are turning to pet food for protein.

Sales of basic products such as maize, salt and peanut butter, have been flat.

Tiger Oats says people appear to be buying smaller quantities of staple foods.

A spokesman says: "Poverty is definitely spreading. This is most disturbing because it could mean hunger for the poorer sections of the community. There is no evidence of an upturn and with so many millions unemployed the picture is gloomy."

Results for the Barlow Rand subsidiary for the six months to March are likely to mirror the poor state of the market.
They are known as the dump children.

While other boys and girls go home after school, these youngsters head for the refuse dump at Chloorkop, Midrand, to rummage for something to eat.

The dump children are the offspring of unemployed or re-trenched workers at the Ivory Park squatter camp near Tembisa. To them, the refuse heap offers hope of a meal, who cares if the bread is stale or the meat tainted?

Julia Chiloane, a minister of religion who co-ordinates the Read Out Community Projects and runs the MASENGANE Nutritional Scheme at Ivory Park (when she has money), says the children are so hungry they have no option but to try their luck on the refuse dump.

Last year she conducted a survey and found 3,472 starving boys and girls among Ivory Park's population of 160,000.

The figure, she says, is conservative. In the expanding population — illegal migrants push up the total daily — the numbers of the hungry are rising.

Chiloane approached the Department of National Health in December for assistance and was given R46,000. By April the money had run out.

"I have been unable to provide food for the 500 children for whom, at one time, we were preparing a balanced daily meal," she said. "Now they have drifted to the dump.

"I have asked them how they can eat dirty food but they say they wash it.

Chiloane needs R10,500 a month to feed 500 children and a further R4,500 to provide destitute families with parcels.

A dairy in Bryanston has offered her milk but, she needs transport. She has started self-help schemes, such as sewing and gardening projects, but needs materials and tools.

She can be reached at 925-4845 until 10am daily and after hours.

Hope for the hungry ... Municipal workers at the Chloorkop dump near the Ivory Park squatter camp, which has become a hunting ground for starving children.
No glimmer of hope for Norman

COLD COMFORT

No words of encouragement or solace for victims of poverty.

By Joe Mhlela

N

omacelo Madala, a 22-year-old Soweto lad, is an example of what deprivation does to South African youth, especially those coming from poverty-stricken families. Like all kids, he had high hopes — a dream that one day he might be a pilot, a doctor, a dentist, an engineer — and he ended up in a jail cell for stealing cars.

Nevertheless, Vusi Sibiya, a social worker and a community leader, reassures him of the possibility of things. "Maybe he should not have been the product of a society which fails to care about the well-being of its children."

Impossible luxury

His parents could not take him to school. They themselves do not have a conversation. Taking him to school would have been an impossible luxury.

No one owns him, clothes, not even relatives.

Therefore, he would have been illegal to expect his parents to buy him school clothes. He goes through his young life without anyone whispering a word of encouragement. Soaking words that stick to him: "We understand. However, it is not possible to do all things."

Maybe next year, you will get the things you want for yourself."

But there's no "maybe." The future is bleak, with no glimmer of hope.

Norman is one of many Soweto kids under the watch of the National Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nico).

By his own admission, Norman learnt to steal cars, to make ends meet. However, Nico is doing everything in its power to ensure that his society produces fewer Normans. Admitting that these "are no magic solutions," Nico's Mr. Benjamin Nhlapo insists that the "street culture" needs to be replaced by hope of a job and the acquisition of a home. In a society where crime has become necessary to balance the "family budget," the solution can be found not only in rehabilitation and counseling, but in the provision of jobs.

Social worker Ms. Dudu Mdluli admits that these are noble things to do, but worries that the most tangible way of getting around the problem is the creation of employment.

"That is the tangible way of fighting crime. We must provide people with jobs."

"Counselling alone cannot help," she says.

In small and humble ways, Nico's workshops in Soweto provide what it terms community-based job creation programmes. These include arc welding, building, carpentry and book making.

These courses are basic, lasting between two and six weeks.

In the final analysis, it is compulsory education that will bring hope to many of Nico's wards.

"We need to make education available to all if we are to succeed in combating crime," said Nhlapo.

Senior manager at Nico Mr. Shambile Khumalo suggested that poverty and unemployment contributed to the high level of crime in Soweto.

Targeting young minds, Nico's workshops in Soweto watch SABC at 9pm.

GET IN... Policemen take away a criminal caught in Johannesburg.
‘Vagrants still need help’

Staff Reporter

THE lifting of the Group Areas Act saw people streaming into cities with nothing but hope and there were thousands of poor street people and children in need of care and assistance.

This was said by mayor Mr Frank van der Velde at a meeting of the city council’s Vagrancy Committee at the Civic Centre last night.

Mr Van der Velde thanked the committee and individuals for their caring for the poor and impoverished but said more community and business involvement was necessary in the “mammoth task” of caring for street people.
Hunger is stunting our kids

A startling new report has found that malnutrition among black South African children aged between two and five is significantly worse than in many other African countries.

According to Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman, the recently completed World Bank Development Report found that 53 percent of South African children in this age group are stunted — the result of chronic protein deficiency — compared with a 39 percent average for the rest of Africa.

The health condition in South Africa, it said, "was comparable to Gabon".

South Africa, which is still among the top 10 African countries in terms of economic wealth, has, on child death and malnutrition, a worse track record than Botswana or Mauritius — countries whose gross-national products are substantially lower than ours," Perlman says.

Severe malnutrition invariably leads to very high levels of stunted growth.

A United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report, released earlier this year, found that "more than twice as many South African children die from preventable causes before reaching the age of five years than could be expected from a country of its wealth."

Tragic

Research conducted by Operation Hunger showed that more than half the children surveyed in the Free State and Lébowa were malnourished.

"In the western Cape, PWV and Gazankulu, the incidence of stunted growth is more than 40 percent while Natal, eastern Cape and Transkei are all above 30 percent," says Operation Hunger deputy director Mpho Mashinini.

"South Africans often claim that the country is richer and more developed than its neighbours north of the Limpopo, but this data tragically indicates that we more closely resemble Somalia and Liberia than South Korea or Taiwan," says Mashinini.

Worldwide, more than 50,000 children die every day from hunger-related diseases. Only 10 percent of these deaths are the result of natural and political causes, Perlman says. Many more battle against malnutrition.

"But they are the majority inedible, stunted and underweight children who die by inches from the moment they are born," she says. "Even if they reach adulthood, their nutritional deprivation will have made them unable to be educated and reduce their productivity and capacity to contribute to their communities," she says.

Despite major changes taking place in the country, there was not much hope for improvement in the levels of malnutrition. "There are no instant solutions and it could take at least five years for a community to turn itself around."
Windhoek — About 1.3 billion people lived in poverty worldwide and 5 million children died every year, UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in Windhoek yesterday.

These were figures that masked "unmeasurable human suffering" and reflected high levels of illiteracy, hunger, malnutrition and disease, Boutros-Ghali said on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

He called on industrialised countries, governments and the private sector to direct resources at anti-poverty projects.

"As humans we cannot and should not tolerate that some of us live under conditions which are less than human," the UN chief said. — Sapa.
The war on poverty

Part 4 of a series on reconstruction — by Cosatu general secretary
JAY NAIDOO

The real scandal of the apartheid system is the grinding poverty into which the majority of our people have been locked. This poverty is the result of a systematic policy of controlling black communities to ensure an endless supply of cheap labour.

The system of apartheid social engineering — including bantustans, group areas, forced removals, pass laws, bantu education and the township system itself — were all geared to this end.

While some elements of apartheid are now collapsing, its legacy of poverty and social misery is deeply imprinted on our society. A programme of reconstruction, if it is to have meaning, must effectively attack this cancer.

Apartheid has created extremes of poverty for the majority. It has also created extremes of wealth for the few.

In terms of the “Gini coefficient”, the international measure to assess inequality in income distribution, South Africa is among the most unequal societies in the world.

But poverty in our society goes beyond disparities in distribution of income. Rampant disease, hunger, homelessness and so on are also the direct result of deliberate denial of basic social services to oppressed communities. This exclusion has been accompanied by the creation of sophisticated services — virtually a welfare state for the minority.

The social deprivation created by apartheid is well known: an estimated 8 million are without basic housing, about 20 percent of African families, urban and rural, without electricity, over 60 percent of African children are malnourished, 17 million live below the poverty line, 6-7 million are unemployed, and over 80 percent of the population have access to 14 percent of the land, much of it not arable.

The central aim of our reconstruction programme is to address this desperate poverty. Some argue that only a miracle can achieve this in the foreseeable future. Our view is that such a miracle is possible, and that many 20th century examples demonstrate this (including reconstruction of the infrastructure in post-war Germany, the wiping out of preventable disease by the Cuban health system, and so on).

To win this war against poverty we need coherent targets and timetables, full involvement of ordinary people in the anti-poverty programmes, reorientation of priorities and resources, and the national will to succeed. We cannot plan to fail.

A legitimate question often asked is how the programme will be financed. We shouldn’t rely primarily on external funds and assistance. Rather we need an internally-funded “Marshall Plan”.

Preliminary results of research indicate that there is a vast amount of surplus liquidity (funds) which can be tapped for social investment in workers’ pension and provident funds alone, there is more than R200 billion, much of which is going into speculative investment.

A movement away from speculative investment, white elephants, wastage, corruption, and unproductive bureaucracy will unlock the resources to fund such a programme.

Investment in massive anti-poverty programmes is not only socially necessary, but will help put our economy on a new growth path. The other side of the coin is the restructuring of our industries, as the economic engine of reconstruction and development.

To deal with poverty, the reconstruction programme must address certain priority areas: housing, health, infrastructure (including electricity, water, sewerage, refuse removal, roads), and food prices. The programme must aim to ensure that all people, whether in rural or urban areas, are given access to these basic necessities, within specified timeframes.

A comprehensive social security net must be put in place for the most vulnerable, particularly the unemployed, elderly and disabled.

We can’t promise that, after elections next year, all people will have instant access to houses. But the programme must plan how many houses will be built in year one, year two, year three, of what quality and costing how much. The job-creating and training element of these programmes must be maximised, and ensure the involvement of affected communities.

At the same time, social projects, to be effective, must be accompanied by education. A national health scheme, for example, won’t work, unless literacy programmes, immunisation campaigns and anti-HIV education are carried out. We must also ensure that social programmes protect and improve the environment.

Combating poverty requires a strong emphasis on rural development and land reform. It is estimated that over 11 million of the 17 million poorest people in South Africa live in the rural areas. This is a direct result of apartheid policies which have trapped African people, particularly women, children and the aged, in rural poverty, landlessness and starvation.

Current attempts by parties such as the NP and DP to constitutionally freeze the exclusion of the majority from land is a recipe condemning rural people to perpetual poverty.

Landless or land-hungry peasants in the present bantustans and white farming areas will have to be given access to land, to support themselves and to increase food production. A land reform programme also needs to address the subordinate position of women, to give them direct control over the lands they till.

Rural communities must be given access to adequate infrastructural development. This will not only raise the quality of life of rural communities, but also unlock their economic potential, as producers and consumers.

Electricity for rural areas will, for example, also encourage small business and industrial development.

A new society will have to deal with the legacy of large concentrations of economically and socially vulnerable “rural” communities created by apartheid. Our programme for rural development should go in this sense not set apartheid in place, by entrenching the isolation of vulnerable communities in remote areas. Such communities will have to be consulted about their needs and aspirations.

The next article in this series on reconstruction will look at Cosatu’s approach to job creation.
'Half SA lives in poverty'

NEARLY half of all South Africans are living below the poverty line, says Sanlam’s Cape regional general manager Mr Johnnie Roelofse.

Presenting R36 500 to 16 welfare organisations at a function in Bellville yesterday, he said it was clear that no future government would be able to provide for the needs of all communities.

Conservative estimates put the number of people living below the minimum subsistence level at 18 million, he said.

Poverty and unemployment not only held socio-economic implications for the country, but also psycho-sociological implications for the individual, family and community.

The company supported the National Peace Committee’s appeal to declare September a month of peace “Political violence has already caused far too much pain, disruption and grief in our country,” Mr Roelofse said. — Sapa
THE REAL scandal of the apartheid system is the grinding poverty into which the majority of our people have been locked.

This poverty is the result of a systematic policy of controlling black communities to ensure an endless supply of cheap labour. The system of apartheid’s social engineering, including bantustans, group areas, forced removals, pass laws, bantu education and the township system itself, were all geared to this end.

While some elements of apartheid are now collapsing, its legacy of poverty and social misery is deeply imprinted on our society. A programme of reconstruction, if it is to be meaningful, must effectively attack this cancer.

Apartheid has created extremes of wealth for the few. In terms of the “Gini coefficient”, the international measure to assess inequality in income distribution, South Africa is among the most unequal societies in the world.

But poverty in our society goes beyond disparities in distribution of income. Rampant disease, hunger, homelessness, and so on, are also the direct result of deliberate denial of basic social services to oppressed communities.

This exclusion has been accompanied by the creation of sophisticated services — virtually a welfare state — for the minority.

The social deprivation created by apartheid is well known. An estimated eight million people are without basic housing, about 90 percent of African families, urban and rural, are without electricity, over 60 percent of African children die are due to malnutrition. 17 million people live below the poverty line, 6.7 million are unemployed and over 80 percent of the population have access to 13 percent of the land, much of it barren.

The central aim of our reconstruction programme is to address this desperate poverty. Some argue that only a miracle can achieve this in the foreseeable future. Our view is that such a miracle is possible, and that many 20th century examples demonstrate this (including reconstruction of the infrastructure in post-war Germany, the wiping out of preventable disease by the Cuban health system, and so on).

To win this war against poverty we need coherent targets and timeframes, full involvement of ordinary people in the anti-poverty programmes, reorganization of priorities and resources, and the national will to succeed. We cannot plan to fail.

A legitimate question often asked is how the programme will be financed. We shouldn’t rely primarily on external funds and assistance. Rather we need an internally-funded “Marshall Plan”.

Preliminary results of research indicate that there is a vast amount of surplus liquidy which can be tapped for social investment. In workers’ pension and provident funds alone, there is over R200 billion, much of which is going into speculative investment.

A movement away from speculative investment, white elephants, wastage, corruption, and unproductive bureaucracies to unlock the poverty programmes is not only socially necessary, but will help put our economy on a new growth path. The other side of the coin is the restructuring of our industries, as the economic engine of reconstruction and development.

To deal with poverty the reconstruction programme must address certain priority areas: housing, health, infrastructure (including electricity, water, sewerage, refuse removal, roads), land, and food prices. The programme must aim to ensure that all people, whether in rural or urban areas are given access to these basic necessities, within specified timeframes.

A comprehensive social security net must be put in place for the most vulnerable, particularly the unemployed, elderly and disabled.

We can’t promise that, after elections in 1994, all people will have instant access to houses. But the programme must plan how many houses will be built in Year 1, year 2, year 3, of what quality, costing how much. The job-creating and training element of these programmes, unemployment campaigns and anti-AIDS education are carried out. We must also ensure that social programmes protect and improve the environment.

Combating poverty requires a strong emphasis on rural development and land reform. It is estimated that over 11 million of the 17 million poorest people in South Africa live in the rural areas. This is a direct result of apartheid policies which have trapped African people, particularly, women, children and the aged, in rural poverty, landlessness and starvation.

Current attempts by parties such as the NP and DP to constitutionally freeze the exclusion of the majority from land, is a recipe condemning rural people to perpetual poverty. Landless or land-hungry peasants in the present bantustans and white farming areas will have to be given access to land, to support themselves and to increase food production. A land reform programme also needs to address the subordinate position of women, to give them direct control over the lands they till.

Rural communities must be given access to adequate infrastructural development. This will not only raise the quality of life of rural communities, but also unlock their economic potential, as producers and consumers. Electrification of rural areas will, for example, encourage small business and industrial development.

The creation of viable rural communities will allow the mass of rural people to establish themselves, without being constantly pressured to move to the urban areas. At the same time, it must be recognised that much of the current population distribution is artificially created by apartheid, and that there will be an inevitable reorganisation of rural/urban patterns.

A new society will have to deal with the legacy of large concentrations of economically and socially unviable “rural” communities created by apartheid. Our programmes of rural development should in this sense not set apartheid in concrete, by entrenching the isolation of vulnerable communities in remote areas. All communities will have to be consulted about their needs and aspirations.
Productivity: SA can learn from ‘Kaizen’

BLOEMFONTEIN — South African managers could learn from the Japanese “Kaizen” concept, empowering workers to make suggestions to improve productivity, Anzote Goshi of the Nihon University in Tokyo said yesterday.

Delivering the keynote address at the EBMB research conference here Goshi said Kaizen — empowerment and continuous improvement — could result in “astronomical” savings and improvements. In terms of the concept workers questioned their own efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and how their service and output could be improved.

The results of improvements were passed on to the workers in the form of bonuses and profit-sharing.

“Thus there is a willingness among workers to participate to get even more recognition in their company.”

Management communicated the results of Kaizen to each employee, enabling them to apply new ideas, which ensured the momentum was sustained.

Goshi said Japanese management used to be autocratic but had introduced participative management, empowering joint consultation groups, consisting of workers and management, to decide on issues that affected them and the company. — Sapa
Hunger respect

OPERATION Hunger field workers are finding that poverty is colourblind. About 6 500 of the 266 000 people who are fed by the organisation in the Free State are whites, reports LOUISE MARSLAND.

IN A DUSTY squatter camp next to a railway line outside Bloemfontein, noisy children queue at an Operation Hunger soup kitchen with old men and women, mothers and young men just returned from looking for work.

Among the black faces is a white one: it belongs to Johan Wiese (24), a security guard who lost his job and was taken in by a black family.

Wiese said he was there because, after he lost his job, he had received no help from his own family. Philetmon and Queenie Setlako took him in when he had nowhere else to go, giving him his own "room" at the back of their shack.

"I want to live with these people. They help me. Whites think more of themselves than others. But here, if I need something, people help me."

On the other side of town at a soup kitchen in the white suburb of Oranjeburg, 120 women and children queue up at midday for soup.

The women, with care-worn faces, trail barefoot children. All carry plastic containers to take soup back to family members at home.

Black community-health workers are feeding 6 500 whites at soup kitchens in Free State towns — the conservative heartland of South Africa — in addition to 260 000 black people.

A further 24 000 people of all races who have applied to join feeding schemes are on the province's wait-
THE malnourished child hung on to her mother’s arm, too weak to lift her head. The mother, elobowing her way through the crowd clamouring for the attention of Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman, told how the local clinic refused to see her without a fee of R15.

Dipping into her purse for the money, an outraged Perlman promised to take action. A Bloemfontein clinic will soon be on the receiving end of Perlman’s wrath.

For more than a decade, Ina Perlman has fed the hungry, the poor and the downtrodden of South Africa. They call her Mabatho - Mother of the People. This month she retires after 13 years as Operation Hunger executive director, and she will be sorely missed by her staff and the millions she has touched.

A compassionate Perlman this week listened patiently to civic leaders in a dusty, windblown Free State squatter camp talk about the problems local residents are having with local contractors laying water and sewerage pipes.

The poverty-stricken community has been given fancy toilets which, after only three months, are overflowing onto streets and vegetable and flower gardens because the pipes fitted were apparently the wrong size.

Armed with invoices and work specifications, she promised to get to the bottom of their problems.

Perlman describes Operation Hunger’s constituency as the “ultra poor, the destitute and those right at the bottom of the heap who get left behind.” What has motivated her all these years has been anger, yet she admits that she has been “one of those lucky people” who has always enjoyed her job.

“Obviously there have been the horrors moments, but it is the greatest privilege in the world to be able to be doing something positive for others. Basically I’m a people person. I take each group as I find them — if I can help half, it’s rewarding,” she says.

The self-help schemes are the mainstay of her organisation. Perlman emphasises she is not “a lady bountiful with a basket,” adding “I have never handed out a cup of soup or a bag of maize in my life. We respond to community requests, we go in, and every feeding scheme is a partnership with the community.”

Perlman recalls that one of the highlights of her job was telling off a group of beefy cotton farmers who had complained that Operation Hunger was feeding their workers so well that the people did not want to work.

“We found out that they had been paying R3 a day to women to pick cotton, whereas the 1,500 women in our self-help projects were earning R50 a month making beadwork and another 1,500 families were earning R100 a month farming land we had obtained for them. So of course they weren’t interested in jobs at R50 to R100 a month!”

The worst moments are seeing desperately hungry children probably damaged for life — all for the lack of 10c a day.

No “powder puff” speeches either. At one of her last official duties — at the Miss World fund-raising banquet last month — Perlman lectured on human rights and warned of the dangers of the extreme hunger and poverty in this country were ignored. “I thought that with all those corporate heads there, I wasn’t going to miss that opportunity,” she laughed.

Giving the people land, particularly the large tracts held in trust by the Government, was one of the only ways of ensuring that the rural population became self-sufficient. Perlman said that with the majority of the rural population functionally illiterate, land was the only answer “They have no hope, there is no other means of survival for them.”

But “Mabatho” does not intend to just disappear and she has a firm mission over the next six months leading up to the election.

“When the political hot air starts, I have told my staff they must challenge every political party on 10 points — including proper birth control, free prenatal care, free compulsory education for all children, re-introduction of State school feeding schemes, literacy programmes, realistic housing projects and free medical treatment.”
world, NNSDP will be encouraging breastfeeding.

It also stamps out abuse by churches or politicians wherever this occurs, and has reported some R7-million worth of fraud and misuse of funds to the SA Police.

It set up a task group to investigate itself, and sent Mrs Kloka on a six-week investigation of needs and problems in the community.

There is a sense that the NNSDP is driven by both political considerations - the unempowered poor of today are tomorrow's voters - and by ethical motives.

Having been badly burned by their attempt to play gracious patron to the masses,

NNSDP workers are now evangelical about crafting a "proper nutrition policy" free from political constraints.

They are even smug about the fact that "the National Party is our biggest critic."

"This makes us feel very safe," said Mr de Klerk. "If we pleased them, then we'd be in trouble."
The unmet need and the unchecked greed

After three years during which it has been dogged by ineptitude and political opportunism, South Africa’s food aid programme is being revamped.

CLAIRE ROBERTSON reports

FOOD

The simple food parcel scheme time and again by delaying cheques, holding up approvals and even failing to provide full-time staffing at the start of the programme. This resulted in half of the money in the first year — some R200-million — staying in government coffers while people starved.

The start of the programme was also bedevilled by some astonishingly stupid decisions.

Early on, R40-million of the R440-million was set aside for the government-run Protein Energy Malnutrition scheme, PEM, which spent a great deal of the money on buying infant formula.

This encouraged mothers to abandon breastfeeding in favour of bottle feeding in areas where clean water was rarely available to make the mixture, and illiterate parents could not read the instructions anyway, exposing the babies to often fatal gas-tro-enteritis.

In line with the rest of the

THERE will be no fun-
damental changes to the way the NNSDP is run — which would not be possible anyway, since a moratorium on unilateral changes to the programme was agreed to this year.

A national co-ordinator will be appointed, regions analysed and planning boards on regional pilot projects.

These will be implemented from next year, and then phase two begins. At the same tune, work will begin on a national study of nutritional needs.

Ideally, there is no sys-
tem in place to identify early warning signs of serious malnutrition in communities, or any national data base of the nutritional status of SA... Af-
ticans Developing countries

Tanzania to Thailand have systems with these studies since the 70s.

By 1996, the NNSDP hopes to understand the problem, and to have identified the solutions. The new pro-
gramme will begin in April that year — phase three.

It all goes according to plan, South Africa should have in place a social security net — and a system of red tape holes that let through the young, and nursing mothers, and the elderly, but too old or physi-
cally disabled to care for themselves.

The task team has given itself some latitude, and time to experiment before outlining the new programme.

All that is known at present is that it will not involve handouts to handouts of food parcels.

All this does — in the un-
likely event of the programme ac-
ually reaching those in need, and even if they have, by some miracle of corporate conscience, been made up of the correct ingredients — is fill empty bellies.

Empty bellies are the symptom of the problem, and not the underlying cause.

A Unicef framework used by the NNSDP identifies three causes of malnutrition: poor care of babies and their mothers; unhealthy health ser-
veis and an unhealthy envi-
ronment, and not having enough to eat for food.

The eventual purpose of the programme will be to empower the poor, to earn money and to be able to af-
ford their own food.

In the words of Dr Urban Jonsson, Unicef nutrition guru: "The poor are no longer seen as passive beneficiaries, but rather as the main actors in poverty reduction."

Dr Jonsson encouraged nu-
trition workers to learn from the "cooking strategies" of the poor.

NNSDP visitors noticed one such "cooking strategy", worthy of Herman Charles Bosman on a recent visit to homesteads in the Eastern Cape:

The dirt-poor villagers felt they had to provide cakes and tea for the visitors. The spread included a grand, crumbling wedding cake.

That was at the first vil-
lage. When the contingent reached the second village, the same cake dominated the tea table, the tinned plastic wedding couple still intact after a hasty relocation.

Haying tried the most old-
fashioned of strategies — handing out food — NNSDP is now moving over relative-
ly radical plans such as pov-
erty banks and other mea-
sures to "help the poor to a position of self-reliance," as NNSDP manager George de Klerk put it.

"There is no use giving a person bread, before he dies of exposure," said Mr de Klerk.

He and his deputy, Dianne Kliker, have opened the shortcomings of NNSDP Phase 1 — although they point out that there are some 7 000 projects up and running, not all of them feeding schemes.

"But most of the money went on short-term relief, and we simply don’t have the money to carry on like this," said Mrs Kliker.

Although we will always have to give relief to the unemp-
loymemed population, the very young, the very old, the physically disabled...," But there is considerable sympathy in government cir-
cles for phasing out food par-
celed, so that the NNSDP can use the unequivocal support of a major player in nutrition cir-
cles, the National Consultative For-
rum on Drought.

She points out that the food parcels are still used for brides and political patronage. "And there doesn’t have to be a flag on the parcel to know who it comes from," she said.

Second forum manager, Ahmed Danger, admires the government for "not taking the food to be a reason for just abandoning the project de-
spite the political pressure."

But there is a constant and increasingly urgent battle to develop the issue.

"We have to remove this issue from the election cross-
fire if we don’t make an at-
tempt to despoliticise this, we will be destroying the programme. People will see it as either belonging to a defeated NP or to the government," said Mr Danger.

The NNSDP gets scant help from its founder and parent in this regard. In a country where government is synonymous with the NP, and where the ruling party con-
siders governing a country with owning it, the problem was inevitable.

Health Minister Rina Venter, whose department holds the purse, was ac-
cused by NP colleagues this year of failing to extract the necessary approval from the handouts. When ANC-friendly organisations delivered the Kliker report, it did not arrive in time, and the credit, NP members cried.

The fact is, the government could not have distributed the food without help from non-
governmental organisations. And a few dedicated workers in the NNSDP have realised that they cannot frame a new policy alone.
Iライアン Abdain

Yoon 11/12/13

Deliver the goods
Works scheme can
click public
PEOPLE'S LIVES Vegetable gardening in the backyards, on rooftops and on flat balconies

Jeremy Burnham waters the garden patch on his balcony

Permaculture

By Pearl Majola

A new system for unemployed people are taught and helped to feed themselves.

Permaculture was introduced to South Africa in 1991 by Malcolm and in January 1992 a group of 40 people, including farmers and community workers, were trained in permaculture. Six months later the Permaculture Association of South Africa (Pasa) was formed.

"Agriculture and industry have exploited ordinary people by forcing them from providing their own basic needs especially food that is not only wholesome but also nutritious," said Mr Jimmy Burnham.

"People now depend on money to feed themselves. But money can create problems which mean that the people who have been dependent on money to get food are going to starve."

"The only sustainable way to overcome these problems is to allow people to produce a significant portion of their food," he explains.

"Permaculture is more enduring because it uses a way of cultivating that involves a variety of things in one place: vegetables, fruit trees and animals. For instance, my garden patch which is in my backyard, is where tomatoes bear some fruits and even a sunflower."

Permaculture does not use fertilizers, pesticides or sprays; it uses chemical solutions that are naturally and inherently toxic to the soil, says Burnham.

Pasa has pioneered projects in various areas. The Thohoyandou Centre near Rustenburg functions as a permaculture farm, while a school. Another farm is based in Warden. In Pretoria a project was started in 1991 under the Outreach Development Project. All the projects are intercropping farms with a variety of vegetables and fruit. Several courses including soil management, water harvesting, growing and developing seedlings are also taught.

A national cultural event, the 5th Annual Cultural Association, has been shown interest in permaculture. At the moment the organisation is involved in helping its members to become self-sufficient and to help them in terms of psychological and environmental awareness.

Come to the zoo and see the National Symphony Orchestra play for peanuts.

Watch humans performing in front of animals at the Johannesburg Zoo. Flutes, cellos and violins will fill the air while birds chirp, elephants trumpet and hyenas laugh.

It's a day we've set aside to make our children smile.

A day where the whole family can get together and see the animals and hear some light classical favourites.

The music is absolutely free. But because the animals have to be fed, the normal entry fee at the zoo gates will be charged.

It's a fun-filled family day not to be missed. Pack a picnic basket and make sure you get there early.

If you have any old children's clothes or books, please bring them along. We'll be collecting them for the needy children at 702 Land. So they can smile too.

702 Colgate FAMILY CONCERT AT THE ZOO. 2PM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21.

702 Colgate
Self-help for the needy

Programme to make the poor self-reliant while seeing to it that they don't starve:

By Joe Mdhlela
Consumer Reporter

FEWER handouts and more development. This is the driving philosophy geared to making the needy more self-reliant, manager of the National Nutrition and Social Development programme Dr Joos Hattingh said.

However, the philosophy also took into consideration that the hungry will first have to be fed, taking precedence over development itself.

"Explaining this, Hattingh said "There is no contradiction. Often the situation is so desperate that it is necessary to feed the poor. You cannot wait for another day ."

"However, in the long term priority should be given to development if we are to give meaning to the often repeated truism about teaching people to fish and not giving them a fish.

"He said it was of utmost importance that the communities were empowered by developing their skills.

Hattingh suggested that more than 9 million South Africans were already at the rock-bottom of the economic and social scales.

"It is these people we wish to reach. They are desperate for food and the very basic needs of life," said Hattingh.

One of the most telling aspects of South Africa’s situation was that 45 percent of the population lived below subsistence level, he said.

"They can either stay alive through crime or they may just die if no organization comes to their rescue.

"That is where the programme comes in, to give hope to those on the brink of starving to death ."

Hattingh said the programme would remain a failure if it were to be politicised but accepted that it could equally be frustrated if leaders of the civic associations were not involved.

"It is the leaders at the ground who must identify the needs of the community. They should be involved and be partners in the programme, otherwise the programme will fail to bear fruits," he said.

To show the programme was aimed at addressing the needs of the people, squatter camps throughout the country were deriving benefits from the programme.

Among them Holomisa Informal Settlement in Germiston and Mandela and Tambo squatter camps.

Also to benefit from the programme are various non-governmental organisations, including the South African Black Social Workers Association, Tsemba Society for Care of the Aged, Meals on Wheels in Alberton, Zacabangele Self-Help Association in Katechong and Monde Primary School in Katechong.

To carry out this project, the programme has been allocated R440 million.

Hattingh said even R440 million was not enough, hence the need to go for the poorest of the poor.

The programme has the support of the Department of National and Population Development.