POVERTY - GENERAL
1992 - 1993
1994 - 1995
Government administrative incompetence is compounding the devastating rural hunger problems caused by the worst drought this century, according to Operation Hunger executive director Ira Perlman.

Accusing the Department of Health, Welfare and Pensions of inefficiency, she said last week that red tape had lengthened delays in the payout of essential funds enabling Operation Hunger to continue its work.

The director of the operations room of the Consultative Forum on Drought, Len Abrams, in a paper tabled last week, alleged it had become increasingly difficult to work together with all constituents to provide relief to the starving.

Referring specifically to the Water Task Force, he said: "The root causes are not only responsible for the disaster, but are also the largest obstacle to disaster relief activity."

"Not only are the interests of the people most affected by the drought not served by covering up these realities, but the drought relief activity itself becomes impossible," he said.

Quoting overseas engineers who had been withdrawn from the Water Task Force because it was alleged the problems were not "as result of the emergency conditions brought about by drought; rather they are the long-term problems of neglect," he said the engineers claimed they had never worked in a more chaotic situation.

Mr Abrams said the State had used the homeland administration to channel public drought relief funds where they would be managed by the same bureaucracy that was responsible for the problems.

The money would in turn largely be spent by the same consultants who had designed the present systems.
Hope is all that the refugees have and the struggle goes on

CARRYING one child in her arms, Rosalina Shabangu cajoled, pushed and sometimes dragged her other three youngsters to safety from Mozambique.

Their four-day journey across the Lebombo mountains was not as long as some—if it had been, some of the children might not have made it because all the dams and rivers along the route were dry.

They eventually reached a refugee camp in the northeastern Transvaal, the first step in their search for a better life in South Africa.

Like thousands before her, 28-year-old Rosalina brought little with her besides hope — for peace, the chance to build a home, plant food and find a job.

But for those who cross the mountains into KaNgwane or risk their lives traversing the Kruger National Park to get to Garankuwa, South Africa offers only a continuation of their struggle.

It is a fight against drought, homelessness and unemployment, with the added hazard of deportation.

Some find their way to Johannesburg and other major cities where, as illegal immigrants, they search for work and a place to live while trying to stay hidden from the law.

Crazy

Rachel Nsimbini, 43, supervisor of the Mangweni transit camp in KaNgwane for the past six years, has never come to terms with the desperation she encounters daily.

"About 200 refugees make their way here each day," she said.

"Operation Hunger feeds more than 20,000 people in KaNgwane, and other organizations like the International Red Cross and the Catholic church provide blankets, soap and clothing.

"The South African government regards them as illegal aliens, not refugees, so if they are caught on South African soil they are arrested and sent back across the border.

"It's a crazy, mixed-up situation, and all we can do is feed them and try to keep them alive."

Among the refugees are teenagers, lured from their homes by ruthless operators who promise homes and jobs, guide them across the border and then sell them as slaves.

Martha Mabunda's parents paid a guide R100 to

SURVIVORS ... Rosalina Shabangu and her four young children, who fled Mozambique

RISKING DEATH FOR A BETTER LIFE

assured them he had a job for her.

"There were 16 of us," said Martha, 20. "Eight were young women and the rest were young boys. When we crossed into KaNgwane, I was sold to an old man as his wife for R1400.

"When the old man tried to rape me, I managed to escape and a friend brought me to the transit camp. The others were taken away in a taxi and I was told they were sold in Johannesburg."

Other refugees are mothers, who walk for up to two weeks before arriving at the camp with not only their own children, but those of family members who have been killed by Renamo troops.

"They tell me that in their country, people are dropping dead from hunger and the decomposing bodies are lying in the bush," said Mrs Nsimbini.

... their 11 children and his dead sister's four-year-old son.

"Just 10 days before they started out on their journey, soldiers attacked their village in the northern part of Mozambique," said Mrs Nsimbini.

"They forced his sister to carry a bag with the last meal that the family had. She was about eight months pregnant, and as she pulled the sack on to her back, the soldiers asked her what she was hiding under her dress.

"She told them she was pregnant. Then one of them took a pangas and hacked her stomach open and pulled the baby out. They threw their bodies into the bush.

Farmer

"This man was a farmer, who owned a house with eight rooms. He left it behind. He still believes he'll have a better life here, but it won't be easy."

Last month, 322 new arrivals — 115 of them children — swelled the ranks of the refugees in the Hululani camp, about 9km from Phalaborwa, to 11,500.

Operation Hunger gives the camp about 5,000 bags of mealie meal and 60 bags of soup each month, while the SA Council of Churches gives 1,000 bags of mealie
White women can beg — and they score too

CARMEL RICKARD tried his 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.

shuffled past in broken slippers, a plastic bag with a couple of greens 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 suddenly scared. A good-looking young man walked past me twice, then came up close. I braced for insults, propositions or worse. Instead, he squatted a note into the cup "Ta," he said, and carried on walking.

A woman fresh from Woolworth's, plump plastic bag of greens over her arm, donates the second R10. As she walked away, she noticed the photographer, less 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."

(Thank you mum.)

After an hour and a half, my body ached and I decided to find out how professional "collectors" manage.

Most of the half dozens I spoke to stand for two or three hours in the morning. "That's all I can bear," Lacy said. Then looks into a place that rents out rooms for the day. Aged 46, she is closer to 60.

Lacy was the only "collector" who got 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 horrid, abusive 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."
Fishermen sick of mussels and mercy

8/11/92

By JESSICA BEZUDENHOUT

WEST Coast fishermen, on strike since the start of the crayfish season last Sunday, say they are fed up with living on "mussels and mercy".

"Here we don't live, we struggle to survive," says Mr David Gebuza, 59, of Lamberts Bay, who has downed tools with about 1,000 fishermen and women factory workers in several West Coast villages.

The strikers are demanding that the catch rate be increased from R3.60 to R6 a kilogram and that companies should not reduce their fishing fleets to cut costs.

They hope the strike will bring relief after years of poverty.

"We have grown used to hardship and poverty," said Mr Gebuza.

Although several fishermen in Lamberts Bay's small "coloured" township of Sandkamp were willing to speak, only Mr Gebuza was prepared to be identified.

Afford

He said the fishermen and factory workers in Lamberts Bay worked for only six months each year. During the other six months, they relied on an income from catching snook, which "comes by our water very seldom".

"We last had an income in April this year."

The fishermen are literally living on mussels and mercy — God's mercy," said local Food and Workers' Union organiser Mr Jerome Bezudenhout.

In Lamberts Bay, where the biggest employer is the Oceana group, fishermen earn R3.60/kg, which has to be split among six to eight fishermen.

"We catch anything from 30kg to 300kg a day — so we never get a fixed income," said Mr Gebuza.

Almost 200 workers, employed by the Oceana group, have gone on strike.

Mr Gebuza said most fishermen could not afford the R160 monthly rent for their council-owned houses.

"People who cannot pay are evicted. They families then stay with neighbours and the houses stand empty until the start of the next season."

Lamberts Bay fishermen seldom have money for food and their children often go to school hungry.

"For many children, some days the only meal is the sandwich they are given at school."

Deprived

Mr Bezudenhout and the ANC's Western Cape regional office had organised food parcels last week for the people on strike at Lamberts Bay, Elands Bay, Port Nolloth, Hondeklipbaai and Doringbaai.

"These people are dependent on the sea, but have been deprived of its benefits for years."

Several meetings with the industry's umbrella body, the SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc), have failed.

Lamberts Bay fishermen are expected to meet their employers next week.
Cuts have forced the restrictions on food, and rescue organisations have appealed for donations in cash and kind. But these help is needed, and rescue organisations face a long struggle ahead, The Red Cross and the Red Crescent appeal for help.

The family of Mr. Ahmed Mahmoud, who was one of the victims of the attack, is trying to find shelter and food. The Sudanese Red Crescent has sent its team to provide relief.

The Secretary of the South African National Council, Mr. Ahmed Mahmoud, can overcome this difficult time in his life.

'Lord, I hope my pupils will not be turned away from school because of the natural disaster.' he said to the pupils gathered around him.

Most of them are living in overcrowded, and those at preschools only have access to one door. The headmaster told them to stay calm and not to panic.

The townships are overflowing with people, and the schools are overcrowded.

'If I can give them Peace and Security, I am happy,' said the headmaster.

The area is still in shock after the attack.

In Enugu, a judge ordered the release of 70 people who were arrested during the recent unrest.
Millions below poverty line

By SOPHIE TEMEA
MORE than three million rural blacks in SA under the age of 15 are suffering from malnutrition, according to Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman.

This problem is highlighted in the latest paper released by the Foundation for Research Development (FRD) which emphasizes the plight of 13 million illiterate and poverty-stricken people living in rural areas.

The FRD says the misery of their degrading environment is compounded by one of the highest population growth rates in the world, and most rural people are living below the survival threshold.

The paper says more than 50 percent of SA’s blacks are below the age of 20, and approximately the same percentage are illiterate. This fuels the vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty.

Operation Hunger has calculated that in 1991 the cost of feeding a family a palatable and balanced diet in Soweto (red meat excluded) was R565.87 a month, while more than 84 percent of the people in this country had a monthly family income of less than R600.00.

SKIN AND BONES ... Women in the rural areas bear intolerable burdens.

Nutrition education must, therefore, receive urgent attention.

Children under the age of six face the greatest deprivation. For many of them depressed socio-economic conditions, widespread environmental degradation and an unpoorished education system leave little hope for a productive adult career.

"It is common knowledge that education for black children is still not compulsory in this country. Recent statistics have shown that approximately 25 percent of those who do reach the classroom fail the first grade, and many of them drop out, never to return.

"There are many contributory factors including overcrowded classrooms, under-trained teachers, inappropriate curricula and pupil malnutrition," it says.

FRD has revealed that only one in every 10,000 black school entertain matriculates with university entrance qualifications in mathematics or science.

The paper also emphasizes the vital role that women play in rural areas.

"They are responsible for caring for their children, collecting wood and drawing water, household chores and providing the cultural underpinning of communities in which a large percentage of the men are absent.

"In many instances, rural women bear an intolerable burden and are denied the opportunity to improve their skills and education," it says.

According to the FRD, there is scarcely any activity among rural people that cannot be improved by introducing appropriate technology. This includes university development and school and technology programmes.

Urgent attention needs to be given to better agriculture, forestry and veterinary science.

"The critical shortage of water in rural areas should be given the highest priority," it says.

The FRD is a major partner in joint ventures with the Department of Water Affairs and the Water Research Commission, and co-ordinates several important studies in this field.
Hard times force the blind to beg

By FRED KHUMALO 241

WHEN 80 blind workers went on strike at an umlazi home for the blind last May, little did they know the trouble and poverty they were courting.

Now, 11 months later, the workers from eNduduzweni Place for the Blind in Umlazi are still without work and money. They are so desperate that some of them have resorted to begging in the street.

"But people have no money to give to beggars these days," said Kenneth Majozi, a resident at the home.

"You would be lucky to come back home with three rand. It's tough." - 5/11/92

The workers embarked on a strike last year when Geoff Hilton-Barber, the director of the Natal Society for the Blind, introduced a "piece rate" scheme which meant they were to be paid according to productivity.

The workers saw the scheme as an effective reduction of their R60 weekly wages and withheld their labour, calling Hilton-Barber to the negotiating table.

No deal

Hilton-Barber refused to negotiate with the Paper, Print, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppawa), the union representing the workers.

He told City Press this week that when he introduced the "piece rate" he was trying to alleviate the problems of the institution which lost R500 000 in the 1991 financial year. "You can't go on paying high wages when there is no productivity"

Hilton-Barber said when the situation became desperate, he decided to hand the institution over to the KwaZulu government's Department of Welfare and Pensions.

Eric Milongo, KwaZulu secretary for the Department of Welfare and Pensions, said he was not ready to comment on when exactly his department would take over control of the facility.

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SCRAPING THE BARREL... The chances of this child matriculating with maths and science are one in 10 000 says the latest FRD report.
Years of hardship take their toll

Recent hard times in South Africa have resulted in a great deal of flux and change in the lifestyles of South Africans. This is starkly apparent in the 1991 census released last week by Central Statistical Services. HELEN GRANGE reports.

self-employed in 1991 compared to 1989, while the figure rose by 67 percent for whites and 96 percent for Asians.

The services sector still remains the most important employer in the country, with one out of every five economically active people involved in it last year. The manufacturing industry and commercial sector followed respectively.

Agriculture, which in 1985 was the third biggest employer, was in 1991 only fourth.

The largest concentration of people was in the Transvaal (8,177,694), but urbanisation was most pronounced in the Cape, where 89 percent of people were living in urban areas compared to 70 percent in 1985.

On a national scale, 17 percent of blacks lived in shacks compared to 3.3 percent in 1985.

The census recorded 49 whites living in shacks in Johannesburg and 89 white shack-dwellers in Krugersdorp.

The population has increased by more than two million since 1985, standing at 26.2 million on census day (including self-governing territories).

While whites are ageing and having fewer children, blacks are continuing a strong reproductive pattern indicated in the fact that 40 percent were under the age of 20 last year.

But there are signs that the general population growth is slowing. The largest age group in the census was between five and nine, 260,000 more than the group aged five and under from 1960 to 1991, the number of economically active women fell substantially.

Working white women increased from 19 percent to 26 percent, coloured women working increased by half in the same period, while their black counterparts also doubled in the workplace. Asian women fitted the same pattern.

On the education front, there was also progress, even if painfully slow. In 1985, a larger percentage of blacks had degrees, the figure having almost trebled since 1985. For the population as a whole, the proportion of people with a Std 6 or higher increased by 7 percent.

One interesting trend is that of the English language. It is the Asian community, not the white community, which is most responsible for it. Some 95 percent of Asians speak English at home. Only 43 percent of whites, 15 percent of coloureds and 0.2 percent of blacks spoke English at home.

Most blacks spoke Zulu (38 percent), followed by Northern Sotho (15 percent) and Xhosa (12 percent).
Break this vicious circle

More than one billion people around the globe — one fifth of Earth's human population — live in extreme poverty, and their plight is also having a major impact on the planet's natural environment.

For many of these poor, the daily fight for survival means they are forced to live in a manner which severely degrades their environment: cutting down trees because there is no other source of fuel, or keeping destructive stock like goats because there is no other source of protein for them to eat.

"A part of being poor means destroying today what could have sustained you tomorrow. Not by choice, but as a necessity for immediate survival," says Ms Elizabeth Dowdeswell, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP is using World Environment Day this year to highlight the relationship between poverty and the environment.

In an editorial in UNEP's Our Planet magazine marking World Environment Day, Ms Dowdeswell pointed out that poverty was not the only important cause of environmental degradation:

"The poor use fewer resources, create less waste and do less harm to the environment than the rich. Wasteful over-consumption remains the single most powerful threat to the world's environment.

"But there is a threshold of poverty, however, below which the poor too become disproportionately destructive. There comes a point where present survival means destroying resources which could have sustained the poor for years."

The most vivid image of this was of the farmer and his family eating their next year's seed grain — as had been happening in Somalia, she said.

"Other examples, less dramatic, are being repeated around the world. Wherever extreme poverty is a problem, there you will find the poor practicing long-term detrimental abuse — what we call sustainability — to the short-term need to survive."

"Thus, extreme poverty is not only a result of environmental degradation, it is also — to some extent — a cause. Extreme poverty must be eliminated, not only for humanitarian reasons but also for environmental ones."

Ms Dowdeswell said there was a growing tide of opinion in the international community to the effect that poverty was itself one of the greatest causes of poverty.

"Not until the poor are given the means and opportunity to break out of the vicious circle in which poverty in turn holds their development, will real development be possible.

The world had the ability to end absolute poverty. Once this was achieved, a major threat to the well-being of a large and growing number of people, as well as to the world's environment, would have been eliminated, Ms Dowdeswell said.

"We must find the will and motivate the necessary means to match our abilities, or else this poverty and degradation will continue to affect us all."

Driven by poverty to destroy livelihood

This tragic scenario, in a typical environmentally degraded area, is described by UNEP executive director Ms Elizabeth Dowdeswell has unfortunately become familiar in many countries around the globe.

"Stand with your back to the water and you will see the impact of poverty on the environment."

"In the foreground is a young whose基本 services have broken down.

"Raw sewage is being pumped into the bay. Garbage collection is non-existent, and the carriers of infectious diseases are swarming from one garbage pile to another."

"Lift your eyes and you will see denuded hillsides, cleared by people so desperate for fuel that they have destroyed the forests that hold the soil."

"If it's raining, you will see a river of mud, one rich topsoil being washed through the town and into the sea.

"Turn around to face the sea or on a road and you will see the effect of this destruction: boats or vehicle's with cargoes of refugees preparing for a journey to anywhere that will take them."

"This picture — of people driven by poverty to destroy their own means of sustenance — is repeated in many countries."

Negotiators urged to include green rights in new SA

Political leaders negotiating a new constitutional dispensation for South Africa are being urged to ensure that sound environmental rights and principles feature prominently in any new political system that is devised.

In one important initiative, the statutory Council for the Environment, which advises the Minister of Environment Affairs, has issued a two-part document aimed specifically at political leaders involved in the negotiation process.

Entitled Environment in the New South Africa and Environmental Provisions in a new South African Constitution, the document emphasises that any new constitution or a new political system will be viable unless both the rights and aspirations of all this country's citizens to a clean and healthy environment are recognised.

Council chairman Professor Reelf Botha said the document set out individual rights and responsibilities for such an environment.

The council believed these rights should be included in the new constitution as both a fundamental right and as directive principles, he said.

In a second major initiative, three organisations — Caprifox, the Habitat Council (an umbrella organisation for a number of environmental and conservation interest groups) and the Environmental Law Association of SA — joined forces to organise a series of workshops in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town last month, to forge a widely acceptable proposal for submission to the constitutional negotiations.

"The question of environmental rights has not been addressed in any constructive way at the constitutional negotiations which have taken place so far — neither at CODEX nor at the Multi-Party Forum," explained Habitat Council executive officer Mr. "Peter Wenker.

Legal experts and environmentalists at the workshop produced a draft three-part document consisting of a Preamble, The Fundamental Right and Directive Principles.

The principles refer to pollution control and waste management, education, administrative law, resource use and conservation, and administration.

The 26 page draft is being circulated among all those taking part in the workshops for comment, and a final version will be sent to the constitutional negotiators.
By Josias Charlie

THE EASTERN CAPE is the most poverty-stricken region in the country and Gauteng, while being the richest in per capita terms, is fourth on the list of poor provinces in South Africa, according to a survey.

The survey forms part of a study by Human Sciences Research Council based on data from the living standards and development survey conducted by the University of Cape Town.

The Eastern Cape tops the list of poverty-stricken provinces followed by KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Transvaal and Gauteng.

In fifth place is the Free State followed by Eastern Transvaal, North West, Western Cape and Northern Cape.

The study warns that in the light of the findings, Gauteng should not be left behind in the allocation of reconstruction and development programme funding.

According to the HSRC, the study used a poverty gap analysis that measured the amount by which annual incomes of poor households had to be raised to bring all households out of poverty.

"In 1993 the poverty gap in South Africa was just over R15 billion, which is less than five percent of the gross domestic product.

"The poverty problem is thus small in relation to the size of the economy, but the enormous number of people involved makes its eradication a huge task," the HSRC says.

Children suffer

The research also reveals that more than nine million children are living in poverty-stricken households.

"This can have long-term consequences for the country since a child that experiences poverty is exposed to the risk of impaired physical and mental development.

Women experienced higher levels of poverty than men, with more than 48 percent and just over 43 percent of men living in poverty, the study found.

It was also found that less than 30 percent of the total income accrues to blacks, in spite of the fact they constitute more than three quarters of the population."
SA among most unequal nations

Ingrid Salgado

The Eastern Cape bore the largest poverty burden of all SA’s provinces while Johannesburg had the largest burden of all magisterial districts, a recent Human Sciences Research Council study has found.

And although Gauteng was SA’s richest province, it had the fourth biggest poverty gap, indicating the province should not be left behind in the allocation of reconstruction and development programme funding, the council warned.

KwaZulu/Natal had the second largest gap, followed by the Northern Transvaal.

Blacks earned less than 30% of total income but constituted more than 75% of the population. The income of whites was more than 12 times higher than that of blacks, 5.1 times that of coloureds and 3.5 times that of Asians.

Nearly two thirds of the poverty gap was carried by rural blacks, indicating that the greater part of RDP resources needed be directed to rural communities.

The Gini coefficient was estimated at 0.65 for the total population — placing SA among the most unequal countries in the world.

The poorest 46% of households earned less than 6% of total income while the richest 10% earned more than half. Average income of the richest 20% of households was 45 times higher than the income of the poorest 20%.

The research further found that:

- More than 8 million children were living in poverty-stricken households.
- Women experienced higher levels of poverty than men, with more than 48% of women living in poverty compared to 43% of men.
- More than two thirds of homes headed by a person with less than a Standard 2 education lived in poverty against 10% of households headed by a matriculant.
Helping hand for the needy on city’s streets

BY PRISCILLA SINGH

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 5pm, hundreds of homeless and hungry people from all over Johannesburg make their way to the three outlets of the supermarket chain for a cup of hot vegetable soup and bread rolls.

The soup kitchens are outside the stores in Twint Street near Joubert Park, Highpoint in Hillbrow and Jeppe Street in the city centre, which are all areas frequented by many homeless and street children.

General manager of Fontana Holdings Greg Xenopoulos is the force behind the soup kitchens which were launched three weeks ago.

“THERE ARE SO MANY NEEDY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY STREET CHILDREN, WHO ARE SIMPLY HOMELESS AND PENNEDLESS.

“We want to start showing these kids there is a community that cares for them, a community that won’t misuse them and a community that will develop their potential,” he said.

Xenopoulos stresses that his company is not engaging in thoughtless free hand-outs but is also inculcating basic values in the children.

The children are asked to gather recyclable cans and bring them to collection points in exchange for food and clothing. They thus help keep the streets clean and the money from Collect-A-Can is donated to the YMCA.

“If the children have glue or other chemical substances on them, they are refused food until the glue is disposed of. They are also taught to express thanks for the food and clothing.”

He added that no effort is too small, “even if it is limited to the display of a few posters, asking customers or suppliers for contributions of food and clothing.”

If anybody wants to contribute to the soup kitchens they can telephone Xenopoulos on (011) 351-9971.
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需要援助。
Mbeki slams NP for not tackling issue of poverty

DEPUTY-President Thabo Mbeki has hit out at National Party MPs for their failure to engage in a debate on how to solve the crisis of poverty.

He was speaking at the end of a debate in the national assembly yesterday on his budget vote.

NP speakers attacked Mr Mbeki’s handling of the Allan Boesak and Winnie Mandela issues and teased him about allegations that he had ordered that less television time be given to Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale.

Opening the debate, Mr Mbeki called for the development of a national consensus on economic policy to improve the quality of life for all.

He rejected claims that there was a leadership crisis in the African National Congress.

Andries Beyers (NP) said Mr Mbeki had tried in turn to be the hero of exiles then of radicals and communists.

Mr Beyers said he shared Mr Mbeki’s alleged view that Mr Sexwale should not be seen on television. But instead Cyril Ramaphosa, Mr Mbeki’s purported rival for the future presidency, was seen on television.

Myburgh Streicher (NP) said Mr Mbeki could find himself president sooner than he anticipated.

President Nelson Mandela’s statement that he had given the order to Shell House security guards to kill if necessary could have serious implications, Mr Streicher said. “Presidents have had to resign for less.”

ANC speakers, among them Adelaide Tambo, chided NP MPs for speeches which were not conducive to nation-building and reconciliation.
Half the population of South Africa knows what it is like to be poor, says a new study on the problem of poverty in this country. Norman Chandler reports.

Plotting the patterns of poverty

A new report on poverty, inequality and human development in South Africa focuses on how the country is affected by the problem of child poverty as well as the gap between rich and poor, given that South Africa is classified on an international scale as being "an upper middle-income country."

The opposite to that classification is probably the truth because of a very large number of people having access to poverty and having very little chance of breaking the chain. These people are mainly rural, and therefore black, but there are also huge problems in urban areas not only in the black but also in the coloured, Asian and white communities. "The formulation of anti-poverty policies is, however, being hampered by a lack of baseline information regarding poverty," says the report.

It has been compiled by Andrew Wishford and Teressa Kelaawang (both of the HSRC) and Dive Poo (University of Natal), and is based on data from a living standards and demography survey conducted by the University of Cape Town.

They say that, in 1983, the poverty gap between the have and have-nots was just more than R15 billion, which is about 5% of the Gross Domestic Product, "and while the poverty problem is small in relation to the size of the economy, the enormous number of people involved makes it an extremely huge task."

Not too many South Africans are aware that 45.7% of the population — 18 609 020 people — live in poverty. This adds up to one-third of the 31.1 million households in the country being truly the poorest of the poor.

Worst off are Northern Transvaal families, followed by the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Northern Cape. The most "affluent" poor live in Western Cape and Gauteng.

The report says that the real sufferers, with about 13 million on the breadline, most being black people, followed by coloureds and Asians, while 35,000 white families are starving destitutes in the face of the situation. However, women and children of whatever colour are the real victims. It is a frightening thought that half of all women in South Africa live below the poverty line. This stems from the fact that they have a disproportionate share of the poverty burden due to their access to employment opportunities, which, if they do find work, is invariably low-paying and the alienation of resources within families is not always fairly distributed.

The risk of being in poverty is much higher in those households which are headed by women," the report notes. "Women in rural areas, in particular, face fewer incomeearning opportunities which would explain the high poverty risk among rural female-headed households."

One of the most clear-cut indicators of poverty within a family is the child.

The report has found that a child who experiences poverty is exposed to the risk of impaired physical and mental development, and, as a consequence, could be disadvantaged lifelong if he or she is unable to break out of the poverty trap.

There are 1.2 million poor children in both the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal and 1.8 million in the Northern Transvaal. Other areas where children face hardship are Free State (832 751), Eastern Transvaal (383 157), North West (350 500) and Gauteng (632 450). It is also significant that the poorest 40% of households earn less than 6% of the total income while the richest 10% earn more than half the total income of all households.

This situation not only fuels social tension but also serves as a constraint on economic growth," the authors say.

"The challenges facing economic planners so to raise the economy on a higher growth path and ensure that the greater share of the proceeds of growth accrues to the poorer sectors of society are daunting."

In 1983, total personal income amounted to more than R270.8 billion, of which less than a third accrued to black people, despite the fact that they accounted for more than 70% of the population.

Thus said to be a classic example, based on an international standard, of income inequality known as the "Gini coefficient" — a measure of inequality which can vary from 0 in the case of perfect equality to 1 in the case of absolute inequality — this standard shows that inequality here is at 0.6 compared to other developing nations such as Taiwan (0.37) and Singapore (0.52).

It is not only in the individual household that income inequalities are predominant — Gauteng and Western Cape are the two richest provinces (although between them they have 2.5 million poor people living within their boundaries) compared to the Northern Transvaal and Eastern Cape, which are the two poorest and have 7.6 million of the nation's poor.
Desperate plight of the rural poor revealed in study

JOHANNESBURG — Unemployment in rural areas fluctuated between 30 to 70 percent in South Africa with up to 60 percent of the population living under established-household standard of living levels, according to a study issued on this week.

The independent Land and Agricultural Policy Centre (LAPC) conducted the research in all nine provinces, focusing on 10 rural districts, centre director David Cooper told a news briefing.

"The picture that emerges is of intense rural poverty and poor institutional support," said Mr Cooper.

The LAPC found the poorest province in South Africa was the Northern Transvaal where 40 percent of the rural population earned, on average, below R800 a year.

Figures for the Free State were similar, with an estimated 40 percent of rural black people not receiving a cash income, the researchers said.

According to the researchers, much of the research has shown that there is a high demand for security of tenure and for land for residential use.
Poverty 'poses biggest threat to the environment'

Canadian warns of urban decay

SOUTH AFRICA was an environmental Armageddon in which 21 million people lived without toilets, 12 million without access to clean water, and seven million without houses, according to a Canadian environmentalist.

Sewage and refuse removal systems in townships such as Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga had collapsed and it was estimated that two thirds of Cape Town's population was homeless and almost a third lived without adequate water supply, said the visiting expert, David McDonald, of the University of Toronto, who is doing a doctorate research project here about the impact of urban poverty on the environment.

"Environmental issues focus too much on broader green issues relating to nature instead of the living conditions of people — the urban sprawl, the enormous poverty, the groundwater contamination and piles of refuse. This undermines the environmental integrity of the city as a whole.

"Kids, inadvertently, are playing in sewage water.

"Iikopa (Nyanga, Guguletu and Langa), with a population of 400,000, has 10 working re-
Poverty is on the increase

POVERTY in South Africa has been increasing by 2 percent a year since 1980, says National Productivity Institute (NPI) executive director Dr Jan Visser. Unless the nation successfully stops this trend, the country faces a bleak future.

Visser was speaking at the 1995 Logistika Award ceremony in Johannesburg on Tuesday night. Pohfin PP, the joint Sasol-AECI venture, was adjudged the winner, with Sappi Forests KwaZulu-Natal second and CompuServe third. The other finalists were The Foschini Group, the 1992 winner, and Sasol's Olefin.

Dr Visser said the standard of living was in the long term probably the most important factor in the functioning of a whole country. Poverty lay at the root of many of the present problems to be dealt with in South African society. The high crime rate, inadequate housing and the overall lack of facilities to support a healthy, productive community all stemmed from the fact that South Africa had not produced and was not producing the commodities and services people wanted to consume.

First stumbling block

"The question now arises how we can turn this totally unacceptable trend around. Economists all believe that the first stumbling block we are faced with in our quest for higher economic growth is the balance of payments," he said.

The fact that the balance of payments turned negative again from the fourth quarter last year forced the Reserve Bank to increase interest rates to retard demand. This automatically dampened growth. "To avoid this trap we must become successful in the export market. More South African goods and services must find their way into foreign markets by being competitive from a price, quality and service point of view," Dr Visser said.

Becoming competitive is not easy after one had been excluded from foreign competitions for a long time. South African sportsmen and women experienced this, and businesses certainly also did, he said — Sapa
Civic helps poor
N Cape township is optimistic after years of poverty and neglect

By Russel Molefe

THE estimated 100 000 people of Galeshewe township near Kimberley belong to a "doomed and forgotten" society, says the local civic association.

This statement makes sense to anyone who visits this dilapidated and dusty township in the impoverished Northern Cape.

When entering the township, a war zone immediately comes to mind. Yet it was never engulfed by violence, except for running battles between youths and police during the apartheid era.

The roofs and walls of many houses in the township - where the bucket-toilet system is still in use - have collapsed.

This is a township where more than 60 percent of the residents are unemployed and illiterate, according to the Galeshewe Civic Association.

The suffering and poverty being experienced by residents has also given rise to gangsterism among youngsters, there is an increase in gang-related criminal activities in the township.

Civic association adviser Mr. Kenneth Job said the main employers in the province are the diamond mines. But the mines are closing down and people are losing their jobs.

"Everybody knows the Northern Cape is the major producer of diamonds in this country. But the money generated by those diamonds was never used to uplift the standards of people in the region."

"All the money was used to improve the economies of other provinces."

Job said the civic association has taken full advantage of the new political dispensation and dedicating itself to working to uplift the standard of living in the township.

The Buffer Zone Development Committee is running a trust fund jointly with the Kimberley Transitional Local Council to generate money to develop the township.

Job explained that the civic association wanted to involve people on the ground in decision-making about development in the area.

"We have already applied to the Reconstruction and Development Programme Fund to develop a section called Greater Number 2," he said.

"What aggravates our situation in the township is that our province did not get a fair share of the national budget. We only got two percent of the total budget.

"We need hope, we are running high among residents that the township will improve under the new political dispensation."
Strong words on poverty

By Vuyo Bavuma
Political Reporter

It was important to link free health services with proper food schemes as part of the Government's ongoing war against poverty, said Professor Sampie Terblanche of Stellenbosch University yesterday.

Addressing a Parliamentary welfare portfolio committee on its Budget vote, Terblanche said there was a great need to introduce the soup and bread kitchens on a large scale.

"It is shocking that people could die of hunger in such a middle-income country, yet sick people on street pavements could get medical help," he said.

"We don't need this kind of double standard approach We should have the same approach (to both issues)."

Terblanche said with 49 percent of its citizens living in desperate poverty and 67 percent of black people in abject poverty in squatter camps and the former TBVC states and homelands, South Africa was like Belgium and India combined.

Professor Peter le Roux of the Institute of Social Development at the University of the Western Cape said a number of old people who qualified for social pensions outweighed the economic growth.

The number of pensioners increased three times annually and this would lead to problems for the Government as the economic growth was smaller.

Le Roux said the Government also faced the problem of corruption in the pension pay-out. This, he said, cost the Government an estimated R1 billion.

Echoing the sentiments, Dr Ellen Khazwayo, a committee member, said it was important for the Government to help the communities to run their own schemes to avoid dependence.

"Many poor people have survived by using communal projects. Some of these people are still living, but should have been killed by poverty.
Public enemy number one

The offences include shortening life and causing starvation, disability, mental illness, suicide, family breakdown and substance abuse, writes Chris Mihill.

The world’s biggest killer, the platelete, is a cause of ill-health and suffering across the globe, which records all ailments known to medical science. It is given the code 259.5. It doesn’t stand for cancer, heart disease, HIV or even malnutrition. It stands for extreme poverty.

Poverty is the main reason why babies are not vaccinated, why clean water and sanitation are not provided, why treatment is unavailable and why mothers die in childbirth. It is the underlying cause of reduced life expectancy, handicap, disablement and starvation. It is a major contributor to the likes of illness, suicide, family disintegration and substance abuse.

The words come not from some levelling pressure group or Third World agency. They are the opening statement of the 1995 annual report of the World Health Organisation, which pointed out that this week WHO, not unusually noted for railing denunciations of health inequalities, states: “The world’s poor, who constitute 12.2 million children under five die, most of them from causes which could be prevented for just a few US cents per child. They die largely because of world indifference but most of all because they die because they are poor.”

The report is entitled: Bridging the Gap But a note in a red-black catalogue of facts and figures it shows how in nations across the health gaps are not closing but widening — between rich and poor, between North and South, between rural and urban. Poor are employed and unemployed, between young and old.

In the time taken to read this sentence, somewhere a baby has died in its mother’s arms. It will not be the first nor the last. It will not be the mother’s grief to know that eight out of 10 children in the world have been vaccinated against the five major killer diseases of childhood, or that since 1980 infant mortality has fallen by 50% worldwide. Some overall life expectancy has increased by four years, to about 65.

Beneath the heartrending facts about decreased mortality and increasing life expectancy, and many other health advances, lie neglected disasters in health. In WHO’s words: “For most people in the world today every step of life from infancy to old age is taken under the twin shadows of poverty and inequity and under the double burden of suffering and disease. For many the prospects of longer life may seem more like a punishment than a gift.”

The true obscenity highlighted by the report is that millions of children could be saved for a few cents — yet the world chooses not to give the money. By the end of the century, we could be living in a world without pox, without now cases of leprosy, without deaths from neonatal tetanus and measles. Older deaths could be greatly reduced. But today the money that some developing countries have to spend on per person health over an entire year is just US$44 — less than the small change earned by most people in industrialised countries.

A person in the least developed countries of the world has a life expectancy of 43 years, in the same range as the life expectancy of 78. That inequality alone should stir the conscience of the world — but in the usual state of the world picture is getting worse in the countries - Cote d’Ivoire, Central African Republic, Congo, Uganda and Zambia — life expectancy at birth is expected to decrease by the year 2000, whereas everywhere else it is increasing. In the richest countries of the world every year, 10,000 deaths could be prevented. In some of the poorest it will fall to 42 by 2000. At least 40 countries will have life expectancy at birth of under 40.

The number of children under five who died in 1995 — more than 12.2 million — equals the populations of Norway and Sweden combined. If developing countries enjoyed the same standard of living as the developed, more than 80% of those deaths could have been avoided.

In parts of the industrialised world, such as the UK, six out of every 1000 newborn children die before five in 16 developing countries, the corresponding rate in the UK is 1 in 10,000. A 100-fold difference.

In 1990, more than 30% of the world’s children under five were underweight for their age. Malnourished malnutrition is estimated to affect at least two billion people of all ages but children are particularly vulnerable. As a result of such deficiency — easily preventable by putting this element in salt — at least 50 million children under five die and more than 120,000 are born mentally retarded, physically deformed, or paralysed. In 1987, iodine deficiency affected 2 billion people of all ages.

One child in 2000 is infected with helminths, which is seriously disabling. Of the 120 million people who are infected with helminths, 15 million are seriously disabled by the disease.

WHO estimates that the number of people living in extreme poverty is around 1,1 billion. WHO estimates that 1,1 billion people live in extreme poverty, and in many cases made the situation worse.

WHO warns that long-term unemployment is creating a new class of "unteachable" — by excluding a large part of the world’s economic output from the stream of society! "The unemployed are a poignantly obvious danger of the modern world, a consequence of the poverty of a country wailing around it's members."

In every area of the report — from malnutrition to lack of healthcare in the expanding mega-cities of the Third World, to the inability to dispel the drug war in the Islamic Republic of Iran — the disease of poverty, the consequence of the overuse of powerful drugs, of the spread of HIV because of the cost of condoms — of the world’s people die, all in the same year. It’s a crisis.
Take rural issues more seriously — Naidoo

RESULTS of a survey showing huge underdevelopment in rural areas, including unemployment of more than 60 percent among black women in the Eastern Cape, have been released by Central Statistical Services.

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said today at a media conference that the figures showed the "complete inequality" in allocation of resources to urban and rural areas.

"The starkness of the figures has been a revelation to me," he said.

"We’ve got to take issues related to rural development much more seriously."

The Household Survey is carried out annually in October by CSS, but the 1994 survey, released today, was the first to include the former homelands.

CSS also released the latest Human Development Index, a measurement of people’s ability to live a long and healthy life, which ranked South Africa 86th of 173 countries, near Paraguay, Botswana and China.

Mr Naidoo's office said the CSS survey showed that 32.6 percent of the economically active population, or 4.7 million people, were jobless.

The formal sector provided jobs to 38.9 percent of those able to work, and the informal sector 10.4 percent.

The Northern Transvaal had the highest unemployment rate at 47 percent, and the Western Cape the lowest of 17.3 percent.

The Eastern Cape had the highest rural joblessness rate, at 56.3 percent of the economically active population.

In all race groups more women than men were unemployed. The worst unemployment for women in urban areas was 47 percent in the Northern Cape, while the highest rate in rural areas was the Eastern Cape — with 64.1 percent.

The statement said the lack of easily-accessible water for household use was most severe in the Eastern Cape, where 81.1 percent of the rural population had no tap in their dwellings or on site, and the Free State, where 15.4 percent of the urban population had no tap.

In the North-West province 81.3 percent of people in rural areas had no walking-distance access to a phone.

The statement said South Africa’s Human Development Index rating of 0.577 placed it in the “medium” category. Countries below 0.5 were considered to have a low level of human development, and those of 0.8 or more a high level.

The HDI was a measurement of “people’s ability to live a long and healthy life, to communicate and to have sufficient means to afford a decent living.”

By province, the Western Cape (0.826) and Gauteng (0.818) ranked in the high scale. The Northern Transvaal, with 0.470, fell in the low category, and other provinces in the medium.
SA is 86th on human development scale

RESULTS of the first South African Human Development Index list Northern Transvaal as the nation's least developed province and rank South Africa 86th on the world development table — alongside Paraguay.

The minister in charge of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, Jais Nadoo, said in Cape Town that the UN-linked human development index would be updated annually as a measure of South Africa's post-apartheid development.

He said the index, based on life expectancy, income, education and literacy, provided a useful single-figure table on which to measure the impacts of the five-year, R37.5 billion rand RDP.

Today's results put Northern Transvaal as the only province in the "low human development" category at 0.470 on a zero-to-one scale.

The Western Cape at 0.826 and Gauteng at 0.818 were the only provinces in the "high human development" range.

Mr Nadoo said the index highlighted the gap between black and white living standards, ranking "white South Africa" 19th among the 173 countries on the international index and "black South Africa" 119th.

White society rated 0.901 on the human development index, and the Asian community, also in the high development category, at 0.836. The coloured community was measured at 0.663 and black society the lowest at 0.500. — Reuter.
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White society rated 0.901 on the human development index with the Asian community also in the high development category at 0.886. The coloured community was measured at 0.663 with black society lowest at 0.500.

Naidoo said the figures, released with further results of the Government’s benchmark October Household Survey of 30,000 South African families, broadly confirmed the priorities of his reconstruction programme.

“The figures underline the extent of the problem of rural underdevelopment. We had anticipated the trends, but not the starkness of the problem,” he said.

“It is important that we should not be content to live in poverty,” he added — Reuters.
Survey a ‘stark reminder’ of SA’s problems

ADRIAN HADLAND

CAPE TOWN — The provincial breakdown of results of a nationwide survey of householders, released yesterday, was a stark reminder of the development problems SA faced, Minister without Portfolio Jay Nadoo said. (Adrian Haddad)

Conducted by the Central Statistical Service in October, the survey of 30,000 homes indicated wide disparities between living conditions and employment levels and access to resources in various provinces.

It showed rural unemployment in Eastern Cape was at 55.3% and in Northern Transvaal 59.7% compared with 30.4% in Gauteng and 4.5% in Western Cape.

Urban unemployment was 39.4% in Eastern Cape, 23.3% in Northern Transvaal, 22.2% in Gauteng and 17.7% in Western Cape.

More than 80% of rural people in Eastern Cape, 51.7% in Northern Transvaal and 65.4% in KwaZulu-Natal had no tap water in or near their homes.

A lack of electricity affected 12% of rural residents in Eastern Cape, 19.7% in Northwest, 28.7% in Northern Transvaal and 77.1% in the Free State.

There were disproportionately high levels of unemployment for women, particularly in rural areas. The bulk of the unemployed were poorly educated and aged between 15 and 29.

Nadoo said while many of the trends confirmed earlier diagnoses, he was surprised by the low number of people working in the informal sector and the extent of rural deprivation.

About 1.5 million people — 10.4% of the 8.3 million-strong economically active population — earned a living from the informal sector.

The provincial results of the survey, which followed national results released in March, would help determine reconstruction and development programmes.

The statistics would also be used by the Financial and Fiscal Commission to work out criteria for the allocation of central government funds to provinces.

A major national census next year would add to the data government required to implement its development objectives.
W Cape’s the best, comparatively

RAHRY STREET
AND CHRIS BATEMAN

THE Western Cape has the highest rating in South Africa in terms of the UN Human Development Index and the lowest rate of unemployment, Minister without Portfolio Mr Jay Naidoo revealed yesterday.

The Western Cape and Gauteng also rank high in world terms, he said when the results of the October Household Survey by the Central Statistics Service were released.

‘Over-simplistic’

He also revealed that a survey had shown that 4.7 million of the economically-active population (32.6%) in South Africa were unemployed and 1.5m (19.4%) were in the formal sector.

Responding to the finding that the province had the lowest joblessness in the country, Western Cape Economic Affairs and RDP minister Mr Chris Nissen said yesterday it was “over-simplistic” to fear severe underfunding by Pretoria because of this.

He said RDP allocations were targeted at “specific crisis areas”, as needs arose in each province.

Provincial RDP co-ordinator and acting head of Economic Affairs, Mr Tony Runes, said that even though statistics seemed to put the province at the “back of the queue” in areas such as health, education and housing, funds would flow from Pretoria when there was a “true need”.

Mr Naidoo said the survey contained the first official results of the South Africa Human Development Index (HDI).

“It is best seen as a measure of the ability to live a long and healthy life, to communicate, to participate in the life of the community and to have sufficient means to be able to afford a decent living — with the basic indicators being life expectancy, adult literacy, the average years of schooling and per capita income.”

South Africa ranked 86th out of 173 countries in HDI. This placed it in the medium category.

Mr Naidoo also said there were 14,4m economically-active people in South Africa and 8.2m (56.9%) working in the formal sector of the economy.

“The highest unemployment rate in the provinces occurred in the Northern Transvaal (47%) and the lowest in the Western Cape (17.3%).”

Mr Naidoo said the Eastern Cape had the highest rural unemployment rate (56.3%) and the Northern Cape the highest urban unemployment rate (38.2%).

“Relative to the other provinces, the Western Cape shows a very low unemployment rate in both urban areas (4.9%) and the rural areas (19.7%).”

Arrears

A high concentration of unemployment occurred in the age group 20-24 for all population groups but in the age group 25-29 for Africans.

More females of all population groups than males were unemployed.

Reacting to a public announcement he made last week that coloured people’s rental arrears would be scrapped on the same terms as those of Africans, Mr Nissen said President Nelson Mandela had agreed to the principle that Pretoria would not exclude coloured people’s debts being written off.

Unemployed persons:
The pie chart shows the proportional breakdown of unemployed persons by population group

- Asians: 3.43%
- Coloureds: 7.48%
- Whites: 1.50%

Provincial unemployment rates for urban and rural areas

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Call to end poverty

By Isaac Moledi

SOUTH AFRICA is likely to be sent back to the dark ages if the prevailing poverty is not addressed and eradicated, says the chairman of Gauteng’s standing committee on finance, Leon Cohen.

Cohen was speaking at the official launch of the South African Grant-makers’ Association in Johannesburg this week.

SAGA, an association comprising 32 corporations that are funding development projects, was founded six months ago.

Its aim is to link together those involved in funding, making it possible for member organisations to communicate with each other, and identify areas where joint efforts at policy development can be of assistance.

Cohen told the gathering which included a delegation from the United States Council Foundation, major corporations and government representatives that it was necessary that business becomes aware that poverty which exists had become pervasive, deep rooted and a fundamental threat to civil society.

"This threat has the potential to neutralise all the gains over the last five years and send South Africa back to the dark ages," said Cohen.

He called on business to play its role in the preparation of a platform for sustained economic growth and for them to assist in the management of the short-term potential crisis.

"Corporate social investment has, does and will provide a number of key resources including money, skills development and skills transfer, training, access to resources facilities, to a very wide range of communities and organisations," he said.

Targeted resources

He said that the resources and the extent that they could be optimised in conjunction with the targeted resources of government, would ensure that the next five years deliver the tangible benefits of a remarkable political process.

SAGA, according to its chairperson Eunice Sibyla, aims to maximise the efficiency of social investment and not to draw away funding that should be spent on development.

"SAGA is not a new funding organisation or grant maker. We are not a cartel that will have the power to either support or sink individual projects," Sibyla said.

"Our aim is to deepen understanding of the ethics of grant making, to discuss general policy guidelines for funding and to sharpen our appreciation of how social investment can best be utilised," she added.
Over 9m children 'living in poverty'

PRETORIA: More than nine million South African children live in poverty-stricken households, a Human Sciences Research Council study has found.

Expressing concern about the long-term implications of this figure, the HSRC said children growing up in poverty "are exposed to the risk of impaired physical and mental development."

The findings were based on figures from the Living Standards and Development Survey conducted in 1993. Other sources such as census statistics were also used.

A report on the study, released here yesterday, said there was "extreme inequality" in incomes.

The average income of the richest 20% households was 45 times that of the poorest 20%, the report said.

An analysis of income patterns found that the per capita income of whites was 12 times that of blacks. Blacks earned less than a third of the total income although they accounted for more than three-quarters of the population.

Less than five per cent of those living in poverty were in white, coloured and Asian groups.

**Tension**

"This not only fuels tension, but it also serves as a constraint on economic growth," the report said.

Nearly two-thirds of those living in poverty were rural blacks, indicating that the "lion's share" of reconstruction and development projects should be planned for rural communities, the HSRC said. — Sapa
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**Fuels tension**

"Thus not only fuels tension but also serves as a constraint on economic growth," the report said.

Nearly two-thirds of those living in poverty were rural blacks, indicating that "a lion's share" of reconstruction and development projects should be directed at rural communities, the HSRC added. — Sapa
Act on poverty now, says UN chief

Copenhagen—UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali opened the United Nations World Summit for Social Development yesterday with a plea to political leaders to take action against widespread poverty and social injustice.

Opening what will be the biggest gathering of international leaders, Boutros-Ghali said extreme poverty, suffered by more than 1.3 billion people throughout the world, was a direct cause of war and it was therefore in the interests of all governments to care for their people.

Battle

Despite the summit’s lofty goals — eradication of world poverty and social injustice and a battle against unemployment — few expect the Copenhagen assembly to change the world.

A poll published at the weekend in the Danish newspaper Politiken said three out of four Danes doubted that the week-long summit, to be attended by about 120 heads of state or government, would achieve tangible results in bridging the gap between the world’s haves and have-nots.

Just staging the event is costing Denmark about R105 million, with the United Nations providing a further R10-million. — Sapa-Reuters
Poorer nations oppose anti-poverty scheme

COPENHAGEN — Poorer nations all but rejected firm targets on anti-poverty spending yesterday, dealing another blow to concrete action by the world poverty summit meeting.

The meeting — attracting nearly 9,000 delegates from 193 countries — will likely end up with a watered-down promise by rich and poor countries to work out adjustments in social spending on their own.

Two days into the 126th assembly, delegates were still trying to agree on any firm commitments for ending poverty, unemployment and social inequalities — an unwieldy swatch of topics being lumped together for the first time.

The summit aims to hammer out a final document to be signed on Sunday by nearly 130 national leaders.

The meeting got a boost yesterday from US First Lady Hillary Clinton, who joined in offering words of support and an initiative for fighting female illiteracy. “Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to improving global prosperity,” and I am glad that this summit has endorsed the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women,” she said.

But even as she spoke, an ambitious anti-poverty plan to set a target of 20% for social spending by aid donor and recipient countries was faltering in closed-door meetings. The plan, dubbed “20-20,” faced trouble since it was proposed months ago. Some UN officials said the fact that it might be approved in any form could be seen as an achievement.

The “20-20” proposal drew criticism at a caucuses among delegates from about 130 developing countries who are resisting any conditions set on aid money, said Venezuela’s minister Mercedes Pulido de Braceno.

She said the plan might still be preserved in principle but limited to bilateral negotiations. That means it would not be subject to global or UN pressure.

With the likely admission of the 20-20 targets, the remaining tangible proposals centered on calls for debt relief and adjustments in foreign aid.

The World Bank, IMF and regional lenders have borne much of the criticism at the summit for sometimes forcing strict fiscal policies. “They are sometimes social policy in the interest of creditors and not of society,” said Michel Chassande, an economics professor at a tandem conference of private aid groups.

But bank officials said they have “thick skin” when it comes to such complaints. “When they say the World Bank recommends cuts in health and education expenditures, that is pure rubbish,” bank vice-president Arminio Choksa said. “We are now explicitly telling governments that if you cut your fiscal deficits and expenditures, you must take care of the poor.”

IMF MD Michel Camdessus suggested one solution could be taking “new steps to improve the daily co-operation in particular with the UN family.” But he said more co-operation on financial issues would not replace more discipline by governments themselves. — Sape-AP.

Applications for Nedlac

THE National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) had received more than 40 applications from community and development organizations for representation on the executive council, programmes director Debra Marsden said yesterday.

She said the applications would be assessed this month by special committees to be chaired by representatives from the Minister without Portfolio Iraj Abedian’s office.

The successful applicants would represent community and development constituencies on the Nedlac executive council which would meet quarterly.

A newly constituted development chamber would represent community and development interests.

It would operate within the broad framework set out in the reconstruction and development programme White Paper, Marsden said yesterday.

Sources speculated that the development chamber representatives were likely to be drawn from the ranks of the SA National Civic Organisation.
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Two days into the $20m assembly, delegates were still trying to agree on any firm commitments for ending poverty, unemployment and social inequalities — an unwieldy swath of topics being lumped together for the first time.

The summit aims to hammer out a final document to be signed on Sunday by nearly 120 national leaders.

The meeting got a boost yesterday from US First Lady Hillary Clinton, who jetted in offering words of support and an initiative for fighting female illiteracy. “Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to improving global prosperity, and I am glad that this summit has endorsed the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women,” she said.

But even as she spoke, an ambitious anti-poverty plan to set a target of 20% for social spending by aid donor and recipient countries was faltering in closed-door meetings. The plan, dubbed “50-20”, faced trouble since it was proposed months ago.

Some UN officials said the fact that it might be approved in any form could be seen as an achievement.

The “20-20” proposal ran aground in a caucus among delegates from about 130 developing countries who are resisting any condition set on aid money, said Venezuelan minister Mercedes Paúl de Bruceno.

She said the plan might still be preserved in principle but limited to bilateral negotiations. That means it would not be subject to global or UN pressure.

With the likely slimming of the 20-20 targets, the remaining tangible proposals centred on calls for debt relief and adjustments in foreign aid.

The World Bank, IMF and regional lenders have borne much of the criticism at the summit for sometimes forcing strict fiscal policies. “They are forming social policy in the interest of creditors and not of society,” said Michel Chossudovsky, an economics professor at a tandem conference of private aid groups.

But bank officials said they have “thick skin” when it comes to such complaints.

“Many say the World Bank recommends cuts in health and education expenditures, that is pure rubbish,” bank vice-president Armeene Choksi said. “We are now explicitly telling governments that if you cut your fiscal deficits and expenditures, you must take care of the poor.”

IMF MD Michel Camdessus suggested one solution could be taking “new steps to improve the daily co-operation in particular with the UN family.” But he said more co-operation on financial issues would not replace more discipline by governments themselves. — Sapi-AFP.
SA's poverty shock

SOUTH AFRICA will tell the world this week that the industrialised nations have an obligation to help developing countries but "the RDP is a commitment by the government and civil society, working together, to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps". By BARRY STIEGEL

A GRIM picture of poverty and deprivation in South Africa is being presented by the government this week to the international community at the World Social Summit in Copenhagen.

The government's call for international support to tackle these problems will be bolstered on Friday by the attendance of President Nelson Mandela at the conference.

The South Africa Report, which was released last night by the Reconstruction and Development Programme office, says the Indian-traded nations have an obligation to developing countries.

However, the developing nations cannot simply sit back and expect to be helped. What we do ourselves will ultimately determine whether we can lift our people up.

We in South Africa have realised this. The RDP is a commitment by the government and civil society to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps.

The report said the government had a large role to play in addressing the existing economic problems, which were mainly structural, and in this way create an environment conducive to investment.

The new government had inherited a huge deficit, with government consumption expenditure more than 20% of GDP and interest repayments more than 17% of the budget.

The document said South Africa had a population of between 40 million and 43.5m, with children under the age of 15 making up more than 37% of the population.

About 30% of South Africans had per capita disposable income only 40% of that of whites, while that of coloureds was 27% and blacks 13% of white disposable incomes.

The report added that 30% of households were headed by women, and only 13% of these did not have dependents.

Only 34% of Africans had access to flush toilets.

South Africa produced more than 50% of the electricity in Africa, but only 30% of the population had access to electricity that their homes.

Although 17% of the population lived in the rural areas, they were served by only 2% of the telephones.

If the population was 41m it was estimated that 12.5m people, 30%, were illiterate.

The document also said 2.3m South Africans suffered from malnutrition.

Reserve Bank 'reviewed'

BY HUGHY D'ANZIO

The Reserve Bank's role is being reviewed, the government has said.

"The role of the central bank in the economy is under review," said the Reserve Bank's statement on the week's World Social Summit in Copenhagen.

"Aspects being considered include its function in maintaining the_SE__value of the currency, keeping inflation relatively low, ensuring the safety and soundness of the financial system.

"At the same time, the monetary policy must be developed to

address the social objectives of minimising and alleviating poverty." The government has released last night by the Reconstruction and Development Programme office.

The report said that, with the objective of improving labour relations, skills development and technology transfer, the Reserve Bank was reducing its dependence on primary commodities.

"These goals can be promoted by the identification of new areas of industrial development," it said.

"Economic and industrial leaders said an important issue that the Independent Reserve Bank (IRB) must consider is that South Africa's financial system is too domestic and not diversified enough to support a world diversified economy.

"Interest rates are becoming a political issue now that lower-paid workers are buying houses with mortgage loans.

PROTEST: One of 750 puppets hung in Copenhagen this week. The puppets represent children around the world who will die of preventable diseases during the World Social Summit being held there. President Nelson Mandela will address the summit on Friday.
Poverty summit argues over money

COPENHAGEN: A proposal by Third World countries for a new development fund to finance recommendations from the UN Summit on Social Development remains the major obstacle in completing negotiations here, officials said yesterday.

The summit is due to end on Sunday when 116 heads of state are expected to approve a 10-point declaration and 65-page programme of action aimed at wiping out poverty, creating jobs and increasing social integration.

The demand for an International Bank for Social Development was expressed on Monday, the first day of the conference, by Ms Celito Habito of the Philippines, speaking on behalf of 131 developing countries.

The proposed bank would be an alternative to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, which have been attacked here for imposing severe conditions on finance for the Third World.

Ms Habito, secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority, also called on rich countries to cancel the crippling debt of Third World nations.

The US delegation said yesterday it was in favour of debt cancellation, but African nations said they were afraid they would go home empty-handed.

The rich countries are watering down the document so much "that they will leave enough flexibility to allow countries to do whatever they want," a representative of a non-governmental delegation from Senegal said.

The non-governmental sector is holding a conference at the same time as the week-long summit at the Bella Centre in the city's outskirts — Sapa-AP
Common cause elusive

Copenhagen — World governments struggled to finalize a UN blueprint for eradicating poverty and injustice before a weekend summit billed as the biggest gathering of leaders in history.

Facing criticism that the summit will produce little real action to help the world's 1.3-billion poor, delegates worked late into the night to overcome differences on the summit's final declaration.

The debate highlighted real differences between rich Western nations and the developing world over debt, trade and human rights.

It also underlined the huge task facing governments as they try to deal with the root causes of wars and disease, especially in the poorer regions of Africa and Asia.

Several thousand officials have been working at the UN special summit in Copenhagen this week.

About 120 government leaders are expected to attend the final weekend session. Many, including President Mandela, were due to arrive today.

President Fidel Castro of Cuba, Francois Mitterrand of France, US Vice President Al Gore and Chinese Premier Li Peng are due to attend. Russia's President Yeltsin is not.

Charity, aid, peace and religious groups criticized the UN conference yesterday for not going far enough to rid the world of poverty.

They blamed rich Western nations which were cutting aid and were unwilling to cancel the debts of developing countries.

Sven Reuter

(241) Star 10/3/95
SA takes ‘hopeful picture’ to summit

COPENHAGEN. — President Mandela arrived here today for a UN summit on poverty which has been billed as the biggest gathering of world leaders in history. He was met by Danish officials and a police escort.

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo says the government is taking a "hopeful picture" to the summit.

Its report to the summit spells out the grim picture of South African poverty inherited by the present government — but also details government goals to eradicate poverty within a defined timetable.

Mr Naidoo says: "South Africa is part of the developing world, and as such is not asking for charity. Instead, it wants 'coherent and co-ordinated' development."

"Given world history, it is clear that the industrialised nations have an obligation to those which are still developing. However, the developing nations cannot simply sit back and expect to be helped," the report states.

South Africa's Reconstruction and Development Programme was an attempt "to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps."

The report says industrialised countries at the summit should ensure skill and technology transfers in all projects they assist and channel aid into programmes determined as priorities by recipient governments.

Although the report details the most comprehensive statistics ever released by a South African government, Mr Naidoo says more figures were needed for the government's "attack on poverty" — Reuters, The Argus Correspondent.
Mandela's message of hope

COPENHAGEN. — President Mandela's address to the World Summit on Social Development has called for the transformation of the world to make it a better place for all.

"Humility, induced by the heavy responsibility which rests upon all of us, demands that we cannot postpone the decisions and concrete programmes which will set us on a path which sees the world transformed into a better home for all," Mr Mandela told the summit yesterday.

"It is my profound wish that the UN world summit on social development will go down in history as one which made a difference to the quality of life for millions around the world."

Mr Mandela's speech concentrated on efforts his government was taking to improve the lives of South Africans but pointed out there were many obstacles in the path of moves to change.

"It would be idle to pretend that in the transition, there were no problems. Indeed, we believe that we owe it to the international community not only to celebrate our victories, but also to be open about our difficulties," Mr Mandela told delegates.

About 120 world leaders, including Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Kim Young Sam of South Korea and Alberto Fujimori of Peru were among those at the conference in the Danish capital.

But Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Nigeria's military ruler General Sani Abacha, target of a coup plot earlier this month, cancelled plans to come to Denmark. Mr Arafat was too busy with Middle East peace problems. Nigeria gave no formal reason.

Mr Castro, asked by reporters at the airport what he expected from the summit, replied in Spanish, "Let's wait and see."

The Copenhagen conference, billed as history's biggest gathering of world leaders, seeks to eradicate poverty, slash unemployment and battle social inequalities — aims that critics say are overly ambitious and too broad.

The drafters of the nearly 90-page resolution, which will not be legally binding, say the summit can make the world a better place.
President warmly received

Mandela pleads for unity at UN summit

Copenhagen — President Mandela told fellow world leaders to rise united in humanity's name across boundaries, when he addressed the UN summit on social development yesterday.

"Either we rise together as humanity, or together fall," Mandela said in his speech on the final day of the week-long summit.

He said world leaders had gathered in the Danish capital to ask themselves one vital question: "how does humanity co-operate to build a better life for all?"

Saying the question appeared simple enough, Mandela said it was still a centuries-old challenge.

"We in South Africa have learned through bitter experience that security for a few is in fact insecurity for all," he continued.

He added that the recent successful transition to democracy in his own country did not mask the fact that disorder still had to be eradicated.

Mandela said the summit represented a "major effort to reorder world affairs" and an attempt to listen to the "voices of the peoples, who are uniting across artificial boundaries for real and lasting security".

People were "asserting themselves more and more, particularly in structures of civil society", so that "the choice before us is either to bend to that will or continue to flounder in the morass of circumlocution", he went on.

Mandela also insisted on the need to find ways of "ending the marginalisation of Africa. The measures that are required to do this must be addressed urgently by all of us", he said.

Taking South Africa again as an example, Mandela concluded that "we are perhaps better placed, and even duty bound, to ask the question — how do we emerge from here, inspired not merely to attend future summits, but, under the aegis of the UN, to implement programmes that the world and its inhabitants demand and deserve?" — Sapa-AFP.

 Mbeki to report on Winnie today

BY JUSTICE MALALA

President Mandela will get a report from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki today on the controversy surrounding Winnie Mandela, said presidential spokesman Joel Netshitenze yesterday.

Mbeki has been charged by the president with resolving rows over Mrs Mandela's departure to West Africa without permission, and allegations of corruption against her.

The corruption controversy follows a police raid on Mrs Mandela's Soweto house two weeks ago in which policemen searched for evidence that she used her position as deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology to secure low-cost housing contracts for a building firm.

Mrs Mandela's attempt to get back papers taken by police from her home during the raid resumes in the Rand Supreme Court tomorrow.

Both Mrs Mandela and Mbeki have been tightlipped about their meeting on Friday.
Copenhagen raises the hopes of world’s poor

By Nicholas Dixon
UN summit calls to end poverty

OPENHAGEN — It was an epic session of worthy speeches. World leaders urged an end to poverty before making a lofty pledge to transform the human condition.

Now, after a week of words and red-carpet festivities including a lavish banquet, fireworks and laser displays, a simple question hangs in the air: Was the UN social summit simply an expensive jamboree? Or will it really bring about a change to a world where one in five of the subsystems — more than one billion people — lives below the breadline and where millionaires have neither jobs nor dignity?

From the streets of Mexico City to the slums of Manila, hopes have been raised that the week-long summit would help bridge the growing divide between rich and poor as the world stumbles towards the 21st century.

Chile's ambassador to the United Nations, who led the way in preparing the UN conference on social development, and the summit had a clear message of hope for the dispossessed.

Back in the picture

"It has told the poor that we will do something about their problems," Mr. Juan Somavva told Reuters. "The summit has put ordinary people back into the picture." Reaching warnings from many leaders that real change would take time, Somavva said he was hopeful because previous UN conferences on issues ranging from women's rights to the environment, had helped bring change over the years.

But some wondered whether the meeting was the latest example of "summit fatigue," a disease that results from increasingly frequent top-level meetings called to discuss the world'sills. Last year, it was Cairo for the global population explosion, while 1992 saw the UN environment summit in Rio de Janeiro.

In Copenhagen, what underpinned many speeches was the fear that the gap between rich and poor was now so wide that it has become the major threat to security in the post-Cold War era.

"It is important to avoid the arrival of the boat people," UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a television interview during the summit.

No binding promises

The summit declaration, which contained general commitments to help developing countries but no binding promises, touched indirectly on fears that governments might lose control.

"We can continue to hold the trust of the people of the world only if we meet their needs our priority," it said.

But an equitable sharing of the world's resources that would create stable, prosperous countries was still a distant dream. Behind the rhetoric of unity and action lurked the old arguments between the market forces of capitalism and the planned structures of socialism, the better test against which Western nations and the countries they once colonized.

Ghana lashed out at Washington, while Syria, Sudan and others blamed the West for not giving them more trade or writing off the billions of dollars of debt owed by developing countries. Germany and the United States talked about how countries must learn to help themselves.

They underlined the importance of human rights in the presence of several leaders who have been under heavy criticism in the West for abusing their positions.

Although the end of the Cold War has offered a unique chance for global cooperation, there was also a recognition at the summit that, with the old certainties of the East-West division gone, ethnic conflicts and other problems pose new threats.

There seemed to be few common interests. Countries are either keen to hold on to their own wealth or increasingly desperate to get a slice of the shrinking foreign aid budgets.

The United States and Western Europe are considering cutting foreign aid rather than increasing it, their governments being preoccupied with unemployment and the ills of urban society. The countries of Eastern Europe and former Soviet republics want more help and openly expressed concerns that they could be left out of it all the cash goes to Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Serious questions

With the United Nations celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, serious questions have already been raised about its ability to secure global peace and justice.

UN peacekeepers, deployed in record numbers around the world, are as troubled as Bosnia and have just abandoned Somalia. The summit cost more than $105 million to stage. Depending on your viewpoint, that's either a lot of money or the cost of a single top-of-the-line fighter plane.

"Our task here is not to ignore these issues," said Chile's Somavva. "Cy- nics will not change the world." — Reuters
Questions hang over UN poverty summit

It was an epic version of worthy speeches. World leaders urged an end to poverty and made lofty pledges to transform the human condition. Now, after a week of words and red-carpet festivities, questions hang in the air.

Was the UN social summit simply an expensive jamboree? Or will it really bring change to a world where one in five people live below the breadline?

Chile's ambassador to the UN, who led the way in preparing the UN conference on social development, said the summit had a clear message of hope for the dispossessed.

But some wondered whether the meeting was the latest example of "summit fatigue".

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The summit declaration, which contained general commitments to help developing countries but no binding promises, touched indirectly on the fear that governments might lose control.

Behind the rhetoric of unity lurked the old arguments between the market forces of capitalism and the planned structures of socialism, the tensions between Western nations and the countries they once colonised.

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The countries of eastern Europe and former Soviet republics want more help and openly expressed concern that they could be left out if all the cash goes to Africa, Asia and Latin America. — Reuters.
New hope for inner-city homeless

BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Johannesburg’s inner-city homeless could soon have shelter as a newly formed trust investigates ways of providing transitional housing and employment for people living on the streets.

Central Johannesburg Partnership housing project co-ordinator Tudor Maxwell said the Johannesburg Trust for the Homeless was focusing on raising funds to provide shelter for the homeless.

“We are looking at affordable housing which would fall between the shelter homes and commercial housing. Most of the homeless people earn less than R300 a month and we want to find something they can afford,” said Maxwell.

The trust was considering turning existing unused offices in the inner city into homes.

Maxwell added that funds were available to initiate the project but there was not enough money to provide homes for about 5,000 homeless people estimated to be in the city.

The trustees are from the homeless community, business, the city administration and community organisations. Maxwell said the trust would be formally launched at Johannesburg’s Park Station in May.
Blacks are on the breadline in the Western Cape

THEO RAWANA

MORE than 73% of black households in the Western Cape earn less than R800 a month, and only 9.8% earn more than R1,000, the Black Township Market Review says.

The survey on black township demographics, published last month by research consultant Group Marketing, says 72% of the 91,000 black dwelling units in the Western Cape are informal (shack) dwellings.

The total annual income of all black households in the Western Cape is projected to grow from R1.24bn in 1994 to R1.32bn in 1995.

The four black townships in the province are located in the four magisterial districts of Wynberg, Paarl, Stellenbosch and Stellenbosch.

The review provides provincial, regional and township data on the population from 1989 to 2010, age/sex profiles and the number of dwelling units/households. It gives information on household densities, monthly/annual household income levels, total annual expenditure levels and annual expenditure per head/adult.

Researcher Bill Donald says his company provides commerce and industry with “a competitive edge” by identifying the real needs of the marketplace, isolating the key strategic issues, translating these into practical and “actionable marketing programmes”, and by harnessing company resources to maximise the identified marketing potential.

The review says the black population in the Western Cape is projected to increase by 62% (413,000) from the present 693,000 to 1,083-million between 1994 and 2010, with the prime population growth pressure point being Wynberg. Ninety-four percent of the present provincial population lives in the Wynberg magisterial area and no significant distribution change is forecast.

The average population density per black household in the province has been put at 7.5 people — with Stellenbosch reflecting the highest average density factor at 11.3 people per household.
Heartbreak Years — and the task of tackling poverty

The release of South Africa’s first set of comprehensive statistics to include the former homelands and rural areas show the enormity of the task of tackling poverty in South Africa.

The October Household Survey (OHS) contains statistics which paint a heartbreaking picture of the direct results of 46 years of racist policies.

It accurately shows the skew access to social services, the unequal status of South Africans, the severe lack of infrastructure in rural areas and the desperate plight of women.

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo, responsible for the implementation of the reconstruction and development programme, told Weekend Argus that these statistics would enable the government to more accurately plot the allocation of money between government departments as well as between central and provincial governments.

In addition to facilitating better planning, these figures would also allow the government to monitor the impact of state expenditure on its socio-economic goals.

Turning to the use of statistics in planning policies, Mr Naidoo said it was difficult for any one of the nine provinces to shift its resources from, for example, tertiary health care to primary health care without knowing how many people lived in each province.

But, Mr Naidoo added, the OHS was a test-run for the important census next year. He said 50 000 people were being trained to go into every household to conduct the census.

Every year the government would use the OHS as an important indicator of South Africans’ quality of life.

The survey, he said, would be an instrument to test the success or failure of government policies.

Furthermore, it would provide greater transparency and accountability in the implementation of government policies as well as expenditure, Mr Naidoo said.

The survey shows that South Africa has a population of 47.7 million people.

In terms of access to services, figures showed that 100 percent of white households had their refuse removed as opposed to 80 percent of black households. All the white households had a flush toilet, but in black households, only 34 percent had such facilities.

Measurements of access to electricity showed that 89 percent of white households had electricity versus 31 percent of black households.

In white households 86 percent have access to tapped water as opposed to 27 percent of black households.

This trend continued with 87 percent of white households with access to telephones as opposed to 12 percent of black households.

The disparities between rural and urban households were worse when the figures for black households were considered.

Although 86 percent of urban houses had tapped water, only 29 percent of the rural black households had similar access.

While 90 percent of urban black households had their refuse removed, the same services was only available to 5 percent of rural households.

As far as flush toilets were concerned, the figures dropped from 72 percent in urban areas to 7 percent in rural areas.

Unsurprisingly after decades of apartheid-based education, the survey found whites the most educated with 80 percent having had secondary education as opposed to Asians (55 percent), coloureds (41 percent) and blacks (32 percent).

Figures showed that 78 percent of whites have access to medical aid as opposed to 15 percent of blacks.

While 19 percent of whites had to travel 5 km or more for medical services, 41 percent of blacks fell into the same category.

Gauteng had the highest urban population with 6.5 million people and the second lowest rural population at 300 000.

Unemployment rates were found to be the highest in the Northern Transvaal (47 percent), followed by 45 percent in the Eastern Cape. Gauteng had the third lowest unemployment rate (29 percent).

These rates, analysed in terms of gender, showed that more women than men were unemployed. The highest figure — 50 percent — was found among black women followed by coloureds (28 percent), Asians (24 percent) and whites (9 percent).

Figures on transport to work showed that 13 percent of blacks went to work on foot as opposed to 14 percent. On the other hand, 62 percent of whites travelled to work by car or motor bike versus 12 percent of blacks.
Figures reveal white and black chasm
Country is 'ready to address poverty'...
Relief to the ravaged of Riverlea

WHEN you hear the name Riverlea, it conjures up pleasant images of lush grass fields and gentle streams of water. But the township bearing this name looks very different from that.

This neighbourhood south-west of Johannesburg, especially the part called Riverlea Extension, is ravaged by poverty and squalor.

A group of concerned women in the area have come together under the banner of an organisation called Riverlea Women for Peace to try to provide a helping hand.

"It's always been my desire to help the needy," says chairwoman Mrs Lily Slinger. "I also love working with children."

The pitiful sight of needy children on their way to school so moved her that she started collecting clothing for them.

"Now in the new South Africa, I decided that we as women should organise something," says Slinger.

That was how their organisation was formed in May last year. High on their list of priorities is to raise sponsorship to help them feed the poor.

"But the idea isn't just to feed, feed, feed," Slinger adds. "Because people can stand in a queue day in and day out, getting and getting. We want to teach them to help themselves."

They plan, for example, to teach unemployed people to sew and knit (they do not have the necessary funds or facilities to do so yet).

They estimate that 60 to 70 percent of Riverlea's population of 14,000 is unemployed (even those with matric). As a result, crime is disturbingly high in the area.

"House-breaking is a terrible problem," says Mrs Ethel Kaye, the organisation's public relations officer. "Everybody's crying out about it. But,"

Slinger adds, "in the line of murder and that kind of violence, I can't really say Riverlea is bad. It only happens once in a while. People are stealing to survive."

For example, she says, they will steal a portable radio worth R500 and sell it for just R30 to buy meals or to have something to eat.

Her main concern remains the children. "I believe some children faint at school because of hunger. A child must eat before going to school."

PIGHT OF PENSIONERS

"You can miss lunch, but not breakfast. If you don't even have a slice of bread and you go to school, how can you concentrate on your schoolwork?"

Sometimes Slinger uses her own transport to take pensioners to the pay-out point. The group desperately needs a minibus to transport pensioners and help them to carry out their other work.

They are also thinking of serving coffee and tea to pensioners in the morning when they go to collect their pensions. A Riverlea resident is already donating bread rolls to the group.

Teaching pensioners how to budget is also on their list of plans. They are, quite clearly, serious about helping people to help themselves.

But, of course, a hungry stomach cannot wait for long-term plans for self-help and training. So, in the interim, the organisation is scrounging around for help.

They need basic items like bread, soap, groceries, soap, shoes and clothing. "Closer to winter they will also be looking for blankets."

But, besides material necessities, the Riverlea community also clearly needs assistance with counselling, therapy and other welfare services.

While the intentions of Riverlea Women for Peace are certainly noble and praiseworthy, they need assistance from the outside to play an effective role.

"This is obvious even from a cursory visit to the area. The suffering and despair, especially in Riverlea Extension, is almost tangible."

At one house, a pensioner sat forlornly in the sun. Inside his house, the ugly scars of poverty were clear. It felt as if all hope had been drained from the place. Nearby a widow, Mrs Lorraine Moon, battled to support her eight children by doing casual work.

Recently she even took in a boarder to provide some kind of income for her family.

There is, unfortunately, no easy solution in sight to ease the plight of Riverlea's poor. The community has taken that all-important first step: to help themselves.

As Slinger emphasises, "You must help yourself. Because people can't sponsor you for the rest of your life. You must also help yourself."

But, until they get there, they need all the help they can get.

Anyone who can help should please contact Mrs Kaye at (011) 474-4725, secretary Mrs Devi Khan at (011) 473-1122 or assistant treasurer Mrs Martha Brown at (011) 474-5214.

Riverlea Women for Peace ... Mrs Irene van der Haar (treasurer), Mrs Maud Bhandia, Mrs Lilly Slinger (chairwoman), Mrs Martha Brown (assistant treasurer), Mrs Doreen van Rayne and Mrs Ethel Kaye (PRO).
Operation Hunger is still relevant.

"We know rural areas like the backs of our hands."

THE STAR / Thursday, January 26, 1995
Spare a thought for those who can't even afford bread

BY ZINGISA MKHUMA
CITY REPORTER

When next you throw that mouldy piece of cheese into the rubbish bin, spare a thought for the poor Greer family of Riverlea Extention, who cannot afford even a loaf of bread.

The shocking thing is that this family lives just a few minutes from the heart of wealthy Johannesburg.

Signs of poverty are all over the semi-detached two-roomed house, home to eight people, none of whom is employed. The head of the family, Sarah Greer, is a sickly woman who looks much much older than her 45 years.

She sits on a mattress covered with brown prison blankets. The mattress is elevated by bricks and serves as a bed as well as a chair. A two-plate stove is also standing on bricks and next to it lie a few slices of dry bread.

Bread is what this family lives on, and Greer's bony body shows that she is undernourished. Greer says through an interpreter she has tuberculosis and her applications for a disability grant have been turned down for three years.

According to Lily Slinger, chairman of Riverlea Women for Peace — a non-political organisation that helps destitute families in the area — the Greers are among scores of poverty-stricken families in Riverlea Extention.

Although members of the group — Slinger, Irene van der Haar, Maud Shanda, Martha Brown, Doreen van Rayne and Ethel Kaye — are pensioners, they work tirelessly to ensure that the poor families are comfortable.

They use their transport and resources to take elderly people to pension pay-out points.

"We started by giving out bread to poor families. Then there were children without shoes, in winter people had no warm clothing, so we moved on to organise food and clothing. We have a mammoth task in our hands and we need people to come forward and help us."

Anyone who can assist should please contact Kaye at (011) 474-4725, Devi Khan at (011) 472-1132 or Martha Brown at (011) 474-3214.

Grinding poverty... close to the heart of wealthy Johannesburg people are malnourished.
South Africans are among the richest people in Africa, but figures hide the unequal distribution of wealth, reports Reg Runnney.

According to the World Bank Atlas, South Africa is one of the countries with the highest per capita GDP. However, the distribution of wealth is highly unequal, with a significant portion of the population living in poverty.

The map shows different income levels across the world, with South Africa being one of the countries with a high GDP per capita. The text mentions that the per capita GDP of South Africa is one of the highest in the world, and that the country has a high standard of living compared to other countries in the region.

The text also discusses the challenges faced by South Africa and other countries in the region, including high unemployment, poverty, and inequality. It highlights the need for policies that address these issues and promote more equitable distribution of wealth.

The conclusion of the text emphasizes the importance of addressing these challenges and promoting economic growth and development in the region.
SA’s wealth amid poverty

South Africans are among the richest people in Africa, but figures hide the unequal distribution of wealth, reports Reg Rumney.

 Appropriately for an economy where gold is still so important, South Africa is coloured yellow in one of the economic maps of the just-published World Bank Atlas. Yellow denotes an upper-middle-income classification. The only other yellow country in Africa is Libya—and that is a World Bank estimate.

The bank classifies a country as upper-middle-income if its per capita gross national product, the main measure of a country’s economic prosperity, is between $2,786 and $6,595. South Africa just scrapes in with a per capita GNP figure of $3,900 for 1993, up only nominally from the 1992 figure.

Since the per capita GNP is calculated by dividing the GNP, the total value of a country’s output of all goods and services, by the number of people living in the country, it’s not surprising that Libya, an oil-producing nation with a small population, is the only other country to fall into the same bracket as South Africa.

Switzerland’s 1993 GNP is roughly double South Africa’s at $254,066 million. And Switzerland’s GNP is one-twenty-fifth of the giant US economy’s $6,387,655 million. Yet it is the richest country in the world, in per capita terms, with a figure of $83,410 for every Swiss citizen. That is almost 13 times the South African figure.

After Sweden, little Luxembourg has a figure of $35,850 is the next richest, followed in order by Japan ($31,450); Denmark ($26,810); Norway ($24,340); Sweden ($23,900); the US ($23,760); Iceland ($23,620); Germany ($23,500); and Kuwait ($23,500).

South Africa for centuries has produced the rest of Africa in production of goods and services, with a 1993 GNP of $116,097 million. Next-door neighbour Zimbabwe’s 1993 GNP is around five percent of that at $5,796 million.

Also next door, impoverished Mozambique’s $1,375 GNP is spread so thinly each citizen has a mere $60 share in the country’s prosperity or lack of it. Its 1993 per capita GNP figure makes Mozambique the poorest country in the world, even though the 1993 figure is 15 percent higher or $10 more than it was the year before.

Most of the other dirt-poor nations, according to the World Bank Atlas, are in Africa. Ethiopia is at $109 per capita GNP; Tanzania $100; Burundi $80; Uganda $100, and Chad and Rwanda with $600 each.

Other poor countries are in Asia. The poorest include Bangladesh with a per capita GNP of $223, India with $390 and Vietnam with $710.

In Latin America, Nicaragua has a per capita GNP figure of $800, and the figure for Haiti is estimated at under $50.

Such averages by no means tell the whole story. What is not shown in the atlas is the inequality of the way national wealth is distributed. For this reason the per capita GNP can be misleading. In South Africa huge inequalities give rise to a distorted picture.

The per capita income may be higher than most African countries but in areas such as infant mortality and child malnutrition we match several African and Asian countries.
Paper offers a fast track off skid-row

Affluent pay for an inside view of poverty

JOHANNESBURG — Some of South Africa’s homeless are finding that telling others about their woes can be a fast track out of the skid-row.

Homeless Talk, the country’s first newspaper of its kind which is written and distributed by homeless people, has gone from a print run of 10,000 to 50,000 in just a few months.

An eclectic mix of news, views, advice and poetry, Homeless Talk sells on the streets for about R1, with 80 percent of that being kept by the seller.

Dane Wicks, an organiser of the St George’s United Church community outreach programme and one of three founders of the paper, said she came up with the idea after a friend told her about a similar paper in Chicago.

“In the support group I’ve been running at St George’s, a number of people were interested in writing, so I just thought it would be a great idea, both being able to write and to generate income,” she said.

For David Khumalo, who has been homeless since he left KwaZulu-Natal in April last year to find a job in Johannesburg, the paper has meant more than that.

“The biggest change is that I can afford to study,” he said.

Khumalo has started a three-year diploma with the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, where he pays R120 a month to study three subjects.

Sellers have been most successful in the affluent northern suburbs of Johannesburg, where people pay well for a vicarious look into a lifestyle so alien to their own.

Top sellers can make up to R1,000 a month.

The number of people selling the paper fell when a code of conduct was strictly enforced and only registered sellers received a badge certifying their status.

“Sellers are not allowed to be under the influence of alcohol when they are actually selling and a lot of the regular sellers were alcoholics,” said Judy Basingthwaigte, a co-founder of the paper and a lay pastor at the Central Methodist mission.

About 200 sellers are registered, of whom 30 to 50 sell at any given time. — Sapa-Reuters
ANC unveils plan to tackle poverty.

Document proposes changes to the fabric of South African society

The programme also contains a plan for the mining industry which was leaked earlier this week and has raised alarm bells in the private sector. It has been described as de facto nationalisation, and proposes that mineral rights be held by the state and not private individuals.

The programme emphasises the need for land reform and calls for a "demand-driven" national land reform programme to be in place within a year of the April election. The aim is to redistribute 30 per cent of agricultural land within five years.

The two aspects of the programme are redistribution of land to "those who need it but cannot afford it, and restitution for those who lost land because of apartheid laws".

From page 1

The redistribution programme includes a provision for "land acquired by corrupt means from the apartheid state".

Where applicable land would be expropriated and compensation paid, but "land acquired from the apartheid state through illegal means must be recovered after due process of investigation".

"A land claims court should restore land speedily to people dispossessed by discriminatory legislation since 1913."

With regard to housing, the document calls for a single national housing department and a programme that generates employment, skills and economic activity.

"Land for housing must be suitably located and "the democratic government must intervene to facilitate access to such land."

Government funds and private sector funding must be planned to make housing affordable. A national housing bank and national home loan guarantee fund should be initiated.

The document calls for legislation to outlaw "redlining" - where financial institutions refuse to provide loans to areas they consider too high a risk.

Hostels should be upgraded and integrated into broader communities.

The building materials industry should be examined and cartels should be stopped.

Consideration must be given to public, worker and community-based ownership where the market fails to provide a reasonably-priced product.

"The programme also stresses the need for improved education and training programmes, with particular emphasis on the need to give equal opportunities to women."
ANC's plan to tackle poverty

An affirmative action policy is called for to address the problem of marginalisation. The document acknowledges the economy has many strengths but said urgent attention must be given to inequalities in ownership, employment and skills.

Much of the money needed for the programme is already budgeted for, but better management of these resources is needed. The document, however, does call for improved and reformed tax systems and adds that "new funds will be raised in a number of areas".

Job-creation programmes should be linked to public works programmes, says the document.

With regard to other problems, such as water, the document calls for the restructuring of the Department of Water Affairs and other institutions and updating of the Water Act "to ensure the right of all to water security".

With regard to energy, the document says energy efficiency and conservation should be regarded as pivotal. An electrification policy should aim to provide electricity to another 2.5 million households by the year 2000 — and it is estimated this will cost R12 billion. This should be financed by "cross-subsidies from other electricity consumers."

"Where necessary the Democratic government will provide concessionary finance for the electrification of poor households in remote rural areas".
Create new wealth, urges report

'More than 17-m poor or jobless'

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

More than a third of the country's estimated population of 40 million are either poor or out of work.

This estimate has been reached by a Unisa Bureau for Market Research report on poverty and distributional issues, which also found that proposed redistribution of wealth policies in the future would not counter poverty.

The report, by Professor A A Logothem, combines household income and expenditure data and related poverty and distributional data in a bid to help identify the causes of welfare disparities.

It says there are an estimated 17 million people who can be classified as "poor" with another 6 million who do not have jobs in the formal sector.

The report sketches the typical socio-economic characteristics of poor households as being those lacking in land, financial resources and other income-generating assets, and a large proportion relying on pensions.

In addition, the poor are mainly families headed by women, with family members who are poorly educated and poorly paid, who have many children, and who are mainly concentrated in the rural areas of the national states such as Gazankulu, Lebowa, QwaQwa and KwaNdebele.

The report says that in 1990 the household income of whites in metropolitan areas averaged R71 598 a year, Asians R26 916, coloureds R22 642 and blacks R11 882.

Changes in income per capita for the Asian, coloured and black population groups indicate the rise of an affluent elite, a fairly large middle-income group and a growing poorer class.

The report says redistributive policies alone will not counter poverty; the creation of new wealth through employment-creating growth involving people in mainstream economics is needed.
Opportunity for SA to prove its worth

BY ROSS HERBERT

Ranks, non-government organisations (NGOs) and a number of developing countries have begun to devise a strategy to tackle the global poverty conference to be held March 6 to 12, a meeting which may significantly affect how South Africa is viewed among emerging markets.

The UN-sponsored World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, promises at a minimum to scrutinise all the world’s development and lending institutions with the goal of finding solutions to seemingly intractable poverty in the developing world.

Developing nations hope it will shift the global balance of economic power.

Already there are press conferences, NGO resolutions, conferences and back-room lobbying — all part of a global political campaign.

Two weeks ago, a coalition of 1 000 NGOs presented resolutions to the UN, asking for the world body to investigate the impact of structural adjustment programmes on the Third World, arguing that they should be fundamentally revised at the development summit and that all international finance bodies be re-vamped.

Charity representatives from 42 African nations met in Maputo to call for increased donation to Africa.

South Asian NGOs met to protest being sidelined by world development organisations.

The Commission on Global Governance churned in with a 400-page report calling for the replacement of the UN Security Council with an economic security council to address world development needs.

Another group put forth a UN resolution to forgive $14 trillion in developing world debt.

International activists argue that the Third World is being crushed by its debt burden.

In many cases, countries have stopped paying at all.

So, the argument goes, why not acknowledge reality, cut debt entirely and institutionalise a process of redistributing wealth from the industrial to the developing world?

“If debt relief is applied in a very easy manner, such resistance will not be coming any more. That is Japan’s position,” said Hiroshi Hirabayashi, a Japanese development official who visited South Africa recently.

The debt relief resolution was blocked on January 17 by the US, Japan and the European Union.

However, the fact that a global poverty conference is being held is evidence that all sides agree that developing-world problems are so severe they cannot be ignored or treated with the same old approaches.

The capital markets are not as charitable as the markets have lost their zeal for emerging markets, a trend which could be accelerated by an acrimonious global political atmosphere.

The fear is that, just as Mexico’s peso crisis caused an immediate sell-off on the JSE and a rise in the interest premium on SA bonds, the development summit could change how SA is perceived.

“I think the emerging market boom certainly is ending,” said Tim Hacker, economist and bond-market analyst for Ferguson Bros. “US interest rates are up and the global economy is growing faster and that means there will be a pull-back from the emerging markets I don’t think 95 will be as strong as 94.”

As global security trading has expanded and emerging market securities have been marketed to unsophisticated investors, the JSE has been increasingly affected by negative news in other emerging markets.

“Because investors get burned, they make a global judgment,” said Nico Czapionka, group economist for Standard Bank.

“Some of the people who own these bonds may be film producers in Hollywood who don’t have very much investment knowledge.”

At the development summit, SA has the potential to play an influential role, tapping President Nelson Mandela’s prestige to temper the developing world demands and, in the process, casting a favourable light on the stability of the SA economy.

Depending on how shrilly the development summit gets and how shrewdly SA plays its hand, SA could, in contrast, be viewed as the safe bet among otherwise turbulent emerging markets.

SA’s fundamentals are strong, particularly when it comes to lending. Debt is roughly 15 percent of GDP, compared to about 40 percent for Australia.

By bringing out such strengths and taking the high ground as mediator, SA has the opportunity to emerge a notch above its emerging-market peers in the eyes of the capital markets.
W Cape poverty shocker

Reports by
BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

SHOCK details of poverty in the Western Cape were revealed by the ANC over the weekend.

This included 690,000 people unemployed, half a million living in squatter camps and a shortage of more than 300,000 houses.

The tuberculosis rate was three times higher than the national average.

Although the labour force was one million, 166,000 Africans, 137,000 coloureds and 26,000 whites were unemployed and 144,000 were involved in "survival activities" in the informal sector.

"Acute problems of poverty, unemployment and lack of basic needs characterise our region,"

"In attacking poverty and deprivation, the RDP aims to set the Western Cape firmly on the road to eliminating hunger, providing land and housing to all our people, providing access to safe water and sanitation for all, ensuring the availability of safe, affordable and sustainable energy sources, eliminating illiteracy, raising the quality of education and training for children and adults, protecting the environment, and improving our health services and making them accessible to all.

"Given its resources, the Western Cape can afford to feed, house, educate and provide health care for all its citizens," the document said.
Call to focus on rural poor

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE transformation of the lives of people living in the rural areas should be the major focus of any reconstruction and development programme after this month's election, the Social Change Assistance Trust (Scat) said yesterday.

A report on the impact of Scat rural advice offices across the country also urges foreign funders not to downscale support for rural development projects as the majority of South Africans still live in the rural areas and that those in the homelands remain the poorest of the poor.

"They don't have clean water, they don't have electricity, they don't have water-borne sewerage and they usually don't have adequate housing.

"These rural people bore the brunt of the apartheid system by being subject to oppressive ban-
tustan governments and by being denied resources for development," the report notes.

Scat noted that its 33 rural advice offices were the only rural agencies which had the infrastructure to take up the issues of local communities.

The report said that a study of the operation of rural advice offices had found them to have had a significant impact in three main areas:

- Standing up for justice
- Calling local authorities to account, and
- Gaining improved facilities.

JOHANNESBURG - Land restitution without compensation was confiscation, which is unacceptable, African Christian Democratic Party leader the Rev Kenneth Meshoe said at a party conference yesterday.

Redistributing land should be regulated through proper legal processes, he said — Sapa.
Journey of discovery in Soweto

By Richard Adeshiyin, a British journalist covering the elections

The sprawling area which makes up part of Soweto is a mass of corrugated iron shack houses thousands of people.

This is no place for an adult, let alone a defenceless child.

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Rastafarians causing noise and ‘pollution’, claim Elsies residents

Staff Reporter

THE safe, clean and quiet atmosphere of Clare and Owen streets in Elsies River has been disturbed by the partying and unsanitary conditions of rastafarians.

Residents claim that they are kept awake at weekends by loud music and that a stench is permeating the air because there are no toilet facilities on the land occupied by the Rastafarians.

“We are unhappy because our children can no longer use the land as a safe playing space,” said one resident.

“Our neighbourhood used to be clean, but since the squatters moved in the place is dirty and very unsanitary. The structure they put up is also unsightly,” he said.

Although residents claimed their complaints to the Regional Services Council fell on deaf ears, the RSC said they had received two complaints from residents and were investigating.

“After the investigation has been completed a decision in regard to remedial action will be taken,” said D van den Berg of the RSC.

He said the Rastafarian Culture Group had permission to occupy the land on a temporary basis, subject to the condition that they entered into negotiations with the council for a permanent site on which they could construct a permanent cultural workshop.

Another condition was that their existing structure be demolished when the new site was allocated.

Mr Van den Berg said the group would be moved; once the new site was allocated.

“Ratepayers and residents can lay charges for disturbance of the peace and matters like that with the police.”
Jobs and poverty at top of agenda

According to the SA Reserve Bank, the gross domestic fixed investment as a percentage of the gross domestic product was only 14,5 per cent in 1993, against 20,9 per cent in 1979-80, when it last rose above 16 per cent.

"What is even more worrying is the fact that net domestic fixed investment (that is, investment after provision has been made for the replacement of existing assets), was negative in 1993. No growth"

"This means that for the first time since the second world war, the country's fixed capital stock showed no growth last year," he said.

"The message to South Africa is clear: to achieve a considerable higher economic growth rate and be able to maintain it for long periods, a strong and sustained increase in domestic and foreign investment and a reversal in the current unfavourable relationship between investment and government consumption expenditure will be essential."

"South Africa needs direct investment — capital expenditure which contributes to large-scale job creation and development of the community without placing too great a burden on the repayment of the investment."

There were strong indications, said Louw, that foreign investors were ready to invest even larger sums in both South Africa's financial markets and real economy as soon as the political situation stabilised after the election, violence decreased and it became clear that the new government was adhering to free-market principles.

"If these become a reality, they will make a significant contribution to the reconstruction and development of South Africa and the prosperity of its people."
Population explosion causing ‘terrifying’ poverty, experts warn

NEW DELHI — One third of
the world’s population — nearly 2 billion people — are below
the age of 15 and facing an uncertain future because of structural unemployment and widespread poverty, experts have said here.

They were speaking at the end of a three-day meeting on ways to tackle these and other problems stemming from rapid population growth.

The Paris-based Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life is to come up with recommendations for the world summit on population to be held in Cairo in September.

The 28-member commission will publish a report next year with concrete proposals on remediating the population explosion.

In south Asia — Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — 39 percent of the population is below the age of 15, say United Nations studies. The figure is 26 percent in southeast Asia while in sub-Saharan Africa, a staggering 45 percent of the population is under 15.

In developing countries, where 90 percent of the world’s population growth is happening, an improbable 38 million jobs will need to be created each year just to keep pace with the number of people reaching working age.

In Africa, 7.5 million young men and women flood the job market each year in nations that already have unemploy-
ment and shortages of food, housing, education and health care.

In addition, notes Pierre de Senarcens, executive secretary of the independent commission, “activities requiring an abundant and largely ill-trained workforce are becoming more scarce.”

Professor Senarcens, a professor of international relations at the University of Lausanne, adds “This is bound to exacerbate social divisions within developed societies and even more so between rich and poor countries.”

He added “This question of employment cannot fail to be associated with the phenomenon of poverty, which has assumed terrifying proportions.”

Maria de Lourdes Pontaiglo, the former Portuguese premier who is president of the independent commission, said there was an added urgency because young people in developing nations were adopting “consumption patterns similar to those of industrialised countries.”

But, their wishes were unlikely to be fulfilled unless there was a sea-change in the lifestyles and economies of the developed north, said those taking part in the conference.

This wealthy minority of about 25 percent of the world’s population used up three-quarters of the resources of the planet, they added — Sapa-APP
Survey exposes low level of health care for blacks

African's Poor Quality of Life

Shockingly Picture of South Africa

The Argus, Wednesday March 3 1964

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No money, no work.

Writers: KEVIN DAVE

Sunday Times Business Times, March 20, 1994

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With so much hardship in South Africa itself, many people are disturbed by plans to help the suffering elsewhere in Africa. **Sapa-Reuter** takes a hard look at the situation:

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**Poverty-stricken squatters scavenge for food in a black township.**

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**President Nelson Mandela ... criticised.**

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**Ina Perlman ... charity begins at home.**

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In the coldest day of the South African winter, squatter Hester Motata, who lives at a settlement near Bloemfontein, scavenged a rubbish dump to feed herself and her four children. An icy gale blew up clouds of ash and dust from the refuse dump in Freedom Square, a sprawling shack settlement on the outskirts of Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State.

The ash swirled around the hunched squatters, bent over to scratch deep into the rubbish with hooks fashioned from wire coat hangers.

"This is what I will feed my children tonight," said Motata, opening a plastic bag to show the sheep's heart she had salvaged from the filth of the dump.

Motata's fellow squatters, their faces pale with a coating of ash, displayed their own pitiful gleanings - a handful of congealed rice, lumps of hard, mouldy bread, some green potatoes softening with age.

"We soak the bread in water, then we stir it to make a kind of porridge," said one squatter, Miriam.

About 100 squatters were sifting through the rubbish, competing for scraps of food with dogs and a small herd of cattle. The cattle, urinating and defecating as they browsed, pulled mouthfuls of old cabbage from the pile.

The squatters filled bags with bones, bottles and tin cans which they sell to recycling companies. With luck, a squatter can make R2 a day.

Before bagging the bones, they chew off any remaining meat or tendons.

They collect used coal from old fires which they burn in their shacks to stave off the minus 10 degree Celsius cold of the Bloemfontein winter night.

"We have no blankets," said Motata. "Some days we eat, some days we don't. We get sick from breathing the dust and ash here."

The Freedom Square squatters could hardly be more desperate - the dump they work through contains not the jetsam of Bloemfontein's affluent white areas, but of a poverty-stricken black township.

Black township residents do not waste much.

In the dump, insecticide cans can be alongside the skins and entrails of beasts slaughtered in township backyards.

An illiterate child, huddling from the wind in the shelter of a bag filled with bones, pages through a torn magazine.

"There's nothing sexy about cellulite," reads one headline.

"Mother, your place is in the home," reads another. "Your children need you more than the office does."

The squatters complain that they can find no work.

They get some food and clothing from a charity office in the squatter camp, but say stuff at the charity take the best of the donated supplies for themselves.

Against this background, some charity workers have criticised the Government of President Nelson Mandela and local churches for plans to send about 120 000 tons of relief supplies to Rwandan refugees this month, saying the supplies are needed equally urgently at home.

Mrs Ina Perlman, founder and former director of the South African feeding scheme Operation Hunger, said Freedom Square was a symptom of a widening problem.

She said that in the past she had not expected the white minority government to act effectively against hunger and poverty whose effects are generally felt most deeply by the black majority.

"It is, however, unforgivable that the first government democratically elected by all South Africans should be looking beyond our borders before it deals with the plight of our own wretched of the earth," Perlman said.

"That the churches, the shepherds of their flock who should know best of all the suffering of the people right here, have joined in this campaign, is undcondonable," she said.

But church spokesman Ron Steele said all the churches involved in the Rwanda project were already providing relief for deprived South Africans and none of this aid would be diverted to Rwanda.

"Rwanda is an absolute, total tragedy, one of the worst things that has happened on the face of the earth," he said.

"South Africans feel they are part of Africa now, and I think it's important that they can demonstrate it like this."

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**Sowetan 15.1.94**
Driver gunned down near his home

Fighting poverty

By Joshua Raboroko

The South African Chamber of Business has handed the Government a document recommending that it get rid of poverty and large scale unemployment.

In a document submitted to Minister Without Portfolio Mr. Jay Nadoo and various Government departments, Sacob said a united effort was required to repair the damage brought about by apartheid and sanctions.

At a Press conference in Johannesburg this week, Sacob economist Mr. Bill Lacey appealed to the private sector to work closely with the Government to make the RDP a success.

He said business believed that the role of the RDP in future policy would be very important in shaping the environment within which business would operate in South Africa.

Sacob was making a contribution to the formulation of a White Paper on the RDP which was requested by Nadoo from various groups, including business.

Lacey said Sacob shared the concerns which were outlined in the RDP regarding the social and economic problems facing South Africa.

It said poverty was a destabilising element for society and the RDP must be seen as a strategy for its alleviation and elimination.

Sacob said it supported the development of an adequate skilled workforce. It also accepted that state intervention in modern industrial economies was unavoidable.
Getting poorer all the time

The lot of the poor in South Africa has worsened since 1975. Andrew Whiteford argues it is too big for a trickle-down approach to economic policy.

Almost half the households in South Africa lived on an income below the poverty line in 1991. Although this proportion has not changed much over the past decade and a half, those households already in poverty have sunk even deeper into destitution.

The Human Sciences Research Council and the University of Natal have found the average income of poor households declined from around R5 000 a year in 1975 to just over R3 500 in 1991, in 1991 prices.

The Bureau of Market Research has calculated the bare minimum income for long-term survival for the average sized family at about R9 000.

Further illustrating the depth of poverty in South Africa is that one quarter of all households live on an income of less than half of this poverty line income.

Poverty is concentrated within the black community and much of black poverty is concentrated within the former TBVC states. Those over 85 percent of households in the Transkei and Ciskei are living in poverty debunk the myth of these homelands' economic viability.

The incorporation of these two states into the new Eastern Cape province means this province inherits an overall poverty level (72 percent) which is only exceeded by the Northern Transvaal (77 percent). The PWV (22 percent) and the Western Cape province (26 percent) have by far the lowest levels of poverty.

Poverty within the white community has risen from an overall level of three percent in 1975 to seven percent in 1991. The incomes of the poorest 40 percent of white households were whittled away by 40 percent, while the income of the poorest of these, the bottom 10 percent, was slashed by almost three quarters. Around 100 000 white households were living in poverty in 1991.

Poverty has reached chronic proportions in South Africa and a new government will be stretched to alleviate it in absolute financial terms. This task is not enormous — in 1991 it would have cost under R88 billion to bring every household out of poverty. This amount is less than six percent of the total income earned by all South Africans. In simplistic terms, if the mean income of the richest ten percent dropped from R137 000 to R126 000, and this money all went to the poorest households poverty could be eliminated. However, the real challenge lies in bringing about redistribution without retarding the growth potential of the economy and causing an exodus of white wealth and expertise.

Proponents of free-market policies argue poverty will best be alleviated by maximizing economic growth, the benefits of which will "trickle down" to the poor. It has been calculated, however, that if the incomes of the poor grew at the same rate as the overall economic growth rate, South Africa would have to have a growth rate of five percent for 24 years for the average income of households living in poverty now to be pushed above the poverty line.

This level of growth is virtually impossible and if a more realistic growth rate of three percent is used then the process would take 40 years.

This is clearly not an attractive prospect for any government in a hurry to uproot poverty. The trickle-down option is just not politically feasible in the present context of high expectations, and the punitive redistributive option is not feasible if the growth potential of the economy is not to be undermined.

A new government will have to embark on an active anti-poverty programme funded within the confines of fiscal discipline.

This will entail, on one hand, giving poor people the capacity to earn an income through education, training and small business support, and on the other hand creating opportunities for people to earn incomes through employment-creation and rural development in a vibrant and expanding economy.

This article is based on original research conducted by HSRC researcher Andrew Whiteford and Natal University economist Mike McGrath.
Poverty reduction the focus

By Mzimkulu Malunga

THE World Bank has conducted another study on South Africa, this time focused on poverty reduction. This United States based financial institution has been conducting studies on this country almost every third month since October 1992, not to mention numerous papers on a variety of issues.

Using quiet diplomacy, the bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, have been influencing a number of economic issues in South Africa.

Unconfirmed reports suggest the two institutions are eager to ensure that they are part of South Africa's expected "economic miracle" so that they can at least be credited with having played a role in producing an economic "tiger" in Africa.

After producing a number of economic "tigers" in Asia, the fund and the bank have yet to produce one in Africa.

The "test case" that has been going on for over a decade in Ghana appears to be a long way from producing the desired results.

However, South Africa, with its relatively advanced economy, presents an ideal chance for the bank and the fund to wash their "blood-stained" image in Africa.

The bank's latest study advocates the broadening of the wealth ownership through support of small businesses. The suggestion includes ensuring that private sector investment becomes the fuel for economic growth.

Small businesses, the bank says, are more labour intensive by nature and therefore create more jobs than the high tech projects which are normally associated with big companies.

The Government should play a facilitating role rather than seek to deliver the services itself, the bank says.

Disparities in wealth ownership are more complicated by the wealth gaps between the nine provinces.

For instance, the rich provinces like PWV have a revenue base which is almost 20 times that of poorer regions like the Northern Transvaal.

The central government could play a bigger role in this sphere, the bank says.
SA’s largest poverty profile released today

ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporter

"We have some real information both in terms of people’s wishes and in terms of what they have and have not got."

The study confirmed what was known — that poverty was widespread, particularly in the rural areas. Clean drinking water and access to energy were pressing needs.

The project was conceived in April 1992 when Thabo Mbeki — now deputy president — met World Bank officials and expressed a need to find effective strategies against poverty.

Social scientists from all three universities in the Western Cape were involved in the steering committee.

World Bank consultants helped in the drafting of a questionnaire which went through 12 drafts before a final version was agreed on by people inside and outside the country.

The final draft was piloted three times in the country and then professional research companies were contracted to cover areas in which they had expertise.

Professor Wilson said it was the first time that an integrated household survey had been done, enabling researchers to correlate information such as the educational status of the mother with the health of her children and family income.

“We hope this will be the first of a series to monitor what is happening in the country.”

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo, spearheading the RDP, will address 200 guests, including World Bank representatives, at the start of a three-day conference at UCT tonight.

The largest, most comprehensive profile of poverty in South Africa is to be released today, offering hard statistical information about how South Africans really live.

The findings are expected to underpin much of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Data for the multimillion rand project, funded by the Dutch, Danish and Norwegian governments through the World Bank, was gathered throughout South Africa, covering all races and income groups.

Results include a 13-volume report on regional poverty profiles and "cross-cutting studies" on energy, nutrition, urbanisation and housing and water supply.

The central piece of work is entitled "South Africans Rich and Poor" and flows from a survey of 9,000 households in the nine months leading up to the April elections.

Only two areas on the East Rand were not covered, due to violence. All the former homelands were surveyed.

The Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru) at the University of Cape Town, which conducted the Carnegie inquiry into poverty a decade ago, managed and organised work in South Africa.

Saldru director Francis Wilson said the statistical findings of the project would enable the RDP to "set out on a journey with a map of the terrain."

"For the first time we have data which is statistically significant for the entire country."
SA’s largest poverty profile released today

ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporter

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“For the first time we have data which is statistically significant for the entire country.”

“We have some real information both in terms of people’s wishes and in terms of what they have and have not got.”

The study confirmed what was known — that poverty was widespread, particularly in the rural areas. Clean drinking water and access to energy were pressing needs.

The project was conceived in April 1992 when Thabo Mbeki — now deputy president — met World Bank officials and expressed a need to find effective strategies against poverty.

Social scientists from all three universities in the Western Cape were involved in the steering committee.

World Bank consultants helped in the drafting of a questionnaire which went through 12 drafts before a final version was agreed on by people inside and outside the country.

The final draft was piloted three times in the country and then professional research companies were contracted to cover areas in which they had expertise.

Professor Wilson said it was the first time that an integrated household survey had been done, enabling researchers to correlate information such as the educational status of the mother with the health of her children and family income.

“We hope this will be the first of a series to monitor what is happening in the country.”

Minister without Portfolio Jay Nadoo, spearheading the RDP, will address 200 guests, including World Bank representatives, at the start of a three-day conference at UCT tonight.
The Great Divide – SA-style

New report looks at the gulf in our society.
The great divide — SA-st

ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporter

A DECADE ago, the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) at the University of Cape Town joined the nation’s conscience with information gathered for the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty.

Yesterday, SALDRU released *South Africans Rich and Poor: Baseline Household Statistics*, revealing more than ever before about the socio-economic gulfs dividing South Africans.

In 1994, the second Carnegie inquiry became the subject of heated debate, pinpointing as it did the urgent needs of South Africans. It highlighted basic needs such as food, water, shelter and the political questions of influx control, land reform, and citizenship.

In the past 10 years, those basic needs have not changed much. But now, because a political settlement has been reached, problems of citizenship and influx control are history, there is an urgency about addressing those basic needs.

It is worth recalling that the original Carnegie Commission (also known as the Poor White Commission) in the early 1950s was instrumental in helping the government of the time to come to grips with poverty then.

Those involved in the latest work, both locally and abroad, are hoping the newest project will do the same for this government.

The multi-million rand project was funded by the Dutch, Danish and Norwegian governments through the World Bank, following a meeting between deputy president Thabo Mbeki and officials of the World Bank in 1992.

Data was gathered throughout South Africa, including the former homelands, covering all races and income groups after a questionnaire went through 12 drafts and three pilot studies.

*South Africans Rich and Poor* is a statistical summary of the results of a survey of 9,000 households in the nine months leading up to the April elections.

As companion pieces, there are also 13 other volumes focusing on each of the nine regions and on energy, nutrition, urbanisation, housing and water supply.

The body of information is vast, ranging from how long it takes people to gather firewood or to get to work to how much debt people have, how much money is spent on education, what kinds of dwellings people live in, who has flush toilets, who employs whom, what sort of agriculture is practised by whom and whom owns the land.

One section alone deals with remittances or money sent to support families, particularly in the rural areas.

Data from this section is expected to inform policy makers about how the poor are coping, given the prolonged economic crisis in the country.

Professor Francis Wilson, director of SALDRU and chairman of the steering committee drawn from all three universities in the Western Cape, describes it as the country’s first body of “hard statistical information” on the state of play in the country as a whole.

The statistical report, for instance, is able to pinpoint that in the Northern Transvaal, piped water is what people want ahead of jobs, electricity and roads.

Housing in that province, which is shown to be the poorest in the country, is only seventh on the list of priorities. Food aid and schools are seen to be more important.

By contrast, perceived priorities in the Western Cape, are jobs, housing and then an end to violence.

All provinces, bar the Northern Transvaal, put jobs as the number one need.

It shows that those provinces which have to incorporate old homelands, which were massively under-developed on the ground, will have the greatest amount of catching up to do.

The study also breaks down information by race, revealing the disparities which exist in the wake of apartheid.

Whites own land, can raise bank loans and are more worried about crime.

Blacks are dispossessed, have debt relating to hire purchase and mortgage payments, and are involved in matched labour markets.

Perceptions are also skewed, with whites believing that they were very hard hit by the economic crisis, whereas blacks believe that they were very hard hit by the economic crisis, whereas blacks believe that they were very hard hit by the economic crisis.

To understand.”
New values for W Cape police

From CHRIS BATEMAN

A NEW "mission statement" for a more businesslike Western Cape police force, committed to service excellence, impartiality, respect for human dignity, honesty and valuing its members, was unveiled by its top management yesterday.

Local Police Services Minister Mr Patrick McKenzie, speaking near the end of a week-long strategic management workshop in Plumstead yesterday, said the Western Cape was "way ahead" in community policing plans.

Asked about acceptance of his police force, Mr McKenzie said communities were bringing more suspects into police stations and more crime was being reported.

"In Guguletu I've actually been invited to address the community, who are unhappy with the service they are getting — the result of ongoing problems with two rival police unions," he said.

The workshop, which ends today, is being attended by Divisonal Commissioner General Nic Acker, his top staff officers, Scotland Yard community policing expert Chief Superintendent Peter Stevens, corporate image marketing specialists, Dr Ria Hugo-Burrows of Stellenbosch University's Business Management Department, and local management consultant Mr John Pemberton, who is the co-ordinator.

They have formed a "provincial change team" to decide how to improve police image, allocation of police stations, crime prevention, investigation and forward planning to the year 2002.

Mr McKenzie said a draft discussion document outlining the key values had been faxed to all police stations and police/community forums to keep them abreast and to "get input".

Of impartiality he said "We want someone who lives in Khayelitsha to be treated the same by our men and women as someone who lives in Constantia."

He said the new approach would be directed as much internally as externally. "As we realise that our staff are one of the most important cogs in this whole exercise, we have to address the uncertainties and fears of our members to carry out the culture change."
A new health study has found that about one-third of young adults in the U.S. are still smoking cigarettes, despite years of efforts to reduce smoking rates.

The study, conducted by the National Cancer Institute, found that 33% of adults aged 18-25 years reported smoking at least occasionally in 2020, compared to 26% in 2010. The rates were highest among young adults aged 18-24 years, with 40% reporting smoking.

The study also found that smoking rates were higher among young adults who were low-income, had less education, and lived in areas with higher concentrations of tobacco retail outlets.

The researchers say the findings highlight the need for continued efforts to reduce smoking rates among young adults, particularly in areas with high concentrations of tobacco retail outlets.

The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
A STUDY handed to the Department of Health yesterday underscored how much worse off the majority of the black population in South Africa is in almost every aspect of their lives.

The national household survey of health inequalities in South Africa was commissioned in June 1994 by a United States philanthropic trust, the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation. It was carried out by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE).

Among the findings of the survey were that only 20 percent of black households have a water tap inside the home, 16 percent have no toilet and nearly 60 percent have no access to electricity.

Nearly two thirds of all black households (and more than three quarters of black households in rural areas) have monthly incomes below the minimum living level of R900. By contrast, two thirds of white households have monthly incomes in excess of R2 000.

A third of rural inhabitants travel more than one hour to the closest health facility, wait for two hours, and are consulted for five minutes or less.
The majority of African kids have inherited
living conditions which create the
first-ever sunny pains a tragic picture

LEGACY OF SHOCKING IDEAS
MILLIONS WITHOUT WATER, SANITATION

Rural poverty shock

THE URGENT NEED for rural development was spelt out in a paper the government released with its development strategy yesterday, BARRY STREEK reports.

GRIM realities of life in South Africa's rural areas, particularly the former homeland areas, were spelled out when the government outlined its strategies for rural development yesterday.

The Minister in charge of the RDP, Ms Jay Nadoo, said the rural areas housed the bulk of the country's poor. An estimated 67% of "absolutely poor" people were living in these areas.

Mr Nadoo also released a document which said 2,6 million households, 65% of all those in the rural areas, did not have water and 3,9m households, 95%, did not have sanitation.

There were also shortages of 16,700 schools, 29,546 classrooms, 5,654 clinics and 100,000 km of roads while 3,49 million households did not have electricity.

Water supply

An average of 189,5 minutes a day was spent fetching water — 21,1% of households were more than 500 metres away from their water supply.

An average of 79,9 minutes a day was spent fetching wood.

Women carried out 90% of these activities.

"In South Africa, the poorest 10% of the people, of whom 77% are Africans living in rural areas, control just one percent of consumer spending.

Mr Nadoo said an integrated rural development strategy in targeted areas could boost jobs and incomes through a well-defined land reform programme, market development, small-scale agricultural development and infrastructure.

The plan released yesterday represented a positive strategy to provide investment in the poorest areas of the country.

"Ordinary South Africans will be the architects of development planning and their efforts at local level will be the driving force of local economic development."

Diversity

In terms of the strategy the government wanted to see a more diverse agriculture by the year 2010, with farms of many sizes providing incomes or part incomes to more people, more diverse commercial and service sectors in country towns and the countryside, and greater integration between towns and the rural areas, much greater access by rural government support and information, and close availability to water, sanitation and fuel sources.
Street people open window on their world

'We want a future — like everyone'

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

"THERE are two types of policemen — the good ones and the bad ones. The good ones always look after you."

This was the observation of Lucas, one of a group of street people who addressed a conference on homelessness at the Cape Town Civic Centre yesterday.

The aim of the conference, which has been organised by the Cape Town City Council and other roleplayers, is to formulate a policy for the city in its dealings with street people.

Talking through an interpreter, Lucas kicked off the session with the greeting "Good morning, people It's Lucas from Guguletu."

Of the "bad" policemen, he said they seemed to be pursuing a double agenda, on the one hand demanding co-operation, but on the other "ill-treating us like dogs."

"My hideout is Claremont, I'm a stroller in Claremont, I go around asking for money from people, but when the police see me they chase me away They say I don't belong to Claremont."

"I go around asking for money so that I will be able to reconstruct my life. The money I get from people I use for buying food. I also have a little bank book. I'm doing that because I'm looking at the future."

Lucas said that he wished to acquire skills so that it would "no longer be necessary for me to go begging in the streets."

"We want to build a future for ourselves like everybody else."

He said he left Guguletu because he feared the gangsters and it was safer in town.

Asked by former councillor Eulalie Stott why he had not gone to a shelter in Claremont, he responded that he was too old. Murmurs from the audience indicated that he had hit on a key issue.

Next up was Charles Fredericks, who chose to speak in Afrikaans, and also took up the theme of the police.

He said street children were "chased, hit and beaten", and sometimes dropped far away from where they normally "worked."

He appealed for people to recognise his humanity:

"I'm a person. People must see that I am also a person, I want a better life. I also want to become something."

Michael, a Cape Town stroller, said he left home because his mother wasn't there and his father had died.

"There are many things we see in Cape Town which aren't right."

He said they slept at the station and were woken up early by the security guards who "hit us with the batons."

"They say we break into cars. But we don't. We're not all like that."

"They take us to the mountain and say we must walk back. That's not right."

In his keynote address, Dean Colin Jones observed that the street children had already made the most important speech of the day.

"It is their voices we need to hear. Not mine."

He said that of all the "bright, intelligent" observations that would emerge from the conference, they would not have half the power or half the demand for human recognition as the voices of those street people who had spoken.
Poverty is not just an accident.
Call for southern African cops' unity

Joint operational and cross-border plans to crack down on major crime

All African states will have to cooperate with southern African states if the crime wave sweeping the continent is to be checked.

This was the stern message national Police Commissioner George Fivaz delivered yesterday to the police chiefs of 11 southern African states attending a three-day workshop of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation in Midrand.

Opening the workshop, Fivaz said the recent inter-state defence and security committee conference in Cape Town had endorsed the perception that crime had reached alarming proportions in the entire region.

"The fact is that the crime rate is threatening to rip our civilised world apart and the time has come to put into practice resolutions adopted at our previous meeting at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe," he said.

Drug trafficking, illegal firearms, illegal immigrants and cross-border crime will have top priority during the closed discussions, and it is intended the workshop will formulate joint operational plans and cross-border operations to crack down on crime.

Fivaz said factors which hampered effective inter-state cooperation included the size of border areas to be policed, differences in legislation and differing legal requirements.

"With the wealth of experience we have in this room, I am confident we can make a difference because if we fail, nobody else on earth will be able to tackle these problems," he said. – Sowetan Correspondent.
Mr Chauke, who works as a delivery driver for a

Over half of SA children in poverty

had been impacted by the economic crisis. The government's efforts to address poverty and inequality have been ineffective,

and the situation is likely to worsen without significant changes in policy.
Poverty ‘is increasing’
in spite of aid projects

Louise Cook

By 2010 there would be 710-million undernourished people in the world, International Federation of Agricultural Producers president Graham Blight warned at the weekend.

Speaking at the federation’s first conference in SA, he said poverty was on the increase despite efforts by international organisations such as the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation to fight the problem.

International Fund for Agricultural Development presidential advisor Donald Brown said apathy in donor countries about development assistance was likely to cut resources further. “A number of emergencies around the world have led to substantial diversion of donor assistance to emergency relief — even as overall donor resources are being reduced.”

“Unless the public and decision makers feel they are being used effectively, it could lead to greater reductions, even a withering away of donor finance. We must be able to demonstrate we can overcome hunger and poverty,” he said.

Many governments had moved out of agricultural aid or cut back services to rural communities. “These services were often inadequate to meet the needs of the poor. Now they often do not exist at all.”

Brown said the answer was for the rural poor to form common interest groups to secure finance and to actively participate in planning and implementation of projects intended to help them.

The federation warned that next year’s UN World Food Summit should not “recycle yesterday’s ideas with today’s jargon” or establish an empty programme for tomorrow’s agriculture”. It warned that past mistakes would be repeated if farmers and farmers’ organisations were left out of planning.

“By focusing the world’s attention on food and agriculture, the main objective of the summit may end up being a spectacular fund-raising event. Farmers and their organisations are being completely neglected to the extent that the world has forgotten it is the farmers who grow the food,”

Agriculture Minister Kraal van Niekerk said SA was vital to fighting poverty in Africa. SA had a “significant” advantage over other nations in food production know-how, he said. “For this reason, SA is better suited to assist other African states rather than countries or organisations outside of Africa.”
POVERTY - GENERAL

1996 - 1997
70% in SA earn less than R301

PRETORIA: More than 70% of South Africans are poor, earning less than R301 a month, according to a study released yesterday.

Of the 31 million poor people, 95% were black, according to the report released by Minister without Portfolio Mr Jay Naubo.

The Key Indicators of Poverty in South Africa study was prepared by the World Bank and based on a 1993 survey by researchers at the University of the Western Cape.

In terms of the survey, poor was defined as those earning below R301 per month, while ultra-poor was the term used for those earning less than R178 a month.

Other findings in the report were that the unemployment rate among blacks stood at 38%, compared to the four percent among whites. Unemployment among the coloured population was at 21% and among Indians 11%.
Most South Africans in poverty — report

Political Staff
PRETORIA — The inflation rate might be declining and the economy booming, but more than half South Africa’s 38 million citizens live in poverty, earning less than R300 a month, according to shocking statistics revealed by Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo.

The report said South Africa’s average total monthly wage was between R201 a month among the “poorest of the poor” in black households to over R5 000 a month among white homes.

The unemployment rate among blacks is 38 percent whereas it is four percent among whites, 21 percent among coloureds and 11 percent among Indians.

Launching the Indicators of Poverty Report — a study commissioned by the RDP Office and done jointly with the World Bank and the Southern African Labour Development Research Unit — Mr Naidoo said South Africa had worse records of social indicators of poverty in areas such as health, education, safe water and fertility than other comparable middle-income countries.

The country also had “among the highest income inequality in the world.”

Mr Naidoo said “The apartheid era has left a legacy of poverty and inequality in South Africa.”

“In spite of the wealth of the country a large share of the population has not been able to benefit from the country’s resources.”

He said the report would help guide the government’s social and economic policies.

The report showed that in terms of spending, the lowest 40 percent of households, equivalent to 53 percent of the population, accounted for less than 10 percent of total consumption while the top 10 percent of households, representing 5.8 percent of the population, accounted for over 40 percent of consumption.

About 61 percent of South African children live below the breadline.

The report defines poor people as those whose cut-off expenditure level is below R301 per month per “adult equivalent”, and the poorest or ultra-poor as those whose cut-off monthly expenditure is below R178 per “adult equivalent.”

Mr Naidoo said “This is a major problem for South Africa as gross inequality like this is unfair and (could be) a source of instability.”

“Also the poor literally cannot afford to pay for services, although it is accepted that we cannot provide services unless there’s some user-charge. So affordability has to guide the provision of services and infrastructure. The consumption patterns also impede the growth of the domestic market for SA and inhibits economic growth.”

He said the 37 percent of South African households which are headed by women were among the poorest, indicating the need to implement special measures to boost economic opportunities for women.

The report found that to address the poverty, the government would have to apply different emphases in the metropolitan, rural and urban areas.

While jobs were a priority for all, housing and peace were more pressing for the metropolitan poor.

For the rural poor, piped water was as important as job creation.
13 million in South Africa live in abject poverty

By Joshua Raboroko

ABOUT 13 MILLION of South Africa's population lack basic necessities such as water, electricity, housing and work, a World Bank survey says.

The survey, based on South African living standards and prepared for use by the office of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, says more than a third of South Africa's 40 million people are poor, live in shacks with no access to electricity, running water and are out of work.

The report describes key indicators of poverty in South Africa to help the RDP to work out mechanisms of how best it can deal with poverty in the country.

The main findings of the survey are:

- Among comparable middle-income developing countries, South Africa has one of the worst records in terms of social indicators – health, education, safe water, fertility – and among the worst record for income inequality.

- Indeed, the report says, the country’s social indicators are not very different from those of some low-income sub-Saharan African countries.

- Poverty in South Africa has a strong dimension. Nearly 95 percent of the country's poor are African, 5 percent coloured, less than 1 percent are Indian or white Africans have nearly twice the unemployment rate (38 percent) of coloureds (21 percent), more than three times the unemployment rate of Indian (11 percent), and nearly 10 times the unemployment rate of whites (4 percent).

- In South Africa has a strong rural dimension. Some 75 percent of the country's poor live in rural areas, concentrated in the former homelands and TBVC states.

The burden of poverty is largest in rural areas. Compared to the poor in urban and metropolitan areas, rural people suffer from higher unemployment rates and lower educational attainment.
WE HAVE become so deadened by apartheid that we are used to such phrases as "South Africa is two societies" That, after all, was the purpose of apartheid, but, seen through outside eyes, it is striking that the standard of living of the white 12 percent of South Africa is on a par with Canada (ranking 24th in the world), while that of the black 75 percent ranks 125th, just above Congo South Africa is one of the most unequal societies in the world.

Since the black population lives in such poor conditions, the overall performance of the country is abysmal in terms of average living standards, welfare and human development Key social indicators for South Africa (such as life expectancy, infant mortality and adult illiteracy) are not very different from those in many low-income sub-Saharan countries, such as Kenya and Nigeria, that have about a fifth of our per capita income. However, other middle-income countries have much better social indicators.

What does this mean in concrete terms for South Africa's poor? For the first time we have reliable, nationally representative data that helps us understand better the size of the problem how much poverty is there in South Africa, who are the poor, where they live, what are the most important problems they face, and what help do they need from the government?

The data is based on a survey of 9,000 households all over the country, coordinated by the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town. The request of the office of the rector and development programme, the World Bank carried out an analysis of the survey, which is now available in a document we recently published, Key Indicators of Poverty in South Africa.

It is no surprise then, according to the analysis, 95 percent of the very poor (the lowest 20 percent of households in which income earners receive less than R78 a month) are African. About 75 percent of the very poor live in rural areas, concentrated in the former homelands and independent states of Transkei, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana and Venda. In fact, about 92 percent of Transkei's population is poor.

Nearly two thirds of South Africa's poor live in the three provinces - The Eastern Cape (24 percent), KwaZulu Natal (21 percent) and the Northern Province (18 percent). The unemployment rate in rural areas is nearly double (about 40 percent) the rate in metropolitan areas (21 percent).

Unemployment and poverty are intertwined. The poor have unemployment rates of about 50 percent, compared with about four percent for the richest 20 percent of households. The result is that less than 30 percent of poor working-age adults are actually working and less than 20 percent of the very poor (who account for 29 percent of the population) are employed.

Incidentally, one of the symptoms of this splintered society is a high crime rate, and the long-term, sustainable solution to the crime problem is to bring the two societies closer together, by reducing the inequalities.

Nearly half of poor households are primarily dependent on a state pension (25 percent) or remittance from relatives (23 percent).

The burden of poverty is greater on women, and the children are the victims: Households headed by women have a 50 percent higher poverty rate than those headed by men. Women are responsible for fetching water and wood and are women. Over 45 percent of the poor are children, and about a third of poor children are stunted by malnutrition.

It is hard for the poor to be productive when they have so little to be productive with. The average size of farm land used in poor families is 0.4 ha, compared with 6.4 ha for the top 10 percent of households. Over 80 percent of the land used by the poor is communally owned, and much of it is of poor quality. Almost no poor farmers have access to irrigation water, while nearly half of the top 20 percent of households do.

Much of their time is taken up with unproductive tasks: women in most poor rural African households spend more than four hours a day (28 hours a week) fetching water and firewood. A third of the poor live in shacks or traditional dwellings and the vast majority have no access to basic services.

Among the very poor, 85 percent have no access to electricity, about 80 percent no access to piped water on the premises and nearly 98 percent no access to modern sanitation.

About half of the poor have no education or only incomplete primary education. Only the poor percent have completed secondary education or higher. Furthermore, the quality of education in the schools accessible to the poor is much worse than for the more privileged groups.

The poor also lack affordable basic health care. Over a quarter seek no treatment because they cannot afford it, or there is no transport, or they cannot take the time off work needed to travel vast distances for treatment.

When asked where the government could help them most, more than half say that jobs are their top priority; followed by piped water and housing.

Although the road is long and difficult, there is no alternative for South Africa but to begin seriously to heal the rifts of the past, to pull together as one society

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### Comparative Social Indicators: Selected Countries

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* The South African data is an average of all areas. There are larger dis. c. at the major cities in. ** The data is from the 1993-1995 survey. *** The data is from the 1994-1995 survey.
'Radical solutions required on poverty'

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

RADICAL solutions are needed to solve the poverty crisis, says the African National Congress national executive committee.

The committee met for three days from Friday, expanding into a full "lekgotla" for the weekend to discuss strategy for the year, and reflected on President Mandela's opening speech to parliament.

"The committee and lekgotla affirmed the central role of the ANC in helping to build a new patriotism and overcome racism and sexism, and to ensure overall co-ordination of growth and development," a statement issued after the meeting said.

The committee called for a more developmental emphasis to be placed on the ANC's work, including the Masakhane Campaign, underlining the need to mobilise people as active participants in the process of transformation.

The NEC reiterated the ANC's responsibility to provide leadership in nurturing humane values, "especially when popular sentiments are whipped up on the basis of real fears and insecurities."

It hit out at attempts to disguise the preservation of privilege as a defence of language and cultural rights.

Competition for scarce resources and high unemployment had resulted in unfortunate trends towards xenophobia and ethnocity, said the statement.

The ANC had committed itself to combat these by mass mobilisation and education campaigns.

The committee underscored the need for all sectors of society, government, business, labour and other sectors of civil society, to harness all national resources and make a commitment to co-ordinated strategy for the social upliftment of the poor.

Alarming figures released by the United National Development Programme (UNDP) revealed more than half of the African population lived in poverty.

"This in fact constitutes a national crusade and requires radical solutions to address it."
must for small farmers
Technology and credit a
SA places low

Business Day, Tuesday, February 20, 1996

Enos Dhlamini

Enhance Access, Focus on Production

The government has made a commitment to farmers who are interested in modernizing their farming practices. They will also be assisted in acquiring production equipment. The key is to increase production and efficiency.
Southern African poor "increasing"

The number of poor in Southern Africa had increased and would continue to rise unless decisive steps were taken, the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development president, Mr. Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, said.

Speaking at the opening yesterday of a four-day workshop at the Civic Centre on rural poverty alleviation in Southern African Development Community countries, Al-Sultan said recent economic and social advances in the region were being threatened by increasing poverty.

He said "even the more fortunate countries cannot insulate themselves from the effects of poverty in their neighbours".
Experts focus on rural poor

Staff Reporter

THE Workshop on Approaches to Rural Poverty Alleviation in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is being held in the Cape Town Civic Centre until Thursday.

The workshop is an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in fighting hunger and poverty by forging a coalition with civil society for alleviation of rural poverty.

It is sponsored by SADC, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank.

Its aim is to provide a forum for financial institutions to share experiences and tested instruments - which have been used successfully in addressing rural-poverty with governments, grassroot organisations and farmer representatives.

Participants include managers of rural development projects, representatives of local and international non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and aid agencies.

Together with the ministers of agriculture and/or finance of SADC countries, the workshop will review the policy and procedural issues that influence the effectiveness of practical action at field level.

Discussion will centre on case studies of IFAD projects in SADC countries.

ARG 20/12/96
WATER SUPPLY: Thriving work of placing pipes for the installation of a water supply to a village.

DECREASE: Improvement of the conditions of the living in the rural development center.

PROGRESS: The key to schooling.
Voices of the Poor
Listening to the Real ACTION, not merely to counter the problem of real
POVERTY in Southern Africa.

LINDA LOKON

MALA QAMBA

Funda Matumbuhle

President of the Federation of Southern African Trade Unions (FEDSATU)

The poor are listened to

South Africa's Working Class Leader

October 31, 1966
‘Big govt salaries keeping SA poor’

ARGUS Correspondent

MARITZBURG - Democratic Party leader Mr Tony Leon said that unabated inefficiency, dishonesty and corruption had undermined progress to a non-racial, winning society, almost as much as the apartheid past.

He told a lunch-time meeting of more than 100 people in Pietermaritzburg yesterday that the Government squandered the taxpayer’s money—there was no such thing as government money; it belonged to the taxpayer—in many ways.

For instance, R700 000 of the Eastern Cape primary school nutrition programme was taken from the mouths of school children to finance the house of one of its administrators.

In the Eastern Cape some health services had collapsed so that TB sufferers came to KwaZulu-Natal for treatment.

The Northern Cape, the smallest province, required a provincial legislature of 30 members, each earning R184 000 a year. Their legislature sat last year for 25 days, passing six bills.

“Assuming each member was on the job and doing his duty, this means each was paid R7 392 a day, or R30 800 a bill passed. How does the Government explain this to a population earning on average R2 685 a year?”

“In Northern Province, 95% of the provincial budget was devoted to paying salaries. There are 325 MPLs in total, paid R5 million a month.

“This is not an argument against federalism. The Texas State Legislature meets only every second year. Its members are paid on a part-time basis but the state has genuine powers.

“In Arkansas when Bill Clinton was governor he received a widow’s mite of a salary—less than $50 000 a year.

“Here in poor South Africa the ANC starves our regions of powers at the same time pilfering the public to bestow patronage on its members.

“The Labour Relations Act is so hostile to business that employers are reluctant to hire,” Mr Leon said.

“Almost R500 000 goes to maintain the 800 vehicles owned by the Department of Finance.

“The Government paid consultants more than R1 billion last year with no discernible results.

“More than 600 cases of irregular sales of Eastern Cape government property have been reported.

“ Farms, houses and vehicles have been bought by government officials and their associates for “R200 and a bottle of brandy.”

“Traffic officers in Mpuumlanga have sold more than 3 000 fraudulent drivers’ licences.”
The new breed of beggars

The temptation of begging and desperate people grow to end in

"Low-life on the skids..."

The new breed of beggars

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"Low-life on the skids..."
Unesco call to end poverty

The UN and all its member states had designated next year as the year for the elimination of poverty with particular attention directed at less developed countries and the numerous poor people excluded in developed countries, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation director-general Federico Mayor said.

Addressing the transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace, Mayor said that at the dawn of the third millennium, people all over the world should call on elected representatives and governments to forbid any and all threats to human life.

Mayor called for the strengthening of the UN's peace-building and conflict-prevention capacities to effectively confront transnational economic, political and cultural problems, and said elected representatives should ensure their budget priorities fitted in with the terms of a moral world contract.
There was a small increase in the pupil enrollment of the townships during the years 1980 to 1985. The townships experienced a slight increase in the number of pupils, with the highest enrollment occurring in 1985. The enrollment for the townships was as follows:

- 1980: 2,500 students
- 1981: 2,550 students
- 1982: 2,600 students
- 1983: 2,650 students
- 1984: 2,700 students
- 1985: 2,750 students

The increase in enrollment was mainly due to the growing population of the area. However, the townships faced challenges in providing adequate facilities for the increased number of students. The townships had to rely on temporary structures and makeshift classrooms to accommodate the growing student population.

The townships also faced financial constraints in order to improve educational facilities. The townships had to prioritize the allocation of funds to other essential services, such as healthcare and infrastructure development.

Despite the challenges, the townships are committed to providing quality education to their students. The townships are working towards improving their educational facilities and ensuring that every student has access to a good education.
Blacks face up to greater hardship

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

Only 35 percent of the total South African population is employed. According to the Central Statistical Services, this means that 65 percent of all people in the country depend on that 35 percent for their survival and well-being.

Blacks, as can be expected, have to bear the brunt of unemployment. “Unemployment affects Africans more severely than it affects members of other population groups,” a new CSS report shows.

Economically active

“Half of all economically active African females and one in every three economically active African males are unemployed, compared with one in 10 economically active white females and one in every 20 economically active white males.”

The average monthly incomes are also revealing. Among the unemployed, it was found that 36 percent live in households with an average monthly income of R410 or less, while only eight percent live in households with an average monthly income of R2 573 or more.

It was also found that varying education levels are an important factor among the unemployed. “The lower the level of education of the individual, the more likely he or she lives in a low-income household,” the CSS found.

Forty-six percent of those with no education and unemployment live in the R410 a month or less households, compared with 25 percent of those with matric or higher education who are unemployed.

On the poverty front, as with unemployment, African people are also the worst hit. In terms of the CSS’s racial breakdown, African households have a lower income on which to live than coloured, Indian or white.

“More than half of African households were surviving on R726 or less on average a month in 1994, compared to 34 percent of coloured, 21 percent of Indian and 12 percent of white households.”

The top income category is white households with an average income of above R2 752 a month compared with 32 percent of Indian, 20 percent of coloured and nine percent of African households.

In as far as the provinces are concerned, it was found that the poverty indicators were unequal. Eastern Cape and Northern Province is where poverty strikes the hardest.

The Government needs to focus on two priority areas in setting up programmes to alleviate the problem: the CSS recommends the rural areas and households that have a female figure as head. It further recommends that the Government should focus on areas which contained the former bantustans like the Northern Province and Eastern Cape.

Safety nets for the poor can be set up by ensuring that low-income households have access to education and training, to income-generating activities or to formal employment and to adequate infrastructure,” the CSS says.

Interesting statistics were released by the CSS on the country’s demographic profile as well.

In 1971 there were about 23.4 million people in South Africa. Between then and now, the proportions of Africans rose from 71 percent to 76 percent of the population, while the proportion of whites dropped from 17 percent to 13 percent.

Surprisingly it is not Gauteng that has the largest concentration of the population. KwaZulu-Natal has the biggest concentration with 8.6 million inhabitants, followed by Gauteng with seven million people.

Influx of people

Also surprising is that, while there is an influx of people to urban centres in search of employment, most South Africans live in non-urban areas. However, Gauteng and Western Cape are the most urbanized areas, while North West and Northern Province are largely rural.

The cost of living between rural and urban dwellers is also on different scales. “Households in traditional dwellings and in hostels tend to survive on a lower income than households in shacks or formal housing,” the CSS reveals.

Another revealing statistic is the difference in the age distribution between blacks and whites.

Fifteen percent of all black males and 14 percent of all black females are aged between birth and four years. Black people, it appears, have a shorter lifespan than their white counterparts. Three percent of black males and four percent of black females live to be older than 65 years.

On the white side, it was found that seven percent of both males and females are aged between birth and four years, while eight percent of males and 11 percent of females double the proportion of the black population – are aged 65 years or more.
EU bid to eject poverty

Florence - The European Union (EU) and six Central American nations met here yesterday to discuss ways to consolidate their region's fragile democracies, alleviate poverty and promote regional economic integration.

Mr. Mendel, Goldstein, who is the European Commission's official in charge of Central America, said structural adjustment policies, followed by Central American governments had had a "very negative" impact on the poor and notably the Indians.

"Involvement"

He said this was one reason why the EU wished to pursue its involvement in Central America within the framework of the so-called San Jose dialogue - so-named after the venue of the first meeting in the capital of Costa Rica in 1984.

The 15 EU countries, particularly, want to see improvements in the field of human rights and the rights of indigenous Indians and in the role of trade unions.

In 1995, EU economists to the six Central American nations - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, came to 175 million ECUs (228 million dollars).

-Sources-AFP
Plans to help strife and poverty-stricken families in the pipeline

BY PRISCILLA SINGH

One of the most significant days on the calendar every year is Family Day, which is being celebrated nationally today.

The UN has also declared 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

The Department of Welfare said that in keeping with the theme it was focusing on helping families in need this year.

It has already established a developmental programme for unemployed women with children under five years old.

Increasing economic stress facing households has been highlighted as a major contributor to family problems.

Those living below the poverty line, as well as poor single-parent families — which are predominantly female-headed households — were the worst affected, said Department of Welfare spokesman Michael Fumarola.

Although urbanisation was a major cause of family troubles, it was poverty which probably had the most profound effect on the stability of a family, he said.

In South Africa, poverty has a marked rural dimension, and it has been estimated that about 75% of the poor live in rural areas.

"Family dysfunction sets in when poverty is combined with environmental stress and feelings of powerlessness and frustration," said Fumarola.

He added that, as stated in the Draft White Paper on Social Welfare, families in need of special support would be offered the necessary assistance, and family-centred programmes would be developed in rural areas and underserviced urban settlements.

In addition, the Lund Committee on Child and Family Support, appointed by the Ministry of Welfare, is investigating the possibility of increasing parental support through the private maintenance system with the Justice Department. It is also completing a critical appraisal of the existing system of state support to single families and is exploring an alternative policy in social security for families and other economic empowerment strategies.
Challenge of poverty in SA

John Dladla

GOVERNMENT has called on its partners in the international donor community to generate higher levels of economic growth to address problems of poverty and underdevelopment in SA.

Opening a donors' conference - organised by the SA International Development Forum - Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday the greatest challenge facing SA today was to solve the country's "source of poverty and underdevelopment."

"This demands that the government of national unity, in partnership with yourselves, the international assistance community, continues to pursue policies and programmes which will deepen the development process and engender high levels of economic growth."

In a reference to the sudden closure of the RDP office two weeks ago, the deputy president, who spearheads government's growth and development strategy, said the RDP "was not and cannot be reduced" to the activities of any single ministry.

He said after the shifting of the RDP fund into the finance department, government departments would continue organising their budgets to achieve the goals of the RDP.
Poverty Knows no Colour

As Whites Queue for Soup.

We Desperately Need Donations.
POSTCARD PICTURE: The Hex River Valley and the town of De Doorns is a picture of beauty and prosperity, but behind the vineyards there is hardship and poverty.

SEVEN OR MORE PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD

Battling hunger in the Hex

THE HEX RIVER VALLEY AND THE TOWN OF DE DOORNS ON THE NL IS PRETTY AND PROSPEROUS. IT'S THE KIND OF SCENE WE USE TO BOOST TOURISM TO SOUTH AFRICA—but poverty is rife alongside the beautiful vineyards. Specialist Werner DIANE CASSERRE and photographer BENNY GOOL visited Operation Hunger's pilot scheme at De Doorns.

JUST beyond the pretty town of De Doorns, in that lovely valley nestled just beyond where the historic road used to catch their breath at the beauty of it, is a small, poverty-stricken community called Kali.

As we pulled into the township at 2pm, an Operation Hunger truck, filled with backpacks, was picking up children to take them to have their children weighed. Nokuthela, a 12-year-old girl, helped workers Mr Clement Summerton and Mr Joe Kulu.

Operation Hunger, that stalwart of the malnutrition battle, has two pilot schemes at De Doorns and Klapfontein. The organisation is moving towards a new style of nutrition assistance for the hungry, one of making a community self-sufficient and nutrition literate before gradually moving out to embrace the fight on another front.

There are three areas of poverty at De Doorns: Ekuphumleni, Harfield and Die Woonhuis. In the latter there is formal housing, but in the other two there are only shacks.

Owen Summerton's community assessment says: "Households are on the whole very large with 9% of respondents having seven or more members per household. The average household size is eight with some having as many as 23 occupants. Seventy-five percent of the respondents have only one or two rooms in which to sleep."

The assessment continues: "The overcrowded living conditions cause children to various diseases and affects the general health of the community."

Job opportunities in De Doorns are very limited. The main economic activity in the Hex River Valley is the production and exporting of table grapes. The De Doorns municipal area serves as a labour reservoir for grape producers. For most of the target community employment opportunities only exist during the 'season' which last for four to five months per year (sufficiently mid-October to mid-March).

"There is no economic back-up for the survey community in the remaining seven or more months of the year. Work opportunities are limited to the agricultural sector and wages are said to be very low. The target community has no access to agricultural land for their own exploitation. Very little new work opportunities have been created in De Doorns in recent years."

The report continues to outline a bleak situation, in which many people scratch for food in the municipal dumps, resulting in illness. Others admitted to recoursing to theft and shebeening.

Summerton says the scheme is not yet fully implemented, but support is needed because of problems among community leaders. He and Kulu formed a liaison group and together they are looking forward. This year, they were able to start the first stage, which is the weighing of all children from birth to six years. If their weights go down in the target period, they will be fed by Operation Hunger. Later the malnourished adults will be fed and nutrition education for the parents will start.

The day of our visit, weighing was being done at the school at Ekuphumleni. The area is home to some 800 families, and babies, some fed or carried by children, scarcely older than themselves, appeared at the scales in a seemingly never-ending stream. Clement and Kulu, assisted by Mrs Eunice Mangala, a member of the liaison committee, coped admirably, bawling out weights and names.

When the stream slowed down to a trickle late in the day, Summerton, with interpretations from Kulu, continued to weigh babies, outlined the plan for the area. "These are the families you have to deal with the basics. After the problem of diarrhoea is addressed, we will start nutrition and health education.

"We will then implement self-help programmes, schemes that will help the people during the winter season. For instance, we want to start building blocks making. There is a plan to build movable formal housing in the area and the builders could buy the blocks from this community.

" Basically if you combat malnourishment, the community eventually takes off. Once it does and the self-help schemes are in place, we will implement a strategic withdrawal."
the Hex

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winter season. For instance, we
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formal housing in the area and the
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"Basically if you combat mal-
nutrition, the community eventu-
ally takes off. Once it does and the
self-help schemes are in place, we
will implement a strategic with-
drawal." Operation Hunger offers sup-
port in the following areas: Locally
managed nutritional surveil-
sance systems, targeted food sup-
port, water supply, sanitation facili-
ties, health/hygiene education,
and promotion, income genera-
tion and livelihood programmes,
apiculture, food and livestock pro-
duction, advocacy and facilitation,
Leadership programmes, and staff
training and development.

WEIGHT DOWN: Simukile Mathumba, age seven years and five months, did not pass the weight test. In
three months his weight went down from 13.78kg to 13.60kg. He will be one of the children fed by Operation
Hunger.

YOUR SMOKE CAN HARM
THOSE AROUND YOU

10 mg tar 1.0 mg nicotine As per Government agreed method

KING SIGIL

SPECIAL APPOINTMENT
Call to protect poor from globalisation

WORLD leaders and international financial executives have called for multilateral efforts to protect the world's 2-billion marginalised people from the harsh effects of globalisation of the economy.

Giving a summary of debates by heads of state and agencies at the ninth UN Conference on Trade and Development at the weekend, UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali said there was apprehension that globalisation without control would create "disequilibrium", frustration and insecurity among member states.

He called for guidelines to protect developing nations. These should encourage regionahum and take into account the political effects of globalisation. Regional trading blocs should, however, be a step to multilateral trading.

Boutros-Ghali said there was a call from panelists, who included President Nelson Mandela, Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and Jordan's King Hussein, that the logic of competition should be replaced with solidarity.

Mkapa called for the renewal of highly preferential trade concessions, steps to reduce ballooning debt and the retention of aid to least developed countries. Tanzania spent $2 on health and $5 in servicing its debt burden.

President Mandela said his administration, which had inherited a R260bn debt burden, serviced at an annual R34bn, wanted to avoid the spectre of growth without human resources development.

Costa Rica President José Maria Figueres said that although his country had achieved wealth, the challenge was to distribute it equitably.

See Page 8
UN in R100-bn anti-poverty plan

NAIROBI - UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was due to launch a R100 billion plan yesterday to wrest Africa from poverty and under-development.

Boutros-Ghali was presiding over a meeting of executive heads of UN agencies to launch the initiative, which centres on improving education and health care across the continent.

Funded mainly by the World Bank, the project also proposes to help government reform, accelerate economic growth and improve food and water supplies.

It will be backed by about 20 UN agencies, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Called "Special Initiative on Africa," the project is the result of a 1994 decision by Boutros-Ghali to mobilise the resources of UN agencies and the international community to help the world's only region where poverty is set to worsen over the next decade.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the UN development programme's assistant director for Africa said the initiative aimed "to bring Africa back to the forefront of the development agenda."

She said the initiative would concentrate on five major priority areas - education, health, water, food and government.

Johnson Sirleaf said the joint nature of the programme would make it more effective than previous measures.

The meeting, which ends tomorrow, follows the publication of a UN report on world resources which warns that the population of Africa will double between now and 2025.

The UN aims to cash in on recent developments in Africa including the arrival of democracy in several states, economic growth in more than 20 nations and the resolution of some of the continent's conflicts.

The project aims to provide basic education for all African children, in particular girls and women. Half of African adults are illiterate.

Education will consume more than half the R100 billion budget over the next 10 years.

The initiative also includes a renewed battle against death and disease - the key enemies being malaria, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, tuberculosis and the main childhood illnesses.

Other themes will be the establishment of peace, with a larger role for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) - Sapa-AFP.
ANC man attacks underreporting on what he says should be a war

Anti-poverty projects are slated
The New Study Focuses on the Battle the War against Poverty

UN faces the tough battle against poverty

New Study Focuses on the Battle the War against Poverty

(241) Wyoming 3 1976

Losing the War against Poverty
"Resources must be redistributed to overcome poverty"

Battle inequalities, Cape Town municipality is urged

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

THE Cape Town municipality must redistribute its public resources and switch its spending priorities to overcome the inequalities and poverty prevalent in the council area, says assistant city administrator Roy Gentle.

Mr Gentle, who was addressing the council's new reconstruction and development programme policy unit, told members that in the past the council had problems implementing RDP projects due to shortcomings in the standing committees.

"The idea of the RDP is to transform local societies and change the mindset of those in authority because it is no longer business as usual. Local government must deliver basic services, extend local control and give communities a say in the planning of their future."

"We need to encourage and manage local economic development and redistribute public resources - and even freeze inappropriate projects - in order to overcome the inequalities and poverty that exist in the municipal area."

Mr Gentle said the municipality should make sufficient resources available for extending and upgrading municipal services and needed to get a clear perspective on the infrastructure of other areas like Pinelands and Ixopo that now fell under its jurisdiction.

He told the members they had a vital role to play in ensuring that the RDP took off in the city.

"The previous RDP standing committee was poorly attended and hardly supported by other line departments largely because it was a new concept and there was a lot of uncertainty about the future boundaries of the council. Each substructure will now have its own RDP forum which will fulfil a watchdog role ensuring that planning at a local and municipal level is taking place."

"Expectations of communities are high and we must see how we can meet their expectations with our limited resources."

He said there were several community-based RDP forums which were seeking accreditation and recognition from the council, and that the RDP policy unit needed to liaise with these groups and should also become part of the Municipal Development Forum (MDF).

The unit agreed to make inputs on the MDF and agreed to a policy for accrediting local RDP forums as long as they met the criteria of representivity, inclusivity, transparency, accountability and political neutrality as laid down by the provincial RDP office.

RDP unit chairman Salim Mowser said that by accrediting the local RDP forums, the council could now award them an annual grant-in-aid not exceeding R5 000 to cover their running costs.

Watchdog to oversee RDP projects

Municipal Staff

THE Cape Town municipality has established a watchdog body to oversee the implementation of the council's reconstruction and development programme (RDP) projects, and to ensure the projects are not bogged down in administrative red tape.

The RDP Policy Unit, which met under the chairmanship of Salim Mowser and which includes the chairmen of the council's standing committees, has the task of directing the relevant community RDP projects to the standing committees for implementation.

Mr Mowser, who is also the council's deputy executive committee chairman, said the unit's task was very important as the expectations of the communities within the municipality were very high, and it was time their concerns and the inequalities of the past were addressed.

"We will have to develop RDP policies and a framework to address these needs which the different standing committees can implement."

"Through this we have to raise the living conditions of the communities we represent." He said the unit would set in motion a programme which would ensure that there were no unnecessary hold-ups in the implementation of the RDP projects.

Urban planning committee chairman Leon Markovitz said it was the task of the unit to ensure that the standing committees were doing their jobs and that there were no delays in getting the work done.

"We must place extreme pressure on the standing committees to make sure that the RDP becomes part of their lives and the life of the city."

"This unit must get rid of the red tape and must short cut the processes so that the delivery process goes on." He said the unit should monitor and put mechanisms in place to ensure that the work was done.
UN report shows SA's poverty line is growing

IN JUNE the government unveiled its macroeconomic blueprint, underpinned by the government's commitment towards achieving a 6% economic growth and creating 450 000 jobs by 2000. The foundations on which the government hopes to build its programme are, however, getting weaker. This week the United Nations Development Programme released its annual Human Development Report, based largely on 1993 statistics.

It shows that since the new government took control in South Africa, poverty levels have got worse.

The report's human development index (HDI) places South Africa 106th out of 174 countries, well below African countries such as Botswana and Mauritius.

In 1995 the report ranked South Africa 95th on 1993 data.

More worrying is the large discrepancy between rich and poor that the report uncovers.

The poorest 40% of SA households earn a mere 9% of the country's income, compared with, for example, 15% for Zambia and Singapore.

Furthermore, the richest 20% earn 19.2 times more than the poorest 20%, one of the largest income discrepancies in the world.

As Nedlac executive director Jayendra Naidoo said at the launch of the report "South Africa is two countries in one."

The UN finds that while 21% of the people in developing countries are below the income poverty level, 37% face "capability" poverty. In all countries, "poverty cannot be eradicated merely by boosting income. It will take a broad expansion of basic capabilities and the productive use of those capabilities," notes the report.

The HDI measures and ranks the countries on the basis of the population's life expectancy at birth, educational attainment and adjusted real income, to see how well country's citizens achieve basic human capabilities.

The capability poverty measure (CPM), however, goes further and looks at a measure of poverty that recognises that human development occurs in a number of dimensions, including lack of income. To this effect it is composed of three indicators that reflect the percentage of the population with capability shortfalls in three basic dimensions of human development: having a healthy, well-nourished life, having safe and healthy reproduction and being literate and knowledgeable.

Overall, South Africa ranks 41st out of 101 countries on the CPM. A detailed breakdown shows that the percentage of births unattended by trained personnel in South Africa was estimated at 29% between 1983 and 1994, while 43% of children under the age of five were underweight.

Female illiteracy is put at 19.2% of the total. Taking the per capita income and subtracting the CPM rank, the report gives South Africa a negative 6, which means that the CPM rank is not better than the real GDP per capita.

Though there are no statistics provided on the percentage of people in poverty in rural and urban areas, the placement of 100 on the human development index suggests South Africa is not close to addressing the problem.

The report shows that between 1980 and 1993 life expectancy grew to 63.2 years from 48 years while in the same period infant mortality declined to 52 per 1,000 births from 89. Adult literacy is at 81% and between 1990 and 1995, 70% of the population had access to safe water. There are no figures available on access to health services and sanitation.

The report shows the wage gap has remained stagnant between females, whose share of income is 39.1% while males account for 60.9%.

While the wage gap between the sexes has not narrowed, the high percentage of women in various managerial and political positions places South Africa 20th out of 104 countries measured in terms of gender empowerment.

This is the country's best showing among the numerous statistics contained in the report.

Economically the UN also reveals some interesting trends. Real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 1993 was $3177 on a purchasing power parity basis, while gross national product (GNP) per capita was $2.980.

Yearly earnings growth (after inflation) a worker fell from 2.7% between 1970 and 1980 to a mere 0.2% between 1980 and 1993. The percentage of the labour force working in agriculture has slumped dramatically from 38% in 1980 to 14% in 1990.

The agricultural labour force has been taken up by the service industry - 55% of the workforce were employed in services in 1990 compared with 35% in 1980 — and by industry (27% and 32% in 1989 and 1990 respectively).

### 1996 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income shares</th>
<th>Lowest income shares Ratio</th>
<th>Highest income shares 20% (%)</th>
<th>Ratio (1981-93)</th>
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<td>40% households (%)</td>
<td>20% (1981-93)</td>
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**High human development**

**Medium human development**

**Low human development**

Source: UN Development Programme

Graph: FIONA KRISCH
NP to launch anti-poverty drive

BY PATRICK BULGER

Cape Town — The National Party would launch a new anti-poverty initiative as part of a plan to prepare a set of policy alternatives to the ANC in time for the next election in 1999, NP leader FW de Klerk said last night.

He made the announcement at the opening of a three-day federal congress of the NP which is meeting to chart its opposition role one month after walking out of the Government of National Unity.

De Klerk, in a stinging attack of the ANC's handling of the RDP, said the ANC had failed to manage the programme "as a comprehensive and cohesive anti-poverty action plan."

"This is simply not good enough. The NP has consequently decided to launch a new initiative to address the issue," De Klerk said.

"While we will continue to support that which remains of the RDP, including all steps aimed at alleviating the plight of the poor, we will immediately start working on an alternative, comprehensive, meaningful and workable anti-poverty strategy."

The NP would convene a national anti-poverty conference within nine months. A "basic framework" would be compiled in conjunction with experts in various disciplines. There would also be a process of consultation at grassroots levels with the party and with non-governmental organisations.

By 1999 the NP hoped to be able to give the voting public clear policy alternatives to reverse the country's decline and to build confidence.

"The NP is going to do something really worthwhile in the fight against poverty and deprivation," De Klerk said.

De Klerk warned the ANC that his party was "ready for the future and raring to go."

Outlining the NP's adopted slogan "Opposition with a Mission," he alleged that SA had last had a "dynamic and vibrant opposition party" when the NP itself was in opposition before it came to power in 1948.

"That South Africa now needs a fearless and vibrant opposition, need not be argued."

De Klerk alleged that "the danger lights are flashing," and that in spite of "some admirable efforts from President Mandela, the ANC was beginning to lose its grip."

The relatively moderate Free State Premier Patrick Lekota's "head is on the block," the hot-headed Peter Mokaba was a rising star, Cosatu and the SACP were "bulging their muscles," corruption was growing and Justice Minister Dullah Omar "wages war against the police."
Nats ‘to draw up plan to eliminate SA poverty’

Tim Cohen

NP LEADER FW de Klerk yesterday scorned the ANC’s management of the RDP, saying the NP would launch an initiative to eradicate poverty.

Addressing the opening of the NP’s federal congress in Cape Town last night, de Klerk said the NP was deeply concerned about the RDP because vast amounts allocated were not spent and new administrative set-ups was established just to be discarded the next day.

Attempting to strike a new chord as an opposition party, de Klerk said many millions went down the “gravy drain.”

He said the RDP was floundering and the ANC had lured millions of voters into voting for them on the basis of the RDP.

“And now that they are in power, they are failing to manage it as a comprehensive and cohesive anti-poverty action plan.”

The NP had consequently decided to launch a new initiative aimed at alleviating the plight of the poor. “We will immediately start working on an alternative, comprehensive, meaningful and workable anti-poverty strategy.”

The plan would be compiled in conjunction with experts and with community based organisations. In about nine months’ time, the party would hold a national anti-poverty conference with a view to broadening agreement on the strategy and to plan the way forward.

De Klerk did not mention possible alignment with other parties, but said “the old historical divides along ethnic and racial lines is a dead-end street in our new non-racial society.”

The NP was under no illusions as to the difficulty and the complexity of this task, but if it did not succeed “SA would be doomed to continuous deep ethnic divisions, tensions and the risk of becoming a one-party state.”

He said SA was “sleeping” and was fighting the lack of sufficient new investment, a rising number of immigrants and a fragile rand.

He said it was tragic that the rand had struck an all-time low against the pound, saying “notwithstanding some admirable efforts from President Nelson Mandela, the ANC was “beginning to lose its grip.”

Sapa reports that an NP policy document released yesterday said the party had built more houses in its last year of government than the ANC had built to date.

The document, which will be debated at the party’s federal congress, said the ANC was continuing to base its housing policy on party political criteria, to the detriment of KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

It called for an increase in the R15 000 government housing subsidy and the establishment of personal home loans for people earning R1 500 to R2 500 a month.

On security policy, the document said the death penalty should be reintroduced for murder, rape and the worst cases of armed robbery.

The document said consideration should also be given to placing the onus on a person convicted of killing a police officer to testify why he or she should not be hanged.

A nation that did not value and protect the lives of its police officers did not deserve law and order. The maximum penalty for hijackings, taxi violence, sex offences and sale of stolen property should be increased.

Five NP delegates died and four were seriously injured on Wednesday when the minibus in which they were travelling to the congress overturned between Verwoerdburg and Bethulie in the Free State, police said.
Big increase in durable goods among black consumers

Living standards are on the increase for African American families.

[Image of a black and white photo]

Survey finds

Media & Marketing

LIVING STANDARDS

ENHANCED JONES

The way up, survey finds

Living standards are on the increase for African American families.
State urged to beef up anti-poverty policies

Even if the government meets its 6 percent annual growth target by the year 2000, Dr Lewis warns, unemployment and poverty levels will remain high by international standards.

"This is a fact that will not go away. Political pressures to reduce past racial inequalities and present poverty will increase, especially in a democracy. Perceptions of foreign investors are important—but so too are perceptions of voters."

"As the dust settles, the new arrangements for the RDP are emerging with greater clarity," says Dr Lewis.

"The focus is shifting away from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office to Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus, a highly regarded and capable person."

But, he says, "the RDP has always been plagued by the problem of delivery, and this remains true."

"Tighter financial controls over the RDP are to be welcomed, but its profile will have to grow."

Chasm between poor and rich nations widens

Kathryn Strachan

Poverty has soared despite unprecedented growth in the world economy in the past 50 years, with the gap between rich and poor nations becoming ever starker, the UN Development Programme said yesterday.

The programme released the figures to mark World Anti-poverty Day today, and used the symbolic day to urge rich nations to boost their development aid contributions to poorer countries.

The UN agency said between 1960 and 1991, the chasm between the poorest and richest fifths of the world doubled, with the average income of the richest fifth now 61 times that of the poorest fifth. The 50 poorest nations account for 20% of the world’s population but consume just 2% of its income, while the richest 20% absorb 88% of its income.

However, poverty is not a Third World phenomenon; it is spreading to industrialised nations.

Five million out of 100 million homeless people live in so-called wealthy countries, as do 38 million of the 120 million people who are without work.

“Poverty is no longer contained within national boundaries. It has become globalised,” said Mahub ul Haq, special adviser to the programme administrator.

The programme also highlighted the knock-on effects of destitution, such as drug trafficking, sickness, terrorism, war and environmental degradation.

“Growing poverty and joblessness, population pressures, environmental decay and the widening gap between the haves and have-nots will breed despair and instability,” said programme administrator James Gustave Speth.

“We cannot permit ourselves the luxury of confronting tomorrow the tragic consequences of our negligence today. It is better to land development today than troops tomorrow.”

However, there had been progress in certain areas, he said. Life expectancy in developing countries had risen from 17 years to 63 in the past three decades and the infant mortality rate had halved in the same period.

The agency called on rich countries not to shrink international aid contributions, which have largely fallen victim to overall budget cuts.

“Any credible attack on world poverty must include a large increase in development co-operation — and some increase in development assistance — at its core,” said Speth.

“Our world today needs more development assistance, not less, whatever the trend might be.”

He said that each minute, 47 people in the world joined the ranks of the poor families, and that the yearly toll was 25-million people.

One person in five — almost 1.3 billion in total — survive on $1 a day, the extreme poverty threshold defined by the World Bank.

Another 60% of the world’s population is hardly better off, eking out a living on $2 a day.

Against this backdrop, the UN agency is urging the international community to create new ways to co-operate, saying private and public sectors, business, debt management, investment and technology all have roles to play in fighting poverty.
'47 people a minute plunge into poverty'

GENEVA: Nearly 50 people plunge into poverty each minute, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) said, launching a crusade to help the needy and urging rich nations to boost their development budgets.

"Each minute in the world 47 people join the ranks of the poor families," UNDP administrator Mr James Speth said yesterday, adding that the yearly toll was 25 million.

One person in five, almost 1.3 billion in total, survive on $1 (R4,50) a day, while another 60% of the world's population is eking out a living on $2 a day, says the UNDP.

It is urging the international community to create new ways to co-operate, saying private and public sectors, business, debt management, investment and technology can all help to fight poverty.

It is also calling on rich countries not to shrink from international aid contributions, which have fallen victim to budget cuts.

"Any credible attack on world poverty must include a large increase in development co-operation, and some increase in development assistance," Speth said.

The pleas for rich countries to dig deeper came on the eve of World Anti-Poverty Day today.

Between 1960 and 1991, the chasm between the poorest and richest fifths of the world doubled, with the average income of the latter now 61 times that of the former. The 50 poorest nations account for 20% of the world's population but consume two percent of its income, while the richest 20% absorb 83% of its income, the UNDP said. — Sapa-APP
Residents turn to crime as poverty hits Elands Bay

Forced to steal to survive

JOSEPH AGANIES
MUNICIPAL STAFF

Poverty in the West Coast town of Elands Bay is reaching such proportions that local residents are surviving by stealing vegetables from farms and smuggling crayfish and fish.

Elands Bay community leader Cyril Walker said although people were stealing food from the sea to feed their families, children scavenging through the town’s refuse bins were also a common sight.

"Most of the town’s men are fishermen and they earn real money only during the first two weeks of the crayfish season. But even then they struggle to survive because they need to pay back the loans they make during the off-season."

Mr Walker said it was common during the off-season for men, without any income, to borrow money from factory owners. By the time the season opened many owed hundreds of rands.

"This has forced many to dive illegally for crayfish during the off-season and sell them to make money," he said.

Local African National Congress chairwoman Christine Newman said less than five percent of the community was employed and parents were feeling inadequate because they could not put food on the table for their children.

"Some of the women work on potato farms during the first six months of the year and many take some of the crop home because they cannot afford to buy potatoes. Others go down to the beach and remove black mussels from the rocks and hide them between their breasts."

Legally, the women were entitled to remove only 25 shellfish at a time: "They use the mussels and cockles to make stews although most of the time they have nothing else to add to their pots."

"The children go around the town scavenging for rotten vegetables to add to the pot."

"How can we blame the parents for allowing their children to do this when they don’t have any food or money?" Ms Newman said.

She said about 90 percent of the houses in the community had no toilets and most people relieved themselves in bushes, which was adding to already emerging health problems.
1.3bn of world’s people live below the breadline

UN launches campaign to tackle impoverishment among the developing nations where one in five goes hungry every night

BY HELEN GRANGE

Poverty in the world is reaching unprecedented levels – with an estimated 1.3 billion of the 5.7 billion people on the planet living below the breadline, research by the United Nations has revealed.

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed this year (1996) as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and has launched a wide spectrum of programmes to facilitate economic development in poorer countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

A recently released UN report – outlining its research on poverty – shows that Africa has about 16% of the world’s impoverished – making up over half of the continent’s total population. Because of this, people in sub-Saharan Africa rarely survive beyond the age of 50, as compared to 80 in Japan.

In the developing world, according to the UN Human Development Report 1994, a fifth of the population goes hungry every night, a quarter lacks access to safe drinking water and a third lives in a state of abject poverty.

"Such persistent poverty in an otherwise progressive world is a result of a backlash from the failed ‘trickle-down’ development assumptions of the 1960s, the frustrated hopes of a new international economic order in the 1970s, and the ‘lost decade’ of the 1980s," the report says.

The greatest at risk are the young, with 13 million children under five worldwide dying every year from easily preventable diseases and malnutrition. Economic hardship and exploitation force up to 160 million youths into child labour and an estimated 2 million into child prostitution.

By the year 2025, young people will account for only 16% of the global population, the report says. In total, 80% will live in developing countries, where they are at great risk of poverty.

Also at risk are women, who according to the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 1994, bear the brunt of poverty’s burden partly because of discriminatory traditions. This is especially so in the rural areas, where women’s access to health and education and to such productive resources as capital, technology and land is severely limited.

In rural areas alone, more than 550 million women (over 30% of the world’s rural population) live below the poverty line.
Millions live in poverty

By Isaac Moledi

ON AVERAGE, 45 to 50 percent of sub-Saharan Africans live below the poverty line — a much higher proportion than in any region of the world except South Asia.

In its report on Taking Action for Poverty Reduction, the World Bank says the depth of poverty — that is, how far incomes fall below the poverty line — is greater in sub-Saharan Africa than anywhere else in the world.

About 50 percent of these people are from five East African countries and Nigeria.

"Beyond low income, a principal indicator of poverty is inadequate access to social services," the report commissioned by the bank's Africa Region says.

Currently, the availability of social services in most countries in the region is the lowest in the world. The report adds that the average gross primary school enrolment rate is presently only 67 percent compared with 94 percent for South Asia and 100 percent for East Asia.

Health services are falling behind demand in many of these countries. This is reflected in an average infant mortality rate of 83 per 1,000, which is higher than the South Asia's 84 per 1,000, Latin America's 46 per 1,000 and East Asia's 36 per 1,000.

The growth of income in the sub-region during recent years has been dismal, the report says.


In contrast, during the same period, South Asia's per capita GDP increased by nearly R1,400 (2.5 percent a year) and East Asia's by R3,100 (3.1 percent a year).
Reduce poverty in SA – Ramaphosa

By Shadrack Mashalaba

For as long as the vast majority of South Africans remain locked in a daily battle against poverty, the South African economy will remain constrained, New Africa Investment deputy chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday.

Addressing the South African Management Forum in Johannesburg, Ramaphosa said although South Africa was an economic engine for the Sub-Saharan region, its developmental role was being impeded by what it inherited from the past.

"The new South Africa inherited an economy which was flawed and inequitable and addressing these inequalities is not merely a political imperative but an economic imperative. If we resist change, we will fail."

"But if we rise up to challenges, we will be carving up a secured place for South Africa in a world in which we are destined to play a leading role," Ramaphosa said.

The Top Management Forum meeting, which ends today, was organised by David Management School in partnership with American-Management Association International.

"While crime is a threat to South Africa, there is a need to root out corruption from the top brass lest we collapse into a pit. In arresting crime, we need to develop entrepreneurial talent," he said.

Change

South Africa was undergoing change which to some extend was causing anxiety, said Ramaphosa, adding that change was necessary and inevitable.

"People who do not have shelter cannot be productive and above all, people who do not have land cannot produce," he said.

Ramaphosa added that the "big bang" approach to the removal of exchange control was not a "mickey mouse" business...
**Big steps to fight poverty**

**Government has taken lead from the President**

By Rafiq Roohi

Political Correspondent

African South Africa does not score all that well on human development at present, according to the latest Human Development Report of the United Nations, exceptional steps have been taken by the government to tackle the poverty problem head on.

Speaking at a seminar on poverty in Pretoria, Mswati, the Minister of Welfare and Population Development Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said that the government has taken things one step further from its declaration of poverty as a state of the government’s beacon in its war on poverty.

“It is an integrated people-centered programme that seeks to address basic needs, develop South Africa’s human resources to build the democracy and democratise the state and society,” she said.

Some of the ideals of the government are already being recognised, she said.

There are 340 clinics currently being built and nearly three million people are being reached by the “Mahlamandlovu” – preschool programme.

She also lists as an achievement in the fight against poverty that 930,000 households have been electrified.

But, she said, while the government is making an impact, the extent of poverty is nevertheless enormous.

One of the problems in the fight against poverty is large-scale corruption and fraud.

“In fact, it is the tightening of controls over the school nutrition project due to fraud which has led to a decline in the number of primary school children being reached. These have also been poor co-ordination, low capacity and funding limitations,” she said.

Key Indicators of Poverty in South Africa, a report compiled last year, revealed that South Africa has one of the worst records in all of health, education, water and other social indicators.

Fraser-Moleketi said that the report’s findings confirmed what had long been suspected about the nature and extent of poverty in South Africa – that it is worst in rural areas and in some provinces and that more black people, women and older people are poor.

A national poverty-stricken woman ... among the more poor of the country.

One of the key elements associated with poverty throughout the world is poor economic growth and the resultant lack of employment opportunities.

Meeting aspirations

Speaking on poverty eradication stategies, the UN Development Programme’s Richard Jolly said that the human development report that it was in the interests of all countries to ensure that the top priority objective was to ensure that economic growth expanded employment opportunities to meet people’s aspirations.

Meeting this challenge, he said, has become more difficult in recent years and the determinants to meet the challenge had also become less sure.

“All this is cause for public concern and debate. From Harare to Paris to Beijing, policymakers promise action but have found it difficult to deliver.”

He praised President Mandela for the pragmatic approach he had adopted.

“Any of the UN reports that the potential for economic growth and development is better than it has been for decades but it was also time to be brutally frank when it came to South Africa.”

Mandela states “Despite the well-come growth, very few jobs have been created. In fact, against the backdrop of new entrants into the job market, there has been a shrinkage in opportunities. We need a national vision to lift us out of this quagmire.”

**Women tell Parliament of heartache**

By Rafiq Roohi

Political Correspondent

The devastating effects of poverty were at the heart of a seminar in Parliament on Tuesday when two women described how starvation drove them to attempting suicide and crime.

Thembi Mhlongo of Umlalazi outside Durban, poignantly described how the pang of hunger drove her to making almost all the major decisions in her life, including a serious attempt at suicide.

Vanessa Matthews described her life of hell when at the age of 16, she had to become a mother to her six siblings, and did not hesitate to stealing from her bosses to survive.

Throughout most of Mhlongo’s life she was ill-treated by men, including her brother, after the death of her parents.

Failed attempt

“I even had to be attached to a male at an early stage in my life because of him,” she said.

When she delivered her baby, she was released from hospital with her baby’s father and she had practically nothing with which to support herself and her child.

“I told my child, I even had to take an overdose of Welcoloid tablets and end it all because I could not take care of my child and myself.”

The attempt failed but her misery continued. A department store had arrested her for failing to pay her accounts.

And perhaps most of all, she said, she felt “I was not worth it”. She succeeded in getting her eight-year-old children away from the facility and told them on the Parade: “I was not worth living. I was worth being厌恶en.”

She helped herself to garments from the factory and travelled on the “Parade”. The Parade is one of the central market areas in Cape Town.

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Poverty still a big problem in SA
Poverty, growth must be tackled together

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COMMENT & ANALYSIS

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, October 28, 1996
Poverty imminent in Africa

By Abdul Milazi

AFRICA could plunge deeper into poverty if the rate of employment in the modern sector does not improve, warns International Labour organisation’s (ILO) executive director Michel Hesnene.

Writing in the ILO’s latest report on employment, Hesnene says: “Few development countries outside south-east Asia have experienced strong growth in productive employment over the past two decades.”

He says workers’ aspirations for more productive and better paying jobs have not yet been met.

“The key requirements for meeting these aspirations is the high rate of employment creation. Without this, over-crowding in low-productivity employment in the rural areas and urban informal sectors will intensify.”

The over-crowding in low-productivity employment would lead to low incomes and increased poverty, he says.

The ILO report also argues that rapid industrialisation plays a pivotal role in generating high productivity manufacturing jobs.

Chile, Jordan and Mauritius are the only countries outside Asia which have achieved strong employment growth in the manufacturing sector over the past two decades.

“Although none of these countries matched the combination of strong employment growth with rising labour productivity and real wages that was characteristic of the dynamic Asian economies, they all owe their success to the same formula.”

This formula, Hesnene says, is export-led industrialisation which generates jobs in the manufacturing sector.

“It could be said that it is only the rapidly growing economies of south-east Asia that are solidly on the path to full employment. For most countries in the other regions of the developing world, the serious problems of unemployment and low productivity are not being reversed,” Hesnene argues.

The ILO singles out the failure by the developing countries to recover fully from the international debt crisis of the early 1980s as being one of the major causes of deteriorating employment conditions in most parts of the world.”
Johannesburg – Despite an increase in electrification and improved access to water, housing and clinics, the new South Africa still faces the challenge of correcting the disparities in living standards between black and white South Africans, disparities entrenched by apartheid rule.

Essop Pahad, Deputy Minister in the Office of the Deputy President, said these realities had been brought to focus by the latest statistics from the October 1995 annual household survey.

Announcing the results of the survey, he said: “Not only is South Africa challenged with correcting these racial disparities, but also gender disparities in most aspects of living.”

In response to a question, Central Statistics Services (CSS) chief director of research, Ros Hirschowitz said there had been an improvement in living standards since 1994 and an increase in the number of people having access to clean water, clinics and schooling, he said.

Despite this, said CSS head Mark Orkin, the “race effect was still firmly impacting on South Africa”. Black incomes were closing in on those of whites in the upper strata of society, but at the bottom the gap was increasing.

The 1995 survey, undertaken by the CSS to augment the census information gathered every five years, quantified the inequalities between blacks and whites in income, employment, education and other spheres of life.

While blacks were disadvantaged in general, black females were having to endure the worst living conditions.

Under apartheid, access to education was not available equally to all.

“What is perhaps not widely acknowledged is just how this has affected educational attainment among South Africans. South Africa is faced with a situation where only six percent of black males and females have received post-school qualifications.”

‘Only six percent of black men and women have received post school qualifications’

In stark contrast, 73 percent of white males and 67 percent of white females have attained matric or a higher level of education,” said Dr Pahad.

The report stated that among blacks 29 percent of those aged between 50 and 54 years, and 40 percent between 60 and 64, had received no education at all.

In terms of income, there were huge differences between black and whites

Among blacks, 26 percent earned less than R6 839 a year.

Only two percent of white households were in this category. Among higher income jobs, whites had the largest share with 64 percent, while only nine percent of African households were in the same category.

The survey found that of the estimated 42 million population, 32 million (76 percent) were black, of whom 20 million lived in rural areas. Nearly half (47 percent) of economically active black women were unemployed, as opposed to 29 percent of the males. In total, 23 percent of male South Africans were unemployed compared to 38 percent of females.

In the informal sector, eight out of every 10 females were in elementary occupations such as street vending and domestic work.

Black females had the country’s lowest educational attainment, followed by black males.

White males and females had the highest attainment.

Another revealing statistic was that 30 percent of all black females had received no education at all.

“The race effect (of apartheid) becomes entwined with the gender effect. It has become evident through the survey that the legacy of racism is combined with the legacy of sexism,” said Dr Orkin.

The statistics gathered by the household survey demonstrated the extent of the problems facing South Africa, said Dr Pahad.

“A new South Africa cannot undergo social and economic change if its progress is monitored against outdated information,” he said.

“Our fledgling democracy requires a revamped set of statistics providing accurate information on infrastructure, health care, education, housing needs, services, unemployment and poverty.”

“The annual household survey combined with a census every five years will ensure that we can consistently monitor the progress and development of all South Africans and effectively plan for our nation’s future.”
Survey reveals shock racial disparities

By KURT SWART

Despite an increase in electrification and improved access to water, housing and clinics, the new South Africa still faces the challenge of correcting the shocking disparities in living standards between black and white South Africans.

Dr Eusep Pahad, deputy minister in the office of the deputy president, said these disparities had been brought into sharp focus by the latest statistics from the October 1995 household survey.

Announcing the results of the survey in Johannesburg yesterday, he said: "Not only is South Africa challenged with correcting racial disparities but also gender disparities."

Access

"There has been an increase in electrification of households since 1994, and an increase in the number of people having access to clean water, clinics and schooling."

While blacks in general were severely disadvantaged, at the bottom of the pile were black females.

"South Africa is faced with a situation where only 6% of African males and females have received post-school qualifications. In stark contrast, 79% of white males and 67% of females have attained matric or a higher level of education," Pahad said.

Among Africans, 29% of those aged between 20 and 54 years, and 40% between 60 and 64 had received no education.

In terms of income, there were huge differences between black and white.

Among Africans, 26% earned less than R6 880 a year. Only 2% of white household were in this category.

Among higher-income, jobs, whites had the largest share with 64%, while only 9% of African households were in the same category.

Nearly half (47%) of economically active African women were unemployed as opposed to 29% of the males.

In total, 22% of male South Africans were unemployed, against 35% of females.

The statistics demonstrated the extent of the problems facing the country, Pahad said.
Pay the citizens of SA

U

Jeremy Benson And the flag proudly flies over the
large conference hall at the
Department of Social Development

IMAGINATIVE solutions are needed to deal with poverty’s multi-faceted dimensions. The
higher the level of poverty, the more complex the problem. It is a national tragedy that
can only be tackled by a national effort. The scale of the problem is such that no one
institution or professional group can be expected to solve it alone. In addition, the
solution must be sustainable. It is not enough to achieve a quick fix. The social
security system must be able to address the root causes of poverty and pro-vide
structural solutions, not just targeted interventions. The focus should be on long-term
solutions that are scalable and sustainable. This requires a fundamental shift in
departments of social development. The system must be restructured to meet the
needs of the population at large. It is not enough to provide temporary assistance to
individuals in need. The system must be designed to support individuals and families
in developing the skills and capacities they need to achieve self-sufficiency.

Jeremy Benson is writing in the personal capacity as a Member of the
Department of Social Development.
Gauteng has declared war on poverty, with the province's welfare department earmarking R6,5-million – 8% of its current budget – to fight and win the struggle.

In his budget speech yesterday, the MEC for welfare and population development, Ignatius Jacobs, said he intended using his department's 1997/98 budget allocation as one of the means to end poverty in the province.

He reiterated the earlier announced national increase in social pensions from R430 to R470 per month, with effect from July 1.

The department received R2.3-billion this year compared with last year's allocation of R1.7-billion.

Jacobs' speech received all-round applause in the legislature. When he took office last year he declared that eradicating poverty was the foundation of the new vision he had laid down for the province.

Jacobs said the old welfare paradigm failed the majority of citizens in not redressing the plight of the poor, especially women and children.

Before the debate began, dozens of pensioners gathered outside the legislature building.

The ultimate challenge is to focus on employment, production and growth. When he reiterated the pensions increase, the packed gallery let out a whoop of joy.

"Whilst both the current and new budgets are unable to realise all of the new innovative plans that have been developed in this area, attempts will be made to bring government, civil and business stakeholders on board to complement what limited resources the department has at its disposal," Jacobs said.

He also announced a new financing model for the department and innovative approaches to make the budget work.

These include transforming the current system of subsidies to old age and children's homes and other institutions, community development funds, community-owned business ventures and franchises, and development of the small, micro and medium enterprise sectors.

Jacobs also proposed a lottery scheme whereby all social beneficiaries contributed a minimal amount of R1 and a certain number of "eligible members received "winnings" from this scheme.

"The ultimate challenge here is to focus on employment and production as opposed to providing handouts."
Extreme poverty can be eradicate!

New UN report points to inequalities

Whites, still much better off

UNICEF director of policy

Sustainable development

Programme report

UNDP Development

The combination of data on

progress and the poverty

goals could be embraced in

Launched in 2005, the report

underlines the progress of the

predictive and the power and

report’s decade of data on

decrease the regrets and hope in

Since 2005, 900 million people

ed and the need for

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progress and the progress of

in this year’s HD, Cancer

report for the UNDP

Empowerment of African youth

by years of the context

on the United Nations

South Africa ranked 30th in

with the progress that has

Suddenly whites don’t own all the goodies

Latest research shows fast-growing black middle class is catching up with its white neighbours

The number of black families owning houses, cars and M-Net decoders has soared between 1996 and 1998, 12% more black consumers entered the A living standards bracket, bringing their total to 3.8m and within striking distance of the 4m whites enjoying similar lifestyles.

This is according to Market Research Africa’s latest living standards measure (LSM) survey. It identifies eight levels, the top three of which make up the A bracket.

But the study shows that black entrepreneurs made no inroads into the millionaire class last year. And white individuals still account for more than 81% of the category.

About 80% of the people on the top LSM level earn more than R4 000/month and own cars. 10% of which are either BMWs or Mercedes-Benzes. They also constitute half the M-Net and satellite television audience and employ most of the domestic workers in the market.

But the real movement has taken place in the second and third levels from the top.

People in the second group earn an average monthly income of about R4 200. They tend to spend money on home improvements such as swimming pools, security services and garden walling. Most households own a car.

They also use a broad range of financial products and own a significant number of home appliances.

In 1996 there were almost 13% more blacks and 9% fewer whites in this group.

Members of the third group often fall into a fairly low income category, averaging incomes of about R2 000/month. But about half of households own a car, and ownership of kitchen appliances, television sets and audio equipment is high. Use of ATM cards, savings accounts and insurance is high and has grown significantly.

This LSM level also saw significant change over the year — 3% more blacks, but 8% fewer whites.

This suggests black consumers are overtaking their white counterparts. There was only small growth (0.1%) in white membership of the top LSM group, but sizeable falls in the two levels below.

The implication is that white consumers are falling into the lower LSM groups rather than upgrading their lifestyles.

It’s uncertain whether black living standards will continue to rise at this rate. The economic upswing that started in mid-1993 is slowing while the consumer credit boom that fuelled much of the improvement in living standards is also reaching a ceiling.

Some also argue that affirmative action in the civil service catapulted many people into the middle class — a one-off stimulus.

Only an estimated 4.2% of blacks earn more than R4 000/month. It indicates affluent blacks are still a tiny minority. And economists are arguing that as some people’s living standards improve, the poor are getting even poorer.

But it also shows that even a small percentage improvement in black wealth constitutes a great deal of buying power.

The LSM index is based on factors such as the utilities households have access to, where they shop, the financial services they use, car ownership, type of housing and household appliances. The results are ranked by group from one (subsistence) to eight (including top income brackets). The A living standards bracket covers LSM groups six to eight.

Adrienne Roberts
SA's fight against poverty ‘uneven’

PROGRESS in the country’s fight against poverty, with one in four South Africans living on less than R4.50 a day, remains uneven and stark disparities still exist between different race groups, according to the United Nations Human Development Report for 1997 released yesterday.

The report, which includes the human development index, ranks South Africa 90th out of 175 countries in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income.

However, the rating covers “two worlds” as no distinction is made between advantaged and disadvantaged population groups, Mr David Whaley of the UN Development Programme said.

The per capita income of the richest 20% in South Africa was 19 times that of the poorest 20%, the report said.

Statistics also showed that 17% of South Africans were not expected to survive to the age of 40. While only three percent of white South Africans were not expected to live to 40, the corresponding figure for black South Africans was 18%.

About eight percent of white South Africans lacked an education, as opposed to 16% of black South Africans.

The report notes that while only four percent of children do not enrol in primary school, 24% are not reaching Grade 5.

On life-expectancy, it said the average in South Africa of 63.7 years, exceeded the world average of 63.2 years and the sub-Saharan African average of 50 years.

On educational attainment, SA had an adult literacy of 81.4%, higher than the world average of 77.1% and sub-Saharan Africa's average of 55% — Sapa.
according to the latest report, SA ranked
50 countries fell in comparison to previous
years, where the economy is growing. This
report found that the index values of
human development and human development
opportunities are declining. The report
showed that every year, a country's
human development index (HDI) and its
ranking change. However, in this report,
which was the average between SA
women's education and SA men's
education, UNDP's human development
index (HDI) showed a decline. As a result,
the report stated that SA's human
development index is declining. The report
also highlighted that SA's education
system is facing challenges. The report
recommended that the government
should focus on improving education and
healthcare systems to reduce poverty and
economic inequality.

"We need to address the root causes of poverty and inequality," said the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, in his speech at the UN General Assembly. He emphasized the importance of investing in education and healthcare to create a more inclusive society. "We must work together to create a better future for all," he added.
R100-m set aside to fight poverty

By Simon Zwane
Political Reporter

THE Ministry of Welfare and Population Development is to spend R100 million on programmes to alleviate poverty throughout the country, Welfare and Population Development Minister Mrs Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said yesterday.

The amount has been endorsed by provincial MECs and welfare heads of department at a two-day lekgota held in Mpumalanga on Thursday and Friday.

Fraser-Moleketi said the war on poverty would be launched soon with the assistance of the South African National Non-governmental Organisations Coalition, the South African Council of Churches, the Homeless People’s Federation and other stakeholders.

She reported that the Free State had become the first province to eradicate social grant “ghosts” who had been fraudulently collecting social security benefits.

A new system of paying the grants had been introduced in the province, beneficiaries re-registered and new identity documents issued in a process that started in April.

The ministry pays social grants to 2.9 million people each month and this is considered to be the Government’s biggest poverty reduction programme.

The ministry also aims to complete the rebuilding of at least one child and youth care facility in each province by the end of October.

The lekgota also endorsed the Not-for-Profit Bill scheduled to be placed before the parliamentary portfolio committee and the National Council of Provinces select committee soon. The Bill will seek to repeal provisions of the Fund Raising Act relating to granting organisations authority to raise funds from the public.
THE FUNNY FARM
Down and out at the Wave of Success Bridge
When the wave of success broke

UNTIL THE PROTECTION FIVE NIGHTS AGO

The funny farm makes a comeback in an unexpected way...
It's war as attack on poverty launched

The fight against poverty in South Africa will move into high gear today with the launch of the War on Poverty campaign in Cape Town.

The unprecedented in the scope of organisations driving it, aims to focus energy and resources on poverty-relief programmes.

Organisations involved are the NGO Coalition, the Department of Welfare, the Congress of SA Trade Unions, the SA Council of Churches, the Homeless People's Federation and the UN Development Programme.

One of the campaign's initiators – the Welfare Department's chief director of social development Graeme Bloch – says the campaign will focus the nation on fighting poverty.

"We want to make poverty the number one agenda item. If it is relieved it will enable us to live together as a more peaceful and prosperous society," he said.

The campaign will also highlight issues that arose when President Mandela committed South Africa to eradicating absolute poverty at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995. – Staff Reporter
SACC declares war on poverty

By Oupa Ngwenya

THE South African Council of Churches will along with its partners, sign a document today declaring war on poverty.

Its partners include the Ministry of Social Welfare and Pensions, the South African NGO Coalition, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the Homeless People’s Federation and the United Nations Development Programme.

The signing ceremony, in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, will mark the first in a series of activities organised by partners to take the campaign forward.

The alliance provides a framework for partners to focus their ongoing work as well as to launch new initiatives.

The declaration ranks poverty and inequality as South Africa’s most important priorities. It says their eradication is essential to consolidate democracy.

It also notes that South Africa is "today burdened with unacceptable levels of inequality between rich and poor" and that many people live below the breadline, and are exposed to persistent hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment and hopelessness.

While conceding that much has been achieved through the commitment of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) to address basic needs, it says there is still long way to go.

Globally, the document says campaigns against poverty will need to be responsive to both opportunities and dangers presented. Necessary steps include fighting unemployment and landlessness, increasing credit access for the poor and encouraging small-scale production and entrepreneurship in the formal and informal sectors.

Government strategies must sustain wealth distribution through coordinated cross-sectoral programmes and infrastructural development.
Fighting the war against poverty

Women and children in rural areas are the worst hit

By Joe Mhlela

Now that apartheid has been defeated and democracy is the order of the day, the South African Council of Churches (SACC) is focusing its attention on combating poverty.

As it did in the past, when the SACC mobilised churches and other institutions in the war against apartheid, the SACC is now addressing poverty together with other important community work.

These include the South African Non-Governmental Organisations' Coalition, the Honolulu People's Federation, the United Nations Development Programme, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the Department of Welfare and Population Development.

In an interview with Sowetan this week, the head of the Development Ministries of the SACC, Dr Mongaela Guma, said the church had once again to take up the war against poverty as a priority.

But to achieve its objective of eradicating poverty, Guma said, the SACC needed partners.

"It is not strange that the partners we are embracing are the same organisations that were vocal against apartheid and helped to defeat it," said Guma.

"Like the fight against apartheid, fighting the scourge of poverty needs commitment and we think with such movements in the trade unions, we cannot fail in our endeavour to better the lives of our people."

He said the church recognised the rampant poverty faced by South Africa's people as a threat to "our newly acquired democracy."

Survival

Almost one in four South Africans live on less than R5 a day, and 17 percent of the population is not expected to survive beyond the age of 40.

Only three percent of whites are not expected to reach 60, but the corresponding figure for blacks is a massive 18 percent.

The per capita income of the richest 20 percent in South Africa is 19 times that of the poorest 20 percent.

The total per capita Gross Domestic Product of the richest 20 percent is about R45 000. The corresponding figure of the poorest 20 percent, on the other hand, is but R2 500.

Guma said some sections of the community were so poor "they attend- ed funeral services not because they condoned them but out of necessity, but as a way of alleviating their hunger."

"They might seem as a joke, but it shows what poverty is capable of doing - stripping a person's dignity and self-esteem."

"The war on poverty is South Africa's most important priority and our greatest challenge. Eradicating poverty is essential to consolidate the gains of our new democracy."

The National Association for Social Justice, peace and security in our land.

Guma said apartheid was largely to blame. The policy of segregation had contributed to the poverty that was devastating the country, and had har- dened the country with "a legacy of economic and social dissent."

Describing poverty, Guma said it manifested itself in the lack of access to resources, a lack of income to make choices, and an inability to take advantage of opportunities.

"All of society needs to be involved in the struggle for social development. "The very fabric of our society, the soul of our communities needs to be reborn," he said.

Guma said poverty manifested itself mostly in the rural areas, and affected both women and children.

But he was confident that poverty could be eradicated through collective effort.

He said while the Government should have a role to play in the fight against poverty, communities should also take the responsibility to uplift themselves and help to end the scourge of poverty.

He said the church would continue to make the Government sensitive to the issues of poverty, and hoped to ensure that government policy addressed the alleviation of poverty "as a matter of priority."

He said the church would also encourage communities to engage in people-driven projects that would show that ordinary citizens were capable of empowering themselves without government intervention.

"People-centred strategies to fight poverty must directly involve the poor in finding solutions to their problems. "The energy, creativity and assets of the poor are key human and social resources that will give people hope."

He argued that women, who understood poverty better as they usually managed the household, had an important role to play in alleviating the plight of the poor.

Invest in women

In line with the call by the Copenhagen Declaration draws up at a United Nations conference on poverty in 1995, Guna said it was critical to invest in women.

He quoted from the declaration:

"The most productive policies and investments are those that empower people to maximize their capacities, resources and opportunities."

Dr Mongaela Guma ... the war against poverty must once again be the church's first priority.

PIC LEN KUMALO

But he repeated, poverty can only be alleviated if all society's structures participate in the fight against the scourge.

"In that respect we will utilise our different institutions and organisations, separately and together, and seek partnerships and solutions that will better the lives of all South Africans," he said.

Some of the strategies that the SACC will employ in its fight against poverty include:

- Using publicity to focus the attention of the nation on the millions of people who go hungry on a daily basis,

- Encouraging local action and developing local programmes,

- Encouraging voluntary mobilisation and organise communities to engage in programmes to alleviate poverty,

- Focus government programmes and legislation on poverty,

- Build partnerships and coalitions,

- Ensure that the voices of poor people are heard and not ignored.

Having declared August as the month of compassion, the SACC Ecumenical Commission on Poverty will also ask the nation to forgo a meal, "in order to give another a chance to live."

"It is time we lived up to our Christian convictions by helping those who are in need. By contributing towards the eradication of poverty, we will be showing solidarity with the less privileged in our society."

He said proceeds from the "shop-a-thon" programme to give others a chance to live will go towards a fund that will help to alleviate poverty countrywide.

- The SACC will sign its declar-
War on poverty now official

ASHLEY SMITH
Staff Reporter

21/8/97

South Africans will formally declare war on poverty today with the signing of a declaration to eradicate hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment and homelessness.

Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, the Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane, and representatives of the Congress of SA Trade Unions are among those who will sign the pledge in Khayelitsha.

It forms part of the War on Poverty campaign, which is backed by a wide range of government and non-government organisations.

Brian Sokutu, a spokesman for MS Fraser-Moleketi, said the signing created an "atmosphere of collaboration" between the Government and NGOs.

"The most important message the declaration is getting across is that poverty alleviation is a challenge for all of us," he said.

Projects planned for later this year as part of the War on Poverty included Masakhane Week, the Cosatu jobs summit, and an International Volunteers' Day.

NGO hearings were in the pipeline for next year covering poverty, government relief programmes, budget allocation and programmes, around church land as a means to increase food production.
Organisations draw swords for all-out war on poverty

STAFF REPORTER

The War on Poverty campaign, launched in Cape Town yesterday, is the first concerted effort by all sectors of society to focus the fight on poverty, said the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Njongonkhulu Ndungane.

"As representatives of the church, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, government and the international community, we are recognising today that each of us, on our own, will be unable to make an impact on this modern-day scourge," Ndungane said.

The campaign aims to focus South Africa’s attention on poverty so that it becomes a national priority and encourages local development programmes.

Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said that this year had seen a shift in programme financing to more developmental social services, with the emphasis on community-based action and support.

She said the launch of a flagship programme earlier this year, benefiting unemployed women with children under 5, had resulted in programmes that provided education and training linked to various economic-empowerment initiatives, in all provinces.

Fraser-Moleketi said steps to access a portion of the R300-million set aside for poverty alleviation by Finance Minister Trevor Manuel would encourage a range of small development programmes, especially among women in rural areas.

This would build on already existing projects and funding channels through the provinces and national councils, Fraser-Moleketi said after signing the historic war on poverty declaration.

Ndungane announced that a major summit would be held to put in place practical and sustainable strategies to eradicate poverty in southern Africa by 2005.
Three years into transition, SA remains one of world's most unequal societies, while 'greenwashing' continues.

It's time for a war on poverty.

OPINION

The scalar and a number of the war on
corruption's headline-grabbing efforts to
dismantle the elite's corrupt networks
are welcome. But the underlying causes of
poverty and inequality remain unaddressed.

The war on corruption has made headlines
in recent years, with high-profile
arrests and convictions of politicians and
business leaders. However, the root
causes of poverty and inequality have
largely been ignored.

It's time for a genuine fight against
poverty, not just a war on corruption.
SA warned on poor urban underclass

Belinda Beresford

The lack of improvement in the income of the poorest fifth of the population in SA meant the country risked creating a "large underclass of marginalised people in the main urban areas of the country", the Central Statistical Service (CSS) said yesterday.

Income disparities between households in the 12 major urban centres decreased between 1990 and 1995, but the poorest 20% of households still earned only 2% of total income.

Comparisons between the 1980 and 1995 survey rely on households in the 12 major urban centres, because the former covered only those areas. Households in these areas tend to be wealthier than those in rural or small suburban areas, with an average income of R83 000 in 1995 compared to R41 000 for an average household in the country as a whole.

The middle 50% of households earned 13% of income in 1980, compared to 10% five years earlier. The most affluent fifth of the population earned 60% of income in 1995 — a 10% drop from 1990.

The net result was a decrease in overall income disparity among urban households, with the Gini coefficient falling to 0.55 from 0.63 in 1990. The Gini coefficient is a measure of equality of income distribution ranging between 1 — extreme inequality — to zero — total equality.

However, analysis by race showed that while white households had recorded a fall in income disparity, all other race groups had shown an increase.

For example, in 1990 34% of black households were in the bottom 20% of income, but this rose to 38% for 1995.

The number of black households in the top fifth of the population rose to 6% in the latest survey, up from 4.5% in 1990.

Only 33% of white households were in the top 20% of income in 1995, down from 51% in the earlier survey.

Black, coloured and Indian households showed the typical pattern of increasing average income, with proportionately less expenditure on food and more on income tax, insurance, transport and housing.

The average household spends about 18% of income on food, 18% on housing, 15% on income tax and 10% on transport. The poorest fifth of the population spend just over R2 000 a year or 51% of total expenditure on food, with more than a third of this spent on grain products. The top fifth of households spent about R13 000 a year or 12% of expenditure on food with meat and fish accounting for about a third of this.

Confirming economists' concerns, the CSS said in general 2% of expenditure was spent on investment and savings, with another 2% going to pension funds.
NGOs gear up for battle on poverty

The battle against poverty is set to be fought by NGOs, the government and other stakeholders. The South African National NGO Coalition (SANCCO) has launched a campaign to mobilise NGOs to take action against poverty.

At a recent meeting, NGO leaders said they were ready to commit resources and expertise to the fight against poverty. They also pledged to work with the government to ensure that the poor are not left behind.

The campaign, which is being launched in partnership with the Department of Social Development, aims to raise awareness about poverty and to encourage NGOs to develop and implement programmes that will address the root causes of poverty.

NGOs have a vital role to play in the fight against poverty, and this campaign will provide a platform for them to collaborate and share best practices. It is hoped that this will result in a more effective and efficient response to the challenges of poverty.

The campaign will be supported by a range of activities, including training workshops for NGO leaders, media campaigns, and the distribution of promotional materials.

NGOs are urged to get involved in this important campaign and to use their resources and expertise to make a difference in the lives of the poor.
needed: 'a key' to eliminate poverty

by mokgadi pela

poor communities need profound social change rather than affirmative action to address their plight, a leading academic has said.

addressing about 100 members of the media workers association of south africa (mwas) at the sowetan offices in johannesburg yesterday, chief director of higher education professor humeleng mosala said “the poor are not to blame for their poverty and the rich are not the best and brightest who managed through unusual ability to rise to the top and shine.”

mosala, whose theme was empowerment or liberation? why affirmative action fails to work, said affirmative action was not a solution to poverty but a measure to address it.

its limitations were that it ‘reinforces dominant ideology of possessive individualism and strips communities of their intelligentsia’,” he said.

the history of affirmative action had a biblical ring to it “to those who have, more shall be given, to those who do not, even the little which they have shall be taken away from them.”

mosala said this concept was littered with stories in which “the able are rewarded and the less able are damned.”

“it is a story of competition of winners and losers, where winners are given everything – the big prize, the social acclaim it is a story of stardom and winning lottery tickets, where one person gets much more than any human being could ever need while many have to scrape along with much less than is necessary for minimal comfort and dignity.”

he said the solutions lay in economic growth, political commitment and technical know-how.

south africa needed a key to open the door that “leads to the elimination of poverty.”
The Minister of Defence (Mr. A. Brown) presented a report on the recent developments in the military sector. The report highlighted the ongoing modernization of the defense forces and the increasing focus on cyber security. It also discussed the need for increased funding in research and development to stay ahead of emerging threats. The report concluded with a call for greater international cooperation in addressing global security challenges.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Ms. B. Wilson) addressed the importance of maintaining a strong presence in the international arena. She emphasized the need for diplomatic initiatives to resolve conflicts and promote peace. Ms. Wilson also spoke about the challenges posed by rising nationalist sentiments and the importance of multilateralism in addressing these issues. She concluded by expressing confidence in the government's commitment to advancing the country's foreign policy objectives.
**Income chasm divides rich and poor**

A recent comprehensive report on the earning and spending in SA has revealed some unexpected trends. SVEN LUNSCHE reports

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The report, earning and spending in SA, 1991—1995, by the Central Statistical Service, shows that the richest 20% of SA households earn as much as 65% of all income while the poorest 20% have only 3%

The CSS's conclusion is that SA ranks along with countries such as Ecuador and Brazil among those with the widest income disparities between affluent and poor.

Nothing new there. But the report does uncover some new statistics which require a fresh analysis of the reason for the income inequality.

Two figures stand out firstly, there are many more wealthy, middle-class black, Indian and coloured people than at the height of apartheid, and, secondly, the disparity between rich and poor is widest in the black community.

Other findings include:

- Households in urban areas have more than double the average yearly income (R55 000) of those living in rural areas (R23 000)
- Families living in informal or traditional dwellings (R15 000) have a far lower income than those living in houses (R52 000)

Not unexpectedly, households where the head is in a managerial, professional, technical or administrative capacity have the highest income (R101 000). There is a steep decline among those families where the head is in a clerical or sales position (R41 000) and an even further decline where the household is led by a production, transport or services worker (R38 000).

Income differences vary from province to province. The average income for Gauteng is R71 000 a household, compared with R24 000 in the Eastern Cape.

Whites in the Northern Province are the wealthiest, with annual earnings of R140 000, followed by Gauteng (R118 000). At the other end of the spectrum are blacks in the Northern Cape (R13 000) and Free State (R14 000).
Poverty hindered development in rural areas —
Moosa

Defining Five

Poverty hindered development in rural areas —
Moosa
Statistics show the poor most often black

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

TODAY is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and South African statistics on poverty are nothing to write home about.

A total of 45.7 percent of the population lives in poverty and, as expected, most are black.

Ninety-eight percent of those who are poverty-stricken are black, while the remaining two percent are white.

These are statistics based on a report conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) up to

The findings form the basis of a National Party report, called "Development, empowerment and strategy", which was released in Parliament yesterday ahead of today's Poverty Day commemorations.

The province with the highest figure is Northern Province with a 69.3 percent poverty rate, followed by the Eastern Cape with 64 percent. KwaZulu Natal with 50 percent. Northern Cape with 48 percent, Free State with 47.1 percent, Mpumalanga with 45.1 percent, North West with 41.5 percent, Gauteng with 21.1 percent and the Western Cape with 17.9 percent.
War on poverty is still a black and white issue for most people in South Africa.

Causes of and solutions to the problem of poverty in South Africa.
'SA on road to ending poverty'

(SA)
Adultery, poverty and wealth, two sides of the same coin in SA
Campaign to fight poverty

By Khangale Melhado

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the South African Non-Governmental Organizations' Coalition launched a campaign yesterday aimed at fighting poverty.

Addressing a media conference in Johannesburg yesterday, SAHRC chief executive officer Advocate Louisa Zondo said the campaign would culminate in the hosting of a series of hearings on poverty throughout the country.

This, Zondo said, would ensure that decision-makers would be able to take note of "peoples' voices".

The hearings will be able to check on the impact apartheid had on poverty which resulted in the inability of people mainly from poor communities to realize their full potential.

Sangoco president Advocate Rams Ramasha said that his organisations had declared total war on poverty as the second phase of the struggle.

He warned that while the Government had begun putting in place programmes to address the legacy of poverty, too little had been done and "we need action before it is too late.''

"The poverty hearings, to start in March next year, will make explicit recommendations to decision-makers as they outline an election agenda from the perspective of the poor.

"We have an opportunity to reverse the process of apartheid and poverty and ensure that our country becomes a peaceful and prosperous land deserving of the blood, sweat and tears shed for it," Ramasha said.

He called on the communities and their representative organisations to come forward and tell their stories, saying "we call upon politicians for once to keep quiet and listen to peoples' experiences and suggestions".

SAHRC commissioner Advocate Percy Tsakula said the hearings would highlight the problem of poverty and the protection of socio-economic rights.
PAC calls on Govt to help fight poverty

Movement favours the establishment of the development fund from existing income tax

By Mibulelo Baloyi

The Pan Africanist Congress has called for the establishment of a special development fund, derived from the existing income tax, to assist in the eradication of poverty in the country.

This was one of the decisions at the PAC's annual conference at the University of Durban-Westville yesterday.

PAC MP Mrs Patricia de Lille told a media briefing that five percent of the existing income tax should be put aside for a development fund.

She said the conference had also resolved that the Government should cut down on expenses by closing some of its missions abroad and merging certain ministries.

We feel that as a cost-cutting measure, the Government should redistribute some of the revenue generated through income tax by putting aside five percent for poverty eradication programmes," said De Lille.

There should also be a review of the statutory commissions which were established during the past three years.

"The Human Rights Commission has not served its purpose and we feel some of its work could be done with the help of some of the non-governmental organisations," she said.

Meanwhile, the three-day conference was marred by the unexpected arrival of its former president Mr Clarence Makwetu on Saturday.

Makwetu, presently under suspension for three years for allegedly bringing the party into disrepute, surprised conference delegates when he arrived unannounced with a few supporters.

During a press briefing on Saturday, PAC president Bishop Stanley Mogoba said Makwetu's case was not an issue.

"Presently, his membership of the party is suspended and his situation is a delicate one for us," said Mogoba.

He said Makwetu had been informed that he could not participate in the conference.

Makwetu told Sowetan that he had come to the conference to appeal to the PAC's national executive committee to hear his case.

"I am here to appeal for my case because I do not think that I was treated fairly, and I don't deserve my right to be in Parliament. I did not shingle myself into Parliament," said Makwetu.
PAC's blueprint to end poverty

DURBAN: The Pan Africanist Congress has proposed several measures which it believes could be implemented by government to eradicate poverty in South Africa.

PAC chief whip Ms Patricia de Lille said yesterday at the party's annual conference at the University of Durban-Westville that a percentage of income taxes could be channelled into a special development fund to assist the poor.

De Lille suggested five percent of taxes could be redistributed for development needs.

"Part of what we are already paying in taxes should be put aside," De Lille said. The government should also consider reducing the number of foreign missions, the PAC said.

Another suggestion was that some ministries, like the Public Enterprises Ministry, be removed and that others be merged to reduce costs. The number of commissions should also be reviewed and some of them closed down or be incorporated into other commissions, the PAC said.

Travel expenses and cellphone accounts should be more closely monitored, De Lille said.

She added that these proposals had been presented to the government in March, but that the government had not yet acknowledged receipt of them.

During the conference, delegates affirmed their overwhelming support for De Lille, who had been suspended for 15 working days of the new parliamentary session.

She was suspended for asking the African National Congress to confirm perceptions that some ANC leaders had spied for the former government.

The PAC said De Lille's suspension was a blatant violation of her constitutional rights, her freedom of speech and her parliamentary privilege.

De Lille was considering taking legal action against Parliament through the Constitutional Court.

PAC president Dr Stanley Mogoba said delegates at the conference had felt a resurgence of the party. He was confident the PAC would perform well, if not won the 1999 election.

De Lille said the PAC was the only organisation, given its history and policies, that posed a real threat to the ANC.

She said for the PAC to grow it was necessary to take an independent stance from the ANC.

"We need not be confrontational, but more questioning and challenging," she added. — Sapa
Mbeki means business

New ANC leader vows to tackle unemployment and poverty

RAY HARTLEY, CYRIL MADLALA
and CRAIG DOONAN

NEW ANC president Thabo Mbeki has made turning the tide of joblessness and the war against poverty his most urgent priorities.

Mbeki was speaking shortly after delegates to the ANC conference in Mahikeng endorsed his government's growth, employment and redistribution strategy (Gerd) and voted Finance Minister Trevor Manuel into the top 10 of the party's national executive committee.

"It is true that the rate of job creation is not what we want it to be," he said in an interview yesterday.

Outlining his approach to fighting unemployment, Mbeki said:

- The public service would be reduced to increase the amount of money that could be spent on job-creating construction projects.
- Small businesses would be boosted by improving state aid in the form of start-up financing.
- A more focused bid to attract foreign investors would begin;

- More partnerships between the private sector and government corporations like the Airports Company would be introduced, and
- Encouragement of export-oriented businesses would continue.

Mbeki said the government needed to spend less on public service salaries and more on investment in building new roads, schools and hospitals because this would mean more jobs being created by private-sector contractors.

"We are saying we won't create jobs by expanding the civil service. Jobs are going to come from the private sector.

Mbeki closed the conference with a speech calling for a stepping up of the ANC's transformation agenda. "We must transform the machinery of state as speedily as possible to ensure this becomes an instrument that serves the interests of the people. We must continue the struggle to devote greater and greater amounts of public resources to the goal of meeting the social needs of the people."

Earlier, a resolution backed the government's economic policy, saying "The conference endorses the basic objective of macroeconomic stability Gerd provides a basis for achieving such stability."

It described Gerd and the RDP as "mutually reinforcing policy instruments". It also called on the ANC and its allies to "spearhead a national campaign to fight against waste and corruption in the management of public resources."

In a resolution on education, the ANC called for an education summit to discuss the budgetary crisis in education. It also called on the government to talk to teacher unions "to avoid retribution and the negative effects of a gender policy resolution made impossible for men "with interests towards women", child abusers and those who had not paid maintenance to divorcees to hold office in the ANC or the government."

President Nelson Mandela told journalists at a rally in Mahikeng yesterday that Mbeki's most important task was to win a two-thirds majority for the ANC in 1999.

See page 23
POVERTY - GENERAL
1998
planned R35m Rural Anti-Poverty Programme is

The R35m Rural Anti-Poverty Programme is intended to provide an economic stimulation that will contribute to the rural economy and help reduce poverty in the rural areas. The programme aims to create employment opportunities and improve living standards of rural communities.

The project will be implemented through the establishment of economic development zones and the provision of infrastructure and services. It will also involve the creation of local businesses and the development of rural tourism.

The programme will be funded by the government and supported by international donor agencies. It is expected to create employment opportunities for thousands of people in rural areas, thereby boosting the local economy and reducing poverty.

The rural anti-poverty programme is a part of the government's broader strategy to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life in rural areas. It is expected to have a significant impact on the economic and social development of rural communities in South Africa.
Government allocates R85-million for alleviation of rural poverty
City to host probe on poverty

BUSINESS EDITOR

Cape Town will host hearings on housing and urban poverty in June as part of a national poverty hearings programme convened by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Human Rights Commission.

The hearings are designed to make the voices of the poor heard by decision-makers and will cover social security, health, housing, land and rural development, the environment, employment and income.

Representatives of the Human Rights Commission, the Gender Commission and the South African National NGO Coalition (Sangoco) will listen to the evidence and debate the role of policymakers.

A report will be published on June 26, just before a national poverty summit. The Western Cape NGO coalition will host the hearings on housing and urban poverty from June 1 to June 7.
Making Poverty a Priority

Christine Smith
Plan to alleviate poverty

By Shadrack Mashalaba and Abdul Milazi

SOUTH Africa has to promote the small and medium business sector to alleviate poverty and unemployment, Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin said at the weekend.

Erwin was speaking at the official opening of the Mogwase Entrepreneurial Support Centre which will be the hub of business activity in North West.

He said local governments had a major role to play in addressing the needs of the community because the national Government could not attend to all the problems of the country.

Business loans

Erwin said South Africa did not fare well when it came to small and medium businesses.

“We are worse off than most countries when it comes to the small and medium business sector,” he said.

He attributed this to the apartheid system in which blacks were systematically prevented from owning their own businesses, and the fact that banks were still reluctant to give business loans to blacks.

Interest rates

Erwin said the Government could not subsidise business as that would cripple those businesses and also push up interest rates.

“If you subsidise business, as the previous government did here (in the former Bophuthatswana), the business dies when you withdraw the subsidy,” he said.

He said the development of the small and medium business sector could boost the economy and help the Government deal with some of the country’s problems.

“In the Maputo Corridor, which is the biggest business development so far, we are looking at R34 billion,” said Erwin.

He said the Mogwase Centre was the first phase of what would be known as the Platinum Corridor, a project that will connect North West business with the Maputo Corridor and ultimately form a business highway aligning Mozambique and the rest of South Africa.

North West MEC for Finance and Economic Affairs Martin Kuscus said the small and medium business sector generally was a complex sector to deal with. It was therefore important to devise a comprehensive plan to address problems faced by the sector.
Govt’s commitment to fight poverty reaffirmed

By Claire Keeton

MINISTER of Welfare and Population Development, Mrs Gertrudine Fraser Moloketsi has reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to fight poverty at the launch of a “Speak Out on Poverty” programme yesterday.

The Government is one of the partners in this programme spearheaded by the South African NGO Coalition (Sangoco), the South African Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE).

Speak Out will be holding poverty hearings from March to June in all nine provinces, with most hearings focusing on specific issues like education or health.

The Minister said the process would highlight the role all people can play in alleviating and eradicating poverty.

She said the hearings would give the poor a platform to fight poverty and build access to opportunity and choice.

Working together

“Change is not restricted to the Government. We need the corporate world to work with us to ensure access to credit, houses and land,” Fraser Moloketsi said.

“We will see how we can use our partnerships to roll back the scourge of poverty.”

Sangoco president Mr Ramashina Ramashina said the programme would work towards making the rights enshrined in the South African Constitution a reality for its people.

“(These) rights are empty and democracy is fragile if it does not bring an improvement to the lives of those who bear the brunt of poverty,” Ramashina said.

Fifty three percent of South Africans earn less than R301 a month, which amounts to only 10 percent of the total earnings. Most of these people do not have access to work, land, safe drinking water, adequate housing or education.

GCE chairwoman Ms Themjwwe Mithinke highlighted how women in particular suffered from poverty and inequality.
Special hearings aim to alleviate poverty in SA

About 58% of South Africans live below the R801-a-month poverty line and more than nine million live in shacks. These figures were released in Johannesburg yesterday at the launch of a four-month series of poverty hearings designed to document the experiences of South Africa’s poor.

The hearings start on March 17 in Bloemfontein. They will be conducted by the SA Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality and the SA Non-governmental Organisations Coalition (Sangoco).

Sangoco president Ramos Ramashya said the aim was to give poor people the opportunity to share their experiences and propose solutions to poverty. This information would be used to devise a development framework and would be included in poverty monitoring programmes. — Sapa.

[Signature] 25/2/98
Poor will get platform to help them fight poverty

BY RYAN CRESSWELL

The national Poverty Hearings launched in Johannesburg this week will have far-reaching consequences for the plight of the poor, according to organisers.

The South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) and the South African NGO Coalition will hold 10 nationwide poverty hearings called "Speak Out on Poverty: Your Chance to be Heard".

The hearings will give the poor and their advocates a chance to speak out and will lead up to a report, a summit in June, a pro-poverty macro-economic plan and the Poverty Forum which will be attended by church groups, unions, government and non-governmental organisations.

Saspa president Rama Ramasha said during the launch at the Worker's Library in Newtown that the macro-economic plan would probably be put forward as an alternative to the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GERD) strategy which the coalition saw as being a watered-down version of original RDP aims.

"It's time for poor people to set the policy agenda. This is what we mean by people-centred development and participatory democracy," he said.

Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said the hearings were an opportunity to "strengthen the ability of the poor to fight poverty". She promised that the Government would "listen" to what the speakers had to say.

Professor Philip Alston, who chairs a UN committee that looks at economic and social human rights, said these rights were often overlooked because there was a tendency to only regard rights in terms of torture or killing.

Thenjive Muntso, chairman of the CGE, said it was mostly women who were poor and a change in power relations between men and women would be needed before their poverty was truly eradicated. Each hearing will deal with a different issue.

Education on March 17-21 at Bloemfontein, land and rural development on March 21 to April 3 at Pietersburg; open hearings on April 24-25 at Mafikeng; on April 27-28 at Nelspruit and on May 1-2 at Kimberley; economics on May 7-9 at Johannesburg; health on May 11-17 in KwaZulu Natal; social security on May 18-23 in East London; environment on May 25-29 at Port Elizabeth and housing and urban development on June 4-4 in Cape Town.
SA hearings on poverty a first

FEATURE NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA, POWER, PEACEFUL

ABORTION

SHARE chairman of Penny’s "poverty war"... "poor people have equal rights..." (Photo: Sibusiso Chauke)
Recipe for turmoil is poverty — Tutu

THE surest recipe for unrest and turmoil in South Africa was if the vast majority had no proper homes, clean water, electricity, good education and adequate health care, Truth and Reconciliation Commission chairperson Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday.

Addressing the Pretoria Afrikaanse Sakekamer, he called on Afrikaners to invest in transformation and said this was not just being altruistic, but was, ultimately, good business. "For your own sake, there has to be stability, otherwise the economy will suffer and business confidence will take a knock.

"Contribute to repair for reconciliation, through community development, scholarships. If the disadvantaged, the poor, the homeless and unemployed become desperate, they may use desperate means to redress the imbalance.

"Be willing to share lest you end up with nothing to share. We don’t want any more Vryburgs," Tutu said.

"You are a splendid people and South Africa needs you."

However, there did appear to be a significant segment which was quite vociferous, egged on by two major newspapers, Rapport and Die Burger.

"They want to recall a past when they, the Afrikaners, were in charge, even though they now claim never to have supported apartheid.

"I admire Beeld newspaper immensely. They are quick to praise the good things the new government does and so when they criticise it the government really takes notice.

"Those who are forever whining are dismissed and totally discredited," Tutu said. — Sapa.
South Africa's poor to have their say
Invitation to send in ideas

Organisers have promised the people, their spiral, and the government, the promised to listen.
Pressure group to tackle poverty

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — A national campaign to put pressure on government to make poverty eradication a priority was launched yesterday by churches, trade unions, government watchdog bodies and non-governmental organisations.

“Poverty is the cruellest legacy we inherited from apartheid and its eradication should be a top priority on everyone's, including government’s, agenda,” Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town Njongonkulu Ndungane said. “We have had political liberation in SA. Now we need economic and social liberation.”

Poverty could be eradicated “within a generation” if South Africans displayed the will necessary to do so, Ndungane warned. SA would be heading for “another abyss” if it believed peace and stability could be attained without eradicating poverty.

The “speak out on poverty” campaign has been convened by the SA Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality and the SA NGO Coalition (Sangoco), backed by the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the church leaders forum. The three month campaign will begin in the Free State on March 17 and end in Cape Town on June 4. Hearings across the country will focus on housing and urban development, land and rural development, education, the economy, health, social security and the environment.

“The hearings will break the silence on poverty by giving poor people the opportunity to share their experiences and propose solutions,” Sangoco president Rams Ramashia said.

Human rights commissioner Pansy Tlakula said: “Our wonderful constitution will remain meaningless to those who live in abject poverty and squalor unless it translates into reality.”
Poorest get turn to testify on apartheid

Heard's to focus on plight
HAVE YOUR SAY

Break the silence on poverty, destitution

ORGANISERS at the Speak out on Poverty Campaign said that in South Africa the ratio of a managing director's salary to that of the lowest paid worker was 166:1 compared with 7:1 in Japan.

It was estimated that 65% of South Africa's adult population was illiterate while at least 1.2 million did not have access to clean water inside their dwellings or on site.

Statistics released yesterday showed:
- 6% of the population earns more than 40% of the income
- 53% of SA's population live below the R301 a month poverty line
- More than 9.2 million South Africans are nutritionally compromised - including 87% of all African children under 12
- Some 38% of poor children also suffer from stunted growth
- An estimated 200,000 children between the ages of 10 and 14 are engaged in various forms of labour, representing 4% of all children in the age group
- An estimated 270,000 learners with disabilities are outside the formal education system
- 87% of schools have no textbooks
- 57% of schools have no electricity
- 53% of the population is poor but they receive only 40% of education resources
- Over 900,000 people live in informal shelters
- Only 26% of public schools are at university, compared with just 39

A NATIONAL campaign to give the poor a voice on the issue of poverty and to realise economic empowerment for South Africa's destitute was launched in Cape Town yesterday.

Called Speak out on Poverty, it is organised by the South African Non-Government Organisations' Coalition (Sangoco) and the Human Rights and Gender Equality Commissions.

The campaign will consist of 10 public hearings throughout the country.

Fifty-three percent of South Africans earn less than R301 a month (the poverty line) while 6% of the population earns 40% of the national income, according to statistics released by the campaign.

About 38% of poor children suffered from stunted growth and 23% of those under the age of six suffered chronic malnutrition or stunting.

Sangoco president Mr Rams Ramashia said the hearings "will break the silence on poverty by giving poor people the opportunity to share their experiences and propose solutions to the problems of poverty".

"We are calling on policy decision-makers to show respect to poor people by listening to what the poor have to say," he said.

Heardings start in the Free State on March 17 and end in Cape Town on June 4 and will deal with education, land, economic policy and health. Results will be sent to parliament for debate.

"They (results) will be used as a basis for drafting a poverty budget and election commitment," Ramashia said.

Cosatu would influence its alliance partners, the ANC and the SA Communist Party, to ensure that the issue of poverty was part of next year's election manifesto and "election platforms", said Cosatu vice-president and one of the campaign commissioners, Ms Connie September.

Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town Winston Njongonkulu Ndungane, also a commissioner, was recently involved in a row with President Nelson Mandela over his persistent criticism of the government's failure to house the poor.

He refused to be drawn on the issue yesterday. Referring to the Christian injunction about good neighbourliness, he said that Mandela's was his neighbour and that he would be talking to the president about good neighbourliness when he meets him today.

Churches of all denominations had organised a national summit on poverty in June in which they had invited all decision-makers so that an "attainable, sustainable and measureable" strategy for eradicating poverty could be devised.
DP calls for rise in VAT to help relieve poverty

BY JOHAN RAMTAD
Cape Town

The Democratic Party has proposed a 1% increase in VAT, from 14% to 15%, to generate at least R3.1 billion which will be targeted at poverty relief programmes.

The DP has also proposed a cut in corporate tax, tax deductions for security-related expenses, tax rebates for tertiary education and a reduction of the Cabinet to 16 ministers.

In Budget 98/99 proposals unveiled in Parliament yesterday, the DP's finance spokesman, Ken Andrew, argued that an increase in VAT would not necessarily disadvantage the poor.

"The wealthy benefit more from lower levels of VAT than the poor, particularly as basic foods are zero-rated.

"The very poor can pay only 8% of VAT collected. An increase of 1% would cost the average, very poor household an extra R5 a month above the R64 a month they're paying at present," Andrew said.

On tax rebates for tertiary education, Andrew has proposed that a rebate equivalent to one-third of tertiary institution fees be given to students or their parents for a maximum of four years of successful study. Medical students could apply for a rebate for a maximum period of six years.

"Students who have student loans should be given a tax rebate of up to a maximum of a third of their tuition fees to be claimed within 10 years of commencing their studies.

"This measure would lighten the burden for first-time employees with study-related debt obligations," Andrew said.

He has also proposed a reduction in the number of teachers and proposed that independent schools should receive a subsidy per pupil in line with the full cost of education in government schools.

"The DP also proposes that an extra R50-million be made available to provide student loans for tertiary education, on condition that repayment requirements are strictly enforced," Andrew said.

The DP has also suggested that a two-year voluntary national service in the police service for matriculants and graduates should be considered as a cost-effective way to increase police numbers.
**Moves afoot to address poverty in South Africa**

ABOUT 53 percent of South Africa’s population live below the R301-per-month poverty line, according to statistics released yesterday at the launch of a nationwide campaign to give a voice to South Africa’s poor.

The Speak Out on Poverty campaign, organised by the Human Rights and Gender Equality Commissions and the South African NGO Coalition (Sangoco), will consist of 10 public hearings throughout the country, starting in the Free State on March 17 and culminating in Cape Town on June 4.

Results will be submitted to Parliament and used to draw up a “poverty budget.”

Sangoco chairman Mr Rama Ramashia said the hearings were meant to “break the silence on poverty” by giving poor people a chance to share their experiences and propose solutions to the problems of poverty.

“We are calling on policy and decision makers to show respect to poor people by listening to what the poor have to say,” he said. It was time for poor people to set the policy agenda.

The hearings would highlight the extent to which apartheid policy hampered access to social and economic rights. The findings would be submitted to Parliament for debate and discussion and would also be used to inform a platform of action.

Campaign organisers said that in South Africa the ratio of a managing director’s salary to that of the lowest paid worker was 100:1 compared with 7:1 in Japan.

It was estimated that 65 percent of South Africa’s adult population was illiterate and at least 12 million South Africans did not have access to drinkable water. Some 2.3 million South Africans were “chronically malnourished” – including 87 percent of all African children under 12 years old.

About 38 percent of poor children suffered from stunted growth and 23 percent of those under the age of six from chronic malnutrition. — *Sapa*
Poor get ready for their very own "Summit"
R50-m for poverty relief
By Ido Lokota

COMMUNITY-BASED organisations fighting against poverty and unemployment yesterday received support when Welfare and Population Development Minister Mrs Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi gave them funding amounting to R50 million.

In all 139 projects will be funded throughout the country under the National Poverty Alleviation Programme.

An amount of R2 million will be distributed to 53 projects in Free State

Another R4.4 million will be given to projects in Gauteng.

Also to receive funding are the School Uniform project and the Cottage Bakery project in KwaZulu-Natal run by unemployed women.

The funding, Fraser-Moleketi said, was part of her ministry’s commitment to alleviate poverty and unemployment, especially among women and the youth.

She said the success of such efforts lay with the various departments who were working together to fight poverty.
Deafening silence greets call to help poorest of poor

The poor are to air their views on poverty in hearings entitled: ‘Speak Out on Poverty: Your Chance to be Heard’. Here pastor Isaac Silas speaks of his experience.

11/3/98

By Winnie Graham

The mothers and grandmothers of Soweto weep when they speak to pastor Isaac Silas.

They sob when they tell how their angry, hungry youngsters assault them because there is no food when they come home from school.

They cry when they talk of their daughters who sell their bodies in exchange for a meal.

And the pain becomes almost unbearable when they confess that their children have become victims of this century’s most deplorable social disease.

‘But what, ask the women, are they to do when they can’t find jobs? When their men have been retrained – and remain unemployed? When their sons turn to crime as an escape from joblessness and hunger?'

Isaac Silas has lived in White City, Soweto, long enough to share in the pain of his people. He is doing what he can to help – but it is not nearly enough.

About a year ago, he and members of Look and Live Ministries decided they had to do something about unemployment. Some 2,500 people, mainly parents, attended a meeting where many of the jobless agreed to work at local schools without pay.

‘Rather than sit around doing nothing, the women agreed to clean the classrooms and the men to work in the grounds,' Silas said this week. The community started organising raffles and competitions to raise money for projects where people could be taught skills. A number of unemployed university and technikon graduates took on the administration of the project.

Silas wrote to the Government. He asked the Department of Education to pay the women cleaners a basic wage of R35 a day and the men R50 for tending the grounds and looking after the schools, which are often vandalised.

The answer came back: we have no money. So he wrote to the Department of Manpower and the Department of Public Works. No answer.

Was someone out there listening? Would someone come to the rescue of these desperate people?

‘The middle class people of Soweto have either escaped to the suburbs or can afford to send their children to the old Model C schools in the city,' he said. ‘The unemployed are trapped. They are in a terrible situation – specially the old grannies who are often left to look after the children. You cannot believe how bad the picture is!'

Pastor Silas once lived for himself, he says. But when his daughter Thembile was five he listened to her singing songs of praise and he knew what he had to do. He gave his life to God and started working for the community.

When he saw the extent of the problem in White City he registered a welfare organisation – the Zikhe Skills Development Project (number 011010970004) – and tried to raise funds. But times are tough and the lot of the poor in White City has not improved.

He came to The Star to appeal to churches, the private sector – anyone, in fact – for help.

‘Surely someone out there cares?’ he asks. If anyone does, he can be phoned him at (011) 982-5010, extension 209.
Poverty the focus of increase in welfare and social grants

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Pensions and other social-security grants would increase by 4.3% or R452m on July 1, Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi announced yesterday.

Nearly R19bn — 12% of noninterest spending — would go on welfare and social grants in the 1998/99 financial year, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said in his budget speech. This meant a nominal increase of 18.8% in the welfare budget.

Fraser-Moleketi said the increase underscored government's "dedication to care for those of us in need of support, and a realisation of the contribution of welfare to human and long-term economic development."

Old age, disability and care-dependency grants would increase from R470 to R490 a month, Fraser Moleketi said. Foster-care grants would increase from R340 to R360 and grants-in-aid from R90 to R95 a month. War veterans' grants would increase from R485 to R505.

The new child-support grant of R100 a month — to be paid to primary care givers of children under the age of seven once the conditions of a means test were met — would come into effect at the beginning of next month.

The programme was intended to reach about 3-million children in poor households in five years. The grant would replace the state-maintenance grant, which would be phased out over three years, Fraser-Moleketi said.

Manuel announced that allocations for poverty-relief projects would increase from R500m in 1997/98 to R600m in 2000/01. "Welfare and social-security spending represents government's primary investment in poverty alleviation," he said.

Government had subsequently increased spending on welfare from R14bn in 1995/96 to R18bn in 1998/99, and it had budgeted for an increase to more than R21bn in 2000/01.

In a drive to "uproot corruption and eliminate fraud", the welfare department and provincial authorities had embarked on a project to re-register about 3-million beneficiaries of social grants and pensions.

"This process will enable us to eliminate duplicate claims, ghost beneficiaries, syndicates and cross-provincial payments," Manuel said.

Old-age and disability grants go up R20 a month
How 19 people live on R490 a month

CAROL CAMPBELL
Special Writer

For a Lavender Hill grandfather helping to support 12 grandchildren, the 4.3% increase in social pensions announced in the Budget is not much to smile about.

Jacobus Classen’s pension will increase from R470 to R490 a month, not much when you live with the constant battle of finding enough food to feed the family.

His grandchildren, all under 15, depend on him for their daily meal, a roof over their heads and clothes on their backs.

His five children, who also live with him in his two-bedroomed flat, contribute to the family income when they can find work. But none has a full-time job.

“You cannot say no to a hungry child – after all, a father is a father, a mother is a mother. Children can’t live only on water and even that costs money,” he says.

Social worker Llewellyn Jordaan administers Mr Classen’s “expenses” so that he meets his monthly bills – rent R72,78, electricity R161,42, water R38,18 and burial insurance of R30. After deductions, he has R167,62 left “for living.”

“This way, at least, the family will not be evicted from their flat,” said Mr Jordaan.

Every day, every member of the family is involved in the hunt for food.

The women go from church to church begging for hand-outs of discarded supermarket vegetables. Yesterday, the Catholic Church in Retreat gave the family a basket of vegetables – two onions, four poach-marked apples, some leeks, half a green pepper and a packet of furry asparagus. Water was set to boil. There would be soup for supper.

Mr Classen’s partner of 50 years, Sheila

First bite: the late final of yesterday’s Cape Argus

Serenge, “share” occasionally for a neighbour at R5 a day.

The old man collects scrap metal and sometimes makes R5 or, on a good day, R10.

“My legs are getting sore and I find it difficult to walk now,” he says. A few months ago, hooligans attacked him and hurt his arm. It still feels lame.

At night, foam mattresses are strewn across the lounge floor for the children to sleep on and in the morning before school, grandpa worries their clothes.

In the late afternoon, as the sun sets over Constantiaberg, the old couple hike to sip tea and watch their grandchildren play in the courtyard in front of their flat.

Mr Classen spends hours reflecting.

“When I think about my life, I get the sorrows. It’s been so hard,” he says.

“Wouldn’t life be easier in an old-age home?” asks Mr Jordaan.

“No, I can’t go now. Who will look after the children?”

Pictures and Budget reports, page 3
Government gets serious on tackling poverty relief

R500-m bonanza

ARG 12/13/98

IN GAELERS
Social Writer

News that R500-million has been set aside in the Budget for poverty relief - R200 million more than last year - has been hailed as proof of the Government's commitment to uplift the poor.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel also promised the figure would rise to R600-million in 1999/2000.

"This isn't the food parcel way," either. This shows a commitment to dealing with poverty in a proactive way, a way that doesn't only take in welfare, but other departments, too.

"It's an approach that gives people greater control," said Guy Preston, special adviser to Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, whose department was allocated R150-million for poverty relief last year.

Water Affairs used the money for 240 Working for Water programme projects across the country, securing jobs for 7 660 people in the Western Cape alone, of whom 60% were women and 20% were aged between 16 and 25.

Each worker generally supports at least another five people.

The workers remove alien vegetation in a countrywide water-saving initiative.

"On top of the jobs created there is also the enormous value of the water that would be wasted by these trees invading alien plants cause massive economic damage to the country," said Dr. Preston.

The welfare department, allocated R50-million in poverty relief last November, handed out cheques for this amount earlier this week.

One hundred cheques totalling R5.7-million went to projects in the Western Cape.

Among those to benefit were the Zwelihle food garden project in Worcester, the Smethele disabled group, the Towerkop farmworkers' upliftment project in Oudtshoorn, Catholic Welfare and Development in Guguletu and Eetts River, the Council for Black Education in Khayelitsha, the Franschoek Adult Education Centre, the Quaker Peace Centre in Mowbray and the Atlantis Resource Centre.

A sum of R85-million went last year to the Public Works Department and Zand Nordien, spokesman for Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe, yesterday praised the Government for this year's total increase of R200-million for poverty relief.

"It is a reflection of the Government's commitment to ensure increasing investment in infrastructure as well as community-based public works development projects," said Mr. Norden.

Their poverty allocation last year was directed to the country's three poorest provinces, KwaZulu Natal, the Eastern Cape and the Northern province where individual communities were targeted for upliftment.

Mr. Nordien said about 12 600 jobs were created as a result.
Lobbyists plead for poor before speech

ZUBISDA JAFFER
PARLIAMENTARY EDITOR

ON the morning before Finance Minister Mr Trevor Manuel delivered his Budget speech, about 50 church and community lobbyists descended on Parliament to discuss the plight of the poor.

Ms Julia Mokgwetsi, a creche teacher from the Northern Cape, sat on a bench at the Poortwaggon entrance to Parliament next to the Rev Jeff Lengoabala from the South African Council of Churches (SACC) in the Free State.

The two, with a number of others, were waiting to see the chairperson of the Health Committee, Dr Blade Nzimande.

Other groups organised by a powerful NGO/church coalition were on their way to talk with MPs Ms Janet Love, Mr Ben Turok, Mr Moss Chikane and Mr Kandlo Mcumisa.

"I am coming here to discuss the problems facing the children in the Northern Cape," said Mokgwetsi. "More than 40 creches are without any resources," she said. "We want the government to help."

Coinciding with Budget Day, the South African National NGO Coalition, the SACC, the South African Catholic Bishops Conference and trade union affiliates of Cosatu are holding an Anti-poverty Budget Week workshop in Cape Town for three days.

The director of Esset, Dr Molefe Tsele, on his way to speak with MPs, said that the initiative was part of the churches' efforts to draw closer to Parliament and policy making.

"We have come here to listen, but will then spend the rest of the day analysing the budget and making our views known," he said.

"We see ourselves having a role in articulating the needs of the poor and believe that the budget should be as responsive to the issues as possible."

Organiser of the event, Ms Shirley Gunn, said that the lobbyists are calling for Parliament to have the right to amend the budget.

"There is no legislation that allows Parliament to amend the budget and this is unconstitutional," she said.

The Constitution says that Parliament can amend the national budget. In November, the Ministry of Finance submitted a draft Money Bill to the Portfolio Committee on Parliament's role to amend the budget. This was rejected by the committee. A new sub-committee made up of MPs, the Ministry of Finance and representatives from civil society was to be convened in January to develop a new draft. "This has not happened," said Gunn.

The lobbyists also insist that they did not agree with the government's approach to the repayment of debt.

They say that the Civil Service Pensions Fund, to which the government owes most of its money, has grown more than R150 billion. "Between R15 and R20 billion a year could be released from this public pension fund and no pension would be in jeopardy," said Tsele.

At 11am this morning, Tsele and others will announce their assessment of Manuel's speech.

"We see ourselves having a role in articulating the needs of the poor."
'More funds needed for poor'

CAPE TOWN — Finance Minister Trevor Manuel should have restructured SA's debt in his budget speech on Wednesday to make more funds available for poverty relief, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape-Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane, said yesterday on behalf of a coalition of civic organisations.

The repayment of national debt, Ndungane said, continued to drain the country's resources.

The coalition of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, SA Council of Churches, the justice and peace department of the SA Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Nongovernmental Organisation Coalition believed the debt owed to the Public Service Commission could have been restructured to release up to R15bn a year to eradicate poverty and develop infrastructure.

The coalition also expressed disappointment that Manuel's budget was one of restraint.

"While we welcome the Umsobomvu Fund, we look forward to a concrete strategy to combat joblessness," the coalition said.

It expressed alarm over the significant cuts in several reconstruction and development programme departments such as housing.
Scheme for
poorest of
poor abused

By Sello Serepe

The Mpumalanga government has enlisted the help of the SA Police Service after uncovering a scam in housing subsidies.

MEC for provincial local government Mr Craig Padyachee said that most suspects had tried to abuse the subsidies for the building of a second house or business premises.

The subsidy scheme is meant to help prospective first-time homeowners earning less than R3 500. The subsidy limit is R15 000.

Padyachee called in police to investigate criminal charges against people who abuse the local government housing subsidy scheme on the recommendation of a task team appointed by the MEC last year to investigate allegations of abuse.

A week ago the task team informed the MEC that most cases of abuse occurred in the former self-governing states of KaNgwane and KwaNdebele.

In a statement earlier this week, the MEC said the recommendations that all individual subsidies to KaNgwane and KwaNdebele should be stopped pending further investigations was because these areas did not have accurate records of title deeds.

This created potential for large-scale abuse.

Padyachee said the task team would work closely with the SAPS to investigate allegations of abuse in the province.

"Where these cases come to light, fraud charges will be laid and the subsidies recovered by a special police unit working directly with the department of housing," he said.

He added that police would investigate professional institutions most to blame for large-scale abuse in the past.

"The department has so far recovered R4 million from conveyancers' trust accounts," he said.

Provincial local government spokesman Mr Leon Mbangwa told Sowetan yesterday that those who used their grants to extend or build business premises would have to repay "loans"
War on poverty stepped up as alarm bells ring

HENRY LUDBEKI

THE government has pledged to spend millions more on poverty relief and job creation in the face of continued criticism of its delivery in these areas.

Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi earlier this week set Budget Week in motion by allocating R500-million to 139 special poverty alleviation projects throughout South Africa.

Then, on Wednesday, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel set aside R200-million for poverty relief, R200-million up on last year’s allocation. He also announced his Umsobomvu (“New Dawn”) job creation initiative, to be funded by a 2.5% once-off levy on beneficiaries of the demutualisation of life assurance companies Sanlam and Old Mutual.

All this has, however, not satisfied his critics, who remain unimpressed with the government’s alleged poor delivery record and restrictive fiscal policies.

Poor service delivery, the general failure of the government’s Watsakhane campaign and the admission last month by President Nelson Mandela that it was not in a position to meet its 1994 election promise of a million homes by 1999, have contributed to the ANC-led government’s sensitivity to criticism about non-delivery.

Manuel has been tasked with steering the economy through difficult waters. Criticism of a slower than expected growth rate and a lack of synchronisation in its growth, employment and redistribution (Growth) strategy has opened him up for attack by the ANC’s alliance partner, the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Cosatu maintains the economy is being straitjacketed by a “contradictory” fiscal and monetary policy that is making it impossible to meet employment, growth and social targets.

It is vociferous on the area of job creation and poverty relief, saying a more comprehensive social security system needs to be put in place to provide an important lifeline to the poor.

It accuses Manuel of following an economic policy that stifles job creation. Manuel has responded by saying there are “no short cuts” to achieving sustainable growth, because the government’s resources are finite. However, the attack which most riled the government came from Anglican Archbishop Ntongabula Ndungane, who accused it of slackening commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities to the poor.

Ndungane yesterday described poverty as the “greatest legacy” of apartheid, and said poverty alleviation needed to be addressed “much more vigorously.” He said he had found encouraging signs in Manuel’s budget, which suggested the issue was being taken seriously.

However, he added it was imperative that the budgetary allocation be seen to be making a discernable difference to the lives of the poorest of the poor.

Poverty, education, housing, health care and social welfare were just a few of the matters that required urgent attention, Ndungane said. “Faced with the harsh realities in which many of our people live, we continue to look for signs of hope for the poverty-stricken.”

The issue of service delivery or, rather, the lack of it, has already emerged as a key electoral issue and it should be patent clear to the government it is likely to be the central issue around which next year’s general elections are fought. It has also been taken up by the South African NGO Coalition, churches, labour, the Commission on Gender Equality and the Human Rights Commission.

Fraser-Moleketi, who is compiling a special poverty and inequality report for Deputy President Thabo Mbeki that is expected to be ready by April, said the government was trying to attain the broadest possible social security system.

The government had limited resources, she said, but significant strides had been made, particularly in respect of its special intervention on free health care for children under the age of six. Her department would also be extending the R100 child support grant to another 178 000 children.

Describing proposed new welfare legislation as “a war on poverty,” Fraser-Moleketi said her focus was on areas of greatest vulnerability, and particularly on putting a comprehensive system in place for care at an early age.
Poverty war goes on

The South African National NGO Coalition, South African Human Rights Commission and Commission on Gender Equality recently launched hearings on poverty. This is not specific to South Africa. Many countries have put the reduction of global poverty at the top of their development agenda. And there is a note of optimism that it can be dramatically reduced.

The Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has set the target of eliminating absolute global poverty by 2015 – just 17 years away.

The question, however, remains: How can global poverty be reduced and ultimately eliminated, considering that 1.3 billion people, most in Africa and South Asia, live in poverty, surviving on R5 a day for all their needs?

History tells us that in the last 30 years more people in the developed countries have escaped from poverty than in the previous 500. Since 1960, child death rates in developing countries have been cut by more than half.

People have more food to eat and the percentage of the population with access to clean water has doubled to 70 percent.

This suggests that history has equipped us with better instruments of intervention on which to focus our efforts in combating poverty. We have also learned that economic growth plays a significant part in reducing poverty.

Until 1998, Zambian, Mozambique and South Africa need at least eight percent, 12 percent and five percent average growth respectively for four to six years if poverty is to be reduced significantly.

But the complex relationship between economic growth, income distribution and their impact on the reduction of poverty varies from country to country.

Because growth is linked to income distribution, it will only have minimal impact in societies where inequality is higher.

The uneven distribution of the benefits of economic development diminishes the impact of growth on poverty elimination. Appropriate development is likely to be achieved more easily where resources are distributed fairly.

This suggests that economic growth should be inseparably linked to social justice. There must be equality of opportunity and the possibility for everyone to benefit from economic growth.

In the African situation, the high growth which a number of countries are experiencing has not been proportionate to income distribution as many people are in the informal sector.

Much of the success of poverty reduction in the past was built on agricultural improvements, and small incremental gains based on intensive use of labour, low capital and technological input.

Here the approach is to have an integrated view of economic endeavour, embracing the simultaneous and interacting development of agriculture, industry and socio-economic infrastructure.

Poverty elimination targets cannot be achieved by economic growth and sound macro policies alone. Complementary direct public action to provide a safety net is required to help the social and human development of the poorest sectors of society.

Support both for sustainable economic development and social development now need to be inextricably integrated by all actors in poverty reduction.

Other elements play an important role in enabling people to have access to resources and should be seriously considered in poverty policy formulation: education, race, age, gender and religion.

Education plays a crucial role in human development and OECD targets sum for universal primary education by 2015. The education of women is viewed as a key element in any poverty reduction strategy.

The value of empowering women in poorer regions, enabling greater self-reliance, and the impact of this on households has been well demonstrated. There is also a need to invest in new knowledge to really understand the world we are living in.

Land reform, for instance, will only be beneficial if backed up by agricultural and technological reforms (as happened in India with the Green Revolution or the Philippines through crop development).

The poor, then, will need access also to formal markets.

This, in turn, requires good roads and appropriate infrastructure.

Development cooperation can also play an important role in eliminating poverty. Today, however, the climate surrounding foreign aid programmes is heavy with disillusionment and distrust.

On all sides we sense a weariness amid a search for a new direction. Much has been said about building genuine partnerships between the donor community and the recipient countries.

The conventional wisdom in both donor and recipient countries emphasizes trade and investment as more important than assistance given to poor countries, but aid is still a relevant option in fighting poverty.

Economic growth alone will not resolve the problem of the bottom 10 percent. Northern NGOs can play an invaluable role working alongside their counterparts in developing countries, and can often reach the poorest.

Growth supporting the poor can be encouraged by recipients and donors to empower the poor to become producers, in turn contributing to wider economic growth.

To succeed, the poor need greater access to credit, investment, technology and assets.

The real challenge is to ensure that aid recipients can take the driver’s seat, while recognising the need for donors to maintain some control of how their taxpayers’ money is spent.

The West can indeed help poor countries. But it is not an easy matter, expressible in terms of money alone.

It demands a deep respect of African needs, traditions, initiatives and decisions.

There is a need to equalise relations between donors and recipients. The principal objective should be to help the poor to rid themselves of poverty by their own efforts.

(The writer is an international relations researcher at the Centre for Policy Studies, Johannesburg)
SA's poor not benefiting from spending — Idasa

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — SA's poor were not benefiting sufficiently from social spending despite the greater resources allocated by government since 1994, Institute for Democracy in SA (Idasa) researchers told Parliament's portfolio committee on finance yesterday.

"SA's social expenditure budgets are relatively large relative to other middle-income developing countries. Yet our socioeconomic indicators are poor. This is related to the inequality and ineffectiveness of spending," Idasa's Shirley Robinson said in a presentation to the committee on the recently announced budget.

"Although data is sparse, recent reports indicate that the incidence of social spending in SA is not geared toward the poor, "despite the shares allocated to education and health expenditure." Spending on the poor and "ultra-poor" was much lower than their share of the population, she said.

Robinson said that while the poor comprised about 53% of the population, they received only about 40% of the education budget. The "ultra-poor" formed about 29% of the population, but received only about 20% of the education budget.

These trends highlighted the need for finer expenditure targeting, Idasa recommended the policy co-ordination unit in deputy president Thabo Mbeki's office monitor the situation.

Robinson said the real decline in social assistance grants this year, the projected decline in the welfare vote over the next three years, and the decline in the social services element of the welfare vote would affect SA's poor.

Robinson blamed the poor use of resources on the lack of an integrated policy to alleviate poverty, with initiatives being fragmented across sectors.

She called for an urgent relaxation of the deficit targets of government's growth, employment and redistribution strategy (Gear) to release more resources for development. This was especially justified, Robinson argued, in view of the fact that economic growth was lower than expected.

Economists representing the SA Chamber of Business, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut and Business SA agreed that finance minister Trevor Manuel's 3% growth target for the 1998/99 fiscal year was rather optimistic. Sacob, for instance, had forecast 2.5%. However, business supported his disciplined budget and his commitment to Gear targets.

The Federation of Unions of SA attacked government plans to increase public service salaries by only 4% in contravention of its three year agreement and announced that it would not participate in any further discussions on transformation until the obligations under the agreement had been met. It predicted further industrial action and a deterioration of labour relations.
R4.8m to help relieve poverty

Non-governmental and community-based organisations in Gauteng will today receive R4.8-million from the province for poverty alleviation.

The welfare and population development department yesterday said selected programmes would help the poorest sectors of the community. Amounts allocated to each organisation will range from R800 to R342 000. - Sapa
Tradition’s lord

“We cannot promise pennies will come from heaven,” Archbishop Ndungane and Human Rights Commission head Barney Pityana at the poverty hearings in the Northern Province this week. But for many villagers, efforts to help themselves are being frustrated by an anarchic...
ords of poverty

"In," Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane said at the first poverty or many villagers, writes CHRIS BARRON, this is not the issue.
an anachronistic system that makes a mockery of democracy

(241) 875/4/98

The councillors, who in rural areas get paid R2 300 a month, are seldom seen if the villagers know their names, they rarely know where they are to be found, or how

"They don't visit their wards," says Ngoepe "They're not useful."

Ngoepe's opinion is understandable. He sees them as a potential threat to his authority. According to Makhura, the councillors see Ngoepe and other headmen as a threat. In their disputes over turf, the needs of the villagers are incidental.

Listening intently to the women, but saying very little themselves, are a group of men.

When young and fit, the men play a little part in the community because they live and work in the cities, usually in Gauteng. By the time they return to their villages to stay, they are spent forces - too sick, tired or old to be much use to anyone.

They become an additional burden to their wives, already hard-pressed to find food for their children's bellies.

They are penniless because, for the most part, companies they have given their lives to have sent them packing with little in return. In effect, they come back to their villages to die.

Carros Mpebe, 59, worked as a municipal policeman in Randfontein for 20 years. He says he was sent home in 1982 because he had tuberculosis.

"I was sick and so they told me to come home until I was better," he says. He gets no pension or disability grant. He has five children.

Gideon Stumu, 77, worked in a factory in Gauteng for 35 years. When he retired he was given R4 000. His only income is a R470 monthly pension from the government.

Amandus Sekonyane, 72, was retrenched after 24 years with a Johannesburg firm. He was given R1 100, and now his only income is R470 a month from the government. So it goes on.

"I have said what I wanted to say to the world," said Mashamata, after her submission. Now it is up to the government to hear.

edge to his voice that leaves doubt they'll be hearing from shortly.

According to Ngwamamat-
"P. Makhura from the North-
Province Rural Develop-
Forum, the situation in

Schoongezicht is repeated throughout the province. At least 80 percent of the population live in rural areas, she says, their welfare dependent to a frightening degree on the whims of chiefs and headmen.

They put up with it because it is the only way they know. Added to the force of tradition is the fact of isolation.

The closest these people come to democracy is electing local councillors. Once elected,
Programme to alleviate poverty

By Charity Bhengu

THE Department of Welfare and Population Development recently introduced a flagship programme called Unemployed Women with Child Under Five to alleviate poverty.

Department spokesman Kgato Sathekge said the focus was mainly on rural women who were previously excluded from social services and developmental and economic opportunities.

He said "The programme will provide them and their young children with the opportunity to reduce their potential dependency on the state. It will increase education and training opportunities for women and will also provide their children with appropriate education if they are under the age of five."

Various national and provincial government departments as well as welfare and community-based organisations have participated in the design, planning and execution of the programme.

The Department of Welfare has earmarked R4,3 million for the first year of implementation and has committed itself to giving R460 000 to each province.

Last week, Soweto conducted a snap survey in Johannesburg to find out more about the plight of unemployed mothers with children under the age of five.

Among those we spoke to was Simangele Ndlovu, a 29-year-old unemployed mother.

"I used to wake up at dawn to prepare food for the family. I would later go to trade on the streets, buy food and clothes for the household," she said. "My man rarely appreciated all the hard work he is gone now."

Ndlovu, who is originally from Manzini in KwaZulu-Natal, came to Johannesburg a month ago after the father of her two children, Nokubonga (3) and Zandile (eight months), abandoned them.

Today she lives in a dilapidated flat without any electricity, and sometimes goes without a proper meal.

But she is not alone in her plight. Alicia Sengela of Umata in the Eastern Cape also came to Johannesburg with her four children to find a better way to take care of them.

However, she now sells vegetables and fruit in Market Street to earn a living.

Simangele Ndlovu with her two children, Nokubonga and Zandile, in Pritchard Street, Johannesburg.

Alicia Sengela feeding her baby while she sells fruit and vegetables to survive.

Pics CLEMENT LEKANYANE

takes along her 10-month-old baby Sengelo and leaves the others with a neighbour every morning.

Countless other women make the same heroic sacrifices to ensure their children have enough to eat. They work long hours and bear heavy workloads with their babies on their back.
Miners, farmworkers speak out on poverty

It was a heart-breaking session when farm dwellers and farmworkers related their misfortunes at the poverty hearings in Kanyamazane, near Nelspruit.

Miners were the first to present their experiences to the hearing convened by the South African Non-Governmental Coalition (Sangoco).

Mr Josiah Magula was allegedly dismissed for ill-health by his employer. He said his health had been damaged by drinking contaminated water.

"We have to drink water from a river. The neighbouring mine dumps dangerous chemical waste into the river. That makes us continuously sick," Magula said.

Mr Thomas Mpofuane claimed that mine exposed employees to hazardous chemicals like sulphuric acid and benzene. "Yet when we get sick, we are dismissed. Our trade union has not made progress in its negotiations with the mine."

Mr Aaron Mambela alleged that he was hospitalised after being injured in a mining accident. "The mine denied any knowledge of me I received no compensation."

Mr Timothy Motau complained about his eviction twice from a farm and the ongoing evictions.

"We are suffering on the farm and nobody is eager to help us. Even at mobile clinics and churches we are dismissed as being dirty. We want to be treated like human beings," said Motau. - Sowetan Reporter
'Poverty still hurting blacks in South Africa'

By Saint Molakeng

Despite four years of democracy, blacks in Gauteng still experience more poverty than whites and the situation is worse for black women, the "Speak Out on Poverty" hearings at the Johannesburg Central Methodist Church heard yesterday.

Unemployment, which led to various forms of poverty, was 34 percent among blacks and only four percent among whites, according to statistics released by the South African National Non-Governmental Coalition (Sangoco), which has coordinated the national hearings.

The hearings started in March and end in June.

The hearings were presided over by Anglican Archbishop Ndungane and five commissioners, including chairman of New African Investment Limited, Dr Nihato Motiana.

"While the unemployment rate in Gauteng is the second lowest in the country after Western Cape, it is still high and masks stark disparities," Mr Nicol Colling of Sangoco said.

Colling said that among white employees in Gauteng, 69 percent of men and 31 percent of women earned gross incomes of more than R4,000 a month, while only six percent of Africans earned incomes in that range.

Only four percent of African men and two percent of African women held management positions at work. Forty-two percent of the women were gardeners and domestic servants, while men constituted 23 percent in this category.

The situation became vivid when people testified about poverty in their lives.

Ms Christine Hlongwane of Mhlabeng, Randfontein, said poverty bred prostitution, crime, alcoholism and rape as people tried to alleviate their suffering.

Mr Sibusiso Magasele, a retrenched Soweto resident, blamed the high unemployment rate on privatization and racism by white employers.

"Affirmative action has fudged blacks who are still marginalized by employers. Blacks in better posts are only tokens."

A delegation from Diepsloot squatter camp near Randburg complained about lack of water, electricity and personal security.
Report on poverty calls for transformation plan

Reneé Grawitzky

INHERITED structural problems in the economy coupled with government's macroeconomic policy framework posed major constraints to job creation and poverty eradication in SA, a report prepared for the United Nations Development Programme said.

The report, compiled by the National Institute for Economic Policy, has called for a "pro-poor transformation strategy" to stimulate job creation and alleviate poverty.

The research is intended to provide an analysis on employment creation and sustainable livelihoods and assist the development programme in formulating its programmes, in relation to the government on priorities and strategies for poverty reduction in SA.

To achieve this, the research project focused extensively on who the poor and unemployed are, their location and sources of income.

The report found that sources of income were extremely diverse, with poor households being dependent on a wider range of income sources than wealthier households.

The poor and ultra-poor relied heavily on the state through remittances and social pensions. This had major policy implications for government and "policy shifts regarding pensions must be considered for the broader impacts they will have on rural households and economies."

National Institute for Economic Policy research director Asghar Adelskadeh said a "pro-poor growth strategy" was central to any policy as it could expand employment, improve productivity, ensure better income distribution, increase the economy's long-term growth and generate domestic demand with a "gradual and careful approach to integration into the world economy."

It would also ensure that government became actively involved in extending social services, improving the infrastructure and transforming the labour market.
Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — The foreign affairs department could not continue effectively to pursue SA's national interests abroad with the funding levels provided in the medium-term expenditure framework, Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo said yesterday.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by his deputy Anz Pakahd, Nzo — who is ill — said 10 foreign missions were in the process of being closed down and staff cuts were being implemented because of the budget cuts.

He warned that the spending levels for the three years of the framework meant that further closures and cutbacks in staffing were planned.

Nzo said the funding shortage also meant that specifically targeted priority areas in Africa and Asia could not get SA missions. SA was also playing an increasingly important role in international organisations such as the United Nations, putting strain on the department's staffing. The shortage of funds had also affected the department's affirmative action programme.

He said missions abroad were, in concert with the trade and industry department, playing an increasingly important role in investment and warned that "we will not be able to maintain present levels of investment and assistance if we have to decrease the efficiency and capacity of our diplomatic missions".

He said demands on missions by government, the private sector and by the volume of high-level visitors had increased dramatically. "During a ministerial visit to a Latin American country last year, our embassy arranged 310 separate appointments for the 50 business representatives who formed part of the delegation."

The department's actual expenditure for the 1997/98 financial year, including additional appropriation and improvement of conditions of service, was R1,36bn. This had been reduced in the new budget to R1,21bn — a reduction of 12%. In the 1999/2000 year it was expected the department's allocation would fall even further to R1,17bn, and to R1,15bn in the third year of the framework.

Highlighting some of the department's achievements internationally, he pointed to the role played in achieving a "peaceful" transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of Congo; interventions in the conflict in East Timor; and assistance given to the parties in the Northern Ireland peace process when they visited SA last year.

Reiné Gravitzky

ORGANISED labour had no right to talk on behalf of the unemployed, a group representing the jobless in a number of East Rand townships said at the Speak Out on Poverty hearings in Johannesburg yesterday.

The Malamulela Social Movement for the Unemployed criticised trade unions for their opposition to government's growth, employment and redistribution strategy (Gears), saying the unemployed had a right to decide if they wanted to accept low-paying jobs.

The organisation's general secretary, Moholo Kgosane, said Gears' call for flexible labour markets, which endorsed a low-wage strategy, could address the growing unemployment problem.

"People should have access to jobs as enshrined in the constitution."

Under apartheid, organised labour was supported as it championed the struggle for democracy. However, its role after 1994 was illegitimate as it operated to the detriment of the interests of the unemployed, Kgosane said.

He said the government's call to accept this type of labour as such, but it could not adequately address the interests of the unemployed which differed to the interests of union members.

Labour federation Cosatu deputy general secretary Zwelinkama Vavi, a commissioner at the hearings, was told "You will continue to represent the interests of the employed and I will continue representing the interests of the unemployed."

Government officials also came under sharp attack for perceptions of mismanagement and corruption.

Alexandra resident Grace Biyela raised the problems in her community and requested government assistance. New Africa Investment Limited chairman and commissioner at the hearings, Nithato Motlana, asked Biyela if people at local level had given thought as to how they could address some of the problems, as government was poor.

She expressed her confusion over Motlana's statement as "we hear (on television) that people are misusing money at a high level."

Poor want better deal, soon

Marginalised people speak out at Johannesburg hearing on poverty

BY RYAN CRESSWELL

There was a clear message in the Speak out on Poverty Hearing, dealing with economic issues and held in Johannesburg: poor people want a more equitable slice of the pie, and they want it soon.

The event was one of a series of poverty hearings being held around the country recently. They were organised by the SA National NGO Coalition, the Human Rights Commission and the Congress of SA Trade Unions.

Speakers representing sectors of the youth, miners, the unemployed, agricultural workers, people with HIV and the homeless all asked for more help at the hearing in the Central Methodist Church.

It was not only apartheid history and big business that were blamed for the slow pace of poverty alleviation, some speakers were also critical of the Government and organised labour.

Gerald Mthembu, representing a youth development initiative called the Joint Enrichment Programme, said young people made up the largest section of society but only a third were employed full time.

Mthembu said it was not easy to get Government information about job initiatives and very few young people were equipped for self employment. He said unless jobs were created and conditions improved, the country would fail the youth.

Morris Tsyi of Hillbrow described how he came to Gauteng from the Eastern Cape and was forced into a life of burglary.

"My education in the Eastern Cape was inadequate to equip me for a decent future. I am grateful for the skills I learnt in jail." (Tsyi was trained as a construction worker in jail.)

A young Soweto woman with HIV said accommodation was needed for people like herself because many sufferers were evicted from their homes when their illness was discovered.

Angelina Ramaetse, a woman who lives on the streets of Johannesburg, said she had been sexually abused since the age of 7. She said when she went to the police for assistance she was again forced to have sex and she was even turned away by a church.

A senior member of an agricultural union said some workers earned only R84 a month while farmers "made millions".

He said 70% of rural households were poor and unless services were improved, programmes were sorted out and demographic trends were considered, things would get worse.

Frank Mahlangu, a National Union of Mineworkers spokesman, said 300,000 black workers had a pension fund of only R3-billion because they were allowed to set it up only in 1989, whereas 300,000 white miners had a R30-billion fund.

He said his grandfather worked on a coal mine for many years and left with only R1,000 from the fund and R2,000 from the company.

A spokesman for a group of unemployed people from Katorus said they believed in the Growth, Employment and Reconstruction programme and its ideal of a flexible labour market.

He said organised labour was wrong to go against flexibility as this had a negative effect on the unemployed.
Goyt to rethink poverty alleviation

Farouk Chothia

CAPE TOWN — Government should reassess the use of monetary policy to contain consumption and inflation, as it seemed to have a negative effect on job creation, growth and access to home ownership, a report has said.

Commissioned by government and called "Poverty and Inequality in SA", the report and fiscal policy, through appropriate public investment expenditure, could ensure the poor and unemployed benefited from job- and income-creating opportunities.

Supply-side incentives could direct investment to more labour-intensive industries. The report, compiled by independent researchers, was presented to the cabinet yesterday. Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said it would be discussed at a conference on poverty on June 12.

The report said that government emphasised social spending. However, the problem was that high- and middle-income groups had, until recently, benefited more than the poor from this. It warned the long-term success of the spatial development initiative programme was "far from assured".

The programme concept could not be implemented throughout SA, creating the risk that it might divert resources to a limited number of areas.
Eradicating black poverty, key to reconciliation

The page contains a block of text discussing reconciliation and poverty. The text appears to be discussing the need for reconciliation as a means to address poverty and inequality. The text mentions the importance of working towards reconciliation to address these issues.

The text also refers to the National Party (NP) and mentions the need for action against corruption and violence. The text highlights the role of government and law enforcement in addressing these issues and calls for a focus on developing a society that is fair and just for all.

Date: 06/14/96

Profile Charles

Cape Town — The reconciliation key to poverty
Urgent action on housing sought

W Cape’s poorest get chance to be heard
In a recent study, the effects of poverty on health were examined. The findings suggest that poverty is linked to increased joblessness and decreased life expectancy. For instance, a report published in 1999 by the National Center for Health Statistics indicated that individuals living in poverty are more likely to experience poor health outcomes, including higher rates of illness and mortality. These findings underscore the need for policies that address the root causes of poverty and promote economic stability for vulnerable populations. The report also highlights the importance of addressing socioeconomic disparities in healthcare access and quality, as these factors significantly impact the health and well-being of individuals living in poverty.
When a cave is your home: the poor speak out
Desperate mum on ropes over Home Loan

The woman, in her late 30s, was in the throes of a financial crisis and had taken out a home loan with a large mortgage. She claimed she had been advised by her financial advisor to take out the loan to purchase a property. However, she soon realized that the interest rates were much higher than what she had been led to believe.

She tried to negotiate with her lender to reduce the interest rate, but was met with refusal. She then decided to seek help from a debt counselor, who advised her to file for bankruptcy. She did so, but was left with a significant debt and no property.

Poor miss a chance to be heard

The case was brought to the attention of the media, who covered it extensively. However, the woman was not able to get any help from the authorities. She was left to fend for herself, with no one to turn to for support.

So determined she begged lif from police to reach hearings

The woman's case was heard in court, but she was not able to attend due to her financial constraints. She begged the police to allow her to attend the hearing, but was refused.

A mother's plea for a chance to stay

The woman's case was a sad reminder of the impact of financial hardship on families. She pleaded for a chance to stay, but was ultimately left with no choice but to leave her children in the care of a relative.
A place where the poverty chicken can speak out
Priorities of needy -
job, house, education

She blamed the former and present
governments for her problems. "The
African National Congress government
has inherited the legacy of the past and
socio-economic problems but it should
also take the blame for that."

Mrs Oliver said Minister of Welfare
Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi had to
reassess grants. She asked why grants
for children had been reduced.

The Government should improve
the quality of life speedily, especially
in the previously disadvantaged areas, by
creating jobs, constructing decent
houses and ensuring better education.

Another widow, Nobuhle Hashe,
also 38, from Site B in Khayelitsha, told
the hearing that in 1976 her family
moved from the Eastern Cape to Cape
Town to find work.

She worked as a domestic in Kenilworth
until 1985 but had been
unemployed since.

Mrs Hashe, a mother of four, said
that although her daughter, Vuyolwa,
28, worked as a domestic and was
the breadwinner, they struggled to make
ends meet.

"Mrs Hashe, whose husband, Mandla,
died in 1985, said she previously got a
monthly R700 grant for her children but
this had been reduced to R20.

She blamed the present Government
for the reduction in grants.

Poor explain how they try to
build future for themselves

Many people are no longer waiting
for the Government to assist them
with housing and are helping
themselves.

"The people who are testifying at the hearings are determined
to improve their lives. They don't wait for others to solve
their problems, they want to improve themselves."

Mr Thumiso said there was a wrong
perception that some people spoke only
about personal problems, such as
domestic violence.

Jacqui Boulle, co-ordinator of the
hearings, said they were going well in
the Western Cape. "The poor are defining
their poverty as a lack of opportunities,
A lot of work has still to be done. Many
spoke about not having access to land
and lack of facilities in their areas."

They had learnt that many women
could not leave abusive partners
because of economic dependency.

Complaints had been heard from
people about forced removals, when
they lost possessions and other assets.
Access to phones, but no houses
about their suffering
The poor speak out

Plea for talks, say squatters
Monwabisi

CAPE TOWN TRIBUNE, JUNE 4, 1988

NEWS
Government looks for key to unlocking poverty traps

CAROL PATON reports on a study which evaluates the government’s response to the poverty crisis in SA

Government policy-makers are uncertain of how best to tackle poverty and inequality, says the Poverty Index Report, a study commissioned by the office of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

Although the government is "undeniably committed to poverty reduction and a more egalitarian distribution of income and wealth", progress has not met expectations, says the report.

Using data provided by the 1995 October Household Survey and the 1993 Saksru study, the report says that millions of people are caught in poverty traps which, because of distortions in the economy created by apartheid, could become self-perpetuating.

The poorest 40% of households — about 19-million people — have a monthly expenditure of R353 per adult.

SA remains one of the most unequal societies in the world and the gap between rich and poor, measured by the Gini coefficient as 0.58, is second only to Brazil.

In addition, the report says there has been a very rapid stratification of the black population and inequality levels between rich and poor blacks are now almost as big as the national average.

The report also says government spends more on middle and high-income groups than it does on the poor.

The report, edited by researcher Julius Malema and funded by the government, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and Dutch and British governments, argues that in order to break out of the poverty trap both economic growth and redistribution are needed.

It takes the approach that poverty alleviation is best achieved by improving the access of individuals to assets and that having established macro-economic stability, government should place increasing emphasis on redistributive measures.

The report contains a range of recommendations which will be discussed next week at a conference on poverty and inequality convened by Mbeki’s office.

These include:
- Increased expenditure on social services.
- Increasing the resources available for the redistribution of assets such as land reform.
- Maintaining social pensions.
- Adopting a labour-intensive approach to the construction of infrastructure.
- Public works programmes.
- Making micro-finance available to the poor.
- Directing resources to needy schools.
- Increasing capacity of local government, and
- Establishing a system to monitor the impact of government policy on the alleviation of poverty.

The report is critical of the government’s macro-economic policy framework, saying that fiscal prudence is an essential element of sound economic management and that fiscal policy aims to improve the performance of the economy; the report says “specific approaches within Gear need to be considered in relation to prevailing patterns of poverty and inequality in South Africa.”
Government expenditure does not help the poor

It further indicated that poor people - especially African women - were relegated to secondary labour markets, which were less regulated, required lower skills and paid less.

"Much of the employment in this sector is informal, characterised by home-based micro-enterprise and reliance on informal skills," said the report. "The level of income generated by these activities tended to be low because of the highly competitive environment, with clients drawn largely from low-income households." Small, medium and micro enterprise development funding was too concerned with manufacturing, to the detriment of the most vulnerable group in the services sectors.

The researchers found that the government's fiscal prudence was essential in the light of the effect of global conditions on national economies. International experience showed that a low and stable level of inflation could protect poor people against further erosion in their standard of living.

"It is safe to assume that the extent and duration of the economic contraction must be considered, because the 'socio-economic costs thereof' may offset the anticipated gains from low inflation.

It also warned that monetary and exchange rate policies, aimed at maintaining low inflation, encouraging private-sector investment and ensuring a competitive real exchange rate, might actually hurt investment.

The report said high interest rates negatively affected investment, economic growth, development of the small, medium and micro enterprise sector, and homeownership. But they could also strengthen the value of the rand and undermine export competitiveness.
Poverty in SA: report-back at
Anglican church conference

Johannesburg—The initial report on poverty hear-
ings conducted over the past three months will be pre-
sented at a conference in Midrand at the weekend, the
office of the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town said
yesterday.

The preliminary report was prepared by Professor
Francis Wilson of the University of Cape Town School
of Economics.

The conference, at the Eskom Conference Centre
from tomorrow until Sunday, is expected to attract
about 100 delegates and was organised by the Angli-
can church Archbishop Ngongekhulu Ndungane and
Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe, who is expected to
officially open the conference tomorrow night.

Other speakers include Clem Suter of Anglo
American and Natal Technikon vice-chancellor Pro-
fessor Benno Khoopa. — Sapa
Give poor place in Gear, Budget

MlYK NAMISA

JOHANNESBURG: Church leaders have appealed to the government to re-examine its Growth, Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gear) and the Budget and to place greater emphasis on the needs of the poor.

Addressing the media after the Poverty Summit in Mabopane yesterday, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane, said there was a need to "accommodate the poor" in the next Budget.

Sheena Duncan, president of the World Council for Religion and Peace, said "Gear is clearly not doing anything to eradicate poverty" Some aspects of Gear needed to promote the poor, she said.

Gear has been criticised by opposition parties and the ANC’s allies, Cosatu and the SA Communist Party, for its perceived failure to rejuvenate the economy.

More than 100 representatives of a range of denominations and independent church groups attended the summit. It is expected their resolutions will be released today.

Ndungane said that although the United Nations had targeted the year 2015 for the elimination of poverty worldwide, South Africa had the capability to eradicate poverty well before then.

"South Africa possesses the resources and the technology," he said. "All that is required is the political will and the economic commitment.

That the government had the will was indicated by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki’s report on poverty and Minister of Labour Tito Mboweni’s announcement that R1 billion would be set aside to create jobs.

A partnership between the government, the labour movement and the private sector was required to turn the tide, Ndungane said. However, the church was under no illusion that eradicating poverty would be child’s play.

"Tackling poverty in South Africa is like eating an elephant — where do you start?" Ndungane said.

"Our emphasis should be moving from words to action. People need to put their money where their mouths are.

"We have taken special note of the way in which poor people have spoken (at the Poverty Hearings) of their willingness and initiatives to help solve their plight. They do not look for handouts. What they require are the resources and the capacity to be equal partners with all others involved."

State tenders should be reviewed to ensure that the poor benefited, Ndungane said.

Church leaders would try to persuade the government and the National Economic Labour and Development Council to allow unemployed people and their representatives to attend the jobs summit.

Ndungane appealed to political parties not to use poverty as a political football in the elections.

"What we want is commitment from all sectors of society."
Churches call for sensitivity to plight of poor people

BY NICK NIETERS 29/11/19

Church leaders have appealed to the Government to place greater emphasis on the needs of the poor by re-examining its economic masterplan — the Growth, Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gers) — and the Budget.

Addressing the media after the Poverty Summit in Midrand yesterday, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Rev Njongonkulu Ndungane, said there was a need to "accommodate the poor" in the next Budget.

Sheena Duncan, president of the World Council for Religion and Peace, said, "Gers is clearly not doing anything to eradicate poverty." She said some aspects of Gers needed to place a greater emphasis on people, especially the poor.

"Gers has come under much criticism from ANC allies Cosatu and the SACP as well as opposition parties, for its perceived failure to revive the South African economy.

Over 100 church representatives from denominations including Methodists, Catholics, Dutch Reformed, Congregationalist and independent church groups yesterday attended the Midrand summit to discuss ways to eliminate poverty. Resolutions taken at the meeting were expected to be released today.

Ndungane said although the United Nations had targeted the year 2015 for the elimination of poverty worldwide, he felt South Africa had the capability to eradicate poverty well before then.

"There is no reason why this should not occur. South Africa possesses the resources and the technology. All that is required is the political will and the economic commitment."

He said the Government had shown the will, as indicated by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's report on poverty and Labour Minister Tito Mboweni's recent announcement that R1-billion would be set aside for job creation.

Ndungane said that: what was required to turn the tide was an active partnership between government, the labour movement and the private sector. The church, however, was under no illusion that eradicating poverty would be easy.

"Tackling poverty is like eating an elephant. Where do you start? Our emphasis should now be moving from words to action. People need to put their money where their mouths are," Ndungane said.

"We have taken note of the way in which poor people have spoken of their willingness and initiatives to help solve the plight in which they find themselves. They do not look for handouts. What they require are the resources and the capacity to be equal partners."
Job creation the strongest plea from poverty talks

Poverty, a joint programme between the human rights commission, the gender commission and the SA NGO Coalition, said yesterday that it would release two reports from the poverty meeting held earlier this year at Regina Mundi Church in Soweto.

The reports, entitled People's experiences of the Bill of Rights and The People's Voices, are based on key obstacles to poverty eradication which were identified at the nationwide hearings held before the Soweto summit.

The reports will be released today.

The strongest theme which emerged from the hearings was a call for job creation, with suggestions for volunteer programmes to enable unemployed youth to gain experience.

Parents testified that the youth needed to be kept off the streets and out of gangs.

Land, housing, transport and water were identified as being critical concerns for the poor.

Many of those who testified at the hearings said they believed that government's economic policy contributed to unemployment.

School fees, uniforms and the proximity to schools were major obstacles to education, with many children being excluded from schools because their parents were unable to pay the fees.
Voices of the poor heard at poverty hearings

 данный относится к социальной и экономической бедности, оказываемой бедным людям в виду их социальной и экономической бедности.
A long road stretches through a rural landscape, with a sign reading "Children on street, pause before passing."
Modest requirements from the poverty stricken

MOTSHISI MOKWENA

"Government must be strict with public servants who treat people disrespectfully," Pityana said.

Public servants must realise they had to put themselves out to meet the needs of the public, as people who use these services were already vulnerable, he said.

Echoing Pityana's criticism of the public service, Ntombele-Nznamande said government officials must understand and adhere to the code of conduct drawn up by them — the Public Service Code of Conduct.

"Pensioners have been kicked out of offices and doors closed to the community while staff have tea," she said.

The report calls for a three-month limit for government officials to respond to queries and requests, and the establishment of a complaints hotline for non-delivery by officials. Investment and job creation in rural areas, the introduction of a pollution tax and environmentally friendly production methods in industrial areas near houses, were also called for.

One of the biggest problems poor people faced, the report said, was the inability to get small bank loans to start their own businesses.

Pityana said that there was a need for the co-ordination of all poverty relief programmes and a commitment by the public and the private sector to alleviate poverty.

*See Insight, Page 17*
Poverty reports released

By Claire Keeton

"We must not define poverty as a problem of the Government but as a tune-bomb on which we all sit," South African National NGO Coalition (Sangoco) president Mr Rams Ramashia said yesterday.

He was speaking at the launch of two reports on poverty compiled from the nationwide Speak Out on Poverty hearings, organised by Sangoco, the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE).

More than 10,000 people - over 65 percent of whom were women - took part in the hearings and the reports capture some of their survival strategies, as well as making recommendations on what all South Africans can do to eradicate poverty.

"Many of the things requested at the hearings are achievable. The lack of action is a source of collective embarrassment," Ramashia said.

The two reports - "The People's Voices" and "Poverty and Human Rights" - conclude that the poor, an estimated 19 million South Africans, do not want handouts but rather support for their efforts.

"Those who live in poverty are already doing all they can," SAHRC chairman Mr Barney Pityana said yesterday.

He urged officials to treat the poor with respect and dignity.

The hearings had exposed many problems with bureaucracy and corruption, Pityana said adding "Corruption is violence against the poor."

CGE acting chairperson Ms Phumelele Ntombela-Nzinande called on officials to assist people by implementing the Public Service Code of Conduct and responding to all requests within three months.

The "People's Voices" report concludes: "Let us not push the poor to the point where they tear apart our hard-won democracy. Let us ensure that people enjoy freedom from poverty, as well as political freedom."

See page 13.
New approach to poverty needed

By Claire Keeton
Feature Writer

Thousands of South Africans gave the Government’s Growth, Employment and Redistribution (G rand) policy a resounding vote of no confidence during the nationwide Speak Out on Poverty hearings recently.

Yesterday the organisers released a report which reflects the experiences of the over 10,000 participants. Speak Out on Poverty – The People’s Voices, which calls on policymakers to reverse theTraditional, increase social spending and improve the Government’s role in meeting basic needs.

This is needed not only by the people waging a daily battle to survive in extreme poverty – estimated at more than 19 million South Africans – but also by those trying to sustain self-help activities to escape poverty.

The report, launched in Soweto, is clear – people do not want handouts. They want to be independent and resourceful. They need assistance in the form of jobs, access to markets and credit, housing and other opportunities to succeed.

“Poverty,” the report says, “is not only about a lack of money, but more centrally about a dearth of opportunities and choices which allow people to build decent lives for themselves.”

This is why every sector of society – the Government and politicians, the private sector, the public, civil society and the media – are now being challenged to support a National Poverty Commission to build an enabling environment to eradicate poverty.

What this means was captured by Peter Chauke from Northern Province during the hearings: “If you gave money, then I see it in my hands. But if you give me land and help me to buy seeds and tending for water and help me with bookkeeping and ensure money is not wasted, there is no problem.

“With money in my hands, someone can kill me. If you kill me and I’ve planted my land, then my family can take care of the land.”

The National Poverty Commission embodies recommendations arising from the ‘10’ poverty hearings which took place from March 3rd to June 18th and now provokes.

Representatives of the coordinating organisations – the South African National Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition, the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality – and the poverty commissioners drew up the recommendations along with monitoring mechanisms.

The commitment declares “Together we ended apartheid, together we can end poverty.”

The introduction explains that during the poverty hearings “the poor identified a range of obstacles to the eradication of poverty.”

“This commitment calls for action to remove these obstacles. In reviewing progress each year, the commitment will be revised and updated to take forward the struggle to end poverty.”

The commitment calls on every sector in South Africa “to take individual responsibility” to make the fight against poverty a national priority.

First it calls on the public to volunteer their time to communities and organisations fighting poverty, and to mobilise to give a voice to the “poorest of the poor.”

Other ways for individuals to support this commitment include contributing to a national Poverty Fund being set up and refraining from violence against women and children.

Government officials, who came in for the brunt of criticism in people’s submissions, are urged to adhere to the Public Sector Service Code of Conduct.

They are required to treat all individuals with respect, and to respond to all queries and requests within three months of being lodged.

Politicians are the next group asked to support the commitment. Apart from reversing Gear and increasing social spending, they are called on to ensure their policies do not prejudice the unorganised poor (as happened with the welfare review process).

They are also challenged to:
- Renegotiate the apartheid debt and release this money for poverty eradication;
- Discontinue user fees for basic lifeline services (such as water and electricity) for those who cannot afford payment;
- Establish a non-market related credit facility accessible to the poor;
- Prioritise resources for a social safety net;
- Provide incentives for investment in rural areas (identified as a strong theme in the hearings);
- Introduce a pollution tax;
- Establish a hotline for the public to report problems and non-delivery of services, and
- Swiftly implement a law requiring employers to deduct child maintenance from the wages of fathers.

The private sector, another group which came under fire for putting profits above people, is also encouraged to support the commitment.

The commitment calls on them to establish a poverty eradication fund and contribute a percentage of the cost of all land sold or purchased as a voluntary development tax (to meet the needs of the homeless).

The private sector was urged to build partnerships with Government to create jobs in rural areas and to support organisations to implement tenders awarded.

Another challenge is for the private sector to invest in environmentally friendly production methods. Civil society, which includes labour and religious institutions, have a broader role. They are required to form strategic alliances against poverty and prioritise resources for rural areas.

Auditing all resources (especially land) and encouraging the redistribution of these resources to meet the priority needs of the poor is also seen as important.

Civil society is tasked with gathering accurate information about poverty eradication programmes and making it widely available to communities.

This is similar to the challenge facing the media, which is called on to provide regular and prime space for information about poverty eradication and social justice bodies, like the Human Rights Commission, will monitor this commitment together with individuals who endorse and sign it.

They will contribute to a consolidated report to be released on October 17 (The World Poverty Eradication Day) every year.

While many problems related to poverty reflect the legacy of apartheid and will take decades to redress, the report concludes that it is possible to solve problems and end poverty – if there is determination to do so by all South Africans.

The report calls on the “The People’s Voice” an attempt to mobilise this commitment.

As one poverty commissioner told participants during the KwaZulu-Natal hearing, “In Xhosa they say that the child that doesn’t cry, dies on the mother’s back. We have heard your cries.”
Officials accused of treating the poor without care or dignity

Poor people are treated disrespectfully by government officials, and corruption in local government deprives the poor of valuable resources, SA Human Rights Commission chairperson Barney Pityana said in Soweto yesterday.

Pityana was presenting “The People’s Voices”, two reports on the Speak out on Poverty campaign run by the SA Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition (Sangoco), the Commission for Gender Equality and the Human Rights Commission.

The forum heard testimony from over 10 000 poor people at 35 hearings countrywide from March to June.

Government urged to spend more on social spending and youth training

“The most painful part of being a commissioner at these hearings was to hear the stories of the lack of care and the refusal in local government to treat people with basic decency,” Pityana said.

He called for an information campaign to tell the poor how to access resources available to alleviate their suffering, and slammed corrupt officials who prevented allocated resources from reaching the poor.

Commission for Gender Equality chairperson Phumellele Ntombele-Nzimande said “Nowhere where we went were people waiting for a big spoon to feed their mouths.”

“People want obstacles removed during their own attempts at improving their lives.”

She echoed Pityana’s criticism of officials and said they should understand and adhere to the code of conduct drawn up for them – the Public Sector Service Code of Conduct.

“Penalters have been kicked out of offices, and doors have been closed to the community while staff have tea,” she said.

The report calls for a three-month limit for government officials to respond to queries and requests, and the establishment of a complaints hotline for non-delivery by officials.

The Speak out on Poverty campaign joined the mounting call for the retraction of the Government’s Growth, Employment and Redistribution economic policy and an increase in government social spending.

A major hindrance for people setting up home industries was having no access to small bank loans.

Sangoco president Rams Ramasha said most of the people who testified had only modest expectations from the Government. These were to send their children to school; to receive their R470 monthly pension and to have water.

“People made it clear they weren’t looking for handouts.”

The Speak out on Poverty organisers had planned to present the two reports, “The People’s Voice” and “People’s Experiences of the Bill of Rights” to a representative of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki’s office but no one from the office arrived to receive it.

The full report is available from Sangoco at (011) 403-7746 – Sapa.
Poverty group in favour of ditching Gear strategy

Dustin Chick 07.04.2001

SPEAK Out Against Poverty, organiser of the poverty summit, has joined the ranks of organisations calling for the reversal of government's growth, employment and redistribution (Gear) strategy, as a central recommendation emerging out of its hearings.

This is despite an unequivocal "no" by President Nelson Mandela and his deputy Thabo Mbeki at the SA Communist Party's (SACP's) national congress in Johannesburg earlier this month.

Mandela and Mbeki lambasted the ANC's alliance partners, the Congress of SA Trade Unions and the SACP, for their criticism of Gear.

SPEAK Out Against Poverty — representing the Gender Equality Commission, the SA Nongovernmental Organisation Coalition (SA NGO Coalition) and the SA Human Rights Commission — yesterday released its report on the nationwide hearings at the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto, following the testimony of about 10 000 people between March and June this year.

The report said that "to date, it was clear that the Gear strategy had been anything but successful in creating jobs", with unemployment emerging as the strongest theme of the hearings.

Other recommendations include the renegotiation of apartheid debt to free up money for poverty eradication, the introduction of laws protecting the poor and the prioritisation of resources for the creation of a "safety net" for all South Africans.

SA NGO Coalition programmes director Jacqui Boulle said this safety net would involve a system to prevent people from heading towards complete poverty. It was important that government had a greater role in creating a social safety net because in real terms, the welfare budget was decreasing, and testimony had shown that in many cases more than one family was surviving on a social welfare grant.

The recommendations in the reports culminate in the establishment of a national poverty commitment outlining action which needs to be taken up by the public, government, politicians, private sector, civil society and the media to eradicate poverty in SA.

SPEAK Out Against Poverty said it would approach all these role players for their endorsement of the poverty commitment.
Rooting out

"The poverty hearings are over; so where do the poor go to from here? Julia Grey and Ferial Haffajee report"

Now what? That's the question on many NGO lips after the microphones have been packed away, and the portable platform from which the poor had a chance to speak has been taken down.

The poverty hearings are over. The government's Poverty and Inequality Report is out. South Africa now has the most accurate and telling snapshot of the extent of poverty ever. In addition to the hearings, there have been summits, workshops and press conferences.

Were the stories and statistics of the poor anything more than a curiosity and a talk show? While some provincial governments — like the Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal — attended the hearings in their provinces, others (like the Western Cape) paid little attention.

Jacqui Boulle from the South African Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition (Sangoco), one of the key NGOs involved in setting up the hearings, conceded that "all we can offer to the government are recommendations".

Although the hearings may have raised expectations about the ability of NGOs to alleviate poverty, their main role now will be to lobby government. Plans afoot include producing an "anti-poverty budget", and developing an alternative macroeconomic policy to the growth employment and redistribution strategy.

The real solution to the problems of the poor, say many in the NGO world, lies with the poor themselves. A key challenge is for poor people to mobilise themselves and create a pressure group that will force government to take their needs seriously.

Such peasant movements have been very effective in parts of Asia and Latin America.

Grassroots organisations are instigating such a movement, forming caucuses in rural communities around key issues such as land, agriculture and livelihood.

An area that government needs to scrutinise is the existing legislation in relation to the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Constitution. So says Sue Tilley, director of the Regional Consultative Forum on rural development, an NGO working in deep rural areas. Legislation needs to be oriented towards the effective delivery, and protection, of people's rights.

There is little doubt that the NGO-issued campaign called "War on Poverty" is reverberating in government circles. That and the fact that government's poverty alleviation programmes are not meeting their targets has seen Deputy President Thabo Mbeki get innovative.

The Co-ordination and Implementation Unit based in his office has the task of identifying why some programmes like public works have not had the desired effect on poverty.

It is headed by Dr Pandy Pillay who says that "poverty programmes will be accelerated this year".

His confidence stems from two factors. The first is that the unit has identified the glitches in the delivery system. And the second is that government's policy development process has peaked.

Most White Papers have been completed and legislation is in the pipeline. It's just a short hop to legislation and implementation, says Pillay.

The government's Poverty and Inequality Report, released almost in tandem with the final report on the poverty hearings, made several recommendations for poverty alleviation. Pillay says the government will now begin to consider those recommendations.

One of the key recommendations is that government should continue its emphasis on social spending. It's going to be a costly initiative which could conflict with government's cuts in spending to cut the budget deficit. In 1995, a conservative price tag of R25-billion was suggested to bring all South Africans above the poverty line.
Help us, say rural poor

monitor
Poverty is growing, not diminishing, and the gap between rich and poor is wider. The total net wealth of the 10 largest fortunes easily exceeds the total income of all of the least advanced countries. The development of the welfare state is crumbling and disintegrating in the face of worldwide pressures, the new phase of globalisation and the third industrial revolution, which undermines it and has not yet been accompanied by the social conscience that it requires. It will have to be invested, and because there are no rich people left, the climate fund should be one of its foundations.

Second major challenge: sustainable development. Are not our modes of development, based on the squandering of non-renewable resources, putting a strain on the development of those generations that are just beginning to live? There is a whole planet to have access to the North American modes of development, and that the 21st century might be that of wars for water, financial transactions, pollution, epidemics. Everything and money laundering do not count in the customs port. They carry no passports, they are not countries. Solutions must be found by the world, and not just by the United States. The conclusion of a series of bi-lateral agreements and the holding of meetings of world conferences such as the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and the Kyoto Summit on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions are a first step. Should we not, however, go much further in the next 10 or 20 years? The Kyoto process is a step in the right direction, but let's see if we can't do it faster. Yet the Cold War is over, and the leaders are still inventing mass destruction instead of inventing preventively in building peace.

Defense expenditures worldwide represent 600 billion dollars annually. According to former Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, “the resources are now available to provide a roof, drinking water and basic sanitation facilities to a cost of less than 100 dollars per person, for every man, woman and child in the world.” This is a problem of scale, for instance the development of an international charter. The key issues of regulation, governance and participation for government and on an international scale will be at the centre of the debate in the next two decades. The scale of the three challenges referred to, can we not assume that we are moving towards a planetary democracy?

Without going into the vexed issue of world sovereignty, can we imagine a world where sovereignty can be a reality or is as merely a dream? In the face of the development of a worldwide economy, do we need to devise, as Jacques Attali suggests, a democracy which, like the market, is not confined to a specific territory, but a democratic democracy without territory?

Fourth major challenge: peace. As President Boutros-Ghali stated at the World Summit in 1992, the global economy is based on three pillars: peace, development and justice. We do not have the instruments to keep ourselves on course. Politics, sovereignty, democracy, which are so many areas of the world are still far too often a source of conflict, and not merely a source of conflict, but also of peace. The concept of peace, of peace through education, of States, of tolerance and cultural and social dialogue between the components of society. Peace is not merely the...
rds into the future

The General Assembly of the UN subscribed to this vision by proclaiming the year 2000 International Year for the Culture of Peace. If we truly want tomorrow not to be already too late, anticipation must take precedence over adaptation, the ethic of the future must overcome the tyranny of emerging and the notion of sharing - in space so regards our contemporaries but also in time as regards future generations - must override the blind selfishness which is the principal source of new forms of apartheid.

It is with this prospect in mind that UNESCO will be organizing the Dialogue of the 21st century from September 16-19, in order to light up the paths of the future through encounters between leading experts, and that Federico Mayor will publish a white paper on the 21st century in 1999.

Is it normal that investment should flow from South to North? Is it fair, as is the case today that poor countries should finance rich ones through the refunding of their debts? Is it acceptable that the gap between them should widen and that new barriers be erected within each nation as between nations?

The leap is not so great, according to Elhan Kaptstein, member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, referred to in the following terms: "The world may be moving inexorably toward one of those tragic moments that will lead future historians to ask, why was nothing done in time?" Were the economic and political elites unaware of the profound disruptions that economic and technological change were causing? What prevented them from taking the steps necessary to prevent a global social crisis?

Let us nevertheless lead an ear to what the prophets and poets have to say: "As danger grows so grows the path to safety," Hölderlin wrote.

Solutions do exist: the compression of problems has become acute; what is really missing today is political will, which is now a prerequisite of short-term interests. Globalization cannot be confined to the worldwide expansion of telecommunications, computers, the media and markets.

It must be founded on progress in international democracy and on an anticipatory conception of democracy, the main pillars of which are a new social contract for the 21st century, sustainable development, a new international order encouraging worldwide regulation and integration, a culture of peace and politics and lifelong education for all.

M Yorke is director of UNESCO's Ameland and Forecasting Office.
SA has potential to be economic hub of Africa but lacks poverty eradication plan.
NGO Week focuses on ways to end poverty

By ZOLILE NGAYI

STRATEGIES to eradicate poverty was the main topic of discussion at NGO Week which ended in Cape Town today.

The conference which started on Thursday brought together trade unionists, government officials, politicians, NGO and church leaders.

President Nelson Mandela pledged his support for the conference which brought together all the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country. He said the conference’s focus on inequality and poverty should be “given as much support as possible.”

The country needed such organisations that work to improve quality of life in South Africa, Mandela said.

Rumi Ndlovu the outgoing Executive Director of the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) said: “NGOs believe that we cannot address the issue of poverty and inequality in South Africa without applying ourselves to the economic realities that confront South Africa.”

Delegates said there was an urgent need for tax reforms to encourage business and individuals to give more to NGOs. Other issues discussed included NGOs’ relations with regard to government and political parties during the next elections.

The conference is also an opportunity to calculate the achievements of the NGO sector, reflect on the challenges it faces and set goals for the next couple of years,” said Rumi Ramashia, President of SANGOCO.
Global world demands better governance

Greg Mills looks at the dangers facing a world in which a quarter of the population lives in absolute poverty

The post-Cold War world has brought many unexpected challenges. Contrary to expectations, it has not ushered in an uncontested formula for economic and social advancement. As Francis Polycarpou suggested in his 1998 annual report, the question of governance has become as much a matter of concern as economic development.

Recent improvements in technology have undoubtedly made the world a smaller place. The information superhighway and the phenomenon of globalization have synergized to create an environment of great pace and scale. For a while this seemed to be working to the advantage of all. Until the recent currency crisis which has thrown the international system into question, developing countries have been among those which have profited the most. Last year’s World Bank annual report noted that developing countries were on track to double their share of global gross domestic product per capita by the year 2020.

But economic success has also brought new and often unforeseen challenges. Inequality and poverty have risen in many parts of the world, as have the risks of social unrest and political instability. The gap between rich and poor states worldwide has widened. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, it is widely argued that the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer.

Nearly a quarter of the world’s population—millions of people—live in extreme poverty, definition of which is often difficult to agree on. The World Bank defines poverty as living on less than $1.90 per day. But others, such as the United Nations, define it differently. The International Labour Organization defines poverty as living on less than $2.50 per day.

In many parts of the world, the challenges of poverty and inequality are acute. The World Bank estimates that 90% of the world’s population lives in extreme poverty. In sub-Saharan Africa, the poverty rate is estimated to be 45%. In South Asia, it is estimated to be 30%.

The United Nations has set a target of reducing poverty by half by 2015. However, it is clear that this goal will not be met. The United Nations Development Programme estimates that 700 million people living in extreme poverty will be added to the global population by 2030.

The global economy is also facing new challenges. The recent financial crisis has highlighted the need for better governance. The crisis has highlighted the need for stronger international cooperation and greater transparency in financial markets.

A few things are clear. First, the world is facing a period of uncertainty and instability. Second, the need for better governance is more urgent than ever.

Greg Mills is a senior economist at the World Bank and a research fellow at the Institute for International Economics. He is the author of the book "Global Governance: The Challenges of the 21st Century."
Poverty - General - 1999
Poverty needs new definition

Nomalwenda Mathane

COUNTRIES ought to adopt new measures and strategies to eradicate poverty, as well as revisit certain definitions such as what was meant by poverty, World Bank senior vice-president Joseph Stiglitz said yesterday.

Addressing an international workshop on poverty held in Kempton Park, Stiglitz exploded the myth that lack of earning caused poverty.

He said maintaining full employment ought to be central to all government policies.

Yet issues such as education, land reforms and health policies were an integral part of the solution.

Poor people had to be empowered and get meaningful community participation, and Stiglitz said societies should work far harder to open opportunities to those born into poverty.
Spotlight falls on ways to beat poverty

Strategies should concentrate on education, land reform, among others, says World Bank official

By Ranis Casswell

In a similar vein, the budgets in some of the poorest countries of the world are dominated by expenditure on health and education, says a recent World Bank report. The report says that the poorest countries are spending more than 10% of their GDP on education and health, compared to the global average of 5%.

The report suggests that the governments of the poorest countries should focus on improving education and health systems, rather than spending on other sectors. It also recommends that countries should invest in infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, to improve access to basic services.

The report concludes that reducing poverty requires a long-term commitment to investment in education and health, as well as other sectors such as agriculture.

The report is based on a study of 107 of the world's poorest countries.

This is a summary of the report. For more information, please see the report.
Dept helps turn the tide of poverty

More that 45 state programmes have been implemented to provide benefits and job prospects to the main breadwinners - the women - in an area where 325 000 people live.

Hawkers have rented shops already

George Malethi (53), who says he has never been employed in his life, used his newly acquired construction skills to take part in the building of the new creches.

He said he now felt like "a real head of a family" since the project started. "I have even spoil my wife with a new dress and a pair of shoes which she will wear to church," Malethi said.

Entrepreneurs have begun registering to rent hawkers' stands built around the taxi and bus rank near the complex, which is proving a catalyst for the local economy.

The department will monitor the project closely as a view to replicating it in other parts of the country, especially in the poorer provinces.

Public Works Community Based Programme director Gabi Gumbi said the idea of cluster buildings for social development programmes came out of discussions between the department and rural communities in South Africa's three poorest provinces, the Northern Province, the Eastern Cape and the KwaZulu Natal.

In the past, villages applied for funding only for creches and schools, she said.

Project may be replicated elsewhere

But physical visits and discussions with rural leaders reflected a need for an economic niche in every village.

Rural administrations which maintained and repaired the buildings would also have a regular source of income from entrepreneurs renting the shops and people using community business buildings.

Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe, who visited Ga Malethi recently, said the programme had enhanced social and economic equity particularly for women.

He said the cabinet had allocated a further R35 million from the Poverty Relief Fund to expand the department's rural anti-poverty programme.

Depending on the prioritisation of each village or district, the department has been building access roads, helping to set out communal gardens and irrigation schemes, fencing grazing areas and building bridges, and advising on vegetable markets.

Because the planning and the construction of these projects involve the participation of community based organisations and enterprises, "communities were bound to care for and own the projects," Radebe said.

Chilli sauce gives ‘lifeline’ to villagers

Sarah Moho (50) grew up subject to continuous droughts and extreme weather in the plantations in Mkwandura village, one of several resettled in the Ga Malethi region in the Northern Province.

Most of her life she survived by working on farms, earning a meagre salary while her husband, Moshe (40), was unemployed. "He (Moshe) augmented our income by selling vegetables," she explained.

The mother of three is very excited about the prospect of becoming one of the hundred villagers who will soon begin working at a community factory which will manufacture chilli sauce.

"Imagine all supermarkets in the province order our chilli sauce stock from our factory. It will mean a better job and a better salary," she said.

The Department of Public Works has donated the building to her community to jumpstart their business activities. It forms part of a cluster of facilities including a hall, a sports field and several shops for entrepreneurs around a new taxi and bus rank.

Moho was also upbeat about the day care centre built 100m from the factory.

She said women would no longer have to carry their children on their backs while working in the plantation fields and her 15-month-old baby, Josiah, would be one of the young ones attending the centre.

Her husband, who was employed during the construction phase of the taxi rank, said he intended renting one of the shops to sell vegetables.

As Moho spoke of his business plans, his wife cut a piece of the green pepper covering the surrounding mountain tops.
SA making progress in battle to eradicate poverty, claims minister

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

Cape Town – Despite the huge backlogs, South Africa was slowly making inroads in its efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality, according to Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

In an address to the United Nations Economic Commission summit in Nairobi, Kenya, yesterday, Fraser-Moleketi said that, in line with guidelines from the World Social Summit, the Government was spending 14.8% of gross domestic product on social services.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel has said that national and provincial government will spend R108.7-billion of the available resources on social services in the current financial year. The Government has set aside R1-billion for targeted poverty relief programmes. This will increase to R1.2-billion and R1.6-billion in 2000 and 2001.

In the past two years, the Ministry of Finance has made available an additional R1.6-billion for special poverty eradication programmes. This was over and above the money allocated to social services in the Budget.

"We have received reports from people who have benefited from our programmes. I have visited their towns and I have witnessed the impact of these funds... For many it presented a first opportunity for training, skills development and sustainable livelihood.

"I believe our projects have laid the foundation for integrated poverty eradication programmes... I believe that if we continue to invest in the micro-poor in a way that makes a difference to their lives, we will be able to report significant progress in the eradication of poverty," Fraser-Moleketi said.

She said the safety nets to the poor in South Africa through social security were unique among developing countries.

She also called for an integrated disaster management system and a common strategy in southern Africa to address challenges brought by the HIV/Aids pandemic and the Y2K millennium bug.
Life gets tougher in the new SA

The desperate poverty that is still rife in South Africa is taking its toll on the country's youngest citizens. Ian Clayton reports

In new demographic details show that life for most South Africans is not getting better, and may well be getting worse.

With an estimated 4.7 million people unemployed and looking for work, and only 6.1 million in formal employment, it is hardly surprising that life remains tough for ordinary people in the democratic South Africa.

But it is the figure of 22,865 infant deaths in 1995 — the highest infant death figure since 1991, and probably the highest ever in South Africa's history — that demonstrates the severity of poverty in the country.

The number of infant deaths recorded may be a reflection of more accurate official records, but the fact is the death of 22,865 babies is unacceptably high — and that an average of more than 62 babies died every day of the year in 1995.

These demographic statistics are contained in the latest issue of the Bulletin of Statistics, recently released by Statistics South Africa.

The report classified 9.1 million in various job categories, including 2.1 million working in private households, suggesting that about one in three potentially economically active people were unemployed and looking for work.

With fewer than 5.3 million people having paid jobs in 1997, formal sector employment has continued to decline, from more than 6.3 million in 1996 to 5.1 million in the fourth quarter of 1997.

A total of R2.217.3 million was paid in salaries and wages. The average salary paid in 1997 was R3,262 a year, an increase of R268 on the 1996 figure of R3,464.

Unemployment rates are particularly severe among Africans — 4.2 million looking for work — and particularly among young Africans. 1.9 million without jobs are under the age of 20, and there are 1.2 million people under the age of 24 looking for work.

The report is described by Statistics South Africa head Mark Orkin as an "excellent reference source" as it provides a bird's eye view of a year's, or even several years', statistics. It gives figures on many different aspects of life in South Africa, including that 140,768 people were injured in traffic collisions in 1997 and 9,691 people were killed. Vehicles collided with 39,115 pedestrians and 6,066 cyclists.

There were also more divorces than before — 31,501 in 1996 — more than half of them involving whites. But these figures did include 8,174 divorces involving black people — and black divorces were not recorded until 1994.

One of the more disturbing sets of figures are those concerning prosecutions and convictions in the courts. The number of prosecutions, for instance, dropped from 320,201 in 1995 to 291,774 in 1996. The number of convictions also dropped, from 360,867 to 218,994.

Police have claimed the crime rate has stabilised, but the decline in prosecutions and convictions indicates the justice system is not working efficiently — and that a significant number of criminals are getting away with their crimes.
NEITHER government nor the private sector would be able to increase the number of jobs and limit poverty in SA in the next 10 years, a Centre for Policy Studies seminar heard yesterday.

Anglo American’s Clem Smitier said governments worldwide were streamlining public services and SA planned to shed about 300,000 jobs in the next five years, as required by government’s growth, employment and redistribution strategy.

Similarly, the private sector was downsizing its workforce under pressure exerted by globalisation and new technology.

Smitier argued the possible alternative was the strengthening and development of small, medium and micro enterprises and promotion of entrepreneurship.

Smitier said four conditions needed were easier access to capital, reduced dependence on equity financing, amending the tax code to stimulate small businesses, reducing the number of conditions and permits needed to open a business and an environment encouraging entrepreneurship.
Western Cape's top cop named

JOSEPH ARAMES

Deputy Eastern Cape provincial police commissioner Lennit Max has been appointed as the new Western Cape police commissioner.

Provincial community safety minister Mark Wilie was due to make the announcement today.

Commissioner Max, who was recently cleared of sexual harassment charges, will take up the post immediately.

Outgoing provincial Commissioner Leon Wessels retired at the end of last month and the post was temporarily filled by deputy commissioner Dirk Crafford.

Commissioner Max was one of six candidates shortlisted for the post, who were interviewed by the provincial cabinet last week.

Last year a female colleague accused Commissioner Max of sexual harassment and the matter was investigated.

Last week national Commissioner George Fivaz said an investigation into the alleged sexual harassment charges against Commissioner Max had been completed and no steps would be taken against him. "The matter is now closed," he said.

Eastern Cape Commissioner Nico Slabber said: "I do hope it's clear to all that the investigation conducted by my office was procedurally correct, acceptable to all interested parties, endorsed by Commissioner Fivaz, and Commissioner Max has been cleared of all allegations. It's a known fact that Commissioner Max was a candidate for the Western Cape commissioner's post and the fact that this irresponsible allegation had left an indelible scar on his CV was defamatory and unfair," Commissioner Slabber said.
Shilowa voices concern over poverty alleviation

John Dludlu

Gauteng's premier Mabhasha Shilowa yesterday issued a stern warning to the delegates of the Commonwealth Business Council, saying that globalisation will not be seen as a "serious concept" if it fails to tackle poverty alleviation.

In a prepared address delivered at the opening function of the three-day Commonwealth Business Forum, organised by the council, Shilowa also called for the spirit of "human solidarity to govern" the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations.

Shilowa said unless globalisation was seen to create conditions for poverty eradication, the advancement of world peace and the promotion of a safe environment, poverty stricken people might be persuaded to believe — as economist J.K. Galbraith once said — that "globalisation is not a serious concept."

The conference is taking place 20 days before the 135 members of the World Trade Organisation, including SA, meet in Seattle in the US to launch a new set of trade negotiations.

Shilowa's remarks underscore the SA government's central theme, which is seeking to make the next talks about addressing the imbalances in the world economy in favour of the developing world. Later in the day, SA Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin said the Commonwealth — consisting of 54 member nations — was best placed to tackle some of the challenges facing the world's trading system today.

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FORMER president Nelson Mandela last night renewed the call for a national partnership to eradicate poverty and reconstruct society.

Delivering the annual lecture of the Open Society Foundation for South Africa at the University of the Western Cape, Mandela said South Africa remained a divided society — not in racial terms but between the rich and poor.

He described systematic and massive poverty as one of the most dangerous enemies of an open society.

"We are still one of the countries with the highest coefficients indicating that difference between rich and poor.

"The eradication of poverty must be the overall national priority."

A democratic government has been voted into office with the mandate to deliver a better life for all.

"That simply and unequivocally means the mobilisation of all possible energies for poverty alleviation and eradication," he said.

The former president said South Africa needed to nurture its intellectual infrastructure.

"My basic argument has been for a broad national partnership for the reconstruction and development of our society."

This process must lead to substantive improvements in the material conditions of the poor.

"It must ensure that we live in a society where fundamental freedoms and rights are respected and protected," he said.

The Open Society Foundation for South Africa was founded by the billionaire philanthropist George Soros in 1993.

Soros believed that an open society was one based on the recognition that nobody had a monopoly on the truth, that different people had different views and interests, and that there was a need for institutions to protect the rights of all people to live together in peace."
A way out of poverty

SAMUEL Johnson wrote that "poverty destroys liberty" - a truth recognised in our Bill of Rights, and sadly evident throughout South Africa after five years of nominal freedom.

More than half of South Africa's people live on less than R12 a day. During Parliament's constituency week, I visited some of the most destitute communities to see for myself.

It soon became clear that an effective strategy to beat poverty requires two things from the state:

- Sustainable social services to cover survival needs - water, sewerage, housing, health care and security.
- The liberty to uplift oneself - allowing people to draw themselves out of deprivation through education and in an environment of economic freedom.

It was immensely frustrating to witness failure on both counts everywhere I went.

Yet the enterprising attitude of people - many living in the most dire circumstances - was the inspiring and hopeful sign I saw.

The difference between initial delivery and sustainability of projects is glaringly obvious in rural KwaZulu-Natal. An elderly woman there told me how she walks about five kilometres every day to a river nearKent's Drift, Msungu, to fetch water.

After two years not one of the water pumps installed by the Government is still working. This was not the success story of delivery the Government Communication and Information System told us about.

But now it is the worst problem facing the people of Kent's Drift. Two years ago there was a shoe-making factory in the area, which employed about 700 locals. The community of about 20,000 was poor but marginally self-sufficient, largely due to the factory.

After a protracted strike organised by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the factory closed down. The empty, locked-up factory stands in grim reproach to current labour practices encouraged by our Government.

There is also no police station in Msungu, while locals estimate that at least three to four people are murdered each month. Unemployment and crime are the twin evils that beset every place where there is poverty in South Africa. This was so in the second world visit, in the Eastern Cape.

At Buffalo Flats, outside East London, Elize Wade cares for 20 to 30 abused and neglected children on a small state grant and her husband's wages as a security guard. She told me of a knock on her door recently, which revealed a four-year-old girl, carrying her clothes in a bag, who said she couldn't live with her stepfather anymore.

Other children welcomed us with a song at the Isaiah 58 shelter in Pefferville. This home survives on a tiny and erratically delivered grant. Welfare grants and subsidies sustain thousands of people in Eastern Cape, where unemployment is 49 percent. But these payouts are unsustainable.

For example, the suspension of disability grants in the last two years has devastated the lives of many in this province. I met one such man at The Workbench in Buffalo Flats - an employment project for disabled people. He earns R7 a week.

Clearly disabled, he has been declared "fit for work" by the welfare department and taken off the grant register. This is in a province which has 16,000 supernumerary bureaucrats paid to do nothing. Almost one in five employed people here is a public servant.

The Government has chosen to reduce the budget by cutting aid to the weak and the marginalised - not because it is right, but because it is easier than confronting public service unions.

Government should be commended and encouraged for trying to clear our debt and pension rolls of "welfare cheats." But it is the implementation of this laudable policy - and the failure to get private sector companies to drive it - which is compounding the misery of the marginalised.

Skills and business opportunities are the only sustainable route out of poverty. In Western Cape it was encouraging to visit Zanuele Centre, which trains people and directs them towards employment, particularly in enterprises supplying tourism.

At a more primary level, Western Cape MEC Helen Zille took me back to school to see two needy cases at Klipfontein Methodist Primary School and the Sontshane High School for the Deaf in Khayelitsha.

At 75 pupils a class, teachers at Klipfonte Computer Primary reported that teaching is almost impossible. Based on a needs-assessment, Zille's provincial department will now allocate roughly eight times the funding to this school than to the most privileged school in the province.

And while the rest of the Government blows money where it shouldn't, its primary function is neglected to safeguard the lives of its citizens.

Nowhere was this more apparent than in Mitchell's Plain, where the community has formed neighbourhood watches to supplement the one police station that is meant to protect 12,000 people from gang warfare and domestic violence.

Finally, I went to Danville - a "poor white" area near Pretoria. If President Thabo Mbeki had been with me, he may have been forced to admit that his thesis of two nations - one rich and white, the other black and poor - is certainly a fallacy. The truth of the matter is that poor people are poor, they are not stupid and they are not in today's South Africa necessarily black. And they do not need to be told what is good for them; they simply need to be given some basic assistance to get on and ahead with their lives.

Perhaps the biggest thrust in liberalism and its modern-day adherents is to suggest that somehow we are insensitive to the plight of those struggling in poverty or that we are indifferent to its consequences.

In truth, we simply don't believe that the Government has the answer to every problem, or that employing civil servants is the solution to reducing poverty.

On the contrary, my recent trip around the poorest communities in South Africa has convinced me that the opposite is often the case.

(The writer is a Member of Parliament and leader of the Democratic Party.)
Poorer all the time

S.A.'s poor are getting poorer...
Gangs into Crime

Poverty, Forces

By Jani Mackenzie
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Winter Agony

BY ARTHUR BURROUGHS

C Snowflakes fell on the roof of the low, miserable tenement house. The wind howled through the broken windows, and the cold seeped into every crevice. The occupants wriggled in their beds, shivering and trying to keep warm.

"What will happen to us if this continues?" asked one of the women, her voice muffled by the rags she wore. "We have nowhere to go and no hope of help.""}

"We must rely on each other," said a man, "and try to make it through this winter."

The days were long and the nights even longer. The children ran around, seeking warmth, while adults huddled in corners, trying to stave off the cold.

"This is why we need to organize," said another resident. "We must fight for our rights and demand proper housing and adequate heating."
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The poor, bound in red tape, show amazing resilience

SEGREGATED WINTERVILLAGE

The poor embark's a complicated, struggling constituency in need of jobs and houses.

SOUTH DAKOTA
AND MICHIGAN

The economy is in turmoil.

Neglected Wintervillager in action.
Why Poverty is More Than Sums
Fighting poverty the key to real empowerment

Many initiatives have failed because they are based on race issues and not on economic need, says the Democratic Party's Ken Andrew

S

A UNDER African National Congress (ANC) rule shares similarities with the world Alice visited in Through the Looking Glass, where Humpty Dumpty said to her “When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean.” “Empowerment” is one such word that has been used to mean different things to different people.

The use by Nkululeko Gqubule of “black empowerment” to justify a scandalous attempt at self-enrichment to the value of R180m in shares is one recent example. A newspaper has commented that critics “from the left” say “the Nkululeko Gqubule proves their point that black empowerment is a euphemism for black enrichment of the few.”

While this article was clearly not referring to the Democratic Party (DP), we and the Congress of South African Trade Unions are, for once, on common ground in our appraisal of certain “empowerment” deals. We share a refusal to be distracted by the rhetoric of race from seeing the economic foundations of poverty in SA. The problem with many so-called empowerment initiatives is that they are formulated on the basis of race rather than economic need.

The DP believes in the economic empowerment of those who have been disadvantaged by the legacy of the past. Our economic policy recognises the existence of unacceptable wealth, income, opportunity and skills gaps in our society that need urgent attention.

While the DP believes that entrenched racism is any colour should reap the rewards of their initiative, risk-taking and hard work, the objective of empowerment as such should not be to replace one elite with another of a different colour — which is the way the ANC’s black empowerment strategy seems to be going.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki’s talk of the “two SAs” in which whites are rich and blacks are poor is a myth the ANC perpetuates for the convenience of its wealthier members and friends. SA is currently witnessing the fairly rapid emergence of a new economic and financial elite, while the majority is being left behind in poverty.

There will be some people who are economically empowered, and even made very wealthy, by being able to participate in large corporate deals. Yet this is a very small minority. Unless we address poverty and unemployment, the divide based on race created in the old SA will simply be replaced by the divide of class in the new SA.

Genuine economic empowerment means providing opportunities and access to the skills and resources that people need to participate and benefit as equals in the economy, and to take responsibility for their own lives and destinies.

For the vast majority of our people, economic empowerment will depend primarily on three things. These are appropriate education and training, job creation, and targeted assistance to small and very small enterprises.

Unfortunately, these are three critical areas where the ANC-led government has failed lamentably. Determination to dictate from the centre, an inability to prioritise properly, and its unwillingness of the government to stand up to its allies representing the unenfranchised elite, and misguided transformation policies have ensured that economic empowerment has remained a dream rather than becoming a reality for most South Africans.

It is for this reason that the DP will monitor closely the soon to be voted National Empowerment Fund Act. The idea of the fund is to distribute some of the proceeds of the sale of public enterprises as shares to the poor, giving them a stake in the economy for the first time. The DP believes that this type of targeted action could work, and proposed a similar scheme at our federal congress in 1995.

The fatal flaw in the act, however, is that it defines those eligible for shares on the basis of race rather than economic need. Hence the fund could end up benefiting mainly a small elite.

The act also gives the trustees and managers of the fund very wide powers, but no direct accountability to Parliament. For a trust that is going to control billions of rand, it is dangerous that it is accountable to anyone other than the minister of trade and industry.

We cannot afford to be distracted from the task of addressing poverty. Nor can we afford to give away the proceeds of privatisation cheaply to a tiny elite who are doing very well for themselves thanks to the rhetoric of entitlement by virtue of their race.

We must allow the National Empowerment Fund to be distorted into a tool for the further enrichment of ANC cronies. This would be a case of taking from the overburdened taxpayer to give, not to the poor, but to the new rich and the super-rich.

If the ANC took off its racial blinkers for a moment, it would see that joblessness and poverty go hand in hand, irrespective of your race classification under apartheid years ago.

The DP will return to Parliament after the election with its eyes wide open for signs of misuse of the word “empowerment.”

Andrew is a Democratic Party MP
Our failure to end poverty is the real shame of the nation

Don’t blame the Constitution for the ills of society, veteran human rights lawyer GEORGE BIZOS tells students

YOU are among the first to have started your university education in the new South Africa to graduate. Being among the first of this era, you have some special responsibilities to our society.

Fundamental changes are taking place to improve the lives of all in South Africa. There are complaints that they are not coming quickly enough.

Before we judge what is being done, let us examine where we have come from.

Our generation was too young to fight in World War Two, too old to understand and, perhaps naively, believe what we were told would be at the end of it — the lofty principles of the Atlantic Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the promises that all of us would live in a better world and an egalitarian society.

Instead, we got the Cold War, divisions between the rich and the poor, apartheid, racism, inequality and a tyrannical oligarchy for 46 years.

No more than a handful of blacks graduated with me in 1950 and only one in 1955.

We all know what happened in the ‘60s and ‘70s. Detention without trial, torture, trials, compulsion to give evidence against one’s friends and relatives, bannings, conspiracies, police invasions of the campus and security police infiltration of the student movement were common.

Student leaders were targeted. Often it meant the end of their academic careers unless they continued on Robben Island. Death, imprisonment or exile was the possible consequence if you emerged as a student leader in Soweto or elsewhere — worse still if you were a leader of Cosass in the ‘80s.

These sacrifices were not made in vain. They were intended to liberate the people of South Africa and for all to enjoy the rights of citizenship under our democratic Constitution.

To those who tell us nothing has changed, let each one of you be a witness as to how different your student life has been from that of your older brothers and sisters.

To assert that nothing or very little has changed shows disrespect for their heroic contribution to the freedom struggle.

Our Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly, elected in fair and free elections. The 11 Constitutional Court judges were unanimous that it complied with the 34 democratic principles agreed to at Codesa. Its Bill of Rights and structures to support democracy were almost universally acclaimed.

The Chief Justice has described a constitution as "a mirror reflecting the national soul, the articulation of the values bonding its people and disciplining its government."

Elements within the country — in their public pronouncements, election posters, T-shirt slogans and some of the media supporting them — blame all the wrongs, actual or perceived, on the Constitution. Bring back the death penalty, reintroduce corporal punishment, abolish the right to bail and the right to remain silent, remove judicial discretion on sentencing, make provision for the amputation of limbs.

To introduce any of these changes, at least a two-thirds majority in Parliament would be required. Those calling for them are the very people who warn how dangerous it would be for the ruling party to obtain a two-thirds majority in the forthcoming elections.

There are inherent dangers in blaming the Constitution and seeking to water down our rights. They may not be there to protect us when we may be in need of their protection.

Another matter of concern are the criticisms of the judiciary as a whole — often expressed without adequate knowledge of the issues involved, the evidence led, the provisions of the law relating to the matter and, at times, without bothering to read the judgment.

No useful purpose can be served by dwelling on the performance of the judicial function during the apartheid years on this occasion. Many of the judges could have tried to do better than they did.

But we must acknowledge that we owe much to those of them who kept alive the principles of freedom and justice and the protection of some fundamental rights. This group of judges established a legacy that helped us to reach a political settlement, avoid a civil war, adopt a constitution and create structures to resolve the inevitable conflicts arising from our unjust, violent heritage.

There are grave dangers in attempts to bring the judiciary into disrepute and I would appeal to you to become active supporters of the Constitution, the judiciary and other structures established to support democracy here.

Don’t blame the Constitution. Look for reasons for our problems elsewhere.

Most of our fellow citizens are poor. They are without proper housing, health care and schools. Many are without jobs. Even those who have them earn too little to support themselves and their families.

Poverty is immoral to democracy, to a relatively crime-free, well-ordered society.

There is no shame in admitting there is poverty and an unjust distribution of wealth and the granting of honours amongst us. The real shame is and will continue to be our failure to take steps to put an end to both poverty and substantial inequality.

* This is an edited version of a speechBizos delivered this week at Wits, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate.