PUBLIC SECTOR - LOCAL AUTHORITIES - PWV REGION

1994 - MAY - NOV.

1995 - JAN. - OCT.
On Saturday nine men will be sworn in as premiers of some readers they are almost unknown, while to others The Star introduces you to four of them. The series will protecting the investment environment. It is no secret that an ANC PWV chairman he set out to get to know senior police officers. Currently, he says, he has regular contact with "all the police generals in the region."

It was the assassination of Commonwealth Party leader Chris Hani just a year ago, which thrust Sexwale into the spotlight. His powerful and largely effective pleas to millions of enraged South Africans to refrain from random reprisals commanded attention. So did his obvious nationalism.

Asked how he will ensure that a guerrilla will not open up between his cabinet and the largely inherited civil service, Sexwale answers with characteristic conviction. "The priority will be to get various people who have served to understand that there's a new flag here. There are going to be new ways of doing new things."

And we will say to them that we want complete loyalty. Not to any person but to the country."
— Jo-Anne Collinge

Matthew Phosa
(Eastern Transvaal)

Nkadli Matthew Phosa is no great statistician. Even as a schoolboy he hated maths. But, when it came to calculating the chances of the ANC winning the Eastern Transvaal province and elevating him to the position of premier, he found it as easy an adding one and one.

"It was simple arithmetic," he said. "There are 200,000 colours in this area and almost two million blacks. There's no way we could lose this one."

Phosa, born 42 years ago in Mbombela township, Nelspruit, is a man of few words. But he does not stumble when he talks about his plans for the Eastern Transvaal. Elections in this area, Phosa says, were about housing, education, health, jobs and development. The Eastern Transvaal is rich and ripe for development."

Trained as a lawyer (University of the North) and a soldier (Umkhonto weSivume), Phosa faces the immediate task of setting up his "Cabinet" or executive committee with assurance. He already knows — "exactly" who will be in it.

Phosa heard his politics from
born in as premiers of nine new provinces. To
known, while to others they are folk heroes. Today,
of them. The series will be completed next week

ers for old Transvaal

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Popo Molefe calls strikers to order over pay demands

MMABATHO — Northwest premier Popo Molefe called for order after civil servants declared a general strike outside the parliament building and demanded salary parity with their counterparts in the rest of South Africa.

Speaking at a media briefing yesterday after the first official Northwest legislature session, Mr Molefe said his government would address the civil servants’ demands “with the utmost urgency.”

A three-man committee, consisting of newly appointed finance minister Martin Kuskus, education minister Mamakoena Gaoretelelewe, and justice and police Minster Satish Roopa, was appointed to address the issue.

Public servants decided on an indefinite go-slow strike in defiance of a call by Mr Molefe for them to “act in a professional manner.”

About 500 angry civil servants gathered to air their grievances and express their anger at Mr Molefe for slamming their demands for parity in salaries as “stupid and unreasonable” in a television broadcast.

“Before the election he termed this demand our right. Now it is stupid,” said a senior official who declined to be identified.

“We are demanding parity with white civil servants and we will continue to gather until Popo speaks to us,” he said.

Mr Molefe said he viewed the demands for salary parity as legitimate, but speculated that remnants of what he termed “the old order” may be behind the demands.

Calling on the public servants to continue their support for the first democratically elected government in the region, he said it was the responsibility of the people that would enable the government to meet expectations.

Mr Molefe said he expected a formal announcement on the status of Mmabatho, which was currently hosting parliament as a provisional capital, by next week.

He added that the protest would not influence the possible decision to make Mmabatho the province’s official capital.

Earlier in the day one of the civil service speakers, an elderly man, called on police and defence force members to join the protest.

“It is their money we are fighting for and they must join us,” he said.

“You must stress this to your Press,” said another official “If Popo does not address us, we will get into our cars and fetch (ousted Bophuthatswana President Lucas) Mangope back.”

Before dispersing peacefully, the civil servants resolved to meet again on Monday morning, after which meetings would continue until Mr Molefe apologised publicly for criticising their right to protest and addressed their demand for parity.

The same civil servants gathered outside the government building in January to meet Mr Mangope and demand the incorporation of Bophuthatswana into South Africa — Sapa
Molefe faces civil servant go-slow

MABATHO — North-West premier Mr Popo Molefe yesterday called for order after civil servants declared a go-slow strike outside the parliamentary buildings here and demanded salary parity with their counterparts in the rest of South Africa.

Speaking at a media briefing after the first official North-West Legislature session, Mr Molefe said his government would address the civil servants' demands "with the utmost urgency".

Earlier in the day, the crowd refused to listen to Mr Molefe's reassurance that their demands were being considered.

Calling on the public servants to continue their support for the first democratically-elected government in the region, he said it was the responsibility of the people that would enable the government to meet their expectations.

Mr Molefe said he expected a formal announcement on the status of Mabatho, which was currently hosting parliament as a provisional capital, by next week.

The next session of the North-West Provincial Legislature is to be on May 18 — Sapa
New Bop strike call poses threat to government

ON Friday, they were back again, toy-i-toying and threatening unto governability in front of Mnabatho's government buildings. Last time, it was Lucas Mangope's dictatorship they were challenging, this time elected Premier Popo Moletsane was the target.

Along with their colleagues in the health, education, municipal and postal services, former homeland civil servants are threatening to produce the first crisis for the new government.

The single largest employer in the land, the public service has already been involved in some of the most controversial and protracted labour disputes in the recent past.

Strikes and go-slows by public servants in Transkei, Ciskei and Lebowa made the holding of elections in those areas difficult.

Before that, hospital workers and teachers took centre-stage in labour action which led to a controversy over the ethics of preventing, treatment and disrupting education.

But, if public service strikes have hit the headlines in the past, they will pale into insignificance compared with "the big one"—a national strike of public servants united under the umbrella of the country's largest union.

Scheduled to hold its launching congress in August, Cosatu's as yet unnamed public sector union has set itself a target of recruiting 500,000 workers from all areas of the public service.

It will eventually be the country's largest union by far—almost double the size of its nearest contender, the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa.

Along with other Cosatu unions, the public sector union will hold enormous sway over the implementation of government policy and efforts to redesign the apartheid bureaucracy.

Preparations for the new union have already reached an advanced stage, with the National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union, the SA Municipal Workers' Union and the Post and Telecommunications Workers' Association committed to the merger.

The new union will debate its approach to key issues such as the right of emergency service workers to strike and centralised bargaining with the government at a policy conference in July; he says more importantly, the new union will begin shaping a new relationship between the ANC government and the labour movement.

The ANC is expected to prevail on the new union to commence instability and assist with reconstruction by avoiding militant labour action.

But, like many newly formed unions, the public sector union will also be under pressure to take militant action to recruit new members and prove that it puts the interests of its members first.

Cosatu has already stated clearly that it will not be forced into inaction by appeals to patriotism.

Labour analyst Duncan Innes says the new union could provide focus in an area of the economy subject to instability from wildcat strikes and years of poor labour relations. Whatever path the new union decides to pursue, it is destined to become a major power-broker in the new South Africa.
Bop civil servants' strike resumes

MMABATHO — The strike by civil servants of the former Bophuthatswana government resumed today when about 500 workers gathered at the main government buildings in Mmabatho.

The strikers demanded a meeting with North-West region premier Mr Popo Molefe.
Molefe is sympathetic

By Themba Molefe
Political Correspondent

THE Northwest provincial government identified with the demands of public servants in Mmabatho and would address them, the office of the Premier said yesterday.

On Friday the public servants decided on an indefinite go-slow strike in defiance of a call by Premier Popo Molefe for them to "act in a professional manner".

About 500 civil servants gathered at the main government buildings in Mmabatho where the provincial legislature was in session to air their grievances and express their anger at Molefe for allegedly describing as "stupid and unreasonable" their demands for parity in salaries.

However, the workers would return to their posts today after two days of meetings at the weekend between the newly elected cabinet, former Bophuthatswana administrator Mr Job Lekgoko and the Public Servants Crisis Committee.

PSCC general secretary Mr Tshepiso Mphahlane said a general meeting of the workers would begin at 3pm at the University of Bophuthatswana where the public servants would be briefed on progress regarding their demands.

He said the debate on parity and payment of pensions which started before the downfall of strongman Chief Lucas Mangope in March was going on.

"Mr Molefe is quite positive and is prepared to address the grievances," Mphahlane said. (266)

He said Molefe's television statement had been misunderstood.

Mphahlane said the call for a go-slow strike was not official but was made by a small and unrepresentative group.

Assistant to the Premier Mr Mpho Mmule said: "The Premier identifies with the public servants' demands and wants to meet them but has to look at the availability of funds and the proposed commission on public service and other structures which would address the problem."
Molefe set to meet strikers

By Norman Chandler

North West provincial government officials were trying to defuse tensions yesterday as a strike by civil servants entered its second day in Mmabatho.

Premier Popo Molefe asked about 500 government employees striking outside the parliament buildings to appoint a delegation to meet him over salary parity. By nightfall they had not yet agreed to his request.

The civil servants, most of whom had worked for the Bophuthatswana administration, claimed they were earning far less than Cape and Transvaal provincial employees.

Jostled

The North West province is made up of parts of the former Bophuthatswana, the Northern Cape and western Transvaal.

On Friday, hundreds of civil servants gathered outside the government buildings and jostled Molefe and other Ministers.

Molefe said on Friday that he "wondered whether the demands weren't being made by the old order" — a reference to the government of former president Lucas Mangope which was ousted in March by the previous South African government.

He said the demands would be investigated.

Promise

Sapa reports that the demonstrators were told that pay parity would cost the Government as much as R397 million.

The civil servants said the new North West provincial government had failed to honour a promise of parity by April.

Claude Smith of the North West Public Service Commission said the TEC had been informed of the cost of pay parity and the Government would decide on a date for it to take effect.
Mmabatho strike sustained

MABATHO — Five hundred striking public servants in Mmabatho yesterday suspended their industrial action after failing to win support from other civil servants in the area, crisis committee chairman Pat Funani said yesterday.

Funani said at a mass meeting at the University of Bophuthatswana that public servants from other departments had told striking workers industrial action was morally unjustified.

"The striking workers created the impression that people who were on strike were all civil servants in the region, and that impression was corrected at the mass meeting on Monday, that it was only a few workers who had embarked on unwarranted industrial action," Funani said.

He said the crisis committee had told the public servants to go back to work because Northwest Premier Pogo Molete had agreed to consider their grievances, particularly their demand for pay parity with SA public servants.

"Our previous strike was directed at the administration of the homeland and of the government of (deposed) President Lucas Mangope because Mangope was practising nepotism in the civil service," he said.

He said the Transitional Executive Council had been informed that the party demand would cost the Northwest's government about R237m.

The strike began last Friday while Molete was appointing his cabinet.

Meanwhile, the SA Students Congress yesterday called on Mmabatho public servants to form a trade union to open lines of communication with the new government.

Sapa reports a sit-in by about 850 former Venda government workers at their offices in Thohoyandou entered its third week yesterday without agreement on demands for salary parity with their former SA counterparts.

Workers wanted to strike when they were informed that moves towards pay parity had to be suspended because of the reincorporation of the homeland into SA.

The Technicians' Interim Committee, which is overseeing the sit-in, said yesterday it would concentrate its negotiating effort on the new leaders of the Northern Transvaal region, which absorbed Venda at the beginning of May.
Pay parity to be probed

JOHANNES NGCOBO

The Northwest and Northern Transvaal provincial cabinets have appointed commissions to investigate pay parity and other demands by public servants from former homelands in these two provinces, both administrations said yesterday.

The three-man commission appointed by Northwest Premier Popo Molele said yesterday it had written a letter to Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya requesting a meeting with his office to discuss the issue.

Northwest Security, Safety and Justice Minister and head of the commission Satsho Roopa said his cabinet wanted to address Skweyiya on the plight of public servants in his region.

He said his cabinet was affirming positions in decisions of the now-defunct Transitional Executive Council that salaries of public servants in the former homeland administrations and self-governing states now be on a par with central government public servants.

"In a meeting last week we told civil servant representatives that the cabinet agreed with their demands and that the cabinet would begin the process of negotiations with them and the central government in an attempt to find a solution to their complaints," Roopa said.

Northern Transvaal Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla yesterday said a task group of about four people comprising members of the cabinet and members of the assembly had been appointed by Northern Transvaal Premier Ngcako Ramatlhodi to deal with a public servants' wildcat strike.

Phaahla said he and Finance Minister Thaba Mufumadi had been delegated to deal with the Lebowakgomo public servants' demand for pay parity.
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Bop corruption may be probed

MMABATHO — A meeting to resolve salary parity demands by 60,000 former Bophuthatswana civil servants has discussed the possibility of instituting a commission of inquiry into irregularities and corruption in the former homeland.

The meeting on Friday was attended by North West premier Mr Popo Molefe, his Minister of Public Service and Administration, Dr Zola Skweyiya, and a number of officials representing national ministries.

Mr Molefe has stated in the past that civil servants’ demands are “legitimate” and has pledged that his provincial administration will “find the money” to effect parity.

The implementation of parity will cost North West R3 billion. It was agreed at the meeting that further investigations should be conducted into the claim that the Bophuthatswana government had effected parity only for the top four ranks of the civil service in January last year, and later during that year had “bought” the loyalty of police and defence services by giving them across-the-board pay rises.

The terms of the proposed commission are expected to be broad enough to include all government departments and parastatals in the former homeland. — Sapa
Acting North West premier named

Mmabatho — An acting premier for the North West province has been appointed, the office of Premier Popo Molefe announced yesterday (26C).

He is Satis Roopa, executive council member responsible for safety and security.

Molefe is incapacitated due to illness.

Molefe's inauguration on Saturday had to be called off for a third time because of his sickness. The sitting of the provincial legislature scheduled for yesterday morning was postponed to June 20 — Sapa.
Bop ministerial houses ‘vandalised’

Sowetan

MINISTERS in the Northwest region have claimed they are fat cats by shunning ministerial houses which belonged to the former government of Bophuthatswana.

Instead, they have blamed the previous ministers for leaving the houses vandalised— with bathtubs, basins and kitchen fittings removed.

Mr Makhe Molefe, a spokesman for the Northwest region, said the houses occupied by former Bophuthatswana ministers had been left in a shocking state.

New ministers

Molefe said the houses had to be renovated before the new ministers could take up residence.

He said he would not say if the missing items were stolen by the former Bop ministers.

"But it is funny that their houses were found in that state," he said.

The region's ministers would probably move into their official residences by the end of this week, he said.

He added that most ministers were staying at a Mmabatho hotel while waiting for the houses to be repaired.

The only person without plans to take up official residence is Premier Mr Popo Molefe.

The premier is staying at a house once used by South Africa as an embassy, according to Miss Naledi Lehalale, acting secretary for the premier.

Molefe earlier said he would not take up residence at Lowe Manor, former home to Chief Lucas Mangope.

Lehalale said the manor was too big for Molefe and his family.

Meanwhile, Molefe has been discharged from a Johannesburg clinic after a short illness and was back at work in his Mmabatho office yesterday.

A statement from his office said Molefe was discharged last Friday after being admitted on June 3 with a lung ailment.
North West tackles regional capital issue

The Argus Correspondent

MMABATHO — As the PWV parliament meets today to decide Pretoria’s fate as provincial capital, a similar battle between cities in the North West region is set to take place in Mmabatho.

The North West parliament is to tackle the issue of a regional capital, with three towns vying for capital status.

The towns proposed are Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom and Mmabatho.

A spokesman for the Premier’s office said a proposal would today be made to the cabinet that, in addition to the public, relevant organisations such as government departments and taxi associations be allowed to make representation in support of recommendations for the capital.

He said the cabinet would then reach a decision and take it to the Legislature for comment.

Other matters to be discussed in parliament today are the role the 10 government departments of the region should play in implementing the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). Following yesterday’s first session, the spokesman said there was a tremendous spirit of co-operation between the parties involved.

During the first sitting of parliament they pledged their loyalty towards the government of the North West region.
Mokgoro to head Northwest admin

FORMER Bophuthatswana co-administrator Dr Job Mokgoro has been appointed acting director-general of the Northwest province, with immediate effect. In a statement in Mmabatho yesterday, Premier Popo Molefe said he realised the appointment of provincial directors-general was the dojiain of central Government, but the Northwest could not wait any longer.

Restructuring process
It was imperative that the restructuring process involving the Bophuthatswana, Transvaal and Cape administrations be started as soon as possible, Molefe said.

Mokgoro’s brief would be to establish efficient administration and service structures in the province. “The acting director-general is tasked with providing direction for the entire civil service in the Northwest,” Molefe said.

Mokgoro said his first move would be a series of meetings with heads of departments to chart a course of action for the future.

These would involve most of the directors-general of the former Bophuthatswana, who had been on leave since the coming of the Bophuthatswana government about three months ago.

Mokgoro would also act as accounting officer and as head of staff for the entire Northwest administration. — Sapa
North West civil servants to get salary parity by August—Molefe

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Parity in salaries for all civil servants in the North West region will be payable in August, backdated to May 1.

This was said by Premier Popo Molefe in his opening address to parliament yesterday in Mmabatho.

He said there had been negotiations with the chief of the South African National Defence Force, Georg Meiring, concerning the re-employment of those soldiers who had been held by the former Bophuthatswana government following the failed coup of 1985.

A Public Service Act had now been enacted at national level, unifying all civil services in South Africa and they would all be employed under the same terms and conditions at the various levels.

Mr Molefe said this should go a long way in avoiding nepotism and favouritism as had happened in the past.

He added that his government had taken the liberty of preparing a programme of legislation which would assist the integration process to enable it to establish proper governance.

He said his government would:

- Introduce legislation to establish a provincial service commission that would enable it to make its own appointments.
- Establish a tender board for the whole of the North West Region to enter into contracts that affected the region.
- Introduce a provincial exchequer which would enable the collection, receipt, control and issue of state monies and the receipt and control of other state property, and allow the raising and repayment of loans by the province and the granting of certain loans from the provincial revenue fund.

The MEC for local government in the region Darkie Africa proposed that for the people to accept the new local government structures, the writing off of arrears of houses rented or bought would give legitimacy to the new government.

He added that transfer of houses to people who had rented them for some time would be welcomed.

In his opening speech, the leader of the National Party and also the Minister of Economic Affairs in the region, Amie Venter, said the present ministers would not be directly involved in the issuing of licences for business or private purposes as was the practice with the previous government.

Any entrepreneur would be able to venture into areas of legal business with full facilitation by the public sector.

He said spaza shops were previously not allowed, but the people had defied those rules and established them anyway.

In the same spirit laws and regulations should free the informal sector so that both spaza shops and hawkers could operate as freely as possible, without defying health and aesthetic standards.

The National Party had appealed to the Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting to allow free and fair news broadcasts and to take into consideration the Afrikaans-speaking people of other regions.

On the issue of the provincial capital, Mr Molefe said an announcement in that regard would be made in due course.
Pay parity for ex-Boph workers

MBABATHO — Former Bophuthatswana civil servants will receive salary parity with their counterparts in other parts of SA in August, backdated to May 1, North West Premier Mr Popo Molefe said. The issue of parity threatened to immobilise the province as the civil servants embarked on work stoppages.

Mr Molefe also said the Minister of Defence, Mr Joe Modise, had agreed to the re-employment of soldiers dismissed after the abortive Bophuthatswana coup in 1988 — Sapa
Mangope’s return ‘feared’

MMABATHO — Northwest region citizens still fear the return of former ruler Lucas Mangope despite the fact that the new SA flag is atop every state building. Their fears are reinforced by the highly visible armed force on the streets of Mmabatho and Mafikeng, despite the fact that the soldiers and policemen now report to the ANC-dominated regional government.

Mangope also still lives in the area, scarcely 100km away from the two towns, at Motswedi village.

Two weeks ago he addressed supporters and members of his Christian Democratic Party and drew a reasonably sized crowd.

Claims that individuals in the armed forces remain loyal to Mangope regularly reach the ears of the new government. Northwest province safety and security minister Satash Roopa says Bophuthatswana forces have been replaced by SA Police Service members at some villages following complaints.

As the new national government got under way last week, virtually all evidence of the destruction of property and government buildings before the elections had been removed.

No head-and-shoulder photographs of Mangope remain in public buildings and Bop-TV no longer broadcasts hour-long speeches by him.

But still, many residents in the area refrain from publicly criticising the former president or his régime or even from talking about the events of the recent past.

Those who do talk say that once before — at the time of the 1983 coup attempt in the homeland — they had believed Mangope was a thorn of the past. However, he was reinstated and all those who dared to celebrate his short absence were persecuted and some jailed.

And soldiers jailed for their part in the coup attempt are only now being reinstated in their positions in the defence force following negotiations between Northwest premier Popo Molefe and national Defence Minister Joe Modise.

"If he could come back before, he could do it again. It is better to say nothing," a 63-year-old public servant said.

Despite having his security personnel withdrawn and being declared "citizen ordinaire" by Roopa last week, Mangope has announced that his party is already preparing to contest the next elections.

Staunch Mangope supporters also do not hesitate to declare that their leader will win the Northwest in five years time.
Strikers dismissed

KOSTER — Striking workers at Koster municipality in North-West province were dismissed after they ignored an ultimatum to return to work.
Plans for RDP announced

THE Northwest provincial government yesterday announced it would build 25,000 houses within a year, starting with 400 immediately in Winterveldt. And the Eastern Transvaal said its programme would start with the construction of 232 houses.

The Eastern Transvaal government pledged yesterday to also spend R33.8m on improving water supply, housing, schools, tribal courts, community halls, farms and roads in the former KaNgwane homeland.

Northwest premier Pephnie Moela told meeting of civil servants "My government does not want to make promises that it cannot meet. I believe that our target of 25,000 houses is realistic because it is what we can afford to deliver to our people."

Winterveldt near Pretoria had been chosen, because of its "appalling conditions", as the launch area for the reconstruction and development programme in the province. Eastern Transvaal premier Mathe Posa told building contractors at Matsulu in the former KaNgwane that they should begin building 233 low-cost houses in seven areas in the province.

Posa said the houses would cost his government about R7m, with each unit costing about R30,000. He said contractors should employ local people to reduce unemployment in the area.

Posa's office said R38.8m for capital projects had been budgeted for by the former KaNgwane administration before the elections.

The capital projects budget for the 1994/95 financial year had been taken over by the Eastern Transvaal.

He said there was concern about the shortage of water in the province.

Government spokesman Madala Masuku said R21,5m would be set aside this year for the provision of water reclamation in the rural areas of the former KaNgwane.

He said R12,5m and R6,8m would be spent on housing and improving and building roads respectively.

Meanwhile, the SA National Civic Organisation yesterday claimed Housing Minister Joe Slovo and Free State housing minister Vax Mayekiso were not handling housing in a transparent way.

The organisation's Free State general secretary, Tosh Mahlakazela, accused Slovo and Mayekiso of earmarking Kutoamong near Bloemfontein for the first housing development without extensive consultation with stakeholders in the Free State.

Mahlakazela said the organisation acknowledged the importance of the housing project, but wanted to know what had motivated the decision to start the process in the township.

He said there were several places in the province which had the same housing backlogs.
Former coup soldiers protest

MMABATHO — The fate of the former Bophuthatswana coup soldiers, who have been jobless since their release by the erstwhile Bophuthatswana government, now lies in the hands of the government of national unity. (2860)

About 30 of the soldiers gathered at the central government buildings here on Thursday to draw attention to the fact that they have not been included in the SA National Defence Force. (301794)

They continued their protest yesterday.
Mmabatho chosen as capital

Mmabatho was chosen as capital of the North-West province yesterday. It should be renamed Mafikeng, provincial legislators suggested.
Mmabatho: capital of North West province

By Lulama Luti

IT'S OFFICIAL

Mmabatho is the capital of the North West province. But is should be renamed Mafikeng, provincial legislators have suggested.

This decision by the province's parliament yesterday ended weeks of fierce debates, speculation and anxiety for the people in the province.

The parliamentary session held in the town was also attended by Public Works Minister Mr Zola Skweyiya.

In his argument, provincial premier Mr Popo Molefe told parliament that Mmabatho was relatively central to the majority of people coming from various parts of the province.

He said this would also increase accessibility for people who wanted to come to parliament.

Mmabatho, he said, shared cities like Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp and Rustenburg, which were also vying for capital status in the country's fourth largest province.

Among other recommendations put to parliament were that there should be further debate and consultation on a possible change of name for the provincial capital.

This, said Molefe, should be dealt with sensitivity and consultation with the public.
Sebo’s future now on the line

Ian Sinclair, who did the investigation for Ernst and Young, said a “charge sheet” was drawn up based on the allegations and presented to Stone at an informal, “off the record” meeting at which he was urged to sign a document indicating a final warning.

Sinclair said the investigations against Stone had not been proven, though there seemed to be a considerable prima face evidence that Stone had acted in a manner expected of a CEO (Sebo).

However, he said Stone had not been consulted about the investigation and had not been given the opportunity to explain allegations against him.

Ernst and Young discovered that a loan of R382,000 owing to Sebo by Profin had been written off, or “forgiven” in 1989, and the restructuring of other commercial companies had resulted in the “forgiveness” of further loans totalling about R1 million.

Golfview Estate (Pty) Ltd, whose shareholders included two Sebo management officials, CJ Browne, secretary of Profin, and E Dishington as well as Browne’s wife, HC Browne, were given a loan of R476,216 in 1988 by Profin, but no repayment other than interest was to be made over the next five years.

By March 31 1991 Golfview Estate owed Profin R633,777.50 including interest arrears of R549,359.92.

Profin and the sale of their “sectional title” ownership in Golfview (Edenvale) Pty Ltd, a private company, was placed on the table in November 1991.

CJ Browne and the sale of their “sectional title” ownership in Golfview (Edenvale) Pty Ltd, a private company, was placed on the table in November 1991.

According to the Ipsos, the Golfview estate was sold on 11 July 1991 and the following year applied for the establishment of a bonded deposit account on the property to First National Bank in Milpark for R40,000 and to redeem the bond with Profin for R35,000.
ANC probes North-West power play

Paul Sloper 2b6c

The ANC has launched an urgent inquiry into a power struggle between North-West premier Popo Molefe and regional agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsang which has pitched the province into crisis.

ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa this week sent a high-powered team to look into a war of allegations and counter-allegations that has erupted between the two most powerful politicians in the region.

A commission made up of ANC heavyweights Sisitwe Bernard Ncube, Charles Ngqakazana and Saki Macozoma was due to arrive in Mmabatho on Thursday to probe the conflict that has thrown the provincial government into turmoil.

The office of Foreign Minister Thabo Mbeki has also been approached to mediate in the conflict.

Ngakazana, secretary general of the South African Communist Party, told the WMG the commission would only get down to serious work on Monday.

"The team's job is to visit the province and receive evidence about the problems there, and to make recommendations to the ANC about how they can be solved.

First signs of trouble emerged at a meeting of the ANC's national executive committee meeting last week, when Molefe reported that serious divisions had opened between himself and Malebane-Metsang.

Malebane-Metsang was leader of an attempted coup against the Bophuthatswana homeland government in 1986 and fled into exile along with a number of supporters after South African Defence Force troops quashed the uprising.

At the root of the region's troubles is conflict between two powerful blocs in the province: a core of "insiders" ANC activists grouped around Molefe, and a group of former exiles who backed Malebane-Metsang after the attempted coup.

Sources said Malebane-Metsang was disgruntled as he believed he was the natural candidate to take over leadership of the province, which is made up of the former Bophuthatswana and parts of the western and northern Transvaal.

Molefe, on the other hand, has been criticised by a number of ANC branches located in the former homeland and is responding to this pressure by blaming the former coup leader for orchestrating a campaign aimed at undermining his government.

This week Roger Collinson, an experienced conservationist who initiated some of Bophuthatswana's most successful wildlife programmes, resigned.

Sources say he was deeply unhappy with his department as government got caught up in the region's political crossfire.

Allegations of sexual harassment lodged against the agriculture minister by an official in his office who has since resigned may also form part of the power struggle.

Vuyisa Rhampele, who worked for the North-West legislature, told reporters this week she had resigned after Malebane-Metsang allegedly asked her to have a "special relationship" with him.

Molefe's office issued a statement this week saying a government inquiry into the allegations had been launched so the premier's office could take "informed decisions in regard to the case."

Malebane-Metsang's office yesterday produced a counter-statement which suggested the allegations of sexual harassment were part of a media campaign to discredit the agriculture minister ahead of the ANC's probe.
Land committee in place

The Northwest provincial government has appointed a committee to assist rural government by demarcating the rural area into villages and district wards.

Local government minister Darkey Africla said at the weekend the committee, which would meet for the first time today, was to carry out a rural government plan which his government had devised. Africla would not go into details of the plan, but said it was underpinned by his government's commitment to involving the rural community in local government elections, scheduled for October next year.

The Northwest province was 70% rural, Africla said. He said his government would have recognised 15 transitional local councils by the end of the week. Three councils had already been recognised.

A three-member task team was facilitating the setting up of the transitional councils. It was expected that the councils would be "up and running" by the end of the month.
Hatchet must be buried — Molefe

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

NEW VISION
Premier hopes forums will help reconcile enemies

Agricultural and marketing conferences were still lingering in the territory and the territory had been immense preceeded Mangapans preceded the route that caused famine caused — premier of the North-West Province.

First black mayor

The non-white Province has seen electoral changes which have seen whites and blacks as a new relationship of getting on in the same structures. The traditional leaders who have been in power for years have been changed.

They have also seen the change of the traditional leadership role of chiefs.

Premier wants to open an agricultural and marketing conference to establish a forum for farmers. The traditional leaders who have been in power for years will also be invited.

They hope to open the conference as soon as possible to have an impact on the economic life of the province.

The conference will be held in the capital and will be attended by all the traditional leaders who have been in power for years.

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Pay parity in the North West

Joint Councils Explore

by Dan Cahir

The question of the Joint Councils’ ongoing struggle for pay parity with their counterparts in England and Wales is far from being resolved.

Joint Councils, representing council employees in England and Wales, have been campaigning for fair pay settlements for years.

In recent years, the Joint Councils have faced significant challenges in their efforts to secure fair pay settlements. These challenges have included union membership growth, an increase in the number of joint council settlements, and the emergence of new pay parity issues.

Despite these challenges, the Joint Councils remain committed to achieving fair pay settlements for their members.

The Joint Councils have been successful in securing pay parity settlements for some of their members, but they have also faced setbacks.

The Joint Councils have used a variety of tactics to achieve their goals, including collective bargaining, legal action, and public campaigning.

The Joint Councils have always been committed to achieving fair pay settlements for their members, and they will continue to fight for these settlements in the years to come.

The Joint Councils believe that fair pay settlements are essential to ensuring the well-being of their members and to maintaining the stability of the council workforce.

The Joint Councils will continue to work tirelessly to achieve fair pay settlements for their members, and they will not rest until these settlements are achieved.

The Joint Councils are committed to achieving fair pay settlements for their members, and they will continue to fight for these settlements in the years to come.
The more things change, the more they remain the same for the people of Venda who feel that they are the new South Africa’s forgotten children. Political Editor Mathatha Tsedu reports:

Premier Nkoako Ramatlodi

Maintenance work is lagging behind. The little resources available go towards crisis areas such as hospitals, where the strike by clerks has meant free medical care for all.

Engineering technicians have been on a virtual go-slow for months, demanding parity that would increase salaries by up to 50 percent.

The cumulative effect is that locals feel they are still living in the Venda of old because the other three components of the Northern Transvaal province — TPA, Lebowa and Gazankulu — are not affected.

Emergency meeting

Finance MEC for the Northern Transvaal Mr Edgar Mushwana held an emergency meeting with all heads of departments in Venda last Tuesday to find solutions to the problem and identify its source.

He said yesterday the following issues contributed to the crisis:

- Financially unauthorised promotions added an extra R10 million each month to personnel expenses.
- Undercollection of revenue by civil servants and lack of co-ordination resulting in collected revenue remaining in an unusable account.
- Tuesday’s meeting found that R26 million could be transferred immediately for use.

- The inefficiency of the administration meant that wrong figures were used in planning. In July, for example, total budgeted income was R150 million, but only R132 million was received. The expenditure was however R159 million, which was R27 million above actual income. This has been repeated over the months, and
- About 14000 drought relief workers were kept on in their jobs when their budget ran out long ago.

They cost R1.4 million a month. Mushwana said this money could be retrieved from central government. But

Mushwana said part of the problem was politically correct decisions that could not be matched by the budget. The drought relief workers, for example, had become permanent workers at higher wages.

Many of them say they will not accept re-embeddings when the ANC-led government, which promised jobs during the elections, has made no guarantees of jobs for white workers who were hired on affirmative action programmes by the previous government.

Mushwana said a task group involving senior officials of the former Venda administration and treasury officials from Pretoria would be established to evaluate the situation properly.

But, he stressed, there was a need for an attitudinal change in approach to work by civil servants who were “quick to spend but very slow in collecting revenue and reporting their expenditures.”

And while Mushwana struggled with maintaining the civil service and ensuring the payment of debts, ordinary people in Venda feel that despite Mandela’s installation, they are still being treated as a territory separate from Lebowa and Gazankulu.

Said one “It is difficult to understand. The situation has deteriorated to the extent that we now have no phones at night, and very poor services in hospitals.”

“When people in Soweto failed to receive social grants and ran out of more than R400 million, the debts were written off without sacrificing the services to people. Why does it take so long to deal with the situation here?” Is it because it is in Venda?”

Mushwana may not have to answer that, but premier Nkoako Ramatlodi may have to one of these days. For, in the final analysis, people were told Venda does not exist, but are now being told that for financial purposes, it does exist.

The New South Africa a reality? Or is it a mirage, a figment of the imagination resulting from a hoax that things in this country have changed?

These are the questions that tax the mind in the former Venda bantustan, where residents have woken up to find that while their bantustan was reincorporated into South Africa on May 30, it continues to exist.

The contradictions of change and the proverbial saying, the more things change, the more they remain the same, have caught up with the residents of this former banana republic. Simply put, the situation is that the budget for this year was designed last year.

This means that while Venda does not exist as an entity politically, it still exists for budgetary purposes.

The same applies to other bantustans. The region receives R108 million a month. Added to this is the R42 million from internal revenue collection to bring the total monthly budget to R150 million. The area is however spending more than that, to the extent that they have an overdraft of over R200 million, which was stopped recently by its banks.

Consequently, a crisis has developed, and the budget was suspended on August 23 because of lack-of-funds problems. This means that a number of services have been curtailed, bringing hardship to the local community.

The affected services include:

- Stopping all payments to contractors who have been building schools and other projects.
- A ban on overtime work for all government workers, except police and hospital workers.
- A public hearing of telephone operators no longer being allowed to work after hours or during weekends.
- No travel claims by government employees who have been processed since July. This has also affected subsidies for vehicles.
- Teachers received their salaries late last month.
- Nurses who upgraded their qualifications and were due to receive additional money in recognition have gone on strike demanding their money. It cannot be paid out as there are no funds.
- Clerks employed at hospitals and typists have also gone on strike, saying they are due for promotion. While the department agrees, it says there are no funds to create the new posts.
- The water supply to the capital Thohlo Ya Ndou and nearby Shibina is so poor there is a drought situation even though the supply dam is half full.

Supply system needs upgrading

This is because the supply system needs upgrading to deal with the demand brought by rapid urbanisation and development of the two areas. There are no funds to upgrade the supply pipes, and people go without water daily, creating unhealthy conditions in the area.

- Normal repair work on roads and other...
Indications are that something is seriously rotten in the state of the North West.

Summing tensions between premier Popo Molefe and his Agriculture Minister, Rocky Malebana-Metsing, burst into the open when Rocky was accused of sexual harassment.

As the stand-off between Molefe and Malebana-Metsing continues, the region is becoming increasingly unstable with threats of strikes by civil servants growing daily.

Already, insiders fear the day is not far off when more and more North West residents will look back with nostalgia to the days of Mangope.

Mangope was certainly not one of the most loved leaders the region has known. It was his cooperation that led to the proclamation of the infamous Status of Bophuthatswana Act of 1977, which robbed millions of Tswanas of their birthright in the Republic.

And he went on to deprive Tswanas living in his bantustan of South African citizenship.

Mangope continued to earn the ire of his countrymen and women when he steamrolled his government down their throats. He deported chiefs and replaced them with his cronies; he continued to ban organisations even when his paymaster, Pretoria, was beginning to see the light, his police force disbanded.

As tension mounts over the power struggle in the North West, some residents may start longing for the days when they were ruled by Chief Lucas Mangope’s iron fist, writes News Editor CHARLES MOGALE.

Was this ousted leader really so bad that he can’t be forgiven – like other former enemies?

(2abc)

Meetings of banned organisations with untold brutality, he unashamedly banned the teaching of non-Tswana African languages in his homeland (while retaining “white” languages English and Afrikaans); he amassed wealth and perched his own family in high positions.

Mangope did this and more, but...

It was the same Mangope who introduced what his son Eddie proudly calls “the best education system in Africa”.

He started an economy from scratch, built hospitals, introduced electricity and rolled out tar roads where apartheid regimes would never have thought to.

Those who knew him describe him as a great leader who made the one fatal mistake not to “reapent” soon enough.

Today he is out in the cold. His 29 cars have all been repossessed, and the cartoonists are having a whale of a time.

While not in the least condoning the brutality and the excesses of Mangope’s regime, were his sins the worst?

Mandela has won international acclaim for his do-gooding “I-am-not-bitter” act.

Chief among those would-be beneficiaries of the president’s good heart are the Conservative Party, the AWB and all other rightwing formations who have never made their mistrust and dislike of the (black) president a secret.

Also cashing in on the president’s forgiving syndrome is erstwhile bantustan leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his Inkatha. Rightly or wrongly, the chief’s followers and senior members of his KwaZulu Police Force have been implicated in horrific acts of bloodshed.

Former Transkei Prime Minister Stéllis Sisie, ousted by Bantu Holomisa’s coup and branded a “sell-out” then, is in. Another bantustan leader in the good books of the ANC is Enos Mabuza, who lorded it over KaNgwane.

Given the shambles now in Bloemfontein, should Mandela not consider the inclusion of Mangope in his Government of National Unity?

If Mandela is sincere about all-inclusivity and forgiving the past, how come he is only extending the olive branch to rightwing whites?
THE North West provincial legislature held 46 plenary sessions between May and the beginning of September, and the kwaZulu/Natal legislature only two, Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Mr Roelf Meyer said yesterday.

The PWV had held the highest number of standing committee meetings (116) and the Eastern Transvaal the lowest (six).

Mr Meyer was replying to a question tabled by Senator James Selfe (DP).

The PWV had held 16 plenary sessions, Eastern Transvaal six, Northern Transvaal 12, North West 46, Free State three, kwaZulu/Natal two, Eastern Cape 18, Northern Cape nine and Western Cape 12.
The fast track for the 7-9,300,000 m³ tank is designed to meet the requirements of the government's new policy to promote the development of the country's industrial sector. The construction of the tank is expected to provide employment opportunities for the local workforce and contribute to the country's economic growth.

The tank will be located in the north-west region, where the government has identified significant industrial potential. The project is estimated to cost 900,000,000 m³ and will be completed within 18 months. The government is confident that the project will create jobs and boost the local economy.

Wiseman Khumalo
The North-West
MMABATHO. — The North-West legislature yesterday rejected a request from deposed Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope for funds to meet his legal costs in the Skweyiya Commission, the office of the North-West premier said.

The commission is probing claims of misuse of state funds by the former president.

Spokesman Mr P W Modise said Mr Mangope claimed assistance on the grounds the claimed abuse happened during his term of office.

Mr Mangope had been told the outcome of his request.

The commission was delayed for hours yesterday as black staff of the Supreme Court handed over a list of grievances. The North-West information service said workers were demanding an end to alleged racial discrimination and threats of dismissal and suspension.

The Chief Justice was given seven days to respond.
More than 6 000 have skipped bail this year

By JACKIE CAMERON

Police released shock statistics yesterday revealing that more than 6 000 suspects in cases of serious crime — more than 850 of them believed to be killers — have skipped bail nationwide since January.

At least 2 000 alleged robbers and about 900 suspected rapists have also jumped bail since January, according to police records released exclusively to the Cape Times.

Police and Department of Justice spokesmen said yesterday the latest statistics were "alarming" but that police and prosecutors had to work closely together to ensure the necessary evidence was presented in court to keep dangerous suspects behind bars.

After a dramatic shootout in Newlands earlier this week between police and suspected members of the notorious Bakke Gang, police revealed one of the alleged robbers had been released on bail in connection with a R300 000 robbery in 1992.

Chief Colonial Leonard Knipe said: "The bail problem is not something new. Getting bail now in the new South Africa is not easier than in the past."

Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar's special adviser, Mr Vusi Pikoli, said the latest statistics were alarming.

But he believed there was nothing wrong with this country's law and police and prosecutors had to co-operate to ensure the bail system worked effectively.

ANTHONY JOHNSON reports that Democratic Party Western Cape leader Mr Henkie Bester yesterday called for a major change in the bail system.

Lawyers for Human Rights' national director of litigation Mr Ahmed Motala said yesterday there was an urgent need for the Ministry of Justice to enact rules on bail which would protect the rights of an accused, increase respect for the courts and promote the interests of justice.
MMABATHO — The North-West government yesterday took the unprecedented step of sacking MEC for agriculture Rocky Malebane-Metsing.

Premier Popo Molefe said Mr Malebane-Metsing's failure to promote nation-building and reconciliation was one of the reasons for his sacking.

"The executive council was to motivate and inspire the people of this province and the country as a whole. "These principles were not respected by the MEC," said a statement by the provincial government.

"The MEC has repeatedly demonstrated undemocratic tendencies in his wilful refusal to publicly commit himself to the leader-hip of the premier and has, by his actions, brought the provincial government into disrepute."

Mr Molefe said Mr Malebane-Metsing's benefits would be stopped and he had to vacate his official residence immediately.

He remains a member of the provincial legislature.

An assistant to Mr Molefe said Mr Malebane-Metsing was still seething about losing his bid for the North-West premiership.

He said Mr Malebane-Metsing had been openly hostile to the premier and his office.

The decision to sack him had been taken in consultation with the executive council.

"It wasn't (our) intention to remove him from his area of responsibility, but there has been a conscious resistance to work with the (provincial) government."

Repeated attempts yesterday to reach Mr Malebane-Metsing for comment were unsuccessful — Sapa.
MEC sacked

It was when the Bop Broadcasting Corporation turned to me for comment.

"Unfortunately I have not received official notification in this respect. Until such a time that the premier is able to discuss this or to notify me, I cannot comment."

Molefe said Malebane-Metsang's benefits would be stopped and he had to vacate his official residence immediately.

Malebane-Metsang said he would not take the sacking seriously until he had been officially notified.

An assistant to Molefe said Malebane-Metsang was still seething about losing his bid for the North West premiership. He said Malebane-Metsang had been openly hostile to the premier and his office.

SAPA
"I will stay!" vows Rocky

By SEKOLA SELLO

SACKED North West MEC for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs Rocky Malebane-Metsing yesterday bluntly told Premier Popo Molefe that he was ignoring his dismissal.

Malebane dismissed his bitter rivalry on Friday after accusing him of undermining the provincial government. Malebene-Metsing has been replaced by Johannes Tselapedi.

But a defiant Metsing yesterday told a press conference in Johannesburg he would not leave his office or his residence.

And as the North West crisis deepened, Molefe hinted that his arch rival could also be dismissed from the ANC and the provincial legislature if he engaged in campaigns to unseat him as premier.

Mandela

Metsing said he was discussing his dismissal with the senior ANC leadership but refused to disclose names. However, it is believed President Nelson Mandela is being briefed about these developments.

The dismissed MEC said he hoped the matter would be resolved "amicably" after it had been addressed by Mandela.

But a spokesman for the President's Office, Parks Mankabana, said there was no indication that the President was involved.

Tension

Meanwhile, tension was high at the Moletlane Stadium on Saturday after theova community gathered for a meeting to discuss the situation.

ANC supporters accused Molefe of being an "outsider" who was not acceptable to the people. They accused him of being a "dog" and a "traitor".

Metsing said the situation was unfortunate but that the community was expressing their feelings.

ANC premier who was calling Metsing a dog. It is unclear whether Molefe was elected by the people or by the ANC as the chairman of the region - the ANCYD was not involved.}

Metsing supporters were left in the dark as to why he was dismissed.

Metsing denied that he was afraid of Molefe.

Metsing said he had been working for the ANC for many years and had always been loyal to the party.

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Metsing denied that he was afraid of Molefe.

Metsing said he had been working for the ANC for many years and had always been loyal to the party.
ANC intervenes in Northwest row

President Nelson Mandela has assigned ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu and party secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa to sort out the political fracas in the Northwest province.

This follows urgent weekend talks among the ANC leadership aimed at finding a solution to the row that erupted on Friday when Northwest premier Popo Molefe fired arch-rival Rocky Malebane, agriculture minister.

Mandela met Molefe on Friday, and on Saturday conferred with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, Sisulu, Ramaphosa and ANC KwaZulu/Natal leader Jacob Zuma.

The premier’s personal assistant Keith Masebule said yesterday that Malebane-Metsang had been insubordinate and uncooperative, and had undermined the provincial leadership.

Malebane-Metsang has refused to vacate his office and ministerial house. Masebule said this undermined the constitution.

He said a commission set up to investigate Malebane-Metsang’s behaviour had found that he had mobilised people against the premier.

But at a news conference on Saturday, Malebane-Metsang claimed he had been undemocratically dismissed, and that the matter would be resolved by Mandela and the ANC executive.

Malebane-Metsang has already appointed transport and aviation minister Johannes Tselapedi to replace Malebane-Metsang, Legislator member Frans Pheye of the Yeboa party taking over Tselapedi’s position.

Masebule defended the firing by saying:

To Page 2

Northwest

"It is not as though the premier acted without consultation. It was a collective decision," Molefe had acted within the powers vested in him by the constitution.

Sources said yesterday the rift between Molefe and Malebane-Metsang had been growing for some time and had not augured well for the ANC.

"Unless it is nipped in the bud, the ANC may just lose another province, like they did with the Western Cape and KwaZulu/ Natal," said one.

"To the people here, Malebane-Metsang was seen as the alternative to Lucas Mangope. The question they ask is ‘Who is this Molefe? Where is he from?’ To them, Molefe is a boy from Soweto who has come to usurp power," he said.

Madonsela disagreed, saying Malebane-Metsang did not have the large majority he claimed to have.
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

STRIKES

1994

SEPT -
KLERKSDP. — Former Bophuthatswana president Dr Lucas Mangope and several former Klerksdorp city councillors launched the United Christian Democratic Party at the weekend.

The new party marks Dr Mangope’s return to the political arena.

The UCDP is the first political party to be formed in South Africa since the April elections and hopes to function fully after the 1995 local government elections.

Looking relaxed and healthy Dr Mangope, 72, assured his political opponents that he was still a force to be reckoned with — much to the delight of the crowd.
By Mathatha Tsedu
and Joe Mhlela

The conflict between North-West premier Mr Popo Molefe and his former MEC for agriculture Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing deteriorated yesterday when Molefe and the new MEC were confronted by picketing civil servants demanding Malebane-Metsing's reinstatement.

There were no injuries or arrests in the confrontation, said the deputy director of communication in Molefe's office, Mr Mogomotsi Mogodi, but police had to intervene in the situation. The new MEC for agriculture is the Reverend Johannes Tselaedhi.

Molefe fired Malebane-Metsing on Friday for allegedly undermining the provincial government, and for displaying "undemocratic tendencies". Civil servants at the Agri Centre, which houses the agriculture department, picketed outside the buildings at lunch time.

In another development, the head of administration in the agriculture department and a close friend of Malebane-Metsing's, Dr John Lamola, said he had been told his services had been terminated. "When I got to work I found my office locked, and the new MEC and the premier told me I had been fired on the recommendation of the provincial executive committee of the ANC."

"I told them I had a contract to work and could not be dismissed by a political body that had no legal standing. My office was later opened, but it is disgraceful."

Tselaedhi denied that Lamola had been fired. His contract was, however, under review, he said.

He said the ANC's executive committee in the province had recommended Lamola's dismissal as he had "dabbled in politics". "But he is employed under a contract with Agricentre and we are looking into that," said Tselaedhi, who added that he was scheduled to address the staff in his new department today.

Sowetan also learnt yesterday that supporters of Malebane-Metsing were intending to march on Mmabatho either today or tomorrow to demand his reinstatement.

These developments came as the national working committee of the ANC met in Johannesburg in an effort to resolve the problem, which has split provincial ANC branches in support of the two men.

The meeting ended inconclusively late yesterday and a statement released afterwards said ANC officials would meet Malebane-Metsing today to hear his version of events leading up to his dismissal.

Meanwhile, the ANC sub-region in Brits threatened "fireworks" if Malebane-Metsing was not reinstated by Friday. Spokesman of the ANC Brits sub-region Mr Vusi Skhosana yesterday appealed to President Nelson Mandela to intervene, failing which "the whole region will be engulfed in brimstone and fire". However, the Osh-Moretele ANC branch expressed support for Molefe, claiming he had the backing of the majority in the region.
Civil servants stage protest

North-West split in ranks worsens

The conflict between North-West Premier Popo Molefe and his former MEC for agriculture Rocky Malebane-Metsing deteriorated yesterday when Molefe and his new MEC were confronted by protesting public servants demanding Malebane-Metsing's reinstatement.

Police were forced to intervene but there were no injuries or arrests, said the province's deputy director of communications, Magonotse Mogodiri.

The new MEC for agriculture is the Rev Johannes Tselapedi. Molefe fired Malebane-Metsing on Friday for allegedly undermining the provincial government, and for displaying "undemocratic tendencies".

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However, the Otji-Moretele ANC branch expressed support for Molefe, claiming he had the backing of the majority in the region.
Molefe visited 22/4/94
over tensions

Johannesburg — A meeting between ANC officials and North-West premier Mr Popo Molefe on political tension in the province ended inconclusively yesterday.

A statement released afterwards said tension between Mr Molefe and his former Agriculture Minister Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing had been reviewed.

ANC officials would meet Mr Malebane-Metsing today to hear his version of events following his dismissal from the North-West cabinet on Friday.

"The discussions are aimed at finding a permanent political solution to political problems in the province," the statement added.

The meeting was attended by ANC deputy president Mr Walter Sisulu, secretary-general Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and Mr Saki Macozoma, a member of the national executive committee's commission on problems in the North-West.

Mr Molefe was at the meeting with Mr Malose Lehobye, chairman of the ANC in the province.

The ANC NEC commission will decide on Mr Malebane-Metsing's reinstatement after hearing his side of the story. — Sapa

North-West's mini mutiny — Page 6
JOHANNESBURG. — Public tenants in the North-West region split yesterday over North-West Premier Mr Popo Molole's sacking of Agriculture Minister Mr Rocky Malebane-Meising.

The sacking gained the full support of the African National Congress' Mafikeng region and the provincial branch of the Tripartite Alliance.

But a breakaway group of striking workers who claim to represent the majority of the Agricultural Corporation Staff Association members resolved at their meeting in Mmabatho to intensify their strike with protests to force Mr Molole to reverse Mr Malebane-Meising's sacking.

Mr Molole dismissed Mr Malebene-Meising from the provincial executive council on Friday after accusing him of failing to promote nation-building and reconciliation and failing to publicly acknowledge his leadership.

ANC regional chairman Mr Themba Gwabali said Mr Molole's decision had the unqualified support of "the highest provincial structures." — Sapa
By Joe Mdhlaba
Political Reporter

The North-West provincial ANC leaders are preparing to expel dismissed agriculture MEC Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing from the organisation, a senior official in the premier's office said yesterday.

The expulsion would effectively terminate Malebane-Metsing's membership of the provincial legislature and turn him into a rebel.

The deputy director for communications in premier Popo Molefe's office, Mr Mogomotsi Mogodiri, said Malebane-Metsing had to stop "acting unconstitutionally" if he wanted to avert the expulsion.

The threat of expulsion came as demonstrations for his reinstatement took place yesterday involving workers in his former department.

However, ANC sub-regional branch officials in Brits denounced the support for him expressed by a Ms Vusi Skosana, who claimed to speak on behalf of the area on Monday.

Mogodiri spoke as the national working committee of the ANC met in an emergency session for the second day running yesterday to find solutions to the impasse.

The outcome of the meeting was not available at the time of going to the press, but information chief Mr Jackson Mthembu said a political solution had to be found to a "very difficult problem".

Mthembu said a statement would only be issued this morning.

Mogodiri said Malebane-Metsing's expulsion would be undertaken as a last resort after everything had been done to make him change his attitude towards Molefe's democratically elected government. Molefe last week dismissed Malebane-Metsing after he claimed the former agricultural minister was bent on discrediting and undermining his government.

Newly appointed minister for agriculture the Reverend Johannes Tselapedi yesterday introduced himself to the staff association and other trade unions operating in the agricultural sector.

Tselapedi said while he would be willing to interact constructively with these organisations, he would not tolerate unconstitutional demonstrations. Support for Molefe came from the tripartite alliance and the ANC Youth league yesterday, both of whom said Malebane-Metsing's expulsion was long overdue.

Decision endorsed

Chairman of the youth league in the province Mr Nono Malot told a media briefing in Mmabatho that his organisation endorsed a decision by the premier to dismiss Malebane-Metsing.

"The ANC youth league believes the decision to expel Mr Malebane-Metsing is timely and long overdue, considering the amount of damage he has caused to the integrity and legitimacy of the provincial government," Malot said.

He said the youth league would meet "pound for pound with those who attempt to reverse the decision and have Malebane-Metsing reinstated."

"The Young Lions have been quiet for a very long time. Now it is time not only to roar, but to bite as well," he said.

The tripartite alliance said they supported the action by Molefe and warned civil servants who were being called upon to support Malebane-Metsing not to allow themselves to be used.
New twist in Northwest power struggle

MABATHO — Northwest premier, P. Molefe has accused former provincial agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsing of “coniving” with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, Defence Minister Joe Modise and Deputy Arts and Culture Minister Winnie Mandela to undermine him. ANC leaders were told yesterday during a hearing into the crisis in the province.

In a document presented to ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa, ANC deputy-president Walter Sisulu and parliamentary select committee for communications chairman Saki Macozoma, Malebane-Metsing said Molefe had made the claim at a Northwest ANC caucus meeting on July 17.

The document was compiled by Pretoria senior councillor Eberhardt Bertelmann for Malebane-Metsing. It said Molefe first accused Malebane-Metsing of undermining his premiership in April.

At a meeting with President Nelson Mandela and Mbeki in Pretoria last Saturday, the day after he was fired by Molefe, Malebane-Metsing denied the accusations. Mandela, who was on route to the Angolan peace talks in Zambia, delegated Ramaphosa, Sisulu and Macozoma to investigate Malebane-Metsing’s claim that he was neither consulted nor granted a hearing by Molefe prior to his dismissal.

ANC Northwest spokesman Malekile Lohoby said Malebane-Metsing’s allegations could not be proved because minutes were not kept of ANC provincial caucus meetings. He dismissed references to national Ministries saying: “They are not supporters of either men. They are custodians of the ANC’s constitution.”

Malebane-Metsing lost the contest for the ANC provincial chairmanship to Molefe earlier this month. Lohoby said he had failed to reprimand supporters who chanted “Down With Molefe” at the provincial conference.
Minister’s sacking splits North West ANC down middle

‘Do or die’ in province as Rocky row continues

The Argus Correspondent

MMABATHO. — The public row between North West Premier Popo Molefe and sacked provincial agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsing has split the ANC in the province down the middle, with some groups openly threatening violence.

The crisis flared on Friday when Mr Molefe disapproved Mr Malebane-Metsing for allegedly bringing the province into disrepute and for “displaying undemocratic tendencies.”

An ANC trouble-shooting team — consisting of MP Saki Macozoma, deputy president Walter Sisulu and secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa — has met both men.

Speculation that the ANC might overrule Mr Molefe and reinstate Mr Malebane-Metsing proved unfounded yesterday.

Sources within the ANC’s national working committee, which met yesterday, said a decision was taken — after a heated debate — to endorse Mr Molefe’s move.

A source said Defence Minister Joe Modise was among the Malebane-Metsing lobby which called for his reinstatement or the dismissal of both men.

It is understood that this lobby was defeated and a decision was taken to refer the matter to the ANC’s provincial executive committee and the ANC caucus in the provincial government.

Options being considered yesterday were that Mr Malebane-Metsing should be accommodated in the provincial legislature or be given an ambassadorial post.

“He cannot be reinstated as this will create a constitutional crisis. Meetings will be held, not to review the premier’s decision but to find a place for Mr Malebane-Metsing,” the source said.

However, those close to Mr Malebane-Metsing tell a different story. “We believe that the national working committee, encouraged by President Mandela, has taken a decision that Malebane-Metsing be reinstated,” a source said.

Sports Minister Steve Tshwete and Mr Macozoma were due to arrive in the North West capital late yesterday to meet the ANC’s provincial executive.

Meanwhile, groups claiming to be legitimate ANC structures have voiced their support for Mr Molefe, and others for Mr Malebane-Metsing.

The ANC Youth League in the province has threatened to deal with anyone who dares reverse the dismissal of Mr Malebane-Metsing.

But a splinter group consisting of the youth and women’s leagues from Brits, Taung, Wolmaransstad and Kuruman yesterday distanced themselves from that statement.

The group demanded the reinstatement of Mr Malebane-Metsing and warned that communities around Mmabatho were getting impatient.

“It will soon be a do-or-die situation,” warned Mike Molefe, leader of the group.

“Communities are getting ready to retaliate should the ANC leadership’s decision on the matter not favour them.”
Molefe: ANC recommendations likely today

The Argus Correspondent

MMABATHO — An ANC national working committee is expected to release its recommendations today on the crisis between North West Premier Popo Molefe and dismissed Agriculture MEC Rocky Malebane-Metsing. Mr Molefe sacked Mr Malebane-Metsing on Friday, after accusing him of bringing the province into disrepute, sparking a potentially explosive situation in the region.

An ANC delegation met Mr Malebane-Metsing at the organisation's Johannesburg headquarters yesterday. The same delegation met Mr Molefe on Monday.

After yesterday's meeting, the delegation gave a report back to the working committee, which was expected to release its recommendations on the controversy today.

In Mmabatho yesterday, the North West ANC Youth League threatened to meet "head-on" with anyone who reversed Mr Molefe's decision to sack Mr Malebane-Metsing.
Mandela steps in as Rocky gets chop

Nelson Mandela and the ANC’s national executive committee have confirmed North West Premier Popo Molefe’s dismissal of his MEC for agriculture Rocky Malebane-Metsing, a spokesman said.

“I can say that the dismissal was confirmed and that Molefe will place him elsewhere in the provincial executive,” Mr Mandela’s spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe said yesterday.

The provincial administration said in a statement, Mr Mandela and other top ANC national executive members, including Thabo Mbeki and Steve Tshwete, met Mr Molefe at Broederstroom on Saturday.

The administration said although Mr Molefe would not reinstate Mr Malebane-Metsing as MEC for agriculture, he would accommodate him elsewhere in the provincial government.

His dismissal from the executive council of the North West government shall be revised in a way of accommodating him in the structures of government,” the statement said.

“The meeting also recognised it was necessary for Mr Malebane-Metsing to ensure all unconstitutional and parallel structures are dissolved and anti-premier and government activities are brought to an end,” it said.

Mr Molefe fired Mr Malebane-Metsing from his cabinet after accusing him of undemocratic practices.

After Mr Malebane-Metsing refused to accept his dismissal, an ANC team including Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa and Deputy President Walter Sisulu, met the former rival for the region’s premiership in a bid to defuse the feud.

Mr Malebane-Metsing then publicly pledged his “united and unequalled support and loyalty” to the premier and the government of the North West province.

The North West administration said resolution of the feud would be closely watched by the ANC’s leadership.

“It is hoped that these processes will consolidate unity and promote reconciliation and stability in the province,” the administration said.

ANC leaders Mr Tshwete, Trevor Manuel, Gertude Shope and Saki Macozoma are reported to be planning to visit the province early next week to brief the party’s branches on the weekend decision.
Another bout in the Rocky saga (26C)

A barrage of verbal blows and criticism has been directed against Rocky Malebane-Metsing, writes Vuyo Mvoko

ROCKY MALEBANE-METSING — fired as MEC for agriculture by North-West premier Popo Molefe last week — has reeled from disadventures at the month’s provincial ANC conference, chanting slogans like “Molefe is a dog” and “Johnny come lately from Johannesburg”, a provincial government spokesman charged this week.

Provincial deputy director of communications Mogomotsi Mogodiri said, “He still has a 100 percent fixation for power and homeland politics.”

Malebane-Metsing refused to respond to the allegations. His close associate and director of administration in the Department of Agriculture, John Lamola, said the allegations were levelled by government officials who had a “personal vendetta” against his former employer. “The struggle in this province is about the ownership of the mantle of the ANC,” Lamola charged. “Malebane-Metsing has been accused of being ambitious and egotistical because he had the courage to stand for both the chairmanship of the ANC and the premiership.”

Lamola’s job, too, was “under review because it was not procedural”, according to Mogodiri. He said Malebane-Metsing thought the province was his “natural fiefdom” and was using the “backward element” in the region to undermine the government and to discredit Molefe.

He said the government had also discovered that Malebane-Metsing had employed four public managers — George Molefe, Leonard Brown, Ace Mqasho and L Mahulu — who he charged were doing nothing but using government-supplied cars and funds to mobilise opposition to Molefe, in the areas of Taung and Wolmaransstad. The posts, Mogodiri said, were not provided for in the structure of the Agriculture Department.

Mogodiri further charged that when Malebane-Metsing went to join the ANC in exile after his 1988 coup attempt against the government of former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope, “he had no bono fide interest in the struggle. The major thrust of his coup was to impose his own self and step into Mangope’s boots. It could have happened anybody; the people of Bophuthatswana wanted the replacement of a dictator.”
Metsing must stay in cabinet — ANC exec

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The ANC national executive committee (NEC) has told the North-West legislature to accommodate former Agriculture Minister Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing in the provincial cabinet in the interests of party unity.

At the committee's meeting here on Saturday, North-West Premier Mr Popo Molefe and the North-West ANC provincial executive committee undertook to review Mr Malebane-Metsing's dismissal together with an NEC delegation.

A new ministerial post would be found for Mr Malebane-Metsing as "part of a formula to unify the province," said ANC national spokesman Mr Jackson Mthembu.

The NEC said in a statement yesterday after its two-day meeting that it had resolved Mr Malebane-Metsing should issue a statement expressing his loyalty to the ANC, the provincial legislature and Mr Molefe. He should also call on his supporters to stop campaigning against Mr Molefe and promoting himself as an alternative to the premier.

It also delegated NEC members to brief the provincial executive committee on the NEC's decision to resolve the problem, which included a review of Mr Malebane-Metsing's position by the provincial and national leadership.

Also discussed at the weekend meeting were measures to strengthen the ANC to ensure it played a leading role in the country's social transformation.

The NEC received documentation relating to the ANC's 49th national conference to be held next month. The documentation included an abridged draft strategy and tactics document for discussion in the regions.

The meeting also resolved that the matter of bona fide political prisoners still in jail should be dealt with both through the Currim Commission and, where necessary, through the direct intervention of the President.
ANC compromise in power struggle

A PLEDGE of support and loyalty to Premier Popo Molefe saves Rocky Malebane-Metsing from being axed

Molefe as a democratically elected leader of the province
"Despite the developments of the past week, I pledge my loyalty to the government Comrade Molefe leads and further commit myself to him and the provincial government," Malebane-Metsing declared.

Deepening crisis
President Mandela’s spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe said Malebane-Metsing’s dismissal was made official when Mandela and other top NEC members, including Deputy President Thabo Mbele, met Molefe in Broederstroom on Saturday to try and defuse the deepening crisis, which threatened to divide the organisation’s supporters in the region.

Netshitenzhe said Malebane-Metsing would be "accommodated elsewhere in the provincial executive".

ANC NEC member Jackson Mthembu said yesterday that the decision to keep Malebane-Metsing in the provincial executive had come as a result of his statement, pledging his support and loyalty to Molefe.

A statement from the North West provincial administration said Malebane-Metsing's dismissal would be revised "in a way of accommodating him in the structures of government".

The provincial administration said the Broederstroom meeting had resolved that Malebane-Metsing should ensure all unconstitutional and anti-Molefe activities were brought to an end.

Resolution of the feud in the region would be closely watched by the ANC’s leadership and the provincial executive committee.

The ANC’s top brass, including Minister of Sport Steve Tshwete, are expected to visit the organisation’s branches in the region this week.

Meeting ends North West feud
Conditions for Rocky’s reinstatement outlined

MARK ASHURT

SACKED Northwest minister Rocky Malebane-Metsing would have to disband “all unconstitutional and parallel structures” that had engaged in “anti-premier and anti-government activities” in the ANC’s provincial branch before he could be readmitted to the cabinet, premier Popo Molefe said yesterday.

The government had not identified a new post for Malebane-Metsing as there were no ministerial positions available in the cabinet, said Molefe’s spokesman, Mogometsi Mogodiri. A new ministerial post could not be created without constitutional changes.

Molefe warned that Malebane-Metsing’s public declaration on Friday of loyalty “was not enough to resolve the problem. Everything that undermines the government and the ANC should be brought to an end. This spirit is necessary to comply with the decision of the national executive committee (NEC).”

Malebane-Metsing’s “accommodation in the structures of the government excludes his reinstatement as the minister for agriculture.”

The decision by the ANC NEC that Malebane-Metsing should be given a cabinet position had created new problems, said sources in Mmabatho. “Constitutionally, it does not make sense,” one said.

ANC national spokesman Jackson Mthembu said there were several “supporting positions” which could be allocated to Malebane-Metsing.

An NEC delegation of Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel, Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, communications select committee chairman Saki Macozoma and ANC MP Gertrude Shope met the ANC provincial executive yesterday.
Conflict

Popo Molefe extends his hand

Premier wants to work for the good of the North West region

Thursday, November 29, 1994, South African

POLITICAL REPORTER

BY JOSE MCHIWA

To reconcile with Rodey?

CONFLICT

Popo Molefe extends his hand

Premier wants to work for the good of the North West region

Thursday, November 29, 1994, South African

POLITICAL REPORTER

BY JOSE MCHIWA

To reconcile with Rodey?
To show their commitment, the NPA last night sent Mr Steve Tshwete, also known as "Mr Fixit", and Mr Saki Macozoma, to persuade the province executive to accomodate Malebane-Metsing in their government.

However, the only compromise the province was prepared to consider was to have Malebane-Metsing remain as an ordinary member of the legislature.

He would also remain a member of the ANC.

However, there is a strong feeling within the ANC that he should be expelled from the organisation.

The regional ANC parliamentary caucus was unshaken in rejecting a recommendation that a special ministry be created to accommodate Malebane-Metsing in the North-West government.

This would mean he would continue to enjoy the benefits as a minister, defeating the whole idea of wanting to discipline him.

Sources within ANC laughed off as cheap propaganda suggestions that Molefe and Malebane-Metsing had reconciled and had actually been seen shaking hands and embracing.

This, said the ANC source, was conveniently made to boost the egos of the pro-Malebane-Metsing forces within the National Working Committee (NWC) and the National Executive Committee (NEC).

"The rumour that Pops Molefe and Malebane-Metsing had embraced and shaken hands is not true. This is the work of those who want to undermine the premier and may be having an interest in the matter because they have a score to settle with him," a source said.

"The point," continued the source, "is that the province has the prerogative in this matter.

"We think after consulting widely, the premier has exercised his mandate properly."

Whatever decision the NEC will arrive at, it is clear that it will be faced with the task of walking a tightrope trying to reconcile the irreconcilable.

Whatever recommendation the NWC makes, the final arbiter in the matter will be Molefe and his cabinet.

Molefe consulted extensively before sacking Malebane-Metsing.

Sources within Molefe's office have indicated that it would be hard to forgive a man such as Malebane-Metsing. He was "best on discrediting his premier, scheming with the enemy."

In this regard, sources said Malebane-Metsing used state funds to orchestrate such a campaign.

"Malebane-Metsing has employed several people with the sole intention of using them to discredit Molefe's government."

"Despite what those loyal to Malebane-Metsing are saying, this government will not bow to their pressure and rescind its decision to dismiss him," the source said.

However, what seems problematic is that a decision to fire Malebane-Metsing is that it is causing division within the organisation.

There were demonstrations in Mmabatho at which a call for Molefe's blood was made. This shows that Malebane-Metsing enjoys some support..."
ANC rebel 
Rocky to 
stay out 
in the cold 

Political Staff
SACKED North-West agriculture MEC Rocky Malebane-Metsing will stay out in the cold until he has proved his loyalty to the African National Congress and the regional government, say sources in the province.

This follows a meeting of the ANC provincial caucus and regional executive committee.

An ANC source said it had been decided that the "status quo"—Mr. Malebane-Metsing remaining an ordinary member of the legislature and the party—would remain until ANC activities "come to an end in the province."

The conduct of Mr. Malebane-Metsing and his supporters would be reviewed to decide whether he should be reinstated as a member of the regional cabinet.

However, North-West Premier Pogiso Molefe has insisted that Mr. Malebane-Metsing's "accommodation in the government excludes his reinstatement as the minister of agriculture."

The sources said there were no other posts in the cabinet at present for Mr. Malebane-Metsing and the speed of his return "is going to be determined by him and his supporters."

The decision by the provincial caucus appears to water down the NEC's recommendation that Mr. Malebane-Metsing should be accommodated in the regional cabinet after a public pledge of loyalty to Mr. Molefe.

However, a statement from Mr. Molefe's office said a "public statement was not enough to resolve the problem, or to comply with the decision of the National Executive Committee."
Malebane-Metsing campaign

A GROUP of people claiming to belong to Northwest ANC structures has begun a campaign to reinstate sacked provincial agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsing.

Addressing a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday, the group said they had embarked on this campaign to ensure that last year’s ANC NEC resolution for Northwest premier Popo Molefe to reinstate Malebane-Metsing was carried out.

"The people argue that if the premier can treat a leader so shabbily, how much worse will he treat ordinary people like them," group spokesman David Mogashoa said.

"Not only are people angry but the ANC in our region is divided, which means we cannot go to the local government, election as a strong ANC bloc," he said (266C).

However, he denied rumours that the NP and the African Christian Democratic Party were exploiting the division and gaining disenchanted members of the ANC.

The campaign, which will begin in Northwest, will include the holding of rallies and pickets.

The climax of the campaign will be a major rally in Mmabatho on January 23 when petitions will be handed to President Nelson Mandela.

Mogashoa, asked about speculation that Malebane-Metsing could be given a diplomatic posting, said the group would not allow him to leave the country as it would be seen as a victory for Molefe.

He also denied allegations that the Northwest people had refused to accept Molefe as their premier because he was not from the area.
Probe into ‘irregular’ R15.5-m Agribank loan

Johannesburg — The North-West government is investigating allegations of an irregular R15.5 million loan transaction made by the province’s Agribank while the bank was under the control of former MEC for agriculture Rocky Malebane-Metsing.

According to a report by finance weekly Finansies en Tegniek, Mr Malebane-Metsing allegedly used his influence to grant the loan without any securities or guarantees to a Norman Escoffery, who was allegedly sought for fraud in the United States.

The North-West government said in a statement preliminary investigations into the allegations "confirmed that the channels normally followed in processing applications of loans were not followed and thus irregular. Despite legal opinion given to senior Agribank officials against the granting of this loan, Mr Escoffery’s loan was still approved."

The government said it had appointed a high-powered investigating team to urgently probe and report its findings.

"The government commits itself to a transparent process in which all implicated parties will be brought to book."

According to the Finansies en Tegniek report, Mr Escoffery used the money to buy a bankrupt foodprocessing plant called North Hills farm, situated between Pretoria and Johannesburg. The company’s name was later changed to Liberty Foods.

Agribank, founded 15 years ago by the former Bophuthatswana government and private sector investors, was managed by a board of directors until last year’s April election, when it fell under the direct control of the new North-West government’s MEC for agriculture.

The bank was supposed to grant loans exclusively to farmers in the province.

According to Finansies en Tegniek, Mr Escoffery spent substantial amounts of money decorating his company’s offices and hosting a party attended by North-West and Mozambican VIPs.

He reportedly bought a house in Pretoria and a luxury German sedan.

Some of his money apparently came from a R3 million overdraft at First National Bank, which Agribank allegedly guaranteed.

Acting North West premier Johannes Tselapedi has admitted knowledge of the irregular grant, but had refused to say anything about Mr Malebane-Metsing’s alleged involvement.

Approached for comment, Mr Malebane-Metsing remained tightlipped except to say he would respond to the allegations later. — Sapa
Metsing’s ‘R15m loan’ probe

JOHANNESBURG – The North-West government yesterday said it was investigating allegations of an irregular R15.5 million loan made by the province's Agribank while under the control of former agriculture minister Mr Rocket Malebane-Metsing.

According to reports Mr Malebane-Metsung allegedly used his influence to grant the loan without any securities or guarantees to Mr Norman Escoffery, who was allegedly sought for fraud in the US.

The North-West government said in a statement preliminary investigations into the allegations “confirmed that the channels normally followed in processing applications for loans were not followed and thus irregular. Despite legal opinion given to senior (Agribank officials) against the granting of this loan, Mr Escoffery’s loan was still approved.”

The government said it had appointed an investigating team.

Mr Escoffery reportedly used the money to buy a bankrupt food processing plant called North Hills Farm between Pretoria and Johannesburg. The company’s name was later changed to Liberty Foods.

The bank was supposed to grant loans exclusively to farmers in the province. Agribank allegedly guaranteed his R3m overdraft at First National Bank. North-West Transport Minister Mr Johannes Tselapedi reportedly admitted knowledge of the irregular grant.
Northwest probes loan by Agribank

THE Northwest government announced yesterday that it was investigating an irregular loan of R15.5m by the Northwest parastatal Agribank to Jamaican businessman Norman Escoffery.

The loan was granted during the tenure of dismissed provincial agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsing. Agribank, which is closely linked to the ministry, finances agricultural development in the province.

The Northwest government said in a statement that the loan had been made available to Escoffery “despite legal opinion given to senior bank officials against the granting of this loan.”

Acting premier Johannes Tselaapedi, who succeeded Malebane-Metsing as agriculture minister in November, said he had spoken to Malebane-Metsing about the loan and “had no reason to doubt him, because he is my friend”.

An investigation into the loan was launched after some departmental staff had “started to sing”, said Tselaapedi. “The channels normally followed in processing applications of loans were not followed and were thus irregular.”

The investigation, reported in yesterday’s edition of Finansie en Tegniet, was made public just 45 hours after Malebane-Metsing announced his readiness to take up an ambassadorial posting.

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Loan BD 13/11/95 From Page 1

“I wouldn’t know whether Rocky was involved,” Tselaapedi said yesterday, but he admitted the timing of the investigation was sensitive. “If we comment too much on this issue, people will say that it is a fight (against Rocky).”

Malebane-Metsing said on Tuesday that President Nelson Mandela had offered him an ambassadorial posting to Europe. But the controversy over Allan Boesak’s appointment as UN ambassador had alerted him to the risk that political opponents of an ambassador designate could use the appointment to wage political battles.

Escoffery’s company, Liberty Foods, used the loan to purchase North Hills Farm in Gauteng province, which provides foodstuffs to the Woolworths retail chain. Tselaapedi could not say whether it was normal practice for Agribank to support developments outside the province.

Mandela’s office has not yet confirmed Malebane-Metsing’s claim that he had been offered an ambassadorship.
Sacked Rocky Malebane-Metsing at the centre of controversy involving R15.5-m

The sacked MEC for agriculture in North West Province, Rocky Malebane-Metsing, is at the centre of a new controversy that could also have political implications.

He is alleged to have granted an irregular loan of R15.5 million to a Jamaican businessman who is said to be wanted for fraud by police in America.

A statement by the North West government says a preliminary investigation has confirmed allegations, first made by the magazine, Finansies en Tegniek, that the loan was granted to Norman Escoffery by the province’s Agribank while it was under control of Malebane-Metsing as MEC.

The R15.5 million loan is alleged to have been granted under Malebane-Metsing’s influence as MEC without any securities or guarantees.

The company, Liberty Foods, is said to have used the money to buy a bankrupt food processing plant at North Hills Farm between Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Malebane-Metsing was dismissed last November by the North West Premier, Popo Molefe, who accused him of demonstrating "undemocratic tendencies" and being unco-operative.

The ANC’s national executive was drawn into the dispute and recommended that he be "accommodated" somewhere in the provincial government after he pledged loyalty to Molefe, but he has not yet been appointed to any position.
Agribbean's loan proposal, allegedly, had been recommended by the former economic adviser to the government but was not followed.

By Joshua Chirwa

News

Normal channels in processing loan applications not followed.

Rocky Road Malambe-Mwimba

Sakwala 16/11/96

[Image: A page from a document with some text and a photograph of a person.]

The government, through its loan processing mechanism, had allegedly recommended loan applications but they were not followed. The explanation for this was that the loan was recommended by the former economic adviser, who is alleged to have been influenced by the individual's personal relationship with high-ranking government officials.

The media reported that the loan was recommended by the former economic adviser, who has since been dismissed from his position.

The report also stated that the loan was approved but not processed, leading to allegations of corruption and mismanagement.

The government has denied the allegations, stating that they are baseless and unfounded.
North West wants to hold on to Bop network
FF claims allocations ‘unfair’

Municipal Reporter

SEATS on Cape Town’s Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC) and the councils below it had been allocated unfairly, chairman of the Freedom Front on the metro negotiating forum Mr Andries Breedt alleged yesterday.

But this was firmly denied by Mr Willie van Schoor, chairman of the statutory caucus of the Cape Metropolitan Negotiating Forum. He said the NP-dominated statutory caucus had taken decisions about seat allocations without giving enough consideration to minority parties.

Mr Van Schoor yesterday said the statutory caucus had to allocate seats to existing councils as well as to political organisations.
FORMER Northwest agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsing would return to the provincial cabinet as "special adviser" to premier Popo Molefe, the ANC said yesterday. (26/10)

This would conclude eight weeks of resistance by Molefe to pressures from the ANC national executive committee (NEC) to reinstate Malebane-Metsing.

The decision followed a meeting of both men with President Nelson Mandela and the Northwest ANC branch on Sunday. 16 days after the provincial government confirmed it was investigating an irregular

Loan of R15.5m made by Northwest para-

statal Agribank during Malebane-Metsing's tenure as minister. BD 23/15/95

ANC deputy secretary-general Cheryl Carolus told a news conference it would be "unproper and very unfair to pre-empt the investigation" by delaying Malebane-

Metsing's reinstatement. Molefe said investigations of the loan, made to a Jamaic-
nan businessman, were not directed "at Malebane-Metsing in particular".

The reinstatement would be monitored by an NEC task group and the Northwest ANC which would also ensure that "parallel structures" within the ANC allegedly set up by Malebane-Metsing's supporters were dismantled. Molefe previously insist-
ed Malebane-Metsing would not return to the provincial government before these structures had been disbanded. He urged the ANC to "define the parameters of the NEC's involvement in provincial govern-

ment to prevent future problems. Malebane-Metsing said the "reinstate

Rocky campaign" organised by his sup-

porters, which reportedly gathered 50,000 signatures, should be disbanded.

Molefe blamed tensions in the North-

west on the former "tyrannical régime" of Bophuthatswana. "People never had the opportunity to participate in the national organisational structures of the ANC."

Carolus said the contents of an NEC report compiled by ANC MPs Saki Maca-
zona and Sisster Bernard Nenehe, and SACP secretary-general Charles Nkubula into tensions in the province would not be disclosed because the ANC had guaranteed confidentiality to participants.

Sources said the report, raised by Man-

dela at Sunday's meeting, had criticised

the activities of Malebane-Metsing's sup-

porters and Molefe's style of leadership.

A preliminary version of the report had

been submitted to Mandela and Deputy-

President Thabo Mbeki in November, a

week before Malebane-Metsing's dismissal for allegedly undermining Molefe.

Mokhotla sources close to Molefe were

surprised by the appointment. "To be a

special adviser means you advise someone who has confidence in you," said one.

Attaching Malebane-Metsing to the pre-

mier's office would defuse concern that

the local government elections might split the provincial party.

Picture. Page 5
Ousted minister gets new post

Johannesburg. — Ousted North-West Agriculture Minister Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing has been appointed "special adviser" to provincial Premier Mr Popo Molefe, the ANC announced yesterday.

The appointment should conclude the feud between Mr Molefe and his former minister which has raged since late last year when Mr Molefe fired Mr Malebane-Metsing.

The decision was taken at an ANC meeting in Cape Town at the weekend, attended by President Nelson Mandela and two North-West representatives. — Sapa
FORMER North-West MEC for agriculture Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing has accepted the position of special adviser to premier Mr Popo Molefe, the African National Congress said yesterday.

ANC spokesman Mr Brian Hoga said the decision, which had the blessing of President Nelson Mandela, was taken in Cape Town in the presence of Malebane-Metsing and Molefe at the weekend.

Hoga said Malebane-Metsing accepted the appointment, and "in all probability understands the implications of having accepted this post." 24/11/95

Malebane-Metsing will still retain his position as Member of Parliament.

Political analysts believe the appointment will help defuse the internal squabbling that has been raging in the province since last November when Molefe fired Malebane-Metsing for insubordination.

People loyal to Malebane-Metsing last week established the Reinstate Rocky Malebane-Metsing Campaign, which to date has allegedly collected 80,000 signatures to back up its case. Hoga said the ANC hoped that the appointment would bring to an end the bickering in the region, and allow for a smooth and uninterrupted governance to prevail.

Malebane-Metsing was not available for comment yesterday.
Popo and Rocky make up after supremacy wrangles

Johannesburg — After almost three months of wrangling occasioned by personality clashes between North-West premier Popo Molefe and Rocky Malebane-Metsang, a political solution has been found: the former agriculture MEC will now become a "special adviser" in Molefe’s office.

The decision was announced yesterday in Johannesburg at a press conference attended by both men.

The ANC’s former national executive committee (NEC) ruled in November last year that Mr Malebane-Metsang should be accommodated in the North-West provincial government.

In terms of the accord, the RRC should end and its co-ordinating committee be dissolved, all structures operating outside the ANC constitution and organisational discipline should be disbanded, and neither man and his supporters should make press statements “with a view to attacking the integrity” of the other.

Mr Malebane-Metsang was fired by Molefe late last year, “in the interest of good government,” for allegedly undermining the premier’s leadership.
North West's Rocky offered adviser post

BY KAIZER NYATSUMBA
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

After almost three months of wrangling between Premier Popo Molefe and Rocky Malebane-Metsing in the North-West, a political solution has been found. The former Agriculture MEC will now become a "special adviser" in Molefe's office.

Announced at a press conference attended by both men in Johannesburg yesterday, this development follows a ruling by the ANC's former national executive committee in November that Malebane-Metsing should be accommodated in the provincial government.

The North-West government dragged its feet when it came to the implementation of the decision, and impatient supporters of the former Bophuthatswana QGP leader launched a Reinstatement Rocky Campaign (RRC) this month.

ANC deputy secretary-general Cheryl Carolus said the two men met President Mandela and senior ANC officials in Cape Town on Sunday.

The purpose of the meeting was "to find an urgent and long-lasting solution to the tensions in the province", to prevent potential instability in the area and to ensure that ANC members focused "on the urgent tasks facing the ANC-led Government of National Unity".

As special adviser, Malebane-Metsing will be able to make contributions to "deliberations of the executive council". Details of what has new position entail will be made public not later than Friday.

In terms of the accord, the RRC should end and its coordinating committee be dissolved "henceforth", all structures operating outside the ANC constitution and organisational discipline should be disbanded; and neither Malebane-Metsing nor Molefe or their supporters should ever make press statements "with a view to attacking the integrity" of the other.

"Any violation of the agreements reached at the meeting should be remedied with disciplinary action in terms of the ANC code of conduct," said a statement read by Carolus.

Molefe said the critical challenge facing the ANC was mobilising people for the local government elections in October, while Malebane-Metsing said the agreement was "in the interest of the organisation in the region".

Malebane-Metsing was fired by Molefe late last year for allegedly undermining the premier's leadership.
ABSAC and FNB land the North-West account

By JEFFERSON LENGANE

The North West Province's mechanisms to monitor the industrial relations, human relations and human resource development programmes of FNB and ABSA.

This announcement was made at the official appointment of FNB and ABSA as joint bankers of the North-West budget, estimated at R7.5 billion, in Mmabatho on Friday.

With effect from April 1 FNB will handle the Paymaster-General account and related banking accounts. The Revenue account and related accounts will be handled by ABSA.

"What we hope will emerge as a result of this appointment is to recognise sharply that the bank's public sphere—its customers, its suppliers, the community it serves, the natural environment, and its personnel, and its future, can be combined with its private aims successfully and profitably," said Gabriel Mokgoko, chairman of the North-West Tender Board.

The Province's MEC for Finance and Provincial Expenditure, Martin Kuscus, was emphatic that the banks should deliver on the impressive promises made in the tender that qualified them for the appointments.

"Proper and strong monitoring mechanisms will be in place. We will be watching you. We have your commitments on record and on tape. You have pledged billions of rands to the National Budget. We will be watching you — I am very serious," he said.

The banks are expected to play a pivotal role as instruments of change to redress the depressing socio-economic profile of the Province's inhabitants.

Kuscus said there was a need for careful management of financial resources and control in the provincial government.

"Changing the provincial system of government and especially financial management implies changing the total policy framework," he said.

Qualifying the appointments when answering questions from the media, Kuscus said, "FNB in particular have long been in the forefront of affirmative action, challenging the apartheid government. Although it may seem a joke, they were the first bank to appoint 'coloured' tellers.

With regard to ABSA, he said that because of its Afrikaans background, it reflected the diversity of the Province, and in the spirit of reconciliation called for by President Mandela, this would go a long way.

Reports reached City Press that FNB had been awarded the KwaZulu/Natal Account.
Malebane-Metsing's loans investigated

The Office for Serious Economic Offences was investigating the activities of former Northwest agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsing and certain Agri Bank officials, his successor, Johannes Tselapeli, said yesterday.

Malebane-Metsing was among those whose activities were being investigated in connection with granting a R16.6m loan to a foreign businessman, Tselapeli said.

However, a spokesman for the Serious Economic Offences Office would not confirm that Malebane-Metsing was being investigated.

Tselapeli said the matter had been referred to the Skwevya commission. His department would ask for the liquidation of Liberty Foods, which had been linked to allegedly irregular Agri Bank loans.

The bank was reported to have granted a R16.6m loan to Liberty Foods owner Norman Escoffre, whom police said was in custody on charges of being in SA illegally.

— Sapa.
Rocky under investigation

JOHANNESBURG — The Office for Serious Economic Offences is investigating former North West agricultural minister Mr Rocky Malebane-Mathe and certain Agri Bank officials.

This is according to the region's new agricultural minister, Mr Johannes Tsolapeli. Mr Malebame-Mathe is being investigated in connection with the granting of a R16.6 million loan. — Sapa
Malebane-Metsing linked to R14m loan

MARK ASHURST

Liberty Foods in September, has been detained by the police investigation unit since February 3 as an illegal immigrant. Liberty Foods' principal client, Woolworths, indicated on February 9 that it could no longer trade with the firm.

The affidavits, which are dated 1st July, were based on a provincial government inquiry into the loan, which included a letter of reference, signed by Malebane-Metsing, which describes Escoffery as the chairman of a reputable American company.

Former agriculture department director-general John Lamola is cited in the affidavits as conveying instructions from Malebane-Metsing to Agribank's former executive officer, Rod Cusens, to expedite the R14m loan to Escoffery.

Lamola is quoted as instructing Cusens to "confirm the loan is used for the purchase of North Hills Farm and that I should have been informed of the loan's status."  The affidavits also record Cusens' statement that he was "concerned about the lack of time granted" to investigate the loan.

To Page 2

Malebane-Metsing

Friday that Northwest agriculture minister Johannes Twelapeli was not entitled to bring the application to liquidate Liberty Foods on Agribank's behalf, and postponed the case until February 23 to allow a new board of directors to bring the application.

Escoffery has paid one instalment of R250 000 on the loan, which was subsequently increased to R16.8m. A second payment was not honoured by the bank.

Escoffery denies government's claim that the loan was "irregular", since the 1981 Agricultural Bank of South Africa Act, which lays down the procedure for granting loans, was being used.

He claims it is now invalid.

Malebane-Metsing, who was fired by Northwest premier Popo Molefe in November, returned to the provincial cabinet as Molefe's "special adviser" last month following intervention by the ANC national executive committee.
A new scandal has surfaced in the Northwest province involving the purchase of R110m worth of school books by a man said to have been posing as an education department secretary.

Department sources said at the weekend Prof A Labuschagne allegedly acted without authorisation from the department in ordering R110m worth of school textbooks for the province. He was also accused of drawing up a blacklist of publishing firms which had questioned the procedures he had been following.

Northwest education director-general Job Mekgoro on Thursday launched an investigation into the matter, the sources said. It would probe alleged irregularities in the purchase and distribution of school textbooks by Labuschagne, who had sent letters to various school book publishers claiming to be the acting secretary of education. Labuschagne was last week barred from entering the department's premises.

Education department specialist services director Noah Lebuba said Labuschagne had never been acting secretary, nor was he a government official. Education assistant director-general Danny Thiosele said the only role Labuschagne had performed for the department was adviser to its strategic management team, which was disbanded in December.

The department's public relations officer, Keletsetse Seroetsane, said there appeared to be some financial irregularities in the book purchases allegedly authorised by Labuschagne.

The Publishers' Association of SA on Friday sent a letter to Northwest education minister Mamokoa Gaorathelele outlining allegations against Labuschagne. Association chairman Stephen Johnson alleged Labuschagne had threatened to blacklist several publishers when they had asked him to clarify certain orders.

"One tenderer asked Labuschagne for clarification on a book order but this resulted in the R880 000 tender being given immediately to another individual in direct contravention of Tender Board regulations. Another publisher who queried procedures was threatened with permanent blacklisting if he persisted with his queries," Johnson said in the letter.

Several publishers who had dealings with Labuschagne declined to be named or comment for fear of reprisals following the blacklisting threats.

Johnson said more than half the successful tenderers were not recognised book dealers with credit records. One of the tenderers, M Aaron of Education and Stationery Services, was previously an em-
JOHANNESBURG — Former North-West Agriculture Minister Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing announced yesterday that he had laid charges of attempted murder or conspiracy to murder against the province's premier Mr Popo Molefe.

Mr Malebane-Metsing said at a press conference here that the charges were laid with police on Sunday after he and his former special adviser in the Department of Agriculture, Dr John Lamola, had obtained evidence of an alleged plot to assassinate them.

Mr Malebane-Metsing said he had briefed President Nelson Mandela on the issue last week and discussed it with ANC leaders yesterday morning.

Until he received a report from police on their investigations he would not resume his official duties as special adviser to the premier — the position he was given after being ousted as minister.

"There have been press articles in the past few weeks about me but I did not have the opportunity to respond because at the time we were busy following sensitive leads from informants that our lives were in danger.

"After some consultations, mainly with President Mandela, we decided to take the allegations to the police, and from the evidence in our possession we believe the matter should be investigated so that the truth can come out."

He said he had no "conclusive evidence" of any death plot. However, the evidence he had was in the hands of the police, who felt it warranted investigation — Sapa
Plot to kill
Rocky alleged

By Joe Mdlalela
Political Reporter

FORMER MEC for agriculture in the North-West government, Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsung, has laid a charge of alleged attempted murder against Premier of the region Mr Pops Molefe. The alleged plot to assassinate Malebane-Metsung also involves Dr John Lamola, former personal secretary of Malebane-Metsung, while the latter was in charge of the ministry of agriculture.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Protea Garden Hotel in Johannesburg yesterday, Malebane-Metsung said the alleged plot to assassinate him should be seen against a broader political plan calculated to demoralise him in the region.

He said they did not have conclusive evidence of the alleged plot. "It is for the police to prove these allegations in a court of law," Malebane-Metsung said.

"I have fully briefed President Mandela about these threats to my life. I also briefed the ANC and they have given me the go-ahead to report the matter to the police," he said.

While the threats to his life persist, Malebane-Metsung said he would not assume his new role as advisor to Molefe.

By his own admission, Malebane-Metsung has not been to parliament to assume his official duties because of these threats to my life.

Top-ranking police in Potchefstroom are investigating the charges, said Malebane-Metsung.

Neither Molefe nor Lamola could not be reached for comment at the time of going to press.

Molefe is due to address a media conference at his office this morning at 11h00 responding to allegations made by Malebane-Metsung.
Police 'know nothing' about Rocky’s claim

FORMER Northwest agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsang claimed yesterday he was under police protection after laying a charge of conspiracy to murder against Northwest premier Popo Molefe.

But police spokesman Lt Louis Jacobs said “no such complaint” had been registered at the Potchefstroom police station where Malebane-Metsang claimed to have laid the charge.

He was not aware of police protecting Malebane-Metsang.

The claim follows a spate of stories about Malebame-Metsang in the Press, including allegations that he sexually harassed his wife, Uys, former wife of an AWB Ystergarde member.

Malebane-Metsang told a media briefing in Johannesburg: “There are too many distortions which appear in the Press . . . intended to masquerade the public, while there is a serious plot against me.

“It would be improper of me to continue to keep quiet while these allegations are being made.”

Uys is a witness in the Northwest government inquiry into an irregular loan of R16.4m by Northwest parastatal Agribank. That was made during Malebame-Metsang’s tenure as agriculture minister.

Former Northwest agriculture depart-

MENT director-general John Lamola, who has said also that his life is in danger, said that Uys was being manipulated by provincial ministers.

She had approached Lamola in October, volunteering to disclose information about AWB activities to the ANC.

But subsequent allegations about Malebane-Metsang in the Afrikaans Press, attributed to Uys, led Lamola to suspect an assassination plot. That would be disguised as the work of the AWB, Lamola said.

Malebane-Metsang said: “This particular plot must be read into broader political developments in the province.” He would not assume his position as special adviser to Molefe before a police investigation was completed, he said.

He had briefed President Nelson Mandela on “the seriousness of the allegations” last week, and consulted national ANC leaders Walter Sisulu, Jacob Zuma and Cheryl Carolus before yesterday’s media briefing: “We received their blessing that this matter be handed over to the police.”

Government sources said Mandela and M-. . . “were not treating the matter only at all”. They had discussed the allegations at the weekend.
Natico wants Bop, asset

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stripping put on hold

Ltt after Reconstituting Co-operative plans to

business day, Tuesday, February 21, 1996
Rocky lays charges against premier

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

Rocky Malebane-Metsing, the sacked North-West MEC for agriculture, has laid charges of attempted murder and conspiracy to murder against the province's premier, Popo Moele.

He told a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday that he and Dr John Lamola, a former senior executive at Agribank, had laid the charges with the Potchefstroom police.

Malebane-Metsing was sacked by Moele in November. After the ANC intervened, he was appointed a "special adviser" in the premier's office.

In a radio interview this morning, Moele said the allegations were ridiculous. His office has said he will respond formally to the allegations at a press conference today.

Malebane-Metsing claims evidence about the plot was given to President Nelson Mandela a week ago and that the ANC's national chairman, Mpho Mokola, and deputy secretary-general, Cheryl Carolus, have been briefed.

...
Inquiry
R1.5m loan
‘not legal’

MMBATHO. — Former North-West agriculture minister Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing acted in disregard of the law when he instructed the province’s Agribank to grant a R15.5 million loan to Liberty Foods Manufacturing.

This finding was made public by the internal commission of inquiry launched by the North-West department of agriculture into the transaction which took place last year.

The office of North-West Premier Mr Popo Molefe said the government had referred the matter to the Office for Serious Economic Offences.

Mr Molefe said he accepted Mr Malebane-Metsing’s resignation. He also denied allegations that he was behind a plot to murder Mr Malebane-Metsing.

Mr Malebane-Metsing did not give evidence to the commission. — Sapa
Mandela steps into Rockey-Popo row

By Joe Makela

Wednesday February 22 1995

The ANC has confirmed that President Mandela will address the press on the alleged plot...
Blockades at six Spar shops

SIX Spar outlets in the Gauteng region were blockaded by groups of protesters claiming to be members of the SA Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union yesterday.

In each incident the protesters attempted to gain access to stores and at the same time blocked the entrances. In some cases the stores were able to close the doors before the groups could gain access, a Spar spokesman said.

The Norwood store was the only one affected by violence, but this happened when store security attempted to stop the workers from obstructing the entrance.

Co-owner Ashley Cato said the store was allegedly assaulted and property slightly damaged.

The SA Police Services arrested a number of people and the owners have laid charges of trespassing, assault and damage to property.

These incidents at Spar outlets came in the wake of President Nelson Mandela's warning last week that the government would not tolerate disruptive behaviour by striking workers.

The union was still investigating which parties were involved and whether this was an attempt to discredit and destabilize the union, a union spokesman said.

ANC leaders call Rocky to account

THE ANC national leadership will summon Rocky Malebane-Metsing today to account for the charge of conspiracy to murder he filed against Northwest premier Popo Molefe.

ANC national spokesperson Jackson Mthembu said party leaders had not been informed of Malebane-Metsing's intention to make his allegations public. It was "likely" he would be asked to meet the ANC's "top six" today, said Mthembu.

At a Minawato news conference, Molefe denied the allegations, describing them as "preposterous".

Police later confirmed that Malebane-Metsing registered the charge yesterday. This was contrary to Malebane-Metsing's claim that the charge was laid on Sunday. Police had received only a letter from his lawyers asking them to lay a charge.

Yesterday sources in the Northwest government were confident Malebane- Metsing's political career in the province was drawing to a close. The ANC national leadership had "finally realised Rocky is a problem", said one.

Congress spokesman Mthembu said: "He has been less than frank. He did not indicate that he was going to hold a Press conference. He was asked to take the matter to the police to investigate the veracity of the allegations because he did not provide tangible evidence."

Malebane-Metsing claimed on Monday that ANC leaders Cheryl Carolus, Jacob Zuma and Walter Sisulu had "given their blessing" to a police investigation of his allegations at a meeting that day.

However, sources said President Nelson Mandela had resolved at a meeting with Molefe on Saturday that Malebane-Metsing should step down voluntarily before an inquiry into an irregular loan of R18.4m, granted by Northwest parastatal Agribank during his tenure as minister, was made public. Malebane-Metsing's decision to make public his allegations could have been an attempt to avert this. Monday's news conference was called before he met ANC leaders.

Molefe was confident the ANC would take appropriate action at its meeting today: "We should allow for internal processes within the ANC to deal with the matter in terms of the (party) constitution."

He denied that Malebane-Metsing had a strong popular following in the province. "The NDC thought so, I didn't. I have been making this analysis since before the election. There has been a lot of playing to the gallery and the television."

Sapa reports from Minawato that an internal commission of inquiry launched by the Northwest agriculture department found yesterday that Malebane-Metsing had acted in disregard of the law when he instructed the province's Agribank to grant a loan to Liberty Foods.

The commission found the loan had been irregular and that Malebane-Metsing had acted "in disregard of the law and (Agribank) procedures" when he instructed the bank to grant the loan.

The money was lent to Liberty Foods Manufacturing to buy North Hills farm, situated between Johannesburg and Pretoria, which was about to be auctioned.

The commission found that further amounts had been advanced to Liberty Foods, resulting in a debt of R17.4m plus guarantees of R3.1m.
Rocky denies ordering illegal loan

PRETORIA. — Former North-West agriculture minister Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsung yesterday denied unlawfully instructing Agribank to grant a R15.5 million loan to Liberty Foods Manufacturing. He also disputed a claim that he had declined to testify before a provincial inquiry “I do not accept the conclusion of this inquiry and it is a blatant lie that I was ever invited to testify.”

The commission on Tuesday found that Mr Malebane-Metsung acted “in disregard of the law and (Agribank) procedures.”

North-West Premier Mr Popo Molefe’s office has referred the matter to the Office of Serious Economic Offences. — Sapa
A SENIOR police officer said yesterday that North-West MEC for safety and security Mr Satish Roopa had told police he was worried about the safety of former MEC Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsang.

Malebane-Metsang this week accused North-West premier Mr Popo Molefe of conspireing to kill him and his (Malebane-Metsang's) former special adviser Dr John Lamola.

Western Transvaal acting regional police commissioner Brigadier Iraj Smalman said yesterday "The MEC for safety and security has in the past mentioned to me that he was concerned about Mr Malebane-Metsang's safety."

He said police had received a statement on Malebane-Metsang's charger on Tuesday. Allegations of attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder were being investigated by experienced detectives led by detective branch chief Brigadier AT Merrag.

Smalman said Roopa had been fully briefed on the case and was determined that the investigation be completed as soon as possible — Sapa.
**Rocky may be charged, quit ANC**

(26/L) 5/5/23

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

Former North-West MEC Rocky Malebane-Metsing might face criminal and civil charges as well as expulsion from the ANC.

Sources within the ANC told The Star that Malebane-Metsing, who met ANC leaders yesterday, would be told to resign or be fired if he could not account satisfactorily for his actions.

The ANC, sources said, was upset that Malebane-Metsing had been less than frank with the ANC leadership, including President Mandela, when he met them earlier this week.

He did not tell the leadership he was laying charges against Popo Molefe and that he would be holding a press conference, the sources said.

Malebane-Metsing and a friend, Dr John Lamola, met Mandela, Ramaphosa, ANC deputy president Thabo Mbeki and Carolus in Johannesburg yesterday.

An internal commission of inquiry found Malebane-Metsing had acted unlawfully in instructing Agricbank to grant a R15,5 million loan to Jamaican businessman Norman Escoffery.

Escoffery was placed under provisional liquidation by the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday.

The findings of the inquiry suggest Malebane-Metsing could face criminal charges.
FORMER North-West MEC for agriculture Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing has declined to testify before an internal commission of inquiry into a R15.5 million Agribank loan to Liberty Foods Manufacturing Company.

A statement from North-West premier Mr Popo Molefe’s office confirmed this yesterday.

The inquiry instituted by Malebane-Metsing’s successor the Rev Johannes Tselapedi found that the R15.5 million loan was irregular and that the former MEC “in disregard for the law and procedure”, instructed Agribank to grant the loan to Liberty Foods.

The commission also found that further amounts were advanced to Liberty Foods resulting in the indebtedness of R17.3 million plus guarantees of R2.1 million. The statement said a number of Agribank employees was implicated in these transactions and that this was not only irregular but also bordered on crime.

The provincial government has since referred the matter to the serious economic offences unit attached to the Attorney-General’s office.

The commission also has to find out whether instructions were given to Agribank employees by senior government officials and, if so, whether there were any suspicions or proof that these officials were in any way “involved” in Liberty Foods or with any directors of the company.
Rocky could face charges
Mr Metsing and Dr Lamola are granted an audience with President Nelson Mandela. They duly announce to the president that they have uncovered an assassination plot by Mr Molefe against them.

A spokesman for the president presents at that meeting saying: "The president found the whole thing very amusing."

Mr Mandela then asks if they have any evidence. The men say they have a letter from Mr Molefe’s office authorising their murder. The meeting ends and Mr Metsing promises to return with the letter.

On Friday, during an interview with the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation, Dr Lamola says a senior North West government official is trying to kill him and Mr Metsing.

The next day Mr Molefe calls Mr Metsing, who denies any knowledge of the plot.

But on Monday he calls a press confer-

chiefstrom police station on Sunday.

Acting police commissioner Brigadier Lucky Mogapi Sekame says, however, a charge of attempted murder was laid at the Klerksdorp police station, and only on Tuesday.

Mr Molefe says he is “shocked and hurt” by Mr Metsing’s allegation, but he is prepared to help the police with their investigations.

“This is a very amateurish way of trying to bemirch my image and that of my government. It’s an act of desperation and an attempt to shift the public’s focus from the real issues,” Mr Molefe says.

The province’s director-general, Job Moguro, says the “Rocky show” is slowly sapping the morale of the civil service.

“This matter is terribly annoying and frustrating. We are trying to create a stable environment and this matter has damaged the image of this government.”
Rocky loses top North-West post

By Vuyo Bavuma
Political Reporter

THE ANC’s national executive committee yesterday decided that the appointment of Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsang as a special adviser to North-West premier Mr Popo Molefe be rescinded.

Instead, the committee recommended after a two-day meeting in Cape Town that the former North-West MEC for agriculture face disciplinary action for claiming that Molefe had plotted to assassinate him.

It also condemned the Inkatha Freedom Party’s walkout from Parliament, describing it as “brinkmanship that is not calculated to present a positive picture internally and externally of growing national stability in South Africa”.

The committee said the escalating violence in Natal needed to be dealt with effectively.

It also appointed a disciplinary committee to deal with allegations concerning the conduct of some of its members, including Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Mrs Winnie Mandela and Mr Peter Mokaba.

On the crisis within the ANC Women’s League, the ANC’s NEC resolved that the league should meet immediately to resolve it and that those who failed to turn up at the meeting be penalised.

On labour relations, the committee re-affirmed its unequivocal support for procedural strikes.

The NEC also unanimously supported President Nelson Mandela’s firm stance against lawlessness and anarchy in the country. It said the taking of hostages and damage to property to draw attention to grievances would be dealt with firmly.
North-West's Rocky Road

...
Ramphele provokes wrath of workers
By DAN DHLAMINI

THE alleged lack of transparency in the procedure followed in the re-employment of Vuyiswa Ramphele by the North West government’s Ministry of Agriculture has caused concern among workers and followers of former MEC for agriculture Rocky Malebanel-Metsing.

A spokesman for the workers, who wished to remain anonymous, said it was surprising that while they had been told that they would be re-trenched due to rationalisation, Ramphele was reappointed without any explanation.

The workers’ spokesman also claimed that despite having received her package when she resigned, Ramphele was now demanding that the department of human resources back-date her salary from that date.

However, City Press could not verify this allegation because Ramphele said her lawyers had advised her not to comment.

The Ministry of Agriculture also chose to remain silent on the issue.

Ramphele resigned her post last year amid a cloud of controversy, claiming that the then MEC for agriculture, Malebanel-Metsing, had sexually harassed her.

At that time Dr John Lamola, who was the acting secretary in the department of agriculture, dismissed Ramphele’s allegations, saying that she had been used in a political power struggle.
Top pay for Butchello's adviser

Boosack back in line

Longhorn could cost 27.4 t. a yard

JoAnnense: No fancy

FOR SENIOR POST

MANAGER: N.W.V. to act

TODAY'S EDITION

MONDAY, OCT. 28

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Mangoepe to be sued for R5-million

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

The North West government is to institute legal proceedings to recover more than R5-million from former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope.

The move follows recommendations of the Skweyinya Commission of Inquiry into alleged corruption in the former homeland.

The Star is in possession of a confidential interim report from the commission to the North West government, in which the commission found that Mangope used State funds to acquire personal assets and pay for improvements to his Motswedi, Zeerust, home.

The commission’s interim report was tabled in the province’s executive council last week.

The office of Premier Popo Molefe said the executive council had resolved to put in motion a process to recover the State funds from some assets which the provincial government had the legal power to...

Mangope R5-m suit

From Page 1 Star 25/4/95

The commission has advised that the State attorney be instructed to recover the money.

The commission also found that:

- £518,150,35 was spent on putting up a shopping centre owned by Mangope at Lehutsehe, outside Zeerust. The centre was built after the establishment of “Bopape 10 Projects”, which were paid for from the National Security Council Funds.
- R4,4 million was spent on improvements to Mangope’s Motswedi residence. The commission found that the expenditure had been effected through the suspense account of the finance departmen...
North West should get back ‘loan’

By JOVIAL RANTAO

The North West provincial government has won a court battle to liquidate the company owned by Jamaican businessman Norman Escoffery in a bid to recover a R15-million “irregular” loan awarded to him by Agribank last year.

In an interview, North West Premier Popo Molefe told The Star that it seemed as if the province could recover the R15-million from selling assets of Liberty Foods, the company set up by Escoffery.

“We’re in the process of getting liquidators to dispose of the assets. From their value, it looks as if we will be able to recoup all the money loaned to the Jamaican,” Molefe said.

Escoffery was awarded the loan by Agribank after the bank received a letter from dismissed Agriculture MEC Rocky Malebane-Metsing. After he was dismissed, the North West government instituted legal proceedings to recover the money.

An inquiry into the transaction found that normal procedures of granting loans had been ignored when Escoffery was granted the loan. The loan is a subject of an investigation by the Pretoria-based Office for Serious Economic Offences.

The Star understands that Vuyisile Ramphele, the Agritex employee who resigned after making allegations of sexual harassment against Malebane-Metsing, has been re-employed in the Department of Agriculture. Staff at the department confirmed that she had been re-engaged.
Rocky resigns from ANC to form own party

Nomawanda Mathiane

FORMER Northwest agriculture minister Rocky Malebane-Metsing, who was suspended from the ANC last week, resigned from the organisation yesterday to form a new party and said he would contest the local government elections.

While Northwest premier Popo Molefe's staff met last night to discuss Malebane-Metsing's position as a member of the province's legislature, the ANC announced that he had disqualified himself from the legislature Molefe was out of the country and unavailable for comment.

At Brits' town hall, Malebane-Metsing said he had been vilified and slandered by a clique in the ANC hierarchy.

Malebane-Metsing was fired as the provincial agriculture minister last year after intervention by the ANC's top structures he was appointed personal adviser to Molefe in January. Last week he was sus-

Continued on Page 2

Rocky to form own party

Continued from Page 1

spected from the ANC for a year.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the party would not prevent anyone leaving the ANC to pursue personal political ambitions. He rejected suggestions that the decision to suspend Malebane-Metsing was attributable to undemocratic tendencies in the movement. Malebane-Metsing knew the decision to suspend him had been made by the ANC's national disciplinary committee with a mandate from ANC constitutional structures.

The committee found Malebane-Metsing had not only brought the ANC into disrepute but had failed to abide by the provisions of the constitution and the party's internal disciplinary standards. He had defied ANC leaders' directives in his handling of disputes in Northwest.

Malebane-Metsing said he would hold a consultative conference later this month to work out his party's policy. He told a håll full of supporters he had resigned from the ANC because it had lost the image and structural basis for being a rallying ground for those who loved freedom and justice. The test of his popularity would be the local government elections.

He was supported by ANC Luka branch chairman Steve Mputle, who also resigned from the party yesterday. Mputle blamed Molefe for disunity in the ANC. "Today, ANC followers are labelled either 'Popo's men' or 'Rocky's men.' People who fought to depose Lucas Mangope... have been marginalised," Mputle said.
New party to oppose ANC

Rocky blames ‘cabal’ for exit

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

The former agriculture MEC for North West, Rocky Malebane-Metsing, has resigned from the ANC to form his own party.

He served on the national executive committee of the ANC. At a press conference in Brits yesterday he blamed a “cabal” that has gained control of the ANC for marginalising “popular” leaders such as himself.

Malebane-Metsing was suspended last week by the ANC national disciplinary committee for violating the party’s code of conduct.

He was removed from the post of agriculture MEC in North West last year by the premier, Popo Molefe, who accused him of attempting to undermine his administration. But the ANC central organisation intervened, and Malebane-Metsing promised to cooperate with Molefe, which apparently did not happen, leading to last week’s suspension of his membership for a year.

In Brits yesterday, he said his new party would be made up primarily of disgruntled ANC branches, sub-regions and complete regions.

And they would contest the November 1 local government elections in opposition to the ANC.

He said he and his followers could not allow themselves to be permanently paralysed by the ANC’s flagrant violation of democracy, comradeship and justice.

He dismissed speculation that he would revive the People’s Progressive Party he led during the days of the Bophuthatswana homeland when he attempted a rebellion against that administration led by Lucas Mangope. Nor would he ally himself to Mangope’s own new party, the United Democratic People’s Party, he said.
Rocky now also loses his provincial seat.

JOHANNESBURG: Former North-West Minister for Agriculture Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing, who resigned from the ANC earlier this week, has lost his seat as an ordinary member of the provincial legislature, acting North-West Premier Mr Zacharia Tolo announced yesterday.

Mr Tolo said in accordance with Act 200 of the Internal Constitution Mr Malebane-Metsing automatically ceased to be a member of the legislature when he resigned from the ANC.

He expected the ANC, which appointed Mr Malebane-Metsing to the seat, to fill the vacancy.

In Brits yesterday, Mr Malebane-Metsing said the new party would be made up primarily of disgruntled ANC branches, regions and spib-regions. Also, they would contest the November 1 local government elections in opposition to the ANC.
A THREATENED split in the Free State ANC has arisen over the sacking this week of housing MEC Vax Mayekiso by Premier Patrick Lekota.

Several prominent members of the ANC are supporting Mayekiso, whom Lekota fired for allegedly using his office to enrich himself.

Among Mayekiso's supporters are Free State ANC chairperson Pat Matosa and Welkom chairperson Thanduxolo Khaliapa, who represent the most powerful ANC branch in the province. They have demanded that the inquiry which had originally been considered by the premier be instituted.

ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa was expected to travel to the province this week in a bid to defuse the situation, Khaliapa said.

Lekota said when dismissing Mayekiso that after consultation with legal advisers he had decided against an inquiry.

Lekota said that he saw no reason why he should appoint a commission of inquiry because documents he had "proved that Mayekiso was guilty".

He said he had acted in terms of the constitution, which states that no member of the executive council should use their position for personal gain.

The storm in the province started after a Welkom filling station owner complained to the premier that Mayekiso was allegedly using his office to enrich himself.

The businessman, R J Nkomo, alleged that Mayekiso and ABTOCSA, a taxi body, were pressuring him to sell them his BP garage, and that Mayekiso's wife, Nondumiso, was a guarantor for R50,000 towards the purchase of the garage.

Matosa told City Press that Mayekiso's sacking was unprocedural.

He said although Lekota had ruled out a commission of inquiry, an ANC inquiry would be held to look into allegations against Mayekiso and its findings would be binding.

ANC spokespeople said they would not comment on the matter.

ANC members of Parliament are discussing the ANC leadership, the government and the premier.
9 North West ANC members to join Malebane-Metsing

By DAN DHLAMINI

NINE prominent North West ANC members this week joined Rocky Malebane-Metsing in a shock move that will see the birth of a new party in the politics of the troubled region.

They are Brits ANC chairman Leonard Brown, ANC Rustenburg-Luka's sub-region secretary Titus Mpule, Pretoria businessman Amnis Osmon, Hartebeesfontein TLC member Advocate Petrus van der Eende, ANC MP Rebecca Kasienvane of Taung, Chief James Toto, Chief Bosman Ramokoka of Ramokokastad, ANC Madikwe region chairman Reuben Molefe and ANC Otosdal sub-region organiser Johannes Mthophi.

Malebane-Metsing's right-hand man, Dr Malesela Lamola, this week told City Press that 23 other disgruntled ANC members, including an MP serving in the National Assembly, have already aligned themselves with the idea of forming a new party.

Lamola, a doctor of theology, said a forum had been formed and he had been appointed the convener. He said people's forums would be held where the public could discuss a name for the party, its ideology and its form.

There would be rallies to announce the new party this weekend at the Jericho and Mabolokota settlements in Brits and at Kuruman in the Northern Cape, said Lamola.

A full forum meeting would be held in Mmabatho tomorrow to discuss whether the party should operate provincially or nationally, said Lamola.

He denied that they would revive the People's Progressive Party or join forces with Lucas Mangope's United Christian Democratic Party.

The ANC's disciplinary committee suspended Malebane-Metsing after finding him guilty of contravening the party's code of conduct following his clashes with Molefe.

This week the North West Legislature announced Malebane-Metsing had been expelled from the NW government and would no longer be paid.

Acting premier Zacharia Tolo said the NW government expected the ANC — under whose banner Malebane-Metsing had been elected to the legislature — to fill the vacant seat.

Malebane-Metsing, alias "The Eagle" this week announced his resignation from the ANC, claiming the party had been taken over by a cabal working against its popular leaders and said he would form his own political party.

The former North West MEC for Agriculture was relieved of his post by Molefe in November last year following his alleged involvement in a R15 million loan scam at Agribank.

He still faces a civil suit in which his former employee Vuyiswa Ramphelo is demanding more than R1 million for alleged sexual harassment.
Mdlalose’s boycott decision slammed

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — ANC and NP KwaZulu/Natal cabinet members criticised premier Frank Mdlalose for his unilateral decision to boycott the inter-governmental forum, and warned that key decisions would be taken without the province.

ANC roads and transport minister Sibusiso Ndebele said the ANC was "shocked" and "deeply disturbed" that Mdlalose had taken the decision without consulting the provincial cabinet.

"In 1999, Verwoerd took SA out of the Commonwealth against the wishes of the majority of white people. Here, Inkatha is taking us out of the forum against the wishes of the majority in the province."

Mdlalose made the announcement on Tuesday, after a cabinet meeting.

Inkatha housing and local government minister Peter Miller said Mdlalose had not contacted him either and he was uncertain whether he was now barred from attending forum meetings where "important" issues related to his portfolio would be discussed.

Inkatha sources said Mdlalose acted on orders from Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the decision could be a bargaining chip as talks with the ANC got under way to break the deadlock over international mediation. Some observers speculated that the decision indicated that Inkatha was not optimistic that talks with the ANC would break the deadlock over international mediation.

NP agriculture minister George Barnard said he planned to attend a forum meeting convened by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal in Cape Town today, and he would object strongly if Mdlalose ordered him not to do so.

The issue (for discussion) is rural development. "It is too urgent an issue to be messed around with like this," said Barnard. "If we are not there, other provinces will go ahead and we will remain behind."

Ndebele said the ANC would ask national ministers to allow the three ANC provincial ministers to continue sitting in forum meetings, but to take account of the fact that views expressed were not those of the entire government.

Mdlalose said on Tuesday the decision to suspend participation in the inter-governmental forum had been taken because of central government's failure to assign powers to KwaZulu/Natal, and because of the ANC's failure to honour the agreement on international mediation.

Meyer said Mdlalose was making an error of judgment on the issue of assigning powers to provinces.

Molefe downplays Malebane-Metsing's resignation

Kevin O'Grady

NORTHEASTern premier Pato Molefe, returning yesterday from a trip abroad, played down the resignation from the ANC of his former agriculture minister and provincial MP, Rocky Malebane-Metsing from the ANC.

"Soon after arriving at Johannes- burg International Airport, Molefe said it was 'proper for the ANC to act decisively' in suspending Malebane-Metsing from the party for allegedly undermining him.

Malebane-Metsing resigned and announced he would form a new political party soon after his suspension by the ANC.

However, it was "unfortunate that he has resigned as he should know that the prestige of the ANC is such that people seeking to make a meaningful contribution would do so as part of it," Molefe said.

It was Malebane-Metsing's democratic right to form another political party to contest the local government election against the ANC, but he hoped he would put provincial interests first, Molefe said.

Molefe also gave details of a twinning agreement made between Northwest and the Canadian province of Manitoba during his trip.

The agreement, to be ratified when Manitoba premier Gary Filmon visited Northwest later this year, stems from mutual interests in mining, agriculture, tourism, rural development and fiscal relations, Molefe said.
Thousands of new jobs coming up

By Josias Charle

THE North-West government is planning to create about 200,000 jobs in the next five years as part of the national public works programme.

This was announced yesterday by public works minister Mr Jeff Radebe, during a tour of projects in the North-West province.

Radebe said it was expected that 20,000 jobs would be created in the next fiscal year.

"We have established that already 5,700 people should be having jobs under the programme and another 25,000 will be covered by August this year."

"Our projection is that by the year 2005 between 150,000 and 200,000 more people could be employed on infrastructural projects," Radebe said.

He said the programme aimed at ensuring short-term delivery to communities. He also announced that R250 million was being spent by the department on the programme.

North-West will get R6 million for distribution among 57 projects.
Links with Rocky's party denied
MEC's must pay for housing

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

Members of the North-West provincial parliament and MECs who occupy government houses have been told to start paying rent and service charges or be evicted.

North West Public Works MEC Zacharia Tolo told The Star that all officials, including Premier Popo Molefe, have been told that as from March 1 they have to start paying rent.

The Melanet Committee on Remuneration of Politicians recommended that ministers and deputy ministers should pay for their accommodation.

Tolo said a certain percentage of the income generated from rent and service charges would be contributed towards projects in the RDP.

The MEC also announced that a total of R2.7-million has been allocated to the province for the provision of water.
Christmas early in Roodepoort

It might be too early to sing *Jingle Bells* but Yuletide spirit will still reign in Roodepoort next month with the council’s “Christmas in June” project aimed at helping the area’s needy.

“In spite of the many changes in South Africa, it seems that the situation insofar as the underprivileged are concerned, is worsening,” said a statement issued by the North-Western Metropolitan Substructure.

The MSS’s borders had expanded, it said, bringing in more underprivileged people needing assistance, MSS chairman Councillor Willie van der Schyff was therefore in favour of continuing the project with the support of schools, service and cultural organisations.

Christmas in June aim is to collect non-perishable food and blankets for underprivileged residents.

Residents who want to take part in the project, which takes place on June 24, can donate any non-perishable food such as soup, bread spreads, coffee, tea, sugar, powdered milk, baby milk, tinned fish, rice and pasta.

North-Western MSS families in need can write to the Office of the Chairman, Christmas in June, Private Bag X39, Roodepoort 1723.

Residents applying for assistance must mention the size of the family, residential address as well as the age and gender of family members.

Anybody interested in donating blankets and/or non-perishable foods should call (011) 761-6282.
Rocky’s road to People Power

FORMER North-West agriculture MEC Rocky Malebane-Metsing will launch his new political party in Rustenburg tomorrow.

Mr Malebane-Metsing resigned from the ANC two weeks ago and was consequently stripped of his seat in the provincial legislature. He was also reprimanded and suspended by the ANC’s disciplinary committee.

The party, to be known as the People’s Progressive Party (PPP), is a revival of the former Bophuthatswana opposition party Mr Malebane-Metsing headed before he led the abortive 1986 coup against former president Lucas Mangope.

It will include former PPP members and ANC dissidents.

Mr Malebane-Metsing today took out full colour advertisements in newspapers calling on South Africans to join the party that will fight “growing poverty, lawlessness and the lack of political tolerance.”
FORMER Northwest agriculture MEC Rocky Malebane-Metsing yesterday launched his new political party, the People's Progressive Party (PPP), and said he believed it would pose "a tremendous challenge" to the ANC and NP in November's elections.

The former ANC member, who resigned from the party recently after being suspended for undermining premier Popo Molefe, said an announcement would be made soon about a number of top ANC members in the province who would defect to the PPP.

The launch in Rustenburg's Tahene township would be followed by a vigorous election campaign once the party had identified its candidates, a process that would begin next week, said Malebane-Metsing.

The new party would be positioned at the centre of the SA political spectrum and would "put its emphasis on social responsibility and focus on bridging the gap between the haves and the have-nots," he said.

He believed the new party would do "very well" in local government elections and was "destined to control almost all the local government structures in the province. We will also show up very strongly in the Free State, the Northern Cape and in the Northern Transvaal," he said.

People had, in Northwest as well as many other provinces, become disillusioned with the ANC's lack of vision and progress and, particularly in Northwest, by "in-fighting" within the party.

"People who are supposed to be members of parliament in Northwest, the majority of people don't know them and have no previous knowledge of them. That is a big drawback for the ANC," said Malebane-Metsing.

Meanwhile, Molefe said Malebane-Metsing had committed political suicide by challenging the ANC in Northwest. Molefe predicted the new party would struggle to get off the ground.

In an interview before the launch of Metsing's party yesterday, Molefe dismissed Malebane-Metsing's claims that the PPP had the overwhelming support of local community and political leaders.

Metsing resigned from the ANC last month after the party's disciplinary committee suspended his membership for a year. It found he had flouted a national executive committee instruction to use internal party procedures to resolve a clash with the premier.
Party ‘to challenge the ANC and NP’

Kevin O’Grady and Drew Forrest

FORMER Northwest agriculture MEC Rocky Malebane-Metsang yesterday launched his new political party, the People’s Progressive Party (PPP), and said he believed it would pose “a tremendous challenge” to the ANC and NP in November’s elections.

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Ex-ANC official launches party

RUSTENBURG: Former ANC North-West official Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsung launched his own political party yesterday saying everything in the province was falling apart.

"In the North-West province, the ANC National Party alliance government is an outstanding example of a government without vision, direction and a sense of purpose," he told about 200 people who gathered for the launch of his new People's Progressive Party.
Popo Molefe's problems

Pamela Dube reports after a visit to the North West that many people are demanding that former president Lucas Mangope replace premier Popo Molefe

Premier Popo Molefe

had no intention of participating in the programme.

The initial official reason given for Molefe's failure to honour the appointment was that he was unavailable at the time the interview was shot. His office said they had asked that the Reverend Johannes Tselapedi be allowed to stand in for Molefe, but Newsline producer Leslie Mashokwe turned down the request.

Boost their profiles

Molefe tells another version of the story...”I told the SABC people that I was not going to share a platform with bantustan politicians...” Those two (Malebane-Metsung and Mangope) have nothing in common with me. I am not going to be used to boost their profiles.”

The SABC does not seem to be in Molefe’s good books. He also accused the SABC of covering the North West in a “negative” way. “The SABC makes people believe that the North West is m in crust,” he says. “They don’t care to tell the whole story.”

And the whole story, according to Molefe, is that despite the “hiccups which we experienced at the beginning, we are one of the most progressive provinces in the country”.

Elections

The North West, Molefe continued, is the second most politically stable province after the Northern Cape.

“Before the elections, the prophets of doom said we were going to collapse under the might of Mangope,” he says. “Who is Mangope? He is even struggling to establish his Mickey Mouse party.”

Despite Molefe’s assurances that everything is running smoothly in the North West, feelings from the grassroots do not seem to suggest this. “Popo is a joke,” said one journalist. “It’s sad that it is not only in the rural areas that you hear people demanding that Mangope be reinstated. It even comes from people who suffered under Mangope’s reega. But the feeling is that Mangope was a better statesman than Popo.”

That seems to sum up the feelings of many people in Mangope’s former stronghold.
High-spending MEC may lose her position

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

NORTH West MEC for Broadcasting and Information Miss Riana de Wet faces the axe from the cabinet after a report by the Director General found that she had abused state funds.

She has also been found by another commission appointed by DG Mr Job Mokgoro to have recommended the appointment of four unqualified people to posts that pay over R13 000 a month.

By late last night, the ANC cabinet caucus was in a meeting to discuss her future, and Premier Popo Molefe said the issue would be discussed at that meeting.

Action to be taken

The action to be taken would emanate from that meeting, he said.

Director General Mr Job Mokgoro found that de Wet had hired a plane to ferry herself, friends and family to Sun City and bought tickets for the Joe Cocker show last year using state funds.

The exact costs of this and other travel expenses is said to run into hundreds of thousands but this could not be confirmed by late last night.

De Wet said through her spokesman last night that she would attend the caucus meeting to discuss “allegations of embezzlement of money and her alleged resignation”.

Sowetan sources said she offered to resign to a meeting with Molefe yesterday afternoon as this was not the only issue affecting her department.

The four directors appointed to the North West Communications Services (NWCS), the commission found, were part of a group of 17 officials transferred from Premier Popo Molefe’s office and who were paid huge salaries while not employed by the government.

The commission comprised Mr MM Ramagaga and Miss GMB Motse and was appointed in February by Mokgoro, after a Mafeking newspaper wrote about “new fat cats in Communications”.

Salary packages

The report shows that de Wet ordered that Mmogodiri MJ, Mokhine IP, Schalk JT, Setso MC and Seokolo TJ be appointed to positions of Director with salary packages of R13 909,82 a month. This works out to R9 959,85 salary, R1 991,97 housing subsidy and R1 958 for a car allowance.

Cars were taken from state garages forcibly and abused, and order books were used to buy petrol and tyres for private vehicles.

The major culprit in this was Mr Tsangano KX, who wrecked one car and went on to use its order book to purchase petrol and tyres for a private vehicle. He failed to produce a drivers licence, and the commission found that he had no authority to drive a state vehicle.

The 17 were “redundant” and “did not have anything to do but to roam about in government vehicles”.

It found that the 17 intimidated and threatened senior officials who questioned their presence and those who refused to authorise their irregular salaries.

One such official, a Mr Moselsi, said he knew what he was doing was wrong but feared being seen as “one of the old order who did not want to co-operate with the government of the day”.

Moselsi said he operated under “severe pressure from the office of the Premier” and said when he had refused to authorise payments to the 17, Molefe had authorised a new accounting officer.

As a result of fear, staff overlooked treasury regulations as “they were intimidated to pay the advance salaries”, the commission found.

It found that the 17 had been with Molefe’s office since his arrival, but were transferred in an irregular way to NWCS where they did not have posts or knowledge of the work involved.

Setso is a former school principal at Rapoo Primary, where he was expelled in 1991 after embezzling R20 756 of school funds. The Public Service Commission had in 1991 “declined to recommend his reinstatement in the Public Service”.

“De Wet’s spokesman said she was aware of the report and disagreed with some sections thereof. She will be taking up the issue with Mokgoro soon, the spokesman said.”
Corruption scandal rocks
North West government

Political Staff

The North West 'provincial' government was plunged into a corruption crisis today after disclosures that an official report implicated four MECs in corruption involving "thousands and maybe millions" of rands.

North West Premier Pogo Molefe is meeting the province's director-general, Job Mokgoro, to discuss the report and what steps that should be taken.

Sources in the North West government said the provincial executive committee, which meets next Wednesday, was expected to decide the fate of broadcasting and information MEC Rami De Wet, safety and security MEC Satish Roopa and two of their colleagues, who have not been identified yet. Both Ms De Wet and Mr Roopa are ANC representatives.

It is understood that a preliminary report commissioned by Mr Mokgoro, and handed to Mr Molefe in April, alleged that Ms De Wet, among others, chartered a plane for herself, friends and family members to last year's Joe Cocker concert at Sun City.

The North West Communications Service (NWCS) was then asked to pick up the R15 000 tab, sources said. Reports that Ms De Wet, who has questioned some parts of the report, had offered to resign could not be confirmed.

The report alleges that Ms De Wet also ordered the appointment of four unqualified officials to the NWCS at high salaries. Ms Roopa is alleged to have charged personal expenditure to the provincial government.

A North West spokesman said the investigation and the subsequent report were part of Mr Molefe's drive to ensure clean administration, good governance and efficiency. The spokesman, however, declined to confirm or deny allegations against the MECs. A statement was expected later.

Since coming to office, the provincial government has appointed four commissions of inquiry in an effort to stamp out corruption.
Scandal Rocks North West

Alleged Government Corruption
An Investigation is Launched into
Sowetan 20/11/95 (266)

BY MAHATHA TSEDAH

SOWETAN THURSDAY JUly 20 1995
Ultimatum issued to MECs over corruption allegations

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

North West premier Popo Molefe has given four MECs accused of corruption until next Thursday to respond to the allegations made against them in an auditor-general's report.

He said yesterday that the four would be fired unless their explanations were satisfactory.

The report accuses the MECs of being implicated in corruption involving "thousands and maybe millions" of rand.

The corruption claims are the result of internal audits instituted by Molefe this year.

Molefe met his director-general, Job Mokgope, yesterday to discuss the report.

Sources in the North West government said Broadcasting and Information MEC Riani de Wet and Safety and Security MEC Satish Roopa were named in the report, along with two of their colleagues, whom The Star cannot yet identify. De Wet and Roopa are ANC representatives. They could not be contacted for comment last night.

A spokesman for the provincial government said: "The report concerning De Wet is a serious matter and the MEC has been given the opportunity to also study and respond to the said report."

The Star understands that a preliminary report commissioned by Mokgope, and handed to Molefe in April, alleged that De Wet, among others, chartered a plane for herself, friends and family members to last year's Joe Cocker concert at Sun City. The North West Communications Service then asked to pick up the R15,000 tab, sources said.

The report accused De Wet of ordering the appointment of four unqualified officials to the department as high salary Roopa is alleged to have charged personal expenditure to the provincial government.

Reward offered for shooting of 4 near Durban

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — An alleged attempted murder has been launched for those attackers who gunned down.
NEWS NATIONAL  

21/9/95  

‘Funds not misused’  

Top cop backs North West MEC in rejecting claim of corruption  

North West safety and security MEC Mr Satshu Roopa yesterday emphatically denied news reports that he used state funds to cover personal expenditure.  

The Star, reported yesterday that Roopa allegedly charged personal expenditure to the North West government, citing an auditor-general’s report which followed an audit ordered by premier Popo Molefe.  

Roopa, broadcasting and information MEC Ms Ruvi de Wet and two other suspended MECs were accused of corruption, according to the newspaper.  

Roopa denied the allegations.  

He said in a statement a letter written by the head of financial investigations of the South African Police Service in North West confirmed the MEC had not misused government funds.  

Office was legitimate  

Roopa’s statement quoted Lieutenant-Colonel JT Wolmarans as saying all expenditure incurred by Roopa’s office was legitimate.  

“Expenditure incurred by the office of the MEC for safety and security was paid by the department of police,” the statement quoted the letter as saying. Wolmarans also said Roopa had spent a considerable amount of his personal money to cover government expenses, adding the MEC in many instances had not claimed reimbursement.  

The MEC said he was considering legal action.  

Reaffirm his belief  

“The minister takes this opportunity to reaffirm his belief in clean, open and transparent governance and will not budge from the path,” the allegations are without foundation and smack of political malice,” Molefe had given the four MECs until next Thursday to respond to the allegations, the newspaper said.  

It also said they would be fired unless their explanations were satisfactory, the newspaper said.  

Meanwhile, one of the MECs who had offered to resign had been asked to wait until a full ANC National Congress caucus discussed the matter.  

All officials concerned and who have been asked to comment on corruption allegations in North West have kept silent, referring the matter to the provincial communication service. — Sapa
Northwest official denies corruption

Kevin O'Grady 21/3/95

NORTHWEST ANC safety and security MEC Satish Roopa yesterday denied allegations of corruption for using state funds to cover personal expenses.

Roopa said a letter to him from the SAPS head of finance in the province, Lt-Col J Welmarans, confirmed he was innocent.

Roopa said he reserved his legal rights. Newspapers named Roopa and media, arts and culture MEC Riana de Wet as two of four MECs under investigation as a result of an internal audit ordered by Premier Popo Molefe earlier this year.

The letter by Welmarans said: "To the best of my knowledge, all the expenditure paid was official and personal expenditure was for own accounts."

Roopa said he had "in many instances" not claimed reimbursement after using his own money for government expenses.

"The manner in which highly confidential documents, still at a preliminary stage, are leaked to the media, suggests agenda setting by possible political opportunists attempting to derail the ruling party's chances in the... local government elections," he said.

A spokesman for Molefe yesterday denied reports that he had given the MECs until Thursday to respond to the allegations, saying the premier was only in possession of an interim report and would be given the complete report next week. She declined to comment further.

De Wet, who was alleged to have chartered a private aircraft at the province's expense to attend a Joe Cocker concert at Sun City last year, could not be reached for comment yesterday.
A new role for battling Rockey

(660) 279-277/149

Rockey's on a roll, and
inside rockey's

...
ANC expels Malebane-Metsing

Johannesburg: Former North-West ANC leader Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing was expelled from the party yesterday, two months after being suspended following his power tussle with Premier Mr Popo Molefe.

The decision to expel Mr Malebane-Metsing was taken by the ANC national executive committee at a two-day meeting.

The committee also resolved to discipline any of its members who had joined Mr Malebane-Metsing's People's Progressive Party, launched last month.

Mr Molefe fired Mr Malebane-Metsing from his cabinet last year for “destabilising” his government. — Reuters
extravagant council

Angry town ousted its
Town council goes to court

Mphanduleo Harvey

The Delareyville Town Council yesterday brought an urgent interdict against Northwest local government and housing MEC Darkey Africa, requesting the Mmabatho Supreme Court to reverse a decision to terminate councillors' terms of office after allegations of free spending.

Africa was forced to step in after 600 of the town's 2,000 white residents signed a petition to the province's premier Popo Molefe demanding a halt to alleged misuse of public funds.

A meeting between the Northwest director of local government, Robus van Zyl, and the Atamelang/Delareyville community was scheduled for last night in order to nominate committee members who will temporarily manage the affairs of the area.

Allegations against the CP-dominated council included a council donation of R1,000 to the rebel right-wing Radio Pretoria, legal cases against the council that are estimated to have cost R1,8m of the council's R3m budget, and a council plan to open a salt mine. This led to residents backing the Delareyville crusis committee to bring down the town council.
‘R10m was channelled to Mangope’s party’

Kevin O’Grady

Mmabatho — The former Bophuthatswana government’s National Security Council channelled more than R10m through two fictitious companies to Lucas Mangope’s Christian Democratic Party, the Skweyiya commission of inquiry heard yesterday.

The council’s secretary and accounting officer Jacob Esterhuizen told the commission he opened two bank accounts in 1992 under the names Western Management and Futura Enterprises on the authority of Mangope and then State Affairs Minister Rowan Cronje. Payments he made from the secret national security reserve and transfer account through Western Management included a R1.13m cash cheque to Mafikeng Toyota for vehicles “purchased for and handed to the Christian Democratic Party”.

In an affidavit submitted to the commission, Esterhuizen also said R150 000 was paid to Executive Research Associates “on the approval of Mr Mangope” to assist in funding the Douglas commission of inquiry into alleged ANC human rights violations.

Mangope instructed him to liaise with party treasurer and cabinet minister Ephraim Kekelame on what payments were to be made. All payments were authorised by Kekelame. “I accepted that whenever he (Kekelame) asked for money I was to give it,” said Esterhuizen.

Money was also used to fund covert projects, including one aimed at “financing an intensive covert awareness campaign” for the Christian Democratic Party in the run-up to Bophuthatswana’s 1992 local and

Continued on Page 2

Mangope

Continued from Page 1

planned general elections.

Mangope and a legal representative sat in the Mmabatho Supreme Court yesterday listening to evidence led by commission advocate Vas Soni.

In January and February last year, months before the Bophuthatswana government was disbanded and the homeland placed under SA administration, the council paid R1.6m to Plecon Communications

Brig Pierre Le Clus for “work he had done to popularise the party in terms of a R6m contract,” Esterhuizen said in his affidavit.

Other payments made included to Maritzburg company Screen Advertising for “election scarves made for the party”; R246 632 the Connoisseur International for “jewellery the party had bought for the election” and R5 760 to LA Promotions for party flags, Esterhuizen said.

The commission continues hearing evidence from Esterhuizen today.
RUO scandal

Mangope in
Probes into ‘missing’ R10-m

Mangope to face Bop commission

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

Former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope, who has been accused of using state money for personal expenditure and to fund his political party, is expected to testify before the Skweyiya Commission in Vanderbijlpark today.

Evidence has been led in the Skweyiya Commission that the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), which is led by Mangope, was financed by state funds through a web of fictitious companies.

The commission heard last week that at least R10-million was paid for cars, jewellery, flags and publicity for the CDP. It was alleged that in 1980 Mangope had instructed a National Security Council secretary, Jacob Johannes Abraham Esterhuizen, to create fictitious companies to provide a channel for funds to the CDP.

Funds from the former Bophuthatswana Treasury were allegedly used for:
- Buying vehicles for the CDP (R1 130 740).
- R673 000 was paid to Amos Kgomoengwe Building, which is owned by the CDP.
- A cheque for R66 120 was paid to Connoisseur International for CDP pin badges.
- R1,5-million was paid to Brigadier Pierre Le Clos’ Plecon Communications for “the work he had done to popularise the CDP.” Two other cheques, totalling more than R3-million, were paid to the company for the same reason.
- Amounts of R800 000 and R280 000 were transferred to bank accounts on the Channel and Jersey Islands respectively for covert operations.
- A cheque for R55 000 was paid to former cabinet minister Rowan Cronje without explanation as to what payment was for.

The Skweyiya Interim Report was presented to North West Premier Popo Molefe. The commission also found that:
- An amount of R518 150.35 was spent putting up a shopping centre owned by Mangope at Lehutshane outside Zeerust. The centre was built after the establishment of “Bopsec 10 Projects” and paid for from the National Security Council Funds.
- A total of R44 4-million was spent on improvements to Mangope’s Moiswedi residence. The former homeland leader also allegedly used state funds to acquire personal assets.
- An unspecified amount of money was used to build a dairy, a cow clinic, a cow shed and stormwater drainage owned by Mangope.
- The former Bophuthatswana’s Department of Public Works paid R1 814 13 to a construction company to erect a “stormwater wall” around the property.
Covert actions against ANC alleged

Hearings into Bop misuse of funds

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

Mbabane — Lucas Mangope yesterday attended hearings into the misuse of official funds when he was president of the defunct Bophuthatswana homeland, but he did not take the stand.

Accompanied by his son, Eddie, Mangope heard one of his former officials tell the Skweylya commission about a web of covert operations against the ANC when it was a banned organisation.

Jacob Esterhuizen, a secretary of the homeland's National Security Council (NSC), testified in the North West Supreme Court about unspecified covert operations launched to counter a "campaign by the ANC to make Bophuthatswana uninvulnerable".

Under cross-examination by advocate Willie Vermeulen, representing Mangope, Esterhuizen said the political situation in 1992/93 justified the number of operations undertaken by the NSC.

He confirmed Vermeulen's submission that by funding the moves to popularise propaganda against the ANC, the NSC sought to adversely influence the ANC's overseas donors.

One of the ways of undermining the ANC was by disseminating and popularising the findings of the Douglas Commission of Inquiry into the ANC's "death camps".

A company called Executive Researchers was paid R150 000 to assist in distributing the Douglas Commission's findings.

other company, Pleon Communications, was paid R1.5-million in January 1994 to popularise the then ruling party, the Christian Democratic Party.

Esterhuizen added that he did not believe it was wrong to use NSC money for a campaign against the ANC because that decision was taken "at the highest executive level in the country".

The commission, under the chairmanship of advocate Louis Skweylya, heard that nearly R300 000 was paid to former Bophuthatswana finance secretary, Johan Vermaak. Esterhuizen said he gave the money to Vermaak after the former finance secretary told him these were instructions from Mangope.

The Skweylya Commission has traced Vermaak to Calvinia in the Northern Cape. He and his common-law wife, a Miss Aucamp, have been served with subpoenas to appear before the commission tomorrow.
Mangope paid for secret operations

Former NIS man merely carried out orders from his bosses (266C)

By Abdul Milazi

FORMER Bophuthatswana president, Lucas Mangope's administration provided funds for the SA Intelligence Service to carry out covert operations, even after the National Party government had stopped these acts, the Skweyiya Commission of inquiry heard yesterday.

Testifying before the commission investigating corruption within the Mangope Administration, former National Security Council secretary and director of Intelligence Service, Mr Johannes Esterhuizen, said although he was in constant contact with the SA Intelligence Service, he was unaware of president FW de Klerk's decision to end all covert operations.

Mangope authorised the siphoning of government funds amounting to R10 million to fund his Christian Democratic Party and to also carry out covert operations in the bantustans.

Esterhuizen said he did not make decisions but merely carried out instructions from "the highest authority". He said, as chairman of the NSC, Mangope authorised all its projects, which he (Esterhuizen) was in charge of.

Esterhuizen said he had expressed his concern to former Minister Rowan Cronje about the nature of the project and the overspending by the NSC.

He said the explanation given to him by his superiors for the project was that it was in line with "the political situation".

The commission heard that R50 000 was paid to the Executive Research Associate. The money was used to fund the Douglas Commission of inquiry into ANC human rights violations. The payment followed a briefing to the Bophuthatswana cabinet by self-confessed police spy Pat Hlongwane.

Mangope is expected to testify before the commission today.
Mangope silent on missing Bop funds

BY ABDUL MILAZI

FORMER Bophuthatswana president Chief Lucas Mangope told the Kgosiya Commission yesterday that he knew nothing about the phony bank accounts held to siphon off R10 million in government funds to finance his Christian Democratic Party.

This was all Mangope told the commission before his defence counsel, Mr Willie Vermeulen, claimed witness privilege, which allowed him to refuse to answer any questions that might incriminate him.

This privilege, which was duly granted by the commission, meant that Mangope did not have to answer questions arising from evidence given by previous witnesses.

The commission adjourned for a time while the commissioners consulted on the issue of witness privilege.

However, the situation remained the same when proceedings resumed, with Vermeulen claiming privilege on almost every question put to Mangope.

Mangope's appearance followed that of his personal secretary, Mrs Melinda Michau. She denied that she had received or given money to former national security council secretary Mr Johannes Esterhuizen.

When confronted with cheques she had signed, Michau told the commission she could not remember specific incidents "as they happened a long time ago".

She, however, admitted that the signatures on documents presented to the commission as evidence were hers.

She also denied having received a request from Esterhuizen for R260 000 in cash in October 1993. Esterhuizen earlier testified that Michau had given him the money.

Other documents requesting amounts ranging from R30 000 to R250 000, which bore her signature, were also presented to her.

Again she said she could not remember the details because she never verified the contents of items she signed for during her employment.
So-cool Mangope refuses to answer questions

**BY JOVIAL RANTAO**
POLITICAL REPORTER

**For 19/3 95**

Mahlathini — The wheel has turned full circle for Lucas Mangope. The president of the defunct Bophuthatswana homeland yesterday stood unemotional in the witness stand of a court building he commissioned, and refused to answer most of the questions put to him about the misuse of millions of rand by the government he led.

The Sikhweya Commission of Inquiry has been sitting for the past year, but this was the first time Mangope has been called to the witness stand.

He had in the past criticized the commission and vowed not to appear. But the commission has declared that it is his constitutional right not to answer questions that would incriminate him. So he appeared, and would not respond to most allegations leveled against him.

**Fear**

His advocate, Willie Vermeulen, advised the commission that his client would not reply to any questions relating to the evidence and exhibits for fear of incriminating himself.

The only time that Mangope answered was when he denied knowledge of suspect bank accounts opened by the Bophuthatswana National Security Council (NSC).

"I know nothing about those accounts," he said.

According to evidence, the Western Management and the Futura accounts were opened by the NSC to siphon off government money for covert projects.

**Money**

Mangope refused to answer questions relating to letters written to the NSC on government letterheads. He would not confirm whether the signatures on the letters were his, or that he gave instructions for money to be transferred to foreign countries.

He declined to say whether he was present at cabinet meetings to discuss a voter education programme for which the NSC paid R9-million.

Evidence before the commission is that the Christian Democratic Party was financed by about R10-million or more. Mangope would not tell the commission whether he gave instructions for money to be transferred to his party.

He also refused to say whether he gave instructions that former Bophuthatswana finance secretary Johan Vermaak should be given a R150 000 handshake after he had resigned.
Mangope silent at Skweyiya inquiry

Kevin O Grady

MMABATHO - Former Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope yesterday declined to answer most of the questions put to him at the Skweyiya commission of inquiry into corruption during his rule of the former homeland for fear of incriminating himself.

Commission chairman Lewis Skweyiya SC has granted Mangope and other members of his former administration leave to exercise the constitutional right not to answer certain questions.

Testifying in Setswana through an interpreter, Mangope admitted to his name and the fact that he was chief minister of Bophuthatswana before independence in 1977 and president thereafter.

He also admitted being chairman of his government's National Security Council since 1982 and a colleague of another commission witness, council secretary Jacob Esterhuizen.

Esterhuizen testified earlier that he channelled more than R100m through to fictitious companies, created by the council on the president's instructions, to Mangope's Christian Democratic Party.

His evidence was supported by an affidavit given to the commission detailing the payments he made, who approved them as well as copies of cheques, invoices and letters of instruction.

Commission advocate Vas Soai asked Mangope to admit authorship of a letter to Esterhuizen which bore Mangope's signature.

Mangope's council, Willie Vermeulen, immediately objected, claiming the privilege granted by Skweyiya.

"I claim privilege from all matters arising from the documents before my client," Vermeulen said, referring to Esterhuizen's affidavit and the volume of supporting documents.

Skweyiya warned Mangope that although he had the right not to answer questions that might implicate him civilly or criminally, "if you don't explain, we are at liberty to make whatever inferences on the evidence given before us."

For the rest of the day's proceedings it was a case of Soai asking Mangope questions and Vermeulen objecting and claiming privilege on behalf of his client.

Mangope declined to answer whether he was aware of the existence of the council's two secret accounts, whether he knew money was transferred through them to his party, and questions on anything else which, according to Vermeulen, could form "links in the chain of proof against my client".
'Mangope squandered R4 million'

By Abdul Mifazi

MORE than R4 million of the funds misappropriated by the former Bophuthatswana government were used for Mr Lucas Mangope's personal comfort, the Skweyeza commission heard yesterday.

A total of R10 million was allegedly embezzled by Mangope from the National Security Council (NSC) coffers to fund his Christian Democratic Party and its covert operations.

The commission also heard that Mangope had ordered the building of a shopping centre near Mmadikgodi for himself. He also authorised the payment of more than R30 000 to the Motswedi Dairy (owned by him) and the refurbishing and the extension of his house.

Although Mangope chose not to answer questions arising from evidence presented by previous witnesses for fear of incriminating himself, he admitted that he owned the Motswedi dairy.

Counsel leading evidence, Advocate Vas Souti, put it to Mangope that the R300 000 which was transferred to a bank account in the Channel Islands was used to buy a house for a former Bophuthatswana representative in Italy, Mr Roberto Sato, and for Mangope. Mangope declined to answer.

The commission also heard that Mangope had paid R75 000 to self-confessed police spy Mr Pet Hlongwane for "services rendered and information."

The NSC financial books were never audited since the council was established in 1987. The council made its own budget and spent freely, the commission was told.

Former NSC secretary Mr Johannes Esterhuizen earlier told the commission that he had established two fictitious companies which were used to channel funds from the NSC to fund these operations.

Large sums of money were channelled from the NSC through these companies to fund covert operations, activities undertaken by the CDP and for Mangope's personal expenditure.

The transfer of these amounts was authorised by the then treasurer of the CDP, Mr Ephraim Kukelane.

Esterhuizen also testified that R150 000 was authorised to fund the publication of the Douglas Commission of Inquiry into ANC "Death Camps."

The hearing continues.
Mangope probe told of luxury lifestyle

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

Mabhatho - A catalogue of misuse of State funds running into millions during the years when Lucas Mangope was president of the Bophuthatswana homeland are being unveiled before the Skwetoa Commission of Inquiry.

Suggestions that Mangope used R4 442 886.40 of State funds for improvements to his private house in Motswedetse near Zeerust were aired before the commission yesterday.

On the second day with Mangope giving evidence, the commission heard that he spent more than R2-million on other private projects for his luxurious lifestyle.

Boreholes

These included the construction of a house valued at R422 000; kraals at a cost of R280 000; three boreholes for R350 000 and living quarters for shepherds and domestic workers at a farm in Marico.

After the improvements were completed, Mangope is said to have bought the farm Ahyneaport near Zeerust for R350 000. It is now valued at more than R2-million. The commission has intervened to stop transfer of the property to Mangope.

Advocate Frans Kgomo, leading evidence for the commission, revealed that government property was used to build a barn and a shed at another farm, Marubakop, near Zeerust, which is owned by Mangope. An access road to the farm was built for R200 000.

Kgomo told the commission that Mangope received more than R2.5-million in royalties for mining rights on Strydom Farm, which was intended for the Bahurutshe Bo Manyane Tribal Authority.

On the advice of his advocate, the former homeland leader has refused to reply to any of the allegations for fear of incriminating himself.

At the end of Mangope's appearance on the witness stand, his attorney, Richard Nesbitt, issued a statement which said when and if the question of royalties was fully aired before a different forum "It will be seen that in this regard Kgomo L M Mangope has always acted in the best interest of his tribe".

The commission resumes on Monday, when former Bophuthatswana finance secretary Johan Vermaak will testify.

SOW 18 8 95
All systems go for Gauteng elections

By TROYE LUND

The Gauteng provincial committee had unanimously accepted ward boundaries proposed by the Demarcation Board, housing and local government MEC Dan Mofokeng said yesterday.

Announcing final ward demarcations for Johannesburg's four substructures, Mofokeng said local government elections for Gauteng were now on track.

"Now begins the next phase. Political parties must select their candidates in each ward and start campaigning immediately," said Mofokeng.

He also announced that newly elected structures would employ fewer councillors. This was the beginning of "lean, effi-

cient local government structures cleared of councillors who did nothing but collect salaries."

Dan Mofokeng

PHOTOGRAPH JOHN HOGG

Local elections on track

The remaining 40% of the ward seats will be determined according to proportional representation.

The population and community profile of each ward, Mofokeng said, was another guideline.

"The number of people in each ward had to be considered. The more sparsely populated the bigger the ward. Exactly what hospital and what shopping centre is included or excluded in an area is not important. What is important is to get each area represented by a councillor that the community elects," said Mofokeng.

He said minor changes could be made now that the "major obstacles" were overcome.

Mofokeng plans to re-open the inspection of the voters' roll and to introduce a supplementary roll.

He was not concerned that Gauteng has exceeded the 90-day deadline. This required all provinces to finalise boundaries, wards and seats 90 days before November 1 to allow politicians enough time to campaign.

"Political parties all knew and were involved in the disputes which caused the delay and forced us to amend the deadline agreement to give us leeway in problem areas."

"Politicians were aware we would not make the deadline and should have made allowances for this."

No one is going to stop us from holding these elections on November 1," said Mofokeng.
Millions in state funds 'abused by Mangope'

JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Staff
PR[5]19/5/95

MMABATHO. — A catalogue of allegations of abuse of state funds running into millions by former Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope has been disclosed.

The Skweyiya Commission of Inquiry heard that Mr Mangope allegedly used R4 442 886.40 for extensions, renovations and other improvements on his private house in Motswedug.

The commission also heard that Mr Mangope allegedly used over R2-m of government funds to pay for the construction of a house worth R428 000, krais (R280 000), three boreholes (R650 000), shepherds' and servants' quarters on a farm in Marico.

After the improvements were done, Mr Mangope then allegedly bought the farm, Alwynspoor, near Zооруж for R250 000.

The Skweyiya Commission has since intervened to stop the official transfer of the property to Mr Mangope.

Advocate Frans Kgomo, leading evidence for the commission, also claimed government property was used to build a barn and a shed at another farm near Zооруж, which is owned by Mr Mangope.

An access road to the farm was allegedly built at a cost of R280 000.

Mr Kgomo also alleged that Mr Mangope received over R28-m in royalties for mining rights on the Strydfontein Farm, which were at a time for the Bophuthatswana Bo Manye and Tribal Authority.

On the advice of his advocate, the former homeland leader has refused to reply to any of the allegations for fear of incriminating himself.

The commission resumes on Monday, when former Bophuthatswana finance secretary Johan Vermaak, who allegedly received over R65 000 in state funds, will testify. The next witness will be former Bophuthatswana Economic Affairs Mins ter Abraham Kekelema.
Mangope lets fly

By DAN DHALMINI

FOR THE six or so hours he spent on the witness stand during his two-day appearance before the Skweyiya Commission, former Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope remained calm and showed no emotion.

But soon after he left the box, his bitterness at being tried by "his people" in "his" court became clear as he asked reporters if they had enjoyed the "lies" and "distortions" levelled against him.

As he walked out of Court A, a visibly agitated Mangope, who chose to speak only Setswana in court, confronted advocate Frans Kgomo, who had led evidence on behalf of the Commission, and charged "O a moselela" - meaning "You have caused yourself a curse! You had intended to crucify me, but here I am - still alive."

The former Bop strongman added: "But I can assure you, time will come when we will meet!"

Mangope uttered these words in the presence of reporters, members of the public and former Bop Commissioner of Prisons General Delfont.

Kgomo told City Press that in his opinion, Mangope's outburst constituted a threat and that he had reported the incident to the Commission's chairman, Advocate Louis Skweyiya.

The Skweyiya Commission is probing Mangope on allegations of corruption involving more than R10 million in public funds.

The Commission had heard earlier how bank accounts in the names of fictitious companies were opened to channel money totalling more than R10 million from the National Security Council (NSC) to Mangope's Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

Although visibly shaken by evidence presented against him, Mangope did not reply for fear of incriminating himself.

The only time Mangope answered advocates Kgomo and Vas Som, who also led evidence for the Commission, was when he denied knowledge of the phony bank accounts and when he said that he was still the chief of Bahurutshe bo Manyane from whose farm, Strydfontein, he allegedly received over R2,6 million in royalties for mineral rights.

The Commission heard that Mangope had allegedly used R4 442 886,40 for extensions to, and refurbishment of, his private residence, "Gaetsho", in Motswedi, near Zearth.

Advocate Kgomo further told the Commission that Mangope allegedly spent more than R2 million in government funds on the construction of a house worth R4 442 000, kraals and a cow eld (R280 000), three boreholes and servants quarters at Alwynpoort Farm (R850 000) - and then bought the farm for himself for only R350 000.

Mangope's Moeng Smallholdings in Rivarapark in Mafikeng, his Marula Kop Farm, an access road to the farm allegedly built at the cost of R200 000 and his double stands where he was supposed to construct a shopping complex in Leburutshe, also came under the spotlight during the proceedings.

The Commission resumes tomorrow.
Bop ex-minister takes stand

By Abdul Milazi

THE investigation into corruption in the former Bophuthatswana has turned into a drama of suspense and intrigue as a catalogue of misuse of government funds running to millions unfolds at the Skweyiya Commission in Mmabatho.

Former Bophuthatswana minister of finance Mr Johan Vermaak is to take the witness stand today following former leader Chief Lucas Mangope's last appearance on Thursday where he refused to testify or answer questions.

The commission, set up to probe the alleged embezzlement of funds in the homeland, last week heard that Mangope had spent R4 442 886.40 to improve his private home at Motswedi near Zeerust. Mangope is also alleged to have used R2 million to enhance his luxurious lifestyle.

A total of R10 million was allegedly embezzled by Mangope from the National Security Council coffers to fund his Christian Democratic Party and to popularise the CDP and for his own personal needs. The commission was told that Mangope built a house for R22 000 000, kraals at a cost of R280 000, three boreholes for R850 000 and servants' quarters at a farm in Marico.

Mangope bought a farm for R350 000 near Zeerust. The commission has since intervened to stop the transfer of the property to Mangope. The commission also heard that government property was used to build a barn and a shed at another farm near Zeerust, which is owned by Mangope. The road to the farm was constructed for a total of R200 000.

Mangope refused to testify or answer questions for fear of incriminating himself.
Bop inquiry to question former finance secretary

Former Bophuthatswana Finance Secretary Johan Vermaak, who allegedly received R280,000 in State funds, is expected to testify today before the Skweyiya Commission of Inquiry into corruption by the former homeland government.

Vermaak, who was traced to Calvinia in the Northern Cape, will testify together with his common-law wife, a Ms Aucamp.

Evidence before the commission, sitting in Mafikeng, is that Vermaak also received an additional R150,000, which was given to him at the instruction of former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope as a "golden handshake".

Johan Esterhuizen, a former secretary of the Bophuthatswana National Security Council (NSC), has testified before the commission that former Bophuthatswana minister Rowan Crespo was also given a R75,000 "golden handshake" on Mangope's orders.

Vermaak is expected to explain to the commission why he had received the money. He will also be questioned in connection with the activities of the former NSC and two fictitious accounts which were used to siphon off government funds for covert operations. The NSC operated through "front" accounts under the names Western Management and Futura.

Vermaak is also expected to tell the commission what he knows about R10-million in government funds that was allegedly paid to Mangope's Christian Democrat Party (CDP), and the transfer of more than R1,2-million from the fake accounts to an account on the Jersey Channel Islands.

Tomorrow, former Bophuthatswana minister of economic affairs and CDP treasurer Ephraim Kaselane, who allegedly authorised payments to the party and allegedly received cheques totalling R1,4-million, is expected to testify.

Last week, Mangope spent two days on the witness stand, but refused to answer any questions for fear of incriminating himself.

The commission, under the chairmanship of Advocate Louis Skweyiya, has heard that the former homeland leader had used millions of rands of State funds for personal expenses. This included R442,886,400 for renovations, renovations and other improvements on his private house, called Gaeteke, in Motsepele.

The commission also heard that Mangope had allegedly used more than R2-million in government funds to pay for the construction of a house worth R422,000, kraals (R280,000), three boreholes (R850,000) and servants' quarters at a farm in Marico.

The commission was also told that Mangope had received more than R2,6-million in royalties for mining rights on the Strydfon-tein farm, which were meant for the Bahuruishhe Bo Manyane Tribal Authority.

The Star first reported three months ago that the Skweyiya Commission, in a confidential interim report, had recommended that the North West government institute legal proceedings to recover more than R5-million from Mangope.
Council cuts after polis

Melelweka Harvey

The number of councillors in the greater Johannesburg transitional metropolitan council would be cut from 169 to 69 after the November 1 elections to make way for 'leaner, effective and gender sensitive councils,' it was announced at the weekend.

Gauteng local government and housing MEC Dan Mofokeng said political compromises would have to be reached in implementing the decision and voters would decide which of Johannesburg’s four sub-structures representatives would sit on the metropolitan council.

The trimming down of numbers is aimed at avoiding the practice of councillors attending meetings without making contributions to discussions.
CAPE TOWN — Fear among coloureds in the Western Cape of again being marginalised would pose a threat to democracy in SA if left unattended, Institute for Democracy in SA chairman James Wilmot said.

Speaking yesterday at the conclusion of the institute's conference, which looked into factors affecting the political future of SA's coloureds, he said there were emerging ethnic tensions and conflicts in the coloured community.

The primary issue raised at the conference related to the identity of the community. While it was understandable for the community to attempt to reclaim or reshape its identity after apartheid, there was a danger of constructing an identity on putative racial boundaries.

The conference had also shown that there was a lack of clarity in the community on government policies and an uncertainty about which institutions to approach for legal redress of discrimination committed in the past. In this regard development of infrastructure for the human rights commission would have to be carefully considered, he said.

President Nelson Mandela said at the conference on Friday affirmative action had awakened fears among sections of the coloured community that the policy was believed to benefit only Africans.

Mandela said this perception was a distortion of government policy and he invited those who claimed to have been wronged to take it up with the authorities.

"The RDP is sometimes the subject of similar false claims. The presidential lead projects and RDP forum have generated a range of projects in the Western Cape. They bring direct and indirect benefits for the coloured community."

Ingrid Salgado

THE environmental affairs department and the local company wanting to import 500 tons of chemical waste from Finland, JAD Metal Concentrate, agreed at the weekend that the ship carrying the toxic waste to SA should be turned back.

JAD MD Andrew Gosling said it was also agreed to renegotiate the terms of a permit allowing JAD to import cupric arsenate for extraction purposes. Finnish exporters Kikkola Chemicals were aware of the agreement.

However, the ship could still arrive in SA waters if its captain decided not to turn back, Gosling said. The vessel was understood to be near British waters at the time of the decision.

Finland's government and Kikkola had also discussed halting the shipment. Environmental Affairs Minister Dawne de Villiers said. He had expressed SA's concern about the shipment to the Finnish government late last week.

The department granted JAD a permit to import the waste earlier this year, apparently without the knowledge and consent of De Villiers or his deputy Bantu Holomisa. Both were understood to be "deeply embarrassed" by the bungle.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Justice Networking Forum has called on De Villiers to sack the department's director-general Colin Cameron, whom they called "incompetent". The permit was granted to JAD with Cameron's "full approval", forum spokesman Chris Albertyn alleged.

**Council cuts after polls**

Mandy I. Harvey

THE number of councillors in the greater Johannesburg metropolitan council would be cut from 100 to 60 after the November 1 elections to make way for leaner, effective and gender-sensitive councils, it was announced at the weekend.

Gauteng local government and housing MEC Dan Mokokeng said political compromises would have to be reached in implementing the decision and voters would decide which of Johannesburg's four substructures representatives would sit on the metropolitan council.

The trimming down of numbers is aimed at avoiding the practice of councillors attending meetings without making contributions to discussions.
Bop govt man’s strange transaction

Man buys R40m firm for R1

By Abdul Milazi

FOR only one rand, former Bophuthatswana minister of finance Leslie Gerald Young became the sole shareholder of a multimillion rand company funded by the homeland government, a Sowetan investigation has found.

Bala Farms (Pty) Ltd, which owned 69 farms countrywide valued at more than R40 million, used state funds to purchase the farms.

Most of the farms were then rented out to the previous owners while others remained vacant.

Bala Farms’ purchase of land was allegedly authorised by the homeland’s former president Lucas Mangope, who is currently being investigated by the Skweyiya commission set up to look into corruption in his administration.

Sowetan has in its possession a letter from Mangope to the homeland’s treasury authorising the dispatch of funds to Bala Farms from the department of agriculture’s coffers to purchase farms.

A document from the Registrar of Companies in Pretoria lists former ministers of the homeland as directors. Those listed are former director of the homeland’s legal service and land administration Mr Theodorus Ernst Scheepers, former director of legal services Mr Hendrik Johannes DuBow van der Walt, former agriculture managing director Mr Schalk Willem Pleinartz, former minister of state affairs and aviation Mr Rowan Crispe, Young’s predecessor Mr Martin van den Berg, former minister of agriculture Mr Phinicas Herman Moshawo, and builder Mr Johannes Peters du Preez.

It was not clear from the Registrar of Companies’ documents what stake these directors had in the company.

However, the document states that only one share was sold – to Young for one rand. No other shareholders are listed.

Bala Farms registered 4,000 shares when it was formed in 1988.

As a sole shareholder, Young literally owned the company and its R40 million assets.

Efforts to get more information on who runs the company at present and where its offices are located drew a blank as Sowetan was told the director has disappeared.

North West government spokesman Willie Motsole said his government was aware of Bala Farms and its undertakings. He said the matter had been referred to the Skweyiya Commission for investigation.

Motsole said the board of directors had been trying to trace the company’s directors or people with information regarding the matter.

Some of the directors are believed to have migrated to neighbouring states.

In 1991, Bala Farms bought the 1253 hectares Zandvlei Farm and Montana Farm for R835,000 from a Mr JJ Faul. Another farm was purchased from a Mr JJ Wessels in the same area for R135,000.

Two other farms were also bought in Tweekopsfontein from Mr JJ Huyser for R29,340 and R113,820 respectively. Van der Merwe and Calitz of Zeeman handled the transactions.

Farm numbers 295, 297, 1114 and 1113 were bought for R748,300 from Mr JJ Bosch while R657,000 was paid to Mr JD Van Staden for farms number 952, 1101 and 1102. The transfer was handled by Louis Smit of Mafikeng.
Inquiry told of false Cheques
Cops, Rs 22 m Fraud

By Abdul Muneer Saqib

29/8/20 (Daily Times)
N West said to favour white voters

A candidate says demarcation violates voters' constitutional rights

By Abdul Milazi

Residents of Kaelelel and Lehurutshe in the North West have accused the provincial government of favouring whites in the demarcation of wards in the Zeerust area.

People who spoke to Sowetan said the current demarcation meant that the white town of Zeerust which has 1,900 registered voters, will have the same number of representatives as Lehurutshe with 1,805 voters and Ikageleng with 1,976 combined.

Mr Steve Moagi of Lehurutshe said "This means the white man's vote is double that of a black man."

Other residents also criticised the demarcation, saying they wanted an equal number of voters in each ward.

Apparently, the Demarcation Board allocated 12 seats to the area which includes Zeerust, Ikageleng, Henryville, Shalimar Park and Lehurutshe.

Zeerust was divided into four wards, while Ikageleng and Lehurutshe were divided into two wards each.

"The residents' concerns were echoed by Zeerust ANC member Mr Fred Dawson who said the current demarcation had a bias towards Zeerust.

Dawson, who is running for the local government elections, said the way the wards were allocated violated the Interim Constitution.

"The Constitution clearly stipulates that each ward shall contain an approximately equal number of voters," said Dawson.

The division of seats in the area is 8 wards and four seats for proportional representation.

The number of voters per ward in the local voters roll is: Zeerust, ward 1 = 541, ward 2 = 480, ward 3 = 483, ward 4 = 486, Ikageleng, ward 5 = 970, ward 6 = 1,006, Lehurutshe, ward 7 = 905 and ward 8 = 900 voters.

Dawson said "Taking into account that Ikageleng and Lehurutshe are black areas and that Zeerust is white, the conclusion that one can draw is that the bias is racial.

"The voters of these two areas are being seriously prejudiced by this demarcation and their constitutional rights have been violated," North West government spokesman Wilie Modise said the problem occurred not only in the Zeerust area but in many other areas in the province.

"The (provincial) government is currently devoting all its energy to solving this problem," said Modise.
Inquiry told of fake chques
Cop's Rs 25-m fraud
Bitter Mangope being crucified.

The former Bophuthatswana into South Africa would happen "over my dead body."
Probe told of false names on cheques for Bop party

The head of the former Bophuthatswana Internal Intelligence Service yesterday admitted having been co-signatory under a false name to cheques for almost R2,4-million made out in favour of former president Lucas Mangope’s Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

Frederick Richard “Dick” Knollys testified before the Skwynya Commission of Inquiry that he believed authorisation for the channeling of the funds, drawn on a secret state account, came from Mangope and his cabinet.

The secret account was opened in 1982 under the name of Putura Investments. Knollys’ signature on cheques drawn on the account read “D Butler”, Johan Ebelhitzé, the other signatory and then “secretary of the National Security Council, signed Murray”.

When asked by advocate Var Solo, for the commission, whether he thought it was normal that state money was used to fund a political party, Knollys replied: “The emphasis is on the word ‘normal’. Here, circumstances were unusual, if not abnormal.”

According to evidence before the inquiry, not all state money channelled through the secret account went to the CDP.

Knollys testified that Ebelhitzé never told him what the money was used for and that he (Knollys) “understood it to be related to the funding of the CDP project.”

He denied knowing, when the cheques were issued, that R800,000 had been paid to Johan Vermaak, then secretary of finance, and almost R1.5-million to Ebelhitzé, Keikelame, then minister of economic affairs and treasurer of the CDP.

Knollys also denied knowing that two of the cheques, totalling almost R40,000, were for Mangope’s private use.—Sapa.
Inquiry told of
R2,4m fund

CT 23/8/96

MMABATHO: The head of the for-
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According to evidence before
the commission, not all state
money channelled through the
account went to the CDP. It is
alleged that R8 000 was paid to Mr
Johan Vermaak, then secretary of
finance, R1,5 million to Mr
Ephraim Kekelaar, then minister
of economic affairs and that
cheques for R49 000 were for Mr
Mangope's private use. — Sapa
R10-m spent on Mangope’s CDP

STATE funds channelled to a secret account totaling R10,4 million were used to boost Chief Lucas Mangope’s Christian Democratic Party in Bophuthatswana between 1992 and 1994, the Skweyra Commission of Inquiry into corruption in the former homeland heard in Mmabatho yesterday.

Of this amount, R4,5 million was paid to consultant Brigadier Pierre le Clus to popularise the party between January and March 1994, when the CDP was toppled from power by a popular uprising, Bophuthatswana’s former minister of economic affairs and CDP treasurer Mr Ephraim Keikelame told the inquiry.

Keikelame said thousands of rand had been spent on things such as gold-plated lapel badges, scarves, cufflinks, tie pins and flags to boost the CDP’s image.

More than R1 million had been spent on vehicles for the CDP.

In response to a question from commission chairman Mr Louis Skweyra, Keikelame said he saw nothing wrong with a political party receiving State funds, including the African National Congress.

“In fact, it is happening right now. The ANC is using Government money to promote the RDP, while saying it is their own plan,” he said.

Mr Vus Soni, leading evidence for the commission, submitted that certain documents were compiled in such a way as to mislead Bophuthatswana’s auditor-general as to what State funds were being used for.

Keikelame claimed to have signed documents relating to the funds in his capacity as CDP treasurer rather than as minister, an aspect which Soni is disputing. — Sapa.
Fund 'to boost Mangope'  

MMABATHO: State funds channelled to a secret account totaling R10.4 million were used to boost President Lucas Mangope's Christian Democratic Party in Bophuthatswana, the Skweyisa Commission of Inquiry heard.

Of this, R4.5m was paid to a consultant to popularise the party which was toppled from power in 1994, party treasurer Mr Ephraim Keikelame said. Thousands had been spent on badges, scarves, cuff-links and flags to boost the party's image. Over R1m had been spent on cars. — Sapa
'Keikelame should be charged for Bop fraud'

BY DAN DHlamini

Unity's funding of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, which he said was an ANC initiative.

Sonja said the "Project Future" by which state funds had been channelled to the Christian Democratic Party, had been created to loot state coffers without anyone realising it.

He said Keikelame had never raised "Project Future" at cabinet level because it was a secret project, known only to him, Mangope and former Bop National Security Council secretary, Molema.

The Skweyra Commission, which has been sitting for almost a year, is probing allegations of corruption and misuse of public funds amounting to over R15 million by the erstwhile Bophuthatswana government which was headed by Chief Lucas Mangope.

At least R10 million of the total amount was allegedly channelled into Mangope's Christian Democratic Party and for his personal use.

Next to appear before the Commission after Mangope and Keikelame will be the former "white Batswana of Bop", Rowan Cronje, who allegedly received a R75 000 golden handshake.

Sonja said Cronje had indicated that he would testify before the Commission.

Sonja said there were about six witnesses left to appear before the Commission ended its hearings.

The proceedings resume tomorrow.
R4,5m paid ‘to publicise party’

Kevin O’Grady

A RETIRED SA Air Force and military intelligence officer was paid R4.5m in Bophuthatswana government funds for a campaign to “popularise” the ruling Christian Democratic Party, the Skweyiya commission of inquiry heard yesterday.

Brig Pierre le Clus told the commission, investigating corruption in the former homeland, the 1994 payments were part of a R5m contract between his company, Pleco Communications, and the party.

The money was given to him by the homeland’s national security council’s secretary, Jacob Esterhuizen, from a secret account held in the name of a fake company known as Western Management, on instructions from party treasurer Ephraim Kekelane.

“I suspected it was government funds, but at stage I had no option but to accept the cheque. My contract did not make provision for me to withdraw on such grounds,” he said.

Le Clus said he approached party secretary and Bophuthatswana education minister Clement Schena with the idea of running the party’s campaign.

He denied his company was a “front” for Q Projects, another company running a voter education campaign for the Bophuthatswana government at the same time.

There was nothing sinister in the fact that a “substantial” portion of Pleco Communications’ work was subcontracted to Q Projects and its subsidiary, Baden Communications Services, he said. It was “coincidence” that the values of the companies’ contracts were identical.

Commission advocate Vas Soni said evidence showed that Q Projects had identified the party as a “weak link” in its voter education campaign, and that comments made by Le Clus at the cabinet meeting, addressed by a Q Projects official, might have prompted the Christian Democratic Party to sign the contract with Pleco Communications. Le Clus said this could have happened.

Le Clus told the commission that during the course of the campaign to popularise the party, which ended “abruptly” when Bophuthatswana was incorporated into SA in March 1994, he briefed the party’s head committee — consisting of then president Lucas Mangope and most cabinet ministers — every fortnight.

Jordan disagrees with IBA

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — Broadcasting Minister Pallo Jordan yesterday disagreed with the Independent Broadcasting Authority’s (IBA’s) recommendation that the SABC should lose a channel.

He also disagreed with the IBA’s recommendation that there be a delay in introducing a private terrestrial channel. Thus, he said, might “overprotect” the SABC.

In a parliamentary communications committee, Jordan approved the IBA’s recommendation on restructuring radio and endorsed imposition of local content regulations. “I would like to urge radio broadcasters not to see regulations about SA music on radio as restrictions but rather as an opportunity to develop SA music. The absurd assertion that an obligation to air SA music will encourage mediocrity must be met head on. No radio broadcaster will be constrained to relinquish quality control,” he said.

He recommended that the IBA consider an incentive scheme for broadcasters playing SA music above the quota.

The ministry was fully behind the authority’s approach to broadcasting regulation of terrestrial television. However, he asked the committee to test whether the IBA’s proposals would meet their goals.

He wanted Parliament to examine closely recommendations on limiting the SABC to two terrestrial and one satellite television channels and allow a private terrestrial television channel only in 1999.

“I am not at all comfortable about the proposal on the SABC’s television channels. I am equally concerned that the delay in introducing the private terrestrial channel might overprotect the SABC and defeat the disciplinary aims of regulated competition to improve the quality and range of public and private television,” he said.

“Concentrations of media power stand in the way of achieving broadcasting diversity. This is a matter that needs resolution prior to the licensing of private broadcasters,” he argued against those who argued that market forces alone should determine what local television or music should be produced. This would condemn South Africans to “electronic servitude” to half a dozen multinational media corporations that had no interest in nation-building.

These corporations’ sole reason for being was the maximisation of profit.

NP broadcasting spokesman Mathius van Schalkwyk said his party did not support the report’s suggestion that the SABC’s monopoly should continue until the end of 1997. The matter of local content should be considered carefully so that requirements which were too high would not frustrate the good intention of protecting local culture. The possibility of direct state funding of the SABC, no matter how restricted, created the possibility of political blackmail by the government, he said.
By DAN DHLAMINI

WHEN the Skweyra Commission was set up by the newly elected North West provincial government to probe allegations of corruption in the province, former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope cried: “why me?”

LUCAS MANGOPE

only?”

The Commission has so far heard that Mangope and his Christian Democratic Party amassed more than R10 million of state and public funds between 1990 and last year.

Advocate Franz Kgomo who, together with Advocate Vas Soni, is leading the evidence for the Skweyra Commission, told City Press that the last aspect of their investigation would be the R100-million Hammanskraal Power station which, Mangope constructed, despite expert advice that it was a non-starter.

City Press can reveal today that former Ciskei military ruler Brigadier Cupa Gqozo will be investigated after Mangope. He will be the second former head of state to be questioned about corruption in a court he helped to set up.

Gqozo is alleged to have spent R102 000 of public money on a new portrait that would depict him as a civilian, and to have used R25 000 of public money to fund the African Democratic Movement (ADM).

He is also alleged to have spent R41 782 of public money to buy a state farm measuring 443 hectares despite his own government’s moratorium on the sale of state land.

He is expected to testify before the Heath Commission from October 11 to 13. He will also appear in the North West Taung Regional Magistrate Court on October 2 to face charges of illegal diamond dealing.

Justice William Hendrick Heath, who is heading the commission into allegations of misappropriation of state assets and public funds, told City Press that more than R15 million was involved.

He said he was also investigating the former Transkei and the current Eastern Cape Provincial government.

Heath said the commission started in June this year and is expected to complete its investigations into 250 cases, which date back to 1976, in two years time.

Mpumalanga Premier Matthew Phosa said commissions of inquiry into corruption should not be restricted to the former TBVC states, but should also include FW de Klerk’s former National Party government.

Phosa, whose government is currently in the spotlight following allegations that it paid political expert Eugene Nyathi R15 000 a day, said corruption was corruption irrespective of who committed it.

Phosa said the National Party members were currently receiving two salaries and were the ones on the gravy train, rather than their ANC counterparts.

He also said that apart from the commission headed by Advocate Brian Shreeve, which is investigating the Nyathi issue, and the Browdy Commission which is investigating the TBVC states, there was no other structure investigating corruption in his province.

A spokesman for the Northern Province, Saad Cachalia, said besides the Browdy Commission, the provincial government had set up the Assets Audit Committee (AAC) led by Brigadier J van Wyk to investigate corruption and misuse of state assets.

The spokesman for the Office for Serious Economic Offences (OSEO) Advocate Chris van Vuuren told the City Press this week that the National Tourism Forum (NTF) which was headed by ANC MP Peter Mokoba was still under investigation.

Van Vuuren said the ESEO was not investigating Mokaba personally, but the NTF, which was disbanded in January.

He said as soon as they were through with their investigations the matter would be referred to the Attorney General for his ruling.

There were allegations of corruption and financial irregularities stemming from the apparent fraudulent withdrawal of more than R100 000 from the organisation’s coffers.

Meanwhile Norman Escoffery, an alien of Afro-Jamaican origin, who allegedly obtained a loan of more than R14 million from North West’s Agribank, has been charged with fraud, corruption and theft.

Pretoria Regional CourtProsecutor A Crauwinkel said Escoffery, who appeared in court this week, was not asked to plead. He will appear again on November 27.

Advocate Dave Fouche, also of the OSEO, this week told City Press that the People’s Progressive-party leaders Rocky Malebana-Metsing and Dr John Lamola were also under investigation.

Fouche said the OSEO has submitted certain recommendations to the Attorney General regarding Lamola and Malebana-Metsing.

He said a final report would be sent to the Attorney General soon, but he declined to provide more details about the matter, saying it was sub judice.
Diaphanous with apartheid?
government and were

organized in May 1994, started

Any other questions?

Why should an

organization have

mission statements that are

more than one page long?
R300 000 in 18 months — without working

(266C) Wm15-21/9/95

Philippa Garson

ROSEMARY MANGOPE, daughter-in-law of former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope, still reaps the benefits of her former job as executive director of the Mabana Cultural Centre in Mmabatho, even though she left the centre when she fled the homeland 18 months ago.

After the homeland uprising, which toppled her father-in-law, she was suspended from her position pending the outcome of investigations by the Skweyana Commission into maladministration by the former homeland government.

The diminutive Rosemary still draws a salary of around R200 000 a year and drives a five-series BMW belonging to the centre, which also pays for her petrol — yet lives permanently in her home in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg.

Chief director of legal services for the North-West province, advocate Nico-Jagga, said Mangope's suspension had nothing to do with the fact that she was Lucas Mangope's daughter-in-law.

A report from the commission has been forwarded to Premier Popo Molefe, who will decide how to take the matter further, said Jagga.

Mangope has not resumed her position at the cultural centre, which is headquartered in Mmabatho and has five satellite branches around the former homeland, since her urgent departure in a helicopter during the homeland uprising shortly before the elections last year.

Her deputy, Peggy Machali, has been acting executive director since Mangope left, and according to staff members the centre seems to be paying two executive director salaries.

Married to Lucas Mangope's second eldest child, Kvena, who is a colonel in the South African National Defence Force, Rosemary apparently lives a life of relative luxury, having just returned from a holiday to Disney World in the United States with her two children.

She incurred the wrath of staff members at the centre during the civil service strike shortly before the uprising when she refused to close down the premises. "People who worked at the centre started getting threats. They were told that if they didn't quit or join the strike their houses would be burnt. Rosemary was approached but she refused to close the centre," a staff member said.

However, when looting and loot began around the city she was forced to close it down. "Later that afternoon people started burning the place down. Then she took her children out of Mmabatho in a presidential helicopter."

During the riots the entire centre was ransacked, the theatre was burnt down, equipment was stolen and broken, "doors were taken to remove grand pianos" and a total of R16-million damage was inflicted.

Mabana Cultural Centre, which receives 80 percent of its funds from the government, has since been restored and continues to offer drama, arts and dance to the community.

However, "there is now a leadership vacuum there. We've questioned the government repeatedly, but since March last year nothing has been done. If the new government wanted to change things it could have done something by now," said the staff member who preferred to remain anonymous.

Jagga said Mangope had been suspended in terms of the Mabana Cultural Foundation Act of 1987. "The fact that she's under suspension does not mean she has denied the rights that she has as chief executive director," Jagga added, however, that the provincial government was aware that taxpayers' money was being spent and "viewed the matter with utmost urgency."

Mangope was not available for comment.
The elders further criticised the tribal administration of being "preferential" in the allocation of projects — to the exclusion of Bafokeng contractors.

Bafokeng elders have also criticised the chief and his "unilaterally-chosen tribal council" of bad financial management — adding that financial management should be completely "seized from the chief and his highly-paid but redundant staff and their salaries decreased".

They have demanded that the present tribal council be dissolved forthwith and a transitional council be established.

They further accused the chief of "unnecessarily splashing out millions of rands in spurious and vexatious litigations".

Kgos Lebone Molotlegi has so far ignored replying to the ultimatum and was reported to have dismissed the recent demonstration as being "instigated by Matebele" and not worth commenting to.

Attempts to make contact with the chief by City Press have been ignored.

At a meeting held last Sunday at the Phokeng Civic Centre, the elders said they felt "insulted by the chief’s response to their ultimatum".

His son, Mmolwana Molotlegi, who spoke at the meeting, said if the chief said the demonstration was agitated by "Matebele" — a derogatory name for Setswana non-speakers — he wondered if he is a "Letebele".

Meanwhile, Bell, Dewar and Hall — a law firm representing Kgos Molotlegi — said the City Press report headlined "Let us see our elusive chief!" created the "image of a tribal despot, cut off from his tribe, living in the lap of luxury while squalor exists all around" and have demanded a retraction on behalf of their client.

City Press however stands by its story.
Loans of millions to Bop ministers investigated

BY JOVIAL RANYAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

The North West government has embarked on a mission to recover millions in unserviced loans, which were made to former cabinet ministers as well as to "their friends and family members" by the North West Development Corporation (NWDC), formerly the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation.

The North West Executive Council met last week to discuss the unserviced loans, which were granted to ex-Bophuthatswana ministers, their relatives and friends. The North West government spokesman Wilie Modise said the Executive Council expressed concern that there was no servicing of these loans, so causing the corporation to be less liquid.

"Concern was also raised at the slow progress by the corporation in revamping properties destroyed during the uprising last year and those that had not been utilised for a number of years," Modise said.

There was also concern over some loans which might have been written off.

The Star understands that concern was raised about the R20 000 in monthly salary that has allegedly been paid to suspended NWDC senior general manager Eddie Magope, son of former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Magope.

The suspension of Magope (r) followed a revolt by workers of the corporation about a series of allegations made by them against him. He was suspended with full pay after a commission was instituted to investigate workers' allegations.

The North West government is believed to be seeking legal advice on the unpublished recommendation of the commission. Concern has also been raised in Mmabatho over another member of the Magope family, who worked for a separate parastatal and was suspended for similar reasons, and is also allegedly receiving a monthly salary of R2 000 plus perks.

Rosemary Magope, daughter-in-law of the former Bophuthatswana leader, said the Mmabana Cultural Centre 18 months ago and was suspended pending investigations by the Skweyana Commission of Inquiry into corruption and fraud in the former homeland.

The Skweyana Commission is expected to make recommendations soon to the North West government, which will then decide on a course of action.

Modise said other matters discussed at last week's meeting were the transformation and restructuring of the NWDC to enable it to be more profitable and to be in line with the new national order in the province.
Molefe sacks ‘old order’ transport board

BY JOVIAI RANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

The North West government yesterday removed the control of the province’s multi-billion rand transport industry from National Party Economic Affairs MEC Abraham Venter, a move likely to create political tension in the provincial government.

Although North West Premier Popo Molefe said he was not expecting any tension, his actions clearly indicate unhappiness with Venter’s failure to implement government decisions designed to facilitate restructuring and rationalisation.

Molefe told a press conference in Johannesburg that the board of the National Transport Investment (NTI) and its 19 subsidiary companies have been dissolved. The contracts of 23 directors who served on these boards would not be renewed.

“For some time now the NTI has been run by a board that we inherited from the old order, with the exception of one or two people. A while ago, the (North West) government took some decisions to facilitate restructuring.

“Many were not implemented, leading us to a conclusion that there is a state of inertia and paralysis within the board.

“We decided to do something to enable the decisions to be implemented,” Molefe said.

Some of the concerns with the former board was the failure to relocate NTI’s computer network from Pretoria to Mabopane, Molefe said. North West Transport MEC Star Vilakazi said the province was also concerned with a duplication of structures within NTI, hinting that NTI’s Gauteng operations might be moved to North West.

These include bus services rendered by the Atteridgeville, Mamelodi and Vaal operations. There was a suggestion that the service being provided in other provinces could be transferred to regions within the North West not served by NTI.

“We want to restructure the NTI in such a way that it will largely serve people in the North West. NTI is not a national parastatal,” Molefe said, adding that discussions with some of the affected provinces were ongoing.

NTI owns 2 000 buses, and has a staff complement of 6 800.

The premier announced the start of a two-month restructuring process of NTI.

The boards have been replaced by a seven-member interim board chaired by his legal adviser, Advocate Martin Mabijana.

The cost of the exercise has been estimated at R250 000.

Staff Reporter
Molefe dissolves board over irregularities

BY ROSS HERRIET

Conflicts of interest in tendering, management problems and potential corruption at the Northwest Transport Investment company (NTI) prompted Popo Molefe, the Northwest provincial premier, to announce the immediate dissolution of its board of directors and all subsidiary boards of directors yesterday.

Molefe said Michael Katz and Barry Adams had been named to a two-person committee charged with investigating the company and advising the Northwest government on how to restructure it.

He said there were unspecified problems surrounding the boards, including instances of boards awarding tenders to companies owned by board members.

Control of the company's board has been stripped from Abraham Venter, the provincial minister of economic affairs, and given to an interim board of seven directors who will oversee the company for the next two months.

The restructuring may have a sizable effect on public transport outside the province. Because of Apartheid-era rules, the company, previously part of the Bophuthatswana government, developed front companies in Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga, including Explorer Coach Lines, Attendgeville Bus Services, Mamelodi Bus Services, Newtra Services Centre, Vial Transport, Vial Body & Coach Builders and 13 others. The company controls about 2,000 public buses that move about 150 million passengers a year.

Molefe said the province spent R225 million a year on subsidies to NTI, which had 6,800 employees. He said the province spent R183 million in worker salary subsidies for NTI, which amounted to more than R20,000 a job.

He said no decisions had been made whether transportation companies in other provinces would be sold and the capital used in the Northwest or their assets simply transferred back to the Northwest.

Molefe said his staff had recently discovered 20 additional boards controlled by the company and did not know how much public money was spent on board members. The NTI board chairman received R1,000 a board meeting and each member R250 a meeting and met an average of six times a year.

Molefe said he wanted to proceed with maximum transparency but did not want to discuss the full extent of NTI's problems.

"I anticipate some of the people removed from the boards might try to resist (the investigation), but we will not tolerate any resistance."

He said the province had no existing guidelines about how much to pay consultants to the provincial government.
Decision awaited on Sebo

BY ROY COKAYNE

A response is still being awaited from the presiding officer of the hearing involving Paul Stone, the suspended chief executive of the Sefalana Employees Benefit Organisation (Sebo), the organisation which has assets totalling $42.2 billion, and administers the four funds of the former Bophuthatswana government.

Stone was suspended in April, apparently by the finance department of the central government. An internal hearing began in August.

Peter May, the general manager of communications at Sebo, confirmed that the closed hearing had been concluded but said a decision had not yet been handed down by the presiding officer, an advocate.

He said in terms of the statute, the finding of the presiding officer would be forwarded to Alice Irwin, the deputy finance minister, who was now also trustee of all of the funds administered by Sebo.

May was not prepared to provide any details of the allegations against Stone, adding that these details were "not released at the time of his suspension and were between Sebo's transitional management committee, Stone and the hearing official." He said the hearing took place in terms of a normal review of an executive of the organisation and "straightforward business practices," and not under any Act or section of an Act.
Decision awaited on Sebo hearing

CT(BR)4/10/95

BY ROY COKAYNE

A response is still being awaited from the presiding officer of a hearing involving Paul Stone, the suspended chief executive of the Sebalanga Employees Benefit Organisation (Sebo), the organisation which has assets totalling P4,2 billion and administers the funds of the former Bophuthatswana government.

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He said the hearing took place in terms of a normal review of an executive's "acts, behaviour and "practices" and not under any Act or section of an Act.

May said that, in terms of the Sebo Act, the president (then the President of Bophuthatswana) had the sole right to appoint or dismiss the chief executive of Sebo.

This now meant that President Nelson Mandela had this right, he said.
Northwest opposition gears up for poll

FORMER Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope’s party is to woo local government election voters by focusing on “the ANC’s failure to deliver on promises made in last year’s national election.”

United Christian Democratic Party chairman Johan de Wit said the UCDP’s credibility had not been affected by Mangope’s recent appearance before the Siswatiya commission, where it was alleged he diverted R15m in government funds to his party while homeland president. Mangope is president of the UCDP, formed in February this year.

Lamola said the inquiry had been targeted at Mangope’s “old” Christian Democratic Party. It flowed from a vendetta against Mangope, the only person in the region to stand up to the ANC.

Lamola said the party would focus on two-thirds of the former Bophuthatswana local authorities and some areas in the former Western Transvaal, with special attention being devoted to Vryburg, Schweizer-Reneke, Lichtenburg, Rustenburg and Koster.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the party formed by suspended ANC MEC Rocky Malebane-Metang predicted the ANC would not win one council in the Northwest due to organizational problems.

People’s Progressive Party secretary-general John Lamola said the ANC provincial government had failed to deliver.

Lamola said the ANC’s “anti-Mangope campaign” through the Siswatiya commission had merely generated sympathy for Mangope.

Because the latter lacked credibility, most voters were joining the PPP. The party, launched in June, starts its campaign on October 14.
Call to Chargé Mangope

Advocate says former leader should account for R2.6m in tribal funds

By Abdul Milied

2660 (Corinjan, S/10/95)
The staff of former president Lucas Mangope is being paid R20 000 per month by the North-West government, even though no work has been done. This despite an official recommendation by the NWDC to stop payments.

Eddy Mangope, who was manager of the Bophuthatswana National Development Corp (BNDC) during his father’s reign, has now been paid R400 000 since ordered to stop working in May 1994.

A report by the Khumalo commission of inquiry in November 1994 recommended a settlement be reached to terminate his services or, alternatively, to transfer him to another parastatal. A year later these recommendations have still not been acted on.

He was asked to stop work as there were “bad feelings” between himself and workers.

North-West spokesman Willie Modise yesterday confirmed the payments which he said would continue until his fate was decided by the NWDC’s directors.

“Is not my fault that asked me to stop work,” Mangope said. “I would like to go back. It was committed to what I did there.”

► See Page 16
Bop media workers accept package
500 to be laid off
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 6, 1995

R25 000 salary
for no work (ZBC)

PRETORIA: The North-West administration is paying more than R25 000 a month to a man who no longer works for it and despite advice that he be paid off.

Mr Eddie Mangope, a former manager of the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation and son of former Bophuthatswana President Mr. Lucas Mangope, has been paid more than R400 000 since he was ordered to stop working for the corporation in May last year.

A report by the Kromelmo commission, handed to the North-West administration in November but never made public, recommended that a settlement be reached with Mr. Mangope.
**Popo’s man and the car**

By DAN DHLAMINI

The personal assistant of North West Premier Popo Mboli this week briefly appeared in the Mmabatho Regional Court, charged with possession of a suspected stolen vehicle.

Keith Khoza (30) of Alexandra, Johannesburg, was not asked to plead and Magistrate DD Mogoš postponed the case until November 7. Khoza was released without bail.

The charge sheet did not give details of the charge except that Khoza was found in possession of stolen property on February 13 this year.

Khoza’s court appearance has sparked off mixed feelings among some North West public servants — who claim that, unlike other public servants facing criminal charges, he has not been suspended.

They cite the suspensions of Baba Schalk who holds a high position in the North West Communication Service, certain members of the VIP protection unit and the 17 policemen alleged to have murdered trade unionist Sammy Magano.

The MEC for safety and security, Satish Roopa, ordered that the cops be suspended pending the outcome of their trial.

Schalk — suspected of involvement in a cellular phone scam amounting to more than R28,000 — was suspended pending investigations earlier this year. He was later cleared of any criminal intention and resumed his duties.

The premier was unavailable for comment.

But the chief director in the premier’s office, Paul Daphney, said they did not intend to suspend Khoza as he was presumed innocent until found guilty by a court of law.

Daphney said Schalk may have been suspended because government funds were involved.

However, he could not explain why there was inconsistency in applying policy equally in all departments, except to say that the 17 policemen had allegedly committed a serious crime.

Mmabatho community members have also brought the prosecution under fire for the eight months’ delay before Khoza’s appearance.

Mmabatho senior prosecutor Sejako Senatle told City Press-Khoza had asked for his case to be held back until his return from a three-month course in America.
be punished

must

Mangope
FORMER Bophuthatswana President
Lucas Mangope and other top members of his
apartheid-created bantustan must be
charged for the misappropriation of R200
million.

This was the recommendation to the Skweyiya
Commission this week by advocates Frans Kgomo,
Monica Leeuw and Vas Soni - who have since last
year been investigating 22 corruption allegations
involving over R200 000 000 in public funds allegedly
misused by Mangope and his administration.

The advocates who led evidence for the commission
recommended that, among others, Mangope be criminally
charged with the embezzlement of R2 625 891
in royalties paid out by Maroco Chrome Mining
Company for mining rights at the Strydfontein farm in
Lehurutshe. The farm belongs to the Bahurutshe-Boo-
Manyane tribe, of which Mangope is the chief.

Some of the others who should be charged were
named as Rowan Cronje, former minister of state
affairs in the Bop government, Ephraim Kekelaame,
former minister of economic affairs, and former
finance secretary JP Vermaak.

Evidence was led that National Security Council
secretary Johan Esterhuzen had masterminded the
transfer of millions of rand to various bodies and
personal accounts.

Among the transfers to personal accounts of
Mangope and others were:
- More than half a million rand to Mangope's overseas
  accounts in the Channel Islands,
- Nearly one million rand paid to Vermaak,
- R75 000 paid in cash to Rowan Cronje,
- More than R200 000 paid in dollars to Roberto
  Scon, an Italian businessman who was inside
  Bophuthatswana's representative in Italy, and
- R4.8 million allocated to Brigadier Pierre de Clus
  to promulgate propaganda for Mangope's Christian
  Democratic Party against the ANC.

In addition Mangope's wife, Leah and daughter,
Olga, had received a house in Tshwane township and
used government material and labour to improve it.

Mangope's daughter-in-law Rosemary Mangope,
former director of the Mabanga Cultural Centre, was
voted using R4.4 million of public funds.

A civil action should be instituted against
Mangope in respect of the farms Alwynspoort,
Maropelakop, Moeng Smallholdings and
Motswedile Dairy which Mangope improved and
bought with government money, the advocates
recommended.

If the recommendations are implemented, Mangope
would be stripped of all his wealth.

The commission's representatives also recom-
mented that the former head of the Information
Service of Bophuthatswana (ISOB), Jerry
Reid, who entered into a R7 million contract with
Q-Group which was supposed to start non-parti-
san voter education in Bop, should pay back all
the money he had used and return a BMW 535i
car bought for R224 313 in his name by ISOB - or
pay for it.

He should also be or-
dered to pay back the
R207 225 he sent to Sco

The commission,
chairled by advocate
Lous Skweyiya, senior
counsel, assisted by advo-
cate Kgomo Moroka
and lawyer Ouma Rabaj,
would up its business on

Wednesday.

They are to present
their report and recom-
mendations to Premier
Pope Molefe on Friday.
SA Press Association

The Sekwetya Commission of Inquiry has been urged by its leading investigators to charge former Bophuthatswana leader Chief Lucas Mangope with fraud for his part in the building of a R177 million electricity power station that has never produced power.

Advocates Frans Kgomo, Monica Leeuw and Vas Soni described the power station as "an unspeakable fraud" perpetrated on the people of Bophuthatswana and ultimately on the South African taxpayer.

The commission has been investigating 22 allegations of corruption involving more than R200 million of public funds allegedly misused by Mangope and his administration.

Apartheid's folly

The three advocates who led evidence have presented their recommendations to the commission, which is expected to complete its business on Friday.

The power station, built in the 80s near Hammanskraal, has not produced a single unit of power.

It is, the investigators said, "either a monument to apartheid's folly or a fraudulent scam on a scale not paralleled in South African history."

Information about the project was obtained from documents gathered by the commission.

"Possible witnesses were not forthcoming with information," the advocates wrote in their report.

"The perpetrators of this terrible wrong must be brought to book. They must be charged with fraud."

The advocates recommended that, in the absence of sufficient information, the matter be referred to the Office for Serious Economic Offences.

No real need

The investigators concluded that the masterminds behind the project were Mangope, Italian businessman Roberto Scio and the former homeland's one-time minister of economic affairs Ephraim Kekelaare.

They said there was no real need for the project, and noted that the homeland's finance minister Leslie Young had stated that landlocked Bophuthatswana was more in need of a nuclear submarine than a power station.

Insane scheme

In addition, electricity was available from Eskom at half the cost.

"After the decision to construct the power station was taken, there were a number of factors which individually should have been sufficient to put an early halt to this insane scheme," the advocates said.
Bop power station called ‘biggest fraud in SA history’

The Siswemwe Commission of Inquiry has been urged by its leading investigators to charge former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope with fraud for his part in the building of a R177-million electricity power station that has never once produced power.

Advocate Frans Kgomo, Moroe Llewellyn and Vas Soni described the power station as "an insidious fraud" perpetrated on the people of Bophuthatswana and ultimately on the South African taxpayer.

The commission has been investigating 32 allegations of corruption involving more than R200 million of public funds allegedly misused by Mangope and his administration.

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In addition, electricity was available from Eskom at half the cost - Sapa.
Official may face theft rap

JOHANNESBURG: The investigation team leading evidence before the Skweyiya Commission of Inquiry has suggested that the head of the former Information Service of Bophuthatswana (ISOB), Mr Jerry Reid, could face criminal prosecution for enriching himself at the expense of the parastatal.

The commission, which is investigating alleged corruption in the former homeland, is expected to present its report to North-West Premier Popo Molefe on Friday.

The ISOB and Mr Reid's role as its first director-general is covered in evidence presented to the commission by advocates Mr Frans Kgomo, Ms Monaca Lesow and Mr Vas Soni.

The investigation team said the evidence showed Mr Reid had abused his powers and enriched himself at the expense of the ISOB. He had, however, undertaken to repay amounts to which he had not been entitled.

The team said some of Mr Reid's actions made him liable for possible criminal prosecution.

It proposed that Mr Reid repay the money to which he had not been entitled, including almost R225,000 for the BMW bought in his name by the ISOB. It recommended he be warned that if he failed to repay it, he could be prosecuted for theft or fraud. — Sapa
Homelands headache 'inherited'

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

PROBLEMS inherited from former homelands could jeopardise proper financial management in three provinces for years to come.

This warning was given today in a report by the parliamentary joint standing committee on public accounts.

"The problems are very serious and larger than the provinces — Eastern Cape, North West and Northern Province — are able to resolve on their own."

Common problems were:
- A shortage of expertise, skills and adequately trained staff.
- Lack of funds and resources.
- A virtual absence of systems and controls to safeguard assets.
- Low levels of morale, motivation, enthusiasm and commitment among staff at all levels, worsened by job insecurity.
- Failure and possible inability to update financial and other records long in arrears.
- The impact of rationalisation of the provincial public service on administration in the new provinces.
- An unhealthy tendency to increase the size and cost of former TBVC civil services when cutbacks were made on other spending.
- A breakdown of governance in some areas.

The committee noted that in the Transkei, audits had been overdue since 1989, a 1988 attempt at integration of computer systems had failed, and statements of assets and liabilities could not be balanced.

In some cases, records had been destroyed by fire or removed by civic organisations.

In the former Ciskei and Venda, there had been "material" increases in spending on salaries.

In Bophuthatswana, there had been an irregular flow of funds to foreign countries.

The former secretary of finance had refused to answer questions about alleged irregular transfers of funds.

The committee recommended that every effort be made to update all financial records by November 15.

Audits of these records should be done in time to be handed to the provincial legislatures by February.

Those involved in fraud and misconduct should be brought to justice, the committee said.

Training and human resource development should be implemented urgently.

Practical support should be lent to the provinces during the transformation period.

The three provincial directors-general should work with the department of state expenditure and the public service commission to set up a plan of action for financial management.

The unresolved allocation of functions and responsibilities to provinces be finalised as soon as possible, the committee said.
Warning on TBVC plight

BARRY STREEK

THE accounting problems in the former "independent" homelands were "very seri-
ous" and larger than the three province involved could resolve on their own, the
Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts said yesterday.

If effective action was not taken soon, the problems in question might not be able to
implement effective financial management for years to come, it said in a report
subside in Parliament. The financial mismanagement of the former homelands of
Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei must be chronicled in
many official reports, but that it is a statement by the joint committee indicates the problems
are more serious than previously believed.

CT 12/10/95
Charge Mangope, orders inquiry

John Seller

FORMER Bophuthatswana strongman Lucas Mangope must be charged for a series of frauds — including the theft of mining royalties and homeland security funds — that total R22-million, according to the report of the Skiweyia Commission.

The report will have massive political repercussions, as it will be released today by North West Premier Popo Molele — on the eve of Mangope's planned congress of his revived United Christian Democratic Party in Rustenburg on Saturday.

A summary of the Final Report Into Corrupt Practices and Irregular Use of Public Funds in Government Departments and Parastatal Departments in Bophuthatswana recommends that the former homeland chief minister be charged for theft and that civil proceedings be launched to get the money back.

The offences listed by Advocate TL Skiweyia, who chaired the commission, include:

- Improvements to Mangope's personal residence and use of homeland government staff that amounted to R4.5-million.
- Occupation of the Alvinsport Farm at Groot Marico, which had been used by Mangope as his personal property since 1985. The commission says more than R3-million was lost to the homeland government through this abuse of its property.
- Appropriation of mining royalties worth some R2.6-million from the Marico Chrome Mining Company, which went to Mangope instead of the Bahurutshe-Boo Manyane tribe.
- Illegal transmission of R10 400 from the homeland's State Security Council to Mangope's personal political party, the Bophuthatswana Christian Democratic party. Also implicated in this fraud are former homeland economics minister Ephraim Kelela and the party itself.

Charges under the Exchange Control Act for the illegal transfer to overseas banks of R1.3-million.

Skiweyia also recommends that the Office for Serious Economic Offences investigate the use of a staggering R177-million to build a coal-fired power station in Bophuthatswana during Mangope's rule — a white elephant that has never generated a watt of power.

Bophuthatswana's former foreign minister Rowan Cronje is listed as having received R75 000 in cash from the homeland's State Security Council. Skiweyia says the commission was "not convinced that the payments (to Cronje) are legitimate."

The report indicates strongly that Cronje's evidence to the commission that the funds were used to pay agents was not credible and recommends that he be charged in criminal courts.

Although the report contains some strongly worded recommendations, it is clear that Skiweyia has adhered strictly to his terms of reference by avoiding reference to numerous political misdemeanours that took place in the homeland under Mangope's reign.

However it is clear the African National Congress will make extensive use of the report to discredit Mangope and the United Christian Democratic Party in campaigning during local government elections in the province.

Mangope's new party is due to have a mass meeting in Rustenburg on Saturday where it is expected he will respond to the Skiweyia recommendations.
Mangopegovt
Corrupt—Inquiry
Kevin O'Grady
BD 13/10/95
THE Skweyiya commission into corruption in the former Bophuthatswana had been faced with “uncontroversial and indisputable evidence” of corruption under Lucas Mangope’s government, commission chairman Lewis Skweyiya said yesterday.

Skweyiya, who handed his findings to the Northwest cabinet yesterday, hinted that his recommendations could include that a civil court action be instituted against Mangope. It would be “up to the attorney-general” to decide whether to lay criminal charges.

A summary of the commission’s findings and recommendations, after 14 months of evidence on alleged corruption involving R290m in the homeland, would not be released until it had been studied by the provincial government, acting Northwest premier Zachariah Tolo said yesterday.

A Skweyiya commission interim report dealing with the commission’s findings up to about March was also

Continued on Page 2

Mangope
Continued from Page 1

not made public despite Skweyiya urging that it be released immediately.

Tolo conceded the document belonged to the public but declined to make it public. Handing the summary to Tolo, Skweyiya said he had “no doubt that what we have discovered is only the tip of the iceberg”. He was fascinated by “what I call the Italian connection, a thread which runs right through. Even the initiation of the idea of building a power station comes after a trip to Italy,” he said, referring to a multimillion-rand white elephant built by Mangope and never used.

To investigate the full extent of corruption in Bophuthatswana would have necessitated sending a team of investigators abroad and asking for Interpol’s assistance, Skweyiya said. This was not feasible because of time and cost factors.

Evidence before the commission was that Mangope authorised the use of about R113m in Bophuthatswana National Security Council funds for his ruling Christian Democratic Party.

Tolo said that government had taken note of recent calls for the “prosecution of various individuals in the Mangope regime” and would decide on the matter once the findings had been discussed.
Mangope angry over early release of recommendation

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

A dispute has erupted over the early release of a recommendation by the Skweyiya Commission that legal action be taken against former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope to recover more than R200-million he is alleged to have misused during his reign.

Mangope's lawyers have complained the report was released 24 hours earlier than the date given to them and have accused the commission and the North-West government of "electioneering".

The commission report was released to Acting Premier and Public Works MEC Zacharia Toeh yesterday by the commission chairman, advocate Louis Skweyiya at a press conference. The former homeland leader and his lawyer Richard Nesbit reacted with anger to the news.

Nesbit said he was advised by Skweyiya and advocates who led evidence before the commission that the findings would be made today in an open court.

The commission has recommended that legal action should be taken to recover money which the commission found that Mangope and his aides had embezzled.

The North-West provincial executive will hold an urgent meeting next week to decide whether to accept Skweyiya's recommendations.
Mangope faces theft charges

By PETER De IONNO

LUCAS MANGOPE, the toppled Bophuthatswana dictator, is expected to be charged with theft of government funds and faces legal action to recover more than R16-million.

This is the key recommendation of Skweyiya's commission into corruption in the former Bophuthatswana homeland, which presented its final report to Zachariah Tole, the acting Premier of North West Province, on Thursday 15 October.

The report also recommends that the Office for Serious Economic Offences investigate the R19.5-million spent on construction of the now-derelict Mmamatswe power station at Skilpadfontein, north of Pretoria.

Details of advocate Louis Skweyiya's findings are being kept secret by the provincial government until after an emergency cabinet meeting is held tomorrow.

The decision to withhold the report left commission members stunned. “The evidence we found is incontrovertible,” said one.

Mr Skweyiya described the 14-month investigation as “gruelling and depressing. This is just the tip of a very large iceberg.” He said fear, particularly among civil servants, had hampered the commission’s work. “The ex-state president is still feared even though he has gone from office.

It is time to build a culture of open accountability and honesty in the public service.”

The commission found evidence that Mr Mangope spent about R45-million on improvements to his house and illegally used government staff at his home.

The most serious offence identified by the commission was the transfer of R19.5-million from the homeland’s State Security Council to Mr Mangope’s party, the Bophuthatswana Christian Democratic Party. Commission investigators believe this money is now held by the party’s successor, the United Christian Democratic Party, also led by Mr Mangope.
Mangope proceeds with election plans

FORMER Bophuthatswana leader Lucas Mangope pressed ahead with the launch of his new party’s election manifesto at the weekend, despite being tarnished by a commission report which recommends he be criminally charged with theft and fraud totalling R22m.

Indications are that the ANC-dominated Northwest government intends to gain maximum political mileage from the report in the run-up to the November 1 election which will see Mangope’s United Christian Democratic Party pitted against the ANC in the province.

In a summary of advocate Louis Skweyusa’s final report into corrupt practices and irregular use of public funds in government departments and parastatal bodies in Bophuthatswana, he recommends civil proceedings against Mangope to regain the R22m.

Skweyusa also recommends that Mangope be suspended as chief of the Bahuutshe-Boo-Manyane tribe and that he be criminally indicted for fraud and theft.

Criminal charges against former Bophuthatswana foreign minister Rowan Cronje, economic affairs minister Ephraim Kekelame, Information Service of Bophuthatswana director-general Jerry Reid and David Immelman of communications company Q Projects are also recommended.

The Skweyusa commission found Mangope spent R4.4m improving his personal residence at Motswedi and that he was liable for R3m for person-

ally using the Bophuthatswana government-owned Alwynsport Farm at Groot Marico since 1985.

It found that R2.6m in royalties from the Marico Chrome Mining Company went to Mangope instead of his tribe between 1973 and last year and suggested he voluntarily step down or be suspended as chief while further investigations are conducted.

Almost R10.5m in Bophuthatswana National Security Council funds were illegally given to Mangope’s ruling Christian Democratic Party, a “golden egg” of R950 000 was paid to then finance secretary JJ Vermaak and R20 000 was used to pay Mangope’s personal costs, it found.

Skweyusa also said Mangope should be charged under the Exchange Control Act for the illegal transfer to overseas banks of R1.5m of what were ostensibly his private funds.

He suggested the Office for Serious Economic Offences investigate the use of R177m to build a power station in Bophuthatswana to determine if fraud was committed. Bekor MD David Nunns, and unnamed others, should “be assessed to determine their culpability for the losses suffered” in the building of the power station.

Mangope declined to comment other than to say, “It (the commission) is a definite political strategy of the Northwest government to try to damage both my image and my party’s.”

Sources close to the Northwest government said it was “likely” premier Popo Molefe would largely accept Skweyusa’s recommendations.

Mangope accused of huge cash scams

(266c) Mar 17, 1996

In just more than two years, R10,402-million of taxpayers' money was paid to former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope's Christian Democratic Party (CDP) from secret accounts, according to the Sekwetsi Commission report released in Johannesburg yesterday.

The money was transferred from the National Security Fund on Mangope's approval, the report said.

The commission rejected claims by former Bophuthatswana government officials and ministers that the use of state funds for party political gain was justified because the CDP was an important weapon in the struggle against the ANC.

"Such thinking is totally foreign to the idea of multiparty democracy and there is a necessary distinction between the State and the ruling party," the report said.

The commission also rejected that individuals, including cabinet minister Rowan Cronje, believed that the funding of the party was legitimate.

"In our view the whole enterprise was intended and designed to benefit the CDP by looting and plundering state funds," players "clearly, while the party was the main beneficiary, they themselves stood to gain."

Most of the money was reflected as being used for "cabinet expenditure", but payments had in fact been made to individuals and to or on behalf of the CDP, the report said.

Secret funds were also used for payments to the homeland government's former finance secretary, JP Vermaak, totalling R1-million.

Other payments included R750,000 cash to Cronje.

About R80,000 was spent to liquidate Mangope's private debts and a further R350,000 for an armoured vehicle for Mangope, the report said.

In addition, R150,000 had been paid to Executive Research Associates for publication of the Douglas report on alleged human rights abuses in ANC camps.

Lucas Mangope ... facing serious allegations on his financial affairs while he was in power.

The commission said Mangope and the CDP treasurer, a Mr Keikokoe, were the main role-players...
Search for Bop

Millions is said to have seven bank accounts in seven countries

NORTH WEST to take criminal, civil and administrative action against former homeland president and aides

The Skweyiya Commission found Mangope had made himself the sole signatory of the tribe's R2.4-million account and used royalties meant for the tribe as part payment for the farm Abuyengoop, near Zeeuwset.

The commission has also suggested that Mangope should stand down from his chairmanship while the matters are being investigated and administrative action is being taken.

The investigations would also be extended to include the R177-million power station which was built against advice and has never produced a single watt of electricity.

Molefe said the commission was a witch-hunt against Mangope and aimed at harming his party, the United Christian Democratic Party, in the November local elections.

He pointed out that although Mangope was given a chance to respond to the allegations in an open court, he declined to do so.

Asked if he could have forgiven Mangope, Molefe said: "He must" give back to Caesar what belongs to him and there shall be peace. I won't allow criminals to go loose and on the rampage in the name of reconciliation.

Mangope's legal representative, Richard Nesbit, said his firm was still studying the 250-page Skweyiya report but "the issues that we've had a look at will be refuted when the matter comes before a court of law, in particular issues relating to the tribe.

Nesbit said the allegations by the commission regarding the tribe had no foundation.

"They principally deal with the constraints of the Tribal Authority Act and our client has acted lawfully within the exceptions of the Act and all the time acted with the knowledge of the tribe," he said.

Moves to strip Mangope of any right to operate the tribe's bank account were passed by the Constitutional Court and would be approached.

Huge cash spurs - Page 10
Mangope accused of huge cash scams

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- Sapa
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Search for Bop

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The commission has also suggested that Mangope should stand down from his chairmanship while the matters are being investigated and administrative action is being taken.

The investigations would be extended to include the R177-million power station which was built against advice and has never produced a single watt of electricity. Malele said his province, which has spent approximately R2.3-million on the commission, would approach the central government to fund future investigations.

The premier denied that the commission was a witch-hunt against Mangope and aimed at harming his party, the United Christian Democratic Party, in the November 1 local elections.

He pointed out that although Mangope was given a chance to respond to the allegations in an open court, he declined to do so.

Asked if he could forgive Mangope, Malele said: "He must" give back to Caesar what belongs to him and that "there shall be peace if I don’t allow criminals to go loose, and on the rampage in the name of reconciliation."

Mangope's legal representative, Richard Nesbit, said his firm was still studying the 250-page Skepeya report but "the issues that we've had a look at will be refuted when the matter comes before a court of law, in particular issues relating to the Bahurutse tribe."

Nesbit said the allegations by the commission regarding the tribe had no foundation.

"They principally deal with the constraints of the Tribal Authority Act and our client has acted lawfully within the exceptions of the Act and all the time acted with the knowledge of the tribe," he said.

Moves to strip Mangope of any right to operate the tribe's bank account would be resisted and the Constitutional Court would be approached.

Huge cash scams — Page 10
Mangope accused of massive fraud

THE SKWEYIYA Commission has accused the former Bophuthatswana government of embezzling millions of rands. Former leader Mr Lucas Mangope faces charges after allegedly misappropriating at least R22 million.

The commission suggests Mr Mangope face criminal and civil charges in connection with alleged irregularities involving more than R220 million during his 15-year reign in the nominally independent homeland.

Mr Molefe said he would instruct his province's attorney-general to institute criminal proceedings against Mr Mangope.

Also implicated in the report, the report said a former cabinet minister Mr Rowan Cronje and the homeland's former finance minister, Mr J P Vermaak. The report said Mr Cronje was given R751,000.

According to the report, Mr Mangope spent R4.5m of taxpayers' money on his home at Motswedel. It recommended that the state attorney immediately institute civil action for the recovery of the money.

It also says he should be held criminally liable for paying more than R170,000 to an architect employed by the state in addition to his public servant's salary.

Other action recommended against Mr Mangope included the recovery of a state-owned generator or alternator to the value of R100,000 at his Motswedel home.

About R800,000 was allegedly spent to liquidate Mr Mangope's private debts and a further R350,000 for his personal armoured vehicle.

The commission further alleged Mr Mangope used at least R800,000 of public funds to improve his privately owned dairy at Motsewedi.

The commission called for the cancellation of a contract whereby Mr Mangope bought a farm for R350,000, although it was valued at R854,000.

"A total amount of R2.5m had been spent from various state departments for improvements in the farm, the report says.

"The commission also said that in just over two years R10.4m of taxpayers' money was paid to Mr Mangope's then ruling Christian Democratic Party from secret accounts.

"Most of the money was reflected as being used for "cabinet expenditure", but payments had actually been made to individuals and the CDP, the report said.

"In our view the whole enterprise was designed to benefit the CDP by looting and plundering state funds, the report said.

Bop's ex-president 'cheated own tribe'

JOHANNESBURG Bophuthatswana's former president, Mr Lucas Mangope, not only misappropriated taxpayers' money for personal use but as chief of the Bophuthatswana government, he also defrauded his own tribe, the Skweyina.

Mangope's commission of inquiry alleged in its report yesterday that Mangope defrauded his own people, the Skweyina, of its own money.

The commission into corruption and irregular use of public funds in the former homeland alleged that Mangope embezzled and misappropriated for his own use a substantial proportion of mining royalties due to the tribe.

It urged Mr Mangope to stand emance, but Mr Mangope's United Christian Democratic Party disagreed, saying it was a "travesty of justice.

The party also questioned the timing of the report's release before the local elections, which Mr Mangope intends to contest. Mr Mangope said the commission was "a conspiracy to drive me and my party from the political arena".

Mr Molefe was asked at a press briefing whether in the spirit of national reconciliation "bygones should not be bygones", but replied that this was impossible when a "man has hoarded wealth that belongs to the people".

Public Service and Administration Minister Dr Zola Skweyina said more should be done to expose corruption in the former government - both on central and former homeland levels. This was now possible with co-operation between central and provincial governments, he added. - Sapa


According to the commission, the Boo-Manyane tribe has owned the farm Strydfontein Number 12 in the Leherutshe district since 1917. Mining has been carried out on the farm since 1971, when Bantu Administration and Development Minister Mr M C Botha signed a mining lease on behalf of the tribe with the Marco Chrome Mining Company.

The company paid royalties to the Bantu Affairs Commissioner's office in Zeerust, and the funds were used by the tribe according to law.

When the contract expired in 1979, three years after Bophuthatswana gained independence, Mr Mangape entered into a non-purchase agreement in his name, the commission further alleged.

**Own account**

Cheques totalling about R279 029 were banked directly into Mr Mangape's account, the commission said.

"Mr Mangape opened a private account for these royalties so received in the name of 'Motswedi Tribal Authority'," the commission alleged. "(He) was the sole signatory of the account.

Mr Mangape had used the R2,63 million without the knowledge or consent of the tribe, the commission alleged.

The commission recommend that the matter be handed to the attorney-general to institute criminal proceedings against Mr Mangape.

— Sapa

C.T. 17/10/95

266C
Interpol aids probe of Mangope assets

OWN CORRESPONDENT (ZBLC)

PRETORIA: The Department of Foreign Affairs, Interpol and the National Intelligence Agency have been drawn into a search for all the foreign assets owned by former Bophuthatswana president Mr Lucas Mangope.

This was announced by Mr Popo Molele, Premier of North-West province, during the unveiling of the findings of the Skweya commission of inquiry into alleged mismanagement of Bophuthatswana government funds by Mr Mangope.

And lawyer Mr Ismail Ayob, acting on instructions from Mr Molele, said a summons was to be served on Mr Mangope and his United Christian Democratic Party Mr Mangope and the party were to face criminal and civil actions, he said.

But, speaking from his home, Mr Mangope said he had no knowledge of any summons.

At a press conference on Monday in Johannesburg, Mr Molele said the commission had cost North-West province R2.6 million.

Mr Molele said the Department of Foreign Affairs, with the help of Interpol and the National Intelligence services, was seeking Mr Mangope's vast hidden properties and other assets abroad.

The commission had evidence that Mr Mangope had seven bank accounts in several countries and that he transferred away large sums of money, which belonged to the people, he said.
Transfer of registration forms is investigated

THE Northwest government is investigating allegations that about 5,000 registration forms completed by voters in Mothobastad and Papierstad near the Northern Cape border were illegally transferred to the Northern Cape town of Kuruman.

Local government spokesman Erck Matlawa said government had also decided to postpone the election in Mmanakato, near Rustenburg, after authorities closed the village’s municipal offices to prevent voter registration from taking place.

The disappearance of the registration forms from the Northwest border towns appeared to be linked to a dispute that had already been referred to central government, over whether Mothobastad should fall in Northwest or Northern Cape, he said.

Although Matlawa was unable to name those implicated in moving the registration forms, it is believed that they include high-ranking ANC officials in Mothobastad.

An employee of the Kalahari regional services council has also been implicated in the moving of the forms.

Matlawa said a team had already been sent to the border towns to investigate the allegations.

In Mmanakato, residents had closed the municipal offices in protest against the village’s exclusion from Rustenburg — which they regarded as their tax base.

“They did not have a very clear idea of how they would be represented, but once a delegation was sent there to explain the situation to them they agreed that they were ignorant of the process and they will allow elections to take place,” Matlawa said.

However, by that time it was too late to make preparations for the election and it had been postponed until early next year.

Preparations in all other areas of the province were sufficiently well under way to allow the elections to go ahead as scheduled on November 1.

Meanwhile, the Northwest local government election task team had begun making security arrangements for election day.

Voting stations, booths and ballot boxes were ready for the event, a spokesman said.

He said that the transitional local authorities were busy printing the necessary ballot papers and returning officers had been appointed at the province’s 1,187 polling stations.

It was expected that 1.5-million registered voters would cast their ballots for 26 parties contesting elections in 308 wards.
The Skweyiya Commission, appointed by North-West premier Popo Molefe to investigate suspicions of massive financial dishonesty by Lucas Mangope, former president of Bophuthatswana, at the expense of taxpayers, has justified its cost to the provincial government and taxpayers T.L. Skweyiya SC, a leading advocate who chaired one of the ANC’s inquiries into abuses in detention camps during the armed struggle, has found abundant prima facie evidence of abuse of trust and self-enrichment by Mangope and a coterie of his lieutenants.

The commission’s report indicts Mangope with misappropriating more than R22m, including royalties owed to his Barhurute tribe. It puts the total sum of money which was embezzled or misused during his 15-year tenure as the iron-fisted ruler of the nominally independent polity of Bophuthatswana at R220m.

One of the men accused of benefitting illegally during the Mangope regime is Rowan Cronje, the articulate former Rhodesian politician who was one of Mangope’s chief negotiators during the 1991-1993 settlement talks. Another alleged beneficiary is the United Christian Democratic Party, with which Mangope hoped in vain to stem the ANC tide towards the end of his presidency and which he now aspires to use in his planned political comeback.

The report heightens suspicions that Mangope, for all his protestations about serving “his people,” the Batswana, was a politician who succumbed to temptations of power and greed. Even without the Skweyiya Commission’s damning report, there is evidence of the lavish lifestyle enjoyed by Mangope before he overthrew the luxury cars, the presidential jet, the underground fortress reminiscent, in some ways, of Hitler’s bunker, and the palatial residences.

Unless these suspicions are proved in open court, Mangope, like the humblest Motswana, is legally entitled to the presumption of innocence. But the allegations will soon be tested in open court: the Skweyiya Commission has recommended that criminal and civil proceedings be instituted against Mangope and his erstwhile attendants and advisers and Molefe has instructed the North-West Attorney-General to act on them.

There is no reason to question Molefe’s sincerity in appointing the commission. His proud boast is that his government has a deep commitment to a “clean administration, total transparency and absolute accountability.” But there are reasons for disquiet about the commission and, more broadly and critically, about the ANC’s apparent lack of even-handedness in exposing past evils and punishing (perhaps rehabiliting) past offenders.

It is a pity that Molefe, an ANC man of doubtless courage, appointed Skweyiya to head the commission Whatever Skweyiya’s personal qualifications for the task — and the FM does not doubt them — he is an ANC-aligned man. He is a cousin of Zola Skweyiya, Nelson Mandela’s Minister of Public Administration, and is — or was until recently — a member of the ANC Mangope, of course, is a renowned opponent of the ANC. To appoint a man associated with the ANC to investigate Mangope’s alleged criminal behaviour is a blunder. It smacks of political witch-hunting, however sincere Molefe may have been.

As bad, if not worse, is Molefe’s nomination of the legal firm Ismail Ayob & Associates to institute civil actions to recover money allegedly misappropriated by people and institutions, including Mangope and the United Christian Democratic Party. Ayob is Mandela’s lawyer. For him to become involved in a case against Mangope creates the impression that the ANC and people associated with it may benefit politically and professionally from the affair.

Molefe’s appointment of the commission in the North-West contrasts with the inconspicuous lack of action by the Eastern Cape provincial government in the face of strong, perhaps even overwhelming, evidence of corruption in Transkei. Former Transkei Auditor-General Wycliffe Yako has told of how police hijacked army generals to force them to approve higher salaries and of how police raided the finance department to obtain a password to upgrade their salaries unlawfully. Mandela himself has spoken of how taxpayers were defrauded of billions of rand by fraudulent computer operations in Transkei.

Yet no action is taken against the former military ruler of the Transkei, Bantu Holomisa, nor against any of his officials. In the absence of a plausible explanation from the ANC, only one conclusion can be drawn: Holomisa has not been called to account for his suspected negligence — there have been no imputations of personal financial impropriety against him — because he is a high-ranking ANC man with a popular following.

There is some irony here. When Holomisa assumed power in Transkei in the Eighties, his justification was to root out corruption. But he ended his term as military ruler by sanctioning a fierce attack on Transkei’s AG for being over-zealous.
Mangope’s Svengali finds lure in Bop.

By PETER DeIONIO

ROBERTO SCIO, the suave Italian middleman who masterminded the Bophuthatswana power station debacle, made a R100-million fortune out of his close friendship with the homeland’s former president, Lucas Mangope.

Investigators for the Skweyza commission into corruption, and intelligence sources in North West province, said this week that Mr Scio took a huge slice of the R177-million paid for the Memamatswe coal-fired power station project, which was cancelled, unfinished, in 1989.

The chairman of the commission, advocate Leo Skweyza, has recommended that the Office for Serious Economic Offences investigate “outrageous” deals between Mr Scio and Mr Mangope which earned millions.

The investigators suspect inflated fees were paid for the first stage of the power station, built by Italian contractors Gruppo Industrie Elettrico. The initial contract price was R140-million.

The project was managed by General Consultants of Bophuthatswana, a company incorporated in August 1983 with Mr Scio and the then homeland’s minister of economic affairs, Ephraim Kekelame, as directors.

The consultancy was given the contract without tenders being invited.

When doubts were raised about the viability of the power station — there was no water to operate it and expected costs would price its electricity at double that of Eskom’s — the consultancy recommended that the project be continued.

“The documents make it clear that the pilots of this grotesque scheme never let up,” said the investigators.

But they would not let go of the golden goose.

Mr Mangope and Mr Scio met at a cocktail party in Rome in 1983 organised to introduce the homeland president and senior Bophuthatswana officials to Italian businessmen.

“They checked immediately,” said a former Bophuthatswana government insider. “Scio introduced Mangope to la dolce vita.”

“It was as if Mangope was under his spell, and in reality they were just two of a kind.”

At first glance, Mr Mangope, an authoritarian tribal leader from the Marico bushveld prone to temper tantrums, and Mr Scio, the sophisticated owner of two luxurious Mediterranean hotels, had little in common.

But the bond between them developed into a friendship so close that when Mr Scio planned to wed German beauty Baroness Andrea von Stumm in August 1982, Mr Mangope offered to be best man and to give the couple a wedding party at the Lost City hotel.

The wedding was mysteriously cancelled.

After Mr Mangope appointed Mr Scio as Bophuthatswana’s “consul-general” in Italy he ignored his finance minister, Leslie Young, s rejection of the power station project.

On September 21, 1982, he told his cabinet that R12-million would be secretly set aside for the project.

The contract for the first of four 60-megawatt power station units was signed by Mr Mangope on March 11, 1983.

The same day, he signed a contract with Mr Scio granting the Italian sole and exclusive rights to sell Bophuthatswana’s coal in Italy to finance the remaining three units.

The project continued to grow, with proposals for a second stage costing at R460-million.

When the Development Bank of Southern Africa refused to finance the project, Mr Scio unsuccessfully tried to raise loans from the Italian government.

When the project was finally abandoned in February 1986 after the then State President, FW de Klerk, offered Bophuthatswana aid in return for the contract’s cancellation, Mr Scio tried to lure Gencor into financing the remainder of the power station units.

In 1997 Mr Scio, representing the consultancy, sold Mr Mangope a house in Malanplo’s plush Riviera Park. Although the construction price was R350,000, the house was sold to the president for just R100,000.

Commission investigators have been unable to find out whether any payment was made. Mr Scio sold Mr Mangope another house for R750,000. No trace of payment can be found.

In 1999 Mr Scio tried to interest Mr Mangope in a R5-billion petrochemical project to produce fuel from coal on a site near the derelict power station.

Ben Marenga, the former director of mining in Bophuthatswana, said Mr Scio’s Svengali-like hold over Mr Mangope worried senior officials.

“Mangope was keen on this man but to us he seemed like a fly-by-night.”

“We thought the consultancy was a means of siphoning money out of the country. Scio was here frequently but all of his meetings with Mangope were in secret.”

Mr Scio’s involvement with Bophuthatswana continued until 1993 when he made 16 visits to South Africa.

In 1993, Mr Mangope used National Security Council accounts to evade exchange controls and bought up to R1.3-million in British property deals in partnership with Mr Scio. Mr Mangope repaid the National Security Council through his private accounts.

Although he is wealthy, influential and well connected socially, little is known of Mr Scio’s business interests outside of his hotels.

Mr Scio, 59, could not be contacted. His son Roberto said he was holidaying in the United States.

He said his father’s only business interests were his hotels and farms he had inherited.

“He felt that he was doing something to help a country that was trying to build its own nation,” said Mr Scio junior.

MOMS IN COMMON... Margaret Clinton-Parker...
Secret Bop land spree probed

By PETER de IONNO

THOUSANDS of hectares of land bought secretly by Bophuthatswana government money, lies in the hands of its former finance minister.

Martin van den Berg is the sole shareholder of Bala Farms Pty (Ltd), which is under investigation by the budleender Commission into State Land Transactions for its Rs48 million agreement on about 20,000 ha of farmland between 1989 and 1994.

Although the company’s auditors, Ernst and Young, held a deed of trust stating that Mr van den Berg holds the company’s only share on behalf of the now defunct Bophuthatswana government, lawyers have questioned why the government itself was not registered as a shareholder.

Its former minister of state and aviation, Rowan Cronje, said Bala Farms had been used as a vehicle for land purchases because the Group Areas Act had prevented the Bophuthatswana government from buying land in “white” South Africa. Between 1989 and 1994, Bala Farms bought 60 portions of farmland.

The last transaction was settled on March 20 last year, more than a week after President Lucas Mangope’s regime was toppled in a violent uprising.

The commission will investigate allegations that prices of up to R1.60 a hectare were paid by the company for cattle-grazing farms in the Marico bushveld in 1991, were double the market rate and that farms were leased back secretly to former owners at nominal rental.

Mr Cronje said the first purchase in 1989 had been of a large farm, held by the Beyers family, between Mmabatho and Lichtenburg, to obtain rights to underground water to supplement supply to the homeland capital.

Other purchases had been intended to extend Bophuthatswana’s borders into the “Marico corridor” and to end disputes with farmers on the homeland’s borders in the Brits area.

North West Province spokesmen have not replied to questions about what plans the government has for the land. No legal moves have been made to bring the land under provincial control.

Company records list Bala Farms’ current directors as Mr van den Berg, Mr Cronje, the former Bophuthatswana director of legal service and land administration, Theodorus Scheepers, the former minister of justice, Godfrey Motabe, and Johannes du Preez, a builder.

Major row at contest

By SUE BLAINE

TEMPERS flared as much as skirts at this year’s national drum majorette competition when some incensed judges accused others of cheating.

And six of the 28 schools which took part in the South African Academy of Show and Drill Teams Championships in Rustenburg — including last year’s winner, Jun Fouche High from Bloemfontein — are threatening legal action and demanding that the results be nullified.

Judge Charmain Caroto, of Johannesburg’s Roodebeek High School, said schools were not informed of changes to the rules and that the results were unfairly applied to “certain groups in certain phases of the competition”.

Two trainers allegedly heard academy chairman Fred McCann tell the University of Potchefstroom trainer to “ignore the rules but not let the other competitors find out”.

The six schools are claiming that they were not told the measurements of the official court, which prevented them from preparing properly, and that they were refused access to scorecards when the title was awarded on March 3 before the prizegiving.

Mr McCann was not available for comment.

Slots winner in wedding bliss

By PHYLLICIA OPPELT

SOUTH AFRICA’S newest millionaire went hunting for a wedding dress the day after she won at the slot machines.

Francis Paredes won R1.067.765 at the Moleta Sun near Pretoria on Thursday night and was fitting on dresses the next day in preparation for her wedding next month.

She said she had played the slot machines for barely 10 minutes when the bells went off and she started screaming around her. “They told me I had won a million rand and I just sat there crying.”

Miss Paredes said, “I still feel funny,” but she is getting used to it by drinking champagne and being driven around in a limousine.

“I feel like a queen and very important. Everyone has became nice to me,” Miss Paredes said she was going to think before spending her money.

But the 32-year-old Joubert Park resident said she had some ideas. She’s set her heart on a grey ball gown designed by The Boys for her wedding to Arthur, her Mozambican fiancé.

She also intends erecting tombstones on her mother and son’s graves.

“My other two children, Kirsten and Blake, will get what they have always wanted — a house with a swimming pool,”

“And the 12 street children I look after will all get a new home.”

When she won comes just a few weeks before she was supposed to start a new job as a hostess with a bus company.

“I have been jobless for several months now, but there is no way I am going to start working. I am going to be a housewife and have a baby.”

Confusion over names upsets rival bodies

By CAS ST LEGER

THE SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Sanca) is becoming increasingly worried about confusion between it and Dr Sylvan de Miranda’s non-affiliated body, Sanca Johannesburg.

Sanca’s deputy director, Marcelle Christian, said Sanca did not always agree with Dr de Miranda’s advice on drugs, and there was a danger that overseas donors could become confused between the two bodies.

However, Sanca did not come to any new conclusions about the decade-long dilemma at its annual general meeting in Durban this week.

The rift between Sanca and Dr de Miranda — and the influential re habilitation clinic, Riverfield Lodge, the drug centre, Phoenix House, and a Soweto clinic — dates back to 1981

when he and Sanca’s management board felt out over a personal matter.

After several attempts to heal the rift, and because Dr de Miranda had not paid the affiliation fees to Sanca, he was formally told he was no longer an affiliate and no longer entitled to use the Sanca name.

But he continued to call his office Sanca Johannesburg and to describe himself as a director.
CP stronghold Ventersdorp set to fall to ANC

VENTERSDORP — The historically CP-ruled Northwest town of Ventersdorp, home of AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche, is set to fall to the ANC in next week's local government poll.

The demise of right-wing supremacy in Ventersdorp, one of the few areas in which the CP was counting on victory, could be an indication of the bleak future facing the party, observers say.

Returning officer Corrie Smit said three of the town's six wards — those falling in Tshing township — were uncontested. ANC councillors MJ Lerofofo, PF Phetoe and LN Mbambalala had already been appointed.

Two of the remaining wards would be contested by the CP and Ventersdorp First — believed to be an alliance between the NP, Freedom Front and Independents — and the third by the ANC, independent candidate John Boardman and the Independent Party.

Three councillors would be elected on a proportional representation basis.

With three times as many registered voters in Tshing than in Ventersdorp, and only the ANC contesting the vote in the township, the ANC looks set to win at least two of the town's proportional representation seats.

ANC spokesman Lesego Bobanyo believed his party would take four wards and all three proportional representation seats, giving the ANC a five-seat majority on the council.

The ANC's main objective after elections would be "reconciliation. We want to make sure no white person is injured or feels offended that the ANC has control," Bobanyo said. He denied a CP candidate's allegations that old-age home residents would be evicted if the ANC took power.

The ANC would work to benefit everyone in Ventersdorp.

Meanwhile, local government MEC Darkey Afriso announced yesterday that Northwest's 3,824 unplaced voters would be allowed to vote.
N-West broadcast MEC expected to be axed today

MMABATHO. — North-West premier Popo Molefe is expected today to terminate the services of broadcasting MEC Rian de Wet.

It follows a five-and-a-half hour extended executive council meeting yesterday. Mr Molefe cancelled all but one of his official engagements for today.

If Mr De Wet is axed, it would be the second firing by Mr Molefe in the past eight months. Earlier this year MEC for agriculture Rocky Mabane-Ntseing was fired.

Mr Molefe is also expected to announce the government's position on the fate of Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation staffs.

A source close to the office of the premier said Mr De Wet's expected firing would be part of Molefe's commitment to a clean government.

The province's attorney-general has yet to decide whether to prosecute Bophuthatswana former president Lucas Mangope.

The inquiry alleged Mr Mangope and several other officials were implicated in the misappropriation of about R220 million. — Sapa.
scandal comes to a head

Retirement payout

By Peter O'Nions

The Health Department has received a request from the
Department of Human Services to review its
retirement plan. This follows on from allegations made by
several former employees who claimed they were
misled into believing they were eligible for increased
benefits.

The Health Department initially denied the allegations,
but after an investigation, it was found that the
Department had failed to accurately inform employees
about their eligibility.

As a result, the Department has agreed to provide
additional benefits to those affected, including an
increase in monthly payments.

The Department has also agreed to implement new
procedures to ensure accurate information is provided to
employees in the future.

In a statement, the Department said: "We take these
allegations very seriously and are committed to ensuring
that all employees are treated fairly and accurately.
We are working to improve our processes and will take
the necessary steps to prevent similar incidents from
occurring in the future."
scandal comes to a head

Retrenchment: By Peter D. Ianno

Promiscuous use of $500,000 would be the equivalent of a three-year salary for the office of the Attorney General. The office of the Attorney General is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the law is enforced. If the law is not enforced, then the integrity of the legal system is compromised. It is essential that the Attorney General be held accountable for their actions.
Kotane cries foul at Popo

Premier Popo Molefe says there is no justification for mass retrenchments

North West premier Mr Popo Molefe had been misled into believing the large-scale Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation retrenchments would cost R400 million, suspended BBC chief Mr Solly Kotane said at the weekend.

"I was amazed by such a statement. The retrenchment packages amount actually to R83 million," Kotane said.

Kotane was suspended on Friday by acting MEC for broadcasting Mr Molefi Sefularo and is due to face a disciplinary hearing today. The provincial government has accused Kotane and former MEC for broadcasting Mr Rami de Wet, who was forced to resign last Wednesday of acting unilaterally in negotiating retrenchment packages with 710 BBC employees.

Earlier this week Molefe told reporters there was no justification for the retrenchments which would cost the provincial government R68 million and central Government R300 million.

He promptly announced a two-year moratorium on all retrenchments, taking BBC employees who were due to leave the corporation on October 31 and had taken up new positions completely by surprise.

Kotane said the confusion about the actual payout figure may have arisen because of a shortfall in the employee pension fund, the Sefatana Employment Benefit Organisation.

The shortfall would have to be made up over the next 35 years.

"I do not agree that our retrenchment payments are excessive. When the SABC had retrenched 400 staff at R45 million earlier this year, the pension payouts had not been an issue.

Moreover, the BBC was retrenching more than 700 employees, 300 more than the SABC," Kotane said.

The retrenchments had been carried out "in the most transparent manner possible with consultation with the North West government at each stage," he added.

On allegations he had retrenched himself, he said "this is nonsense. I was retrenched by Rami de Wet." — Sapa
Bop packages ‘nowhere near reported R400-m’

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Suspended Bophuthatswana Broadcasting chief Solly Kotane is accused, along with former broadcasting MEC Rann de We" - who was forced to resign last week - of acting unilaterally in negotiating the retrenchment packages with over 700 BBC workers.

Kotane, who was suspended on Friday by acting MEC for broadcasting Moleti Setlako, said it was a media briefing that there was no justification for the retrenchments, which would cost the provincial government R58-million and central government a further R300-million.

He then announced a two-year moratorium on all retrenchments, taking the BBC employees, who were due to leave the corporation tomorrow, completely by surprise.

amount to R88-million.
Mangope slams 'criminals'

In Mangope, the mayor and his government have been accused of corruption and failure to deliver on their promises. The people have turned against them, and the situation has become chaotic.

The police have been deployed to maintain order, but the situation remains tense.

Mangope October 20, 2020

(26°C)
Mangope told to pay R18m

MMAABATHO: Former Bophuthatswana president Mr Lucas Mangope was served with a letter of demand yesterday from the North-West government for the payment of more than R18 million (2b6c).

The demand, sent to Mr Mangope's lawyer, arises from the findings of the Skweyiya Commission of Inquiry into corrupt practices and irregular use of public funds in the former homeland.

Mr Mangope has until November 15 to pay, failing which legal action is to be taken against him.
Post offices face closure

...
PUBLIC SECTOR - LOCAL AUTH. - W. TRANSVAAL

(INCL. BOTHU THATSWANA)

1995

NOV. - DEC.
Financial implications "staggeringly high"

Bop retrenchment packages stopped

BY MICHAEL SPARKS

Tensions ran high at the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) when staff were told by Acting Broadcasting MEC Paul Seifuloro that they were not eligible for retrenchment packages scheduled to take effect at the end of work yesterday.

Broadcasting MEC Rian de Wet was recently forced to resign after she and management agreed to retrenchment packages for 710 workers amounting to more than R400 million.

Station head Solly Kotane was also suspended last week after it became clear he had negotiated a retrenchment package valued at R596 000 for himself despite having worked at the station for only 14 months.

In addition, Kotane had a new job lined up for himself as head of the SA Communications Services.

To retrench almost the entire staff would inevitably have led to the closure of the corporation, which was "not a view shared by the government of the province," Seifuloro added.

He said the "staggeringly high financial implications of the retrenchment package "raised very serious concerns".

The retrenchment packages "bear no relation to contracts of employment, which provide for a far lower package - one week's salary per year of employment," he said.

The controversial agreement, which has been rescinded, makes allowance for one year's salary plus one month's salary for each year employed.

"The packages are far in excess of generally accepted severance packages," Seifuloro said.

In his staff address Seifuloro stressed there was no basis for staff to believe their employment had come to an end.

He added that those who did not report for work as normal today would face disciplinary action.

Rian de Wet ... resigned.

This had not happened because the broadcaster was a public asset, Seifuloro said.

"It cannot simply be closed down unilaterally at the behest of management or staff," he said.

"Management responsible for the retrenchment plan have acted on the assumption that there is no future for the BBC in the restructuring of public broadcasting, which was 'not a view shared by the government of the province,'" Seifuloro added.

He said the "staggeringly high financial implications of the retrenchment package "raised very serious concerns".

The retrenchment packages"
Homeless to be given land

MORE than 600 people who lost their homes as a result of political violence in Alexandra, Randfontein, would get land to live on by next year, Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said yesterday.

On a tour of the suburb, he visited a home for mentally handicapped children, the Helen Joseph women’s hostel and some of the displaced families.

The 760 families who lived in the former Beuton area of Alexandra have been living in community and church halls for the past four years after clashes between the ANC and the IFP left them homeless.

“I have been acutely aware of the problems that these families have faced,” Naidoo said.

“It has taken time to negotiate a way forward, and I am very pleased that I could break this good news to the people involved today.”

Naidoo gave no details of where the families would be relocated, for fear of land invasion. — Sapa.

TV workers pull plug on Northwest’s govt

MMABATHO — The Northwest government’s pre-election message was apparently sabotaged as it was being broadcast by the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation last night, threatening an agreement between the provincial government and corporation workers.

The live broadcast was apparently interrupted when footage of an earlier public row between a provincial government delegation and workers was shown instead.

At the time, provincial government officials, led by acting broadcasting MEC Molefi Sefularo, were locked in discussions with worker representatives to solve a retrenchment dispute.

Earlier, the SABC announced it could not provide full coverage of the poll in Northwest today, following the unresolved dispute between the provincial government and Bophuthatswana Broadcasting’s management and staff.

SABC acting CEO Govin Reddy said facilities and staff from other provinces would be deployed to provide limited coverage of the Northwest poll.

Staff are demanding retrenchment packages totalling R400m. Premier Popo Molefe has said there will be no mass retrenchment. Last week he said staff had been promised retrenchment packages by officials not authorised to do so.

He said the Northwest government did not recognise packages agreed to by management and staff and approved by former broadcasting MEC Rian de Wet.

Yesterday hundreds of employees angrily questioned the government delegation. Posters likened Molefe to the president of the former homeland, Lucas Mangope.
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Subchapter 1

Bobby, superb training faculty.

Page 2

THE STAR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2, 1995
Apathy reigns in Northwest

MMABATHO — Local government elections in Northwest yesterday were marred by apparent voter apathy, confusion over the wards system and widespread reports of names not appearing on voters' rolls. Initial forecasts were that the poll would be less than 20%.

There were also a number of reports of intimidation, one of which resulted in the arrest of a man in Mothibistad, near Kuruman. There were reports of farmers in the Rustenburg, Vryburg and Lichtenberg areas refusing to allow workers to go to polling stations, according to local government spokesman Erick Mathale.

But fears of violence by right-wingers and between supporters of the ANC and the United Christian Democratic party failed to materialise. Party spokesmen attributed that to a beefed-up security force presence in the province.

By 7pm, three hours before the close of voting, hourly returns of voter numbers to the election operations room in Mmabatho showed only 150 484 people — 10.7% of registered voters — had cast their ballots.

Mathale said this was not an accurate reflection as no returns had been received from some areas, including Klerksdorp, where communications had been disrupted, and Winterveld, where voting started late due to a shortage of election material.

There was nevertheless concern that there would be a low percentage poll because of a "serious, widespread problem of people arriving to vote and not being on the voters' roll", he said.

Returning officers said there had been a less serious problem of people arriving to vote in wards in which they were not registered.

Venterdorp returning officer Corrie Smut said large numbers of people from villages and farms surrounding the town had come to vote there and been directed to their correct wards after having with other returning officers.

In Mothibistad, the scene of a recent border dispute and allegations of voter registration irregularities, returning officer A Gaelejwe said although the presence of soldiers and policemen had contributed to stability during voting, the border dispute and intimidation ahead of the election had affected voter turnout. He expected a poll of lower than 50%.

A man was arrested in Mothibistad after allegedly ordering people to vote across the border in Kuruman.
Premiers take lead

'Terror' Lekota refused entry as he had forgotten his ID book at home

Compiled by Rafiq Rohan

THE PREMIERS VOTED EARLY YESTERDAY Mr Popo Molefe, premier of North West, arrived at the polling station before its scheduled opening at 7am. He made sure he was first to cast his ballot. This caused ANC candidate Mr Anwar Hassenmna to smile, knowing the first vote was for him.

Northern Province premier Mr Ngoako Ramathodi wasted no time in casting his vote in the former whites-only suburb of Bendor in Petersburg. Ramathodi was accompanied by his wife as well as his MEC for safety and security Advocate Seth Nhiau and MEC for public transport Mr Johan Kroek.

Although there were more whites in the queue he was confident that the African National Congress would win the seat.

Things did not go all that well for Free State premier Mr Patrick Lekota. He pitched up at the Bloemfontein polling station only to be refused entry.

The province's first citizen, in his enthusiasm to vote, blundered by forgetting identity book at home.

The day was saved when a harassed aide hurried to his home and returned with the offending document.

Nonplussed, Lekota remarked: "The law is for all of us. Everyone must abide by the law."

A red-faced Northern Cape Premier Mr Manne Dapa co was criticised by his mother when he went to cast his vote at Galeshewe Primary School outside Kimberley. Mrs Joyce Dapa co remonstrated her son for queue-jumping, saying he should stand in line like everyone else.

The National Party leader and deputy president Mr F W de Klerk took time off to cast his vote in the Western Cape at Vermont near Hermanus. After voting he spent most of the day visiting polling stations in the area.

Leader of the Freedom Front General Coasrand Viljoen cast his vote at the Hatfield polling booth in Pretoria. He said he was confident of winning votes from the NP.
Slow start in North West

By Abdul Miliazi (266)

VOTING at Mmabatho's 11 wards started at a very slow pace. By 6am there was still no sign of voters.

Mafikeng and surrounding areas were no exception.

At 7am North West premier Popo Molefe was already waiting outside the Mafikeng National Museum to cast his vote. He was the first to vote there.

After Molefe about 20 senior citizens arrived to cast their votes, followed by a 30-minute lull before people began trickling in again.

Voting was also slow in Odi, Madikwe and Lelumane.

Some of the voters went home dejected after finding that their names did not appear on the voters' roll.

Many voting officials at the stations attributed this to the inadequacy of voter education.

An official at the Baralong High School said political parties were also to blame for not having done enough to explain the location of various wards to their supporters.

However, as the day progressed, the queues began to grow.

Unlike in the April 1994 elections, there were no political party T-shirts or flags to give away the voters' political party choice.
Broadcasters drop threat

By Abdul Milazi

DESPITE their threat to boycott the local government elections, workers at the North West Broadcasting Corporation assisted the SABC in covering the local government elections in the province.

The local television channel did not broadcast the elections but the radio station gave on-the-spot coverage of the situation.

Assisting

An SABC official at the Mmabatho Civic Centre said more than 10 of the NWBC staff were assisting the SABC around the province.

On Monday about 710 NWBC workers threatened to boycott the elections if North West premier Mr. Popo Molefe did not reverse his decision to declare a two year moratorium on retrenchments.

A meeting between the provincial government and the disgruntled workers to resolve the matter on Tuesday failed to produce results.

Retrenchment

The former Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation employees were earlier offered the option to take retrenchment packages before the BBC merged with the SABC. More than 500 opted for retrenchment, which would have been too costly for the provincial government.

Molefe then declared a moratorium on retrenchments. The provincial government has since offered reduced retrenchment packages.
ANC takes control of Northwest councils

Kevin O'Grady

THE ANC walked away with victory in most of Northwest's local government elections this week, taking control of formerly right-wing controlled councils and sending off the threat from Lucas Mangope's United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP).

Judging from proportional representation results from 23 of 46 councils available last night, the Freedom Front won considerable gains from the NP, and independent candidates and interest groups had a stronger showing than was expected.

The ANC won the proportional representation vote in 22 of the 23 towns, losing by just 40 votes to the Greater Swartruggens Action Group in Swartruggens.

In Minabatho, the only town for which combined ward and proportional representation results were available, ANC fears that the UCDP would attract support from civil servants loyal to Mangope were not realised. The ANC won 11 seats, the Landowners' and Ratepayers' Association three, the UCDP two, the NP one and an independent candidate one.

However, UCDP secretary Kgomoeto Ditshetelo said the ANC should be "worried" about the low poll in the province. The latest figure stood at 33%.

Neither the PAC nor former Northwest agriculture MEC Rocky Malebane-Metsing's People's Progressive Party made any significant inroads into the ANC's power base, with the Progressive Party scoring just 62 out of 6,775 votes cast in Minabatho.

In a number of towns where the NP, Freedom Front and CP were pitted against each, voters chose the Front. Exceptions were Rustenburg, where the NP edged ahead, and Lichtenburg, home of CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg, where his party supporters voted for the ANC.

Other proportional representation results showed the ANC took Venterdorp, Schweizer-Reneke, Orkney, Brits, Rustenburg, Lichtenburg, Otjozondjupa, Rovigo, Vrystad, Bloemhof, Coligny, Koster, Leeuwarden and Sanniehof.
TV drama all the way when Popo steps in

By RAMOTENA MABOTE

THE beleaguered Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation is living through a soap opera as dramatic than any it has ever broadcast — and that includes *Dynasty* and *Santa Barbara*.

In the past two weeks alone, there has been a mysterious resignation, the suspension of a top manager, a threatened broadcast blackout on the eve of the local government elections, and a row over a retrenchment package worth millions.

The drama began six months ago when it was realised that the corporation would have to be integrated into the South African Broadcasting Corporation. The Bophuthatswana corporation's management began negotiating with the province's minister for broadcasting, Rama de Weet, and eventually a deal was struck whereby workers' contracts would come to an end on October 31, and they would then be paid out.

Management says the retrenchment package, which would give 800 staff from R50,000 to R700,000 each, was worth R50 million.

On Monday, North West premier Popo Molefe said he estimated the deal was worth R60 million.

Despite this, a government having endorsed 715 retrenchments from the corporation, Mr Molefe said his administration was unaware of the agreement, that the deal was illegal and that his government could not afford to pay out R50 million. Then he slapped a two-year moratorium on retrenchments and ordered everyone back to work.

Things began to get out of hand when the staff refused to work, so the government suspended BBC chief Solly Kotane, who was set to receive R450 000 as part of his deal, and appointed the region's director-general, Job Mokgoro, in his place.

On top of all this, Ms de Weet announced her resignation. It was rumoured that she had resigned to camouflage the fact that she had been sacked by Mr Molefe.

On Tuesday, staff began an unofficial go-slow and threatened that if their lucrative packages were not restored, they would black out Wednesday's election coverage.

The corporation's management, the provincial government and the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) held talks lasting more than 12 hours in an effort to solve the problem.

Eventually, barely an hour before midnight on Tuesday, and only minutes before the blackout was to start, Mwasa general secretary S'bembele Khali persuaded staff to go back to work.

He also urged the corporation's employees to challenge the government in court.

Despite the agreement, on Wednesday morning only a handful of employees reported for work.

Staffers were disillusioned and angry about the drama. One young woman, a film editor, said she had already bought a house using her retrenchment letter — and others had reported used their promised payouts to finance full-time academic studies.

A spokesman for Mr Molefe, Willie Modise, said that the North West government was not opposed to the integration of the Bophuthatswana broadcaster with the SABC.

"There will be integration but in a manner that would be properly negotiated between all stakeholders which has not been done as yet," he said.

Mr Molefe's decision to impose a two-year moratorium on retrenchments drew a surprised reaction from the Independent Broadcasting Authority.
Bop Broadcasting costs too much, says its former chief

By RAMOTENA MABOTE

THE man in the middle of the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation saga, Solly Kotane, does not believe that Bop Broadcasting Corporation has a future and thinks it should be integrated into the SABC immediately.

Mr Kotane, who was chief executive of the corporation before he took over as head of the SA Communication Service at the beginning of this month, said more than 60 percent of the 3.5 million people in the North West province lived in rural areas where there was no electricity, and thus no television sets.

He said it would cost the North West government R288-million a year to run Bop Broadcasting independently, more than twice its current annual budget of R115-million.

"I do not think that's a sustainable utilisation of scarce national resources," he said.

Born in Rustenburg 45 years ago, Mr Kotane matriculated in Pretoria in 1974. He got a job as a teacher at Naledi High School in Soweto the following year. In 1976 he went into exile and joined the ANC's department of information and publicity.

In due course he became the head of Radio Freedom, before leaving to work as a reporter for the Chronicle in Zimbabwe. He later became editor of the Pan African News Agency in Dakar, Senegal.

He has a diploma in journalism from the Nyeghe Social Training Institute in Tanzania and a BSc in information and communication from the University of North London in Britain. He also has an MA in International Journalism from the Graduate Centre of Journalism in London.
By BENISON MAKELE

IN A dramatic reversal of fortune, both former Bophuthatswana bantustan leaders Lucas Mangope and the man who attempted to oust him from power, Rocky Malebane-Metsing, will soon face the law courts answering to pending charges of theft, fraud and corruption.

The former will be indicted for massive misappropriation of the homeland's finances during his presidency while the latter will answer charges of theft, fraud and corruption during his brief tenure as North West MEC for Agriculture.

Following findings by the Skweliya Commission, charges are being formulated against the former homeland strongman while Malebane-Metsing will appear at the Pretoria Regional Court on November 27. According to a spokesperson of the Attorney-General's office in Pretoria, Riekie Erasmus, the charge sheets for the men have not yet been formulated but will be soon.

Malebane-Metsing is alleged to have misappropriated more than R20 million while he was the province's Agriculture MEC.

His pending indictment follows recommendations made to the Attorney-General's office by the Office for Serious Economic Offences (OSEO) after a protracted investigation into the matter.

Erasmus said Malebane-Metsing and John Lamola, his former secretary in the Department of Agriculture, will face further charges of corruption along with US citizen Norman Escoffery.

Neither Lamola nor Escoffery has been among those who have not been prosecuted yet, but they will be as soon as investigations are complete, said Erasmus.

Escoffery is in detention while being investigated as a suspected illegal immigrant.

The corruption charges relate to the unprocedural granting of a loan by Agribank to Escoffery which he used to purchase a food processing plant belonging to North Hills Farm in Johannesburg.

To add salt to the wound, Malebane-Metsing will also be prosecuted for his alleged shareholdings with Lamola and Escoffery in several companies.

The companies include Liberty Food Distribution, African International Food Trading, American Traders International, Pan Afrique Food Distribution and Empire Aviation.

Malebane-Metsing's case has been on the backburner since he was dismissed from the African National Congress for dissent.

He later revived his People's Progressive Party (PPP), whose performance in the recent local government elections has been dismal.
BBC retrenchment packages invalid

By BENISON MAKELE

HOPES for huge retrenchment packages by hundreds of Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) employees in the North West were squashed minutes before the start of local government elections.

The retrenchment of staff and management at the BBC implemented between September and October would have cost the taxpayer about R400 million.

Solly Kotane, former head of the BBC who has now joined the South African Communication Services as its head, was expecting R596 000 in a combined pension and retrenchment package.

Instead he got an equivalent of four months salary when he resigned from the corporation.

Following an agreement reached between the North West government and the employees, the retrenchment packages have been declared invalid and the existing employment contracts valid.

BBC employees received notice of redundancy in the election, employees' waiting patiently until an agreement had been reached.

BBC management and staff can still institute civil proceedings against the corporation regarding the validity of the retrenchment agreement should they deem this necessary, according to the agreement.

Sources close to City Press said the retrenchment packages were negotiated in view of a perceived misunderstanding surrounding the publishing of an independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) document on the corporation's future.

Staff have also understood the IBA's report about the dismantling of the BBC and its integration with the SABC to mean the closing down of the corporation while in the meantime about the possibility of provincial broadcasting, the sources say.

"It was therefore premature for management to assume that closure of the corporation was necessary or inevitable", the North West government asserted at the close of the negotiations.

Most staff at the corporation had looked for alternative employment two months before the retrenchment packages were negotiated.
Deficit of R17-m found in Bop group

BY ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

An unexplained deficit of more than R17-million has been discovered in the financial affairs of Golden Leopard Resorts (Pty) Ltd, a company established by the Bophuthatswana National Parks Board under the former government of Lucas Mangope.

GLR operated numerous resorts and safari camps, including Manyane, Baligatla, Pulanesberg, Centre, Bosele, Mogobodo, Borakalalo, Motswedi, Mankwe, Phaladzwe and Kololo. Its board of directors was dissolved last year and an acting managing director was appointed to run the company.

MBC for Agriculture and Economic Affairs of the North West Province Rechem Johannes Tselapedi became aware of problems in the company's financial position in February and he commissioned an investigation and report by the firm Ernst & Young.

Following its report last week, Tselapedi brought the matter to the attention of Environment Minister Dawne de Villiers. In a statement on Friday, de Villiers said the Ernst & Young report done in conjunction with the newly formed North West Province Parks Board had revealed "significant problems at GLR."

De Villiers and Tselapedi have approached the Department of Finance and the office of the Auditor-General with a request to deal with the matter, the statement from De Villiers said.
Mangope slams seizure of documents

By JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Reporter

9/11/95

The seizure of documents from former Bophuthatswana leader Chief Lucas Mangope's home and businesses will hinder his submissions to disprove claims that he had misappropriated tribal funds, his lawyer said yesterday.

Richard Neshitlwe said he had agreed with Tshabalala Ayob and Partners, representing the North West government, that Mangope would have until November 17 to furnish proof that he had not embezzled funds.

However, a Molopo magistrate yesterday issued a search warrant on the instruction of the provincial government which authorised the police to remove all books and records dealing with the Tribal Authority accounts.

He said the reason given was that they "may afford evidence of the commission of an offence." He further said Mangope believed that the North West government has broadened an undertaking to that extent. On the one hand, ask that allegations be justified on or before November 17 while at the same time, they issue a search warrant in terms of which all the documents which will be required to disprove the charges against him will be removed.

He asks if the government believed that there was evidence for charges against him, then why they should lay such charges. He states that they are presently doing is harassing him again, abusing their powers and using taxpayers' money in that regard.
Zim Parks told to recover R1.5-m from Bop

Harare - Zimbabwe's auditor-general has condemned National Parks officials in a report to Parliament for not following proper procedures in the export of elephants to Botswana after the 1992 drought.

He said the government had lost about R1.5-million through the export and the translocation to conservancies within Zimbabwe of 900 elephants from Gonarezhou National Park.

The report called on the department to recover the full value of the 200 elephants exported.

The Director of National Parks, Dr Willie Nduku, and his deputy, Rowan Martin, are on suspension and no animals are permitted to be moved without permission from the minister - Star Foreign Service.

Star 9/11/15 (266c)
Discordant notes in Bop protests

BY MICHAEL SPARKS

Two delegations with a vested interest in the future of the Bophuthatswana Broadcast Corporation made representations to the parliamentary portfolio committee hearings on broadcasting on its future — with each giving a very different view.

Dr Molefi Sefularo, acting North West MEC for broadcasting, said that while the provincial government was in favour of a level of integration between Bop Broadcasting and the national public broadcaster, this should not be wholesale incorporation, and the regional broadcaster needed to continue to exist and contribute to the SABC.

"The North West government does not have any aspirations to establish a broadcasting fiefdom in the province," Sefularo said.

When questioned about who owned the assets of Bop Broadcasting, Sefularo asserted that they resided with the province, but when questioned more closely Sefularo said that it was a complex legal issue which he did not want to discuss further.

Bulelana Ngcuka, who was chairing yesterday's meeting, said the issue of whether provincial broadcasters would be permitted was a political one still to be decided.

In a written submission by staff and management at the broadcaster, Sam Ramosa said staff "do not align ourselves in any way with the (North West government's) presentation."

Ramosa said the SABC had announced that there were about 200 posts for the more than 1 000 employees of the former TBVC broadcasters, and all management who were earning more than R75 000 a year would have to apply for any advertised posts, with no advantage over other applicants.

This had prompted most of the Bop Broadcasting employees to opt for the voluntary retrenchment packages available which the North West government supported until four days before the retrenchments were to take effect, he said.

Ramosa disputed the figures offered by Premier Popo Moleto that the retrenchments would cost more than R400-million, and said the real cost would be R83-million.

The hearings continue today.
ANC man at the helm in Eugene's hometown – with backing of CP

**Owen Correspondent**

Venterstad, the heartland of white extremists and home of AWB leader Eugene TerreBlanche, has a 26-year-old black mayor who lives in a shack at nearby Thung township.

Meshack Mbambalala, a member of the ANC, was unanimously elected mayor at the first sitting of the town council on Tuesday.

The ANC won five of the nine seats, which were also contested by the Conservative Party. But the ANC did not contest the four wards in the town, which were all won by the CP.

Mbambalala said he would use the next few months to promote good relations between blacks and whites, which have always been sour in the town.

"To show our commitment to reconciliation, the matter was discussed at length with the CP at a first sitting of the town council on Tuesday.

"They had fears that since we are the majority party, we would allocate all the top posts to ourselves. But the deputy mayoral position and the chairmanship of the management committee were given to them.

"We want the council to be accepted by all the people in the area and also need the experience of those who have been running the council in the past," he said.
CP town has black mayor

By Russel Molefe

VENTERSDORP, the heartland of white extremists and home of AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche, has a 26-year-old black mayor who lives in a shack at nearby Tshing township.

Mr Meshack Mbambala, a member of the African National Congress, was unanimously elected mayor at the first sitting of the town council on Tuesday.

The ANC won five of the nine seats which were also contested by the Conservative Party. However, the ANC did not contest the wards in town, which were all won by the CP.

Venterdorp is known to be inhabited by white extremists who do not believe in sharing power with blacks in all levels of government.

This was demonstrated when a “war” broke out during a visit by the then president FW de Klerk in 1991. He was seen as a traitor for negotiating power-sharing with a “terrorist and communist organisation, the ANC”.

But Mbambala, in an interview with Sowetan this week, said he would use the next few months to promote good relations between blacks and whites, which have always been sour because of numerous racial incidents.

“Show our commitment to reconciliation, the matter was discussed at length with the CP at a first sitting of the town council on Tuesday.”

“They had fears that since we are the majority party, we would allocate to ourselves all the top posts. But the deputy-mayoral position and the chairmanship of the management committee were given to them.

“We want the council to be accepted by all the people in the area and also need the experience of those who have been running the council in the past,” Mbambala said.

“I was elected as a mayor on Tuesday and I have not yet assessed the reaction of ordinary white people. But the leadership of the CP has given me unqualified support and pledged to assist me.”
Premiers sign agreement on assets share

Labour reporter

PREMIER of the Western Cape Hernus Kriel and his counterparts from the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and the North West today signed an agreement on how the assets, budgets and posts of the former Cape Provincial Administration would be divided among the four new provinces.

While the signatories were unable to specify which assets would go to which province, save that the fewest assets had gone to the North West, all expressed satisfaction with the agreement which outlines a process for the division.

The assets include vehicles, land, posts and budgets.

Mr Kriel was unable to say how many of the Western Cape posts would specifically be targeted as affirmative-action placements.

Premier of the North West Popo Molefe said the agreement should result in greater equity in human and material resources.

He said a meticulous audit of assets had been started.
Call to shut down Umtata hospital

THE parliamentary health portfolio committee has described the Umtata General Hospital as "an affront to human decency", calling for the hospital to be condemned, and replaced immediately.

Following a fact-finding visit to Umtata last week, chairman Dr Manto Tshabalala yesterday described the appalling state of the hospital and the need for emergency measures.

"There is a complete absence of emergency facilities, including ambulances and resuscitation equipment," she said.

There were five babies to one cot in the paediatrics ward and two babies to an incubator.

A dilapidated shed served as a psychiatric unit, and the strong room was strewn with rubbish and broken glass. Conditions for the hospital's psychiatric patients are, quite simply, disgusting," she said. "The psychiatric unit looks like a medieval relic."

The totally inadequate communication facilities left the hospital isolated and the standard of hygiene was poor.

While repair of damage to health services had to be planned on a national basis, the committee believed the severity of conditions at Umtata General and the role it played in the former Transkei called for emergency measures.

The hospital was carrying a budget shortfall of R25m, of which only 50% had been recovered.

Mangope likely to go to court over R18m

Kevin O'Grady

A DEMAND by Northwest's government for R18m allegedly owed by former Bophuthatswana ruler Lucas Mangope would be challenged in court, Mangope's attorney Richard Nesbit said yesterday.

A letter of demand for the money, issued by Northwest government attorney Ismail Ayob, had been "rejected", he said. "I think we will go to court."

Mangope had until tomorrow to respond to the letter of demand.

Nesbit also criticised police investigating criminal charges against his client — for "ravaging" Mangope's home last week and seizing documents which the government had been told would be handed over.

"The police have handled more than 1000 documents during the investigation and it was difficult to say whether such a document had been in the commission's possession."

Nesbit alleged that Ayob had been sentencing Mangope after a commission recommendation that Mangope receive a suspended sentence instead of a jail term.

Nesbit claimed the raid last Thursday amounted to "harassment". He also said the documents — which are indicative of the fact that any funds which Mr Mangope received were accounted for in respect of the tribe — had been in the possession of the commission but not made public.

"To put it gently, they presented a very one-sided story," he said.

Yesterday, Northwest police spokesman Dave George could not confirm the police raid on Mangope's home.

The commission found that R300 000 in mining royalties went to Mangope instead of the Buhurtse-Boo-Manyane tribe.

Commission advocate Frans Kgomo said he had asked Nesbit to send him a copy of the documents which he claimed would prove Mangope's innocence of the royalties allegations.

"I am still waiting for that," he said. The commission had handled more than 1000 documents during its investigation and it was difficult to say whether such a document had been in the commission's possession.

Government instructed Ayob to institute civil proceedings against Mangope after a commission recommendation that Mangope, and several former Bophuthatswana ministers and officials, face criminal and civil action over more than R25m that was found to be missing.

Northwest attorney-general J Smit said yesterday police were still investigating the allegations against Mangope, and he did not know when he would be in a position to decide whether or not to prosecute.

Mangope is leader of the United African Democratic Party.
Bafokeng tribe to contest Deeps deal with Implats

Michael Urquhart

LAWYERS acting on behalf of the Bafokeng tribe, which is contesting an agreement with Impala Platinum over certain mineral rights, would serve a summons on Implats before the end of the month.

Andrew Mitchell of attorneys Bell, Dewar & Hall said yesterday the Bafokeng tribe planned to contest an agreement between Implats and the tribe over an area known as the Deeps.

The dispute had prompted Implats and Lonrho to insert a clause in their platinum merger agreement in terms of which if Implats lost the dispute over the mining rights, Implats parent Gencor would buy Lonrho's stake in the platinum producer.

The original agreement was signed between acting Bafokeng chief George Molotlegi and Implats, while his brother Edward was in exile from Bophutatswana. Chief Edward has since returned from exile and is contesting the agreement on the basis that his brother did not represent the tribe.

Implats already pays a 15% royalty on the areas owned by the Bafokeng on which it is mining. The tribe received R23.7m from royalty payments in the year to June 1995, against R8.5m the previous year. The mine would be making a presentation today to the tribe on the financial 1996 royalty.

Chief Edward Bed Bophutatswana after being accused of participating in an attempt to topple Bophutatswana president Lucas Mangope. During his absence Mangope appointed George Molotlegi as acting chief.

It was while George Molotlegi was acting chief that he concluded the agreement with Implats relating to the Deeps area. The deal gives Implats the right to mine the Deeps, in exchange for a 16% royalty.

Implats spokesman Anne Dunn said Implats had not yet received any notice from the Bafokeng tribe's lawyers, but it would prefer to negotiate the issue rather than be forced to go to court.

Implats said in its merger agreement with Lonrho, details of which were announced at the weekend, that senior counsel had confirmed that its title to the rights was secure should the issue go to litigation.

The Deeps is the extension of Impala's platinum reserves to depth, but the importance of these reserves has declined since the merger with Lonrho's platinum mines was announced.

The merger gives Implats the ability to undertake expansion of capacity at the Lonrho mines, which have shallow ore reserves potentially much cheaper to develop and mine than the Deeps.

Implats is currently putting down a number of declines into the Deeps lease area, but the fate of these if the mine decides to go ahead with expansion at Lonrho properties is unknown.

Implats has not yet released details of what it plans to do when the merger has been completed.
Katz commission to table its report on firm’s restructuring

The Katz commission, headed by tax expert Michael Katz and appointed by the Northwest government to investigate the restructuring of the Northwest Transport Investments Company, is to present its report to the premier, Popo Molefe, on Monday.

A Northwest spokesman said the commission was set up in the wake of the SOWETO commission of inquiry into corruption in the former Bophuthatswana government and parastatals.

The commission investigated the operation of a parastatal — the Bophuthatswana Transport Investments Ltd group, now known as Northwest Transport Investments.

The commission stated the company “had two subsidiaries — Bophuthatswana Transport Holdings (BTH) and Comark Holdings”. BTH was the commuter transport corporation for Bophuthatswana; Comark was a subsidiary concerned with the manufacturing of bus bodies and the remanufacture of major drive components. A consulting group called Transport Advisory Services (TAS) managed Bophuthatswana Transport Investments.

The commission found that an “interlocking” relationship between the personnel of the management companies and the various boards of the group of companies is highly undesirable and should be stopped.

Katz said he was brief was to investigate the restructuring of the company from a business and organisational point of view — this included its future relationship with the advisory service. The current contract expires at the end of this month “whereafter it may be terminated”. The commission recommended that the terms of the management contract be negotiated differently if renewed.

The Northwest region said a decision regarding the future of the management contract would be decided later this month. The commission found that the MD of Bophuthatswana Transport Investments was also a shareholder in TAS and that the management contract cost the parastatal 85% of its profits from 1991 to 1994.

This relationship continued between Bophuthatswana Transport Investments and TAS despite concerns expressed by the auditor-general in 1990.

He said: “It seems unlikely that such a basis of management will really be of additional benefit to the Bophuthatswana Transport Investments group because the very same people who are employed as managers are to be the management consultants in the envisaged consulting group.”
**BBC workers want those juicy payouts**

By Abdul Millali

Labour Reporter

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) is making waves in North West where more than 500 Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) workers are demanding to be retrenched.

Fear, frustration and uncertainty about their (workers') future in the planned National Public Broadcasting Service (NPBS) forced them to opt for retrenchment, the only viable option offered to them by management.

However, North West premier Mr Popo Molefe moved in and postponed the retrenchments for two years when more than 80 percent of the staff applied for retrenchment packages, instead of the targeted 200 workers.

At its national council last week Mwasa decided to help the workers get their packages. But acting broadcasting MEC Dr Paul Sefularo said the province could not pay the packages as they amounted to millions of rands.

The problem started when the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) released its report on restructuring South Africa’s broadcasting bodies, including those of former homelands.

BBC workers were told that because of the report and impending restructuring, a number of positions particularly in the support services would become redundant.

These positions, which would not form part of the NPBS, would result in mandatory retrenchment, the workers were told.

**Difficult to resist**

Former broadcasting MEC Ms Riant de Wet, who recently resigned citing inexperience, offered lucrative packages to workers that many found difficult to resist.

The packages included one year's notice pay plus one month's salary for every year of service.

Payment for a partial year's service was to be paid out on a pro rata basis.

<table>
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<th>Other benefits included</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A pro rata 13th cheque for each completed month of service for the relevant year.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>All vacation leave due to the employee on the agreed date of termination would be paid.</strong></td>
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<td>An age premium of 15 percent would be paid to employees in the 35 to 45 year age category.</td>
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<td>An age premium of 20 percent would be paid to employees in the 45 years and above age category, and</td>
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<td>The retrenched workers would be entitled to all benefits as stipulated in the SEBO Pension Fund regulations on retrenchment</td>
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An official document on the BBC lay-offs explained that factors such as the specialized nature of the broadcasting industry and employment opportunities in Mmabatho and surrounding areas were considered in determining the retrenchment policy.

On the financial implications of retaining the various broadcasting bodies, the document stated that 30 percent of the BBC staff should be retrenched.

The document further estimated the costs of retrenching the entire staff at R74.5 million and the targeted 30 percent at R23 million.

**Retirement age**

It further charged that the total cost of houses owned by staff was around R27 million, which meant the takeover would cost the Government another R9 million.

The retrenched staff would be entitled to a gratuity of six percent, which would be calculated for 30 years, representing the projected period of service up to the retirement age of 60 years.

This meant that people who had served 10 years with the company would be paid for those years plus for an additional 20 years. In figures, this translated to R180 000.

Annuity would be calculated for 30 years at two percent and amounted to R60 000 a year. This meant workers were entitled to an annuity of R5 000 a month until the time of death.

The IBA document further urged that BBC management be authorised to implement the retrenchments with immediate effect.

When workers saw the offer and considered the prospects of facing an uncertain future in the NPBS, they opted for the retrenchments.

Although premier Molefe postponed the retrenchments, workers would not have any of it - they want out and are going to court to ensure that it happens.
Popo’s man not guilty

By DAN DHLAMINI

NORTH WEST Premier Popo Molefe’s personal assistant, Keith Khoza (30), was this week found not guilty of car theft.

He had originally been charged with possession of a stolen car.

Magistrate Modisedi Dinne acquitted Khoza, who did not utter a single word in his defence except for the “not guilty” plea.

Khoza was discharged on grounds that the state did not have a prima facie case against him.

After the hearing the investigating officer, Sergeant Velaphi Naphakade, said he was upset that the prosecutor, Modise Thupudi, had changed the charge from possession of a stolen car to car theft.

An angry Naphakade, who investigated the case for months, told City Press that he felt the verdict could have been different if the original charge had been brought.

He said there had been no evidence to bring a charge of car theft against Khoza.

Naphakade told the court he had found a Golf GTI NHJ 218 T parked at Khoza’s residence. The window markings and paint work had been tampered with.

The owner of the car, Irvin Williams, was the only witness called by the State. He confirmed the stolen car was his.

Williams told the court that he last saw his rebuilt car when a certain Joe Dingaan from Zambia wanted to buy it and took it for a test drive.

He said when Dingaan failed to return the car, he laid a charge of car theft with police.

Williams told the magistrate he agreed to Dingaan test driving the car because he had been accompanied to his home by people he (Williams) knew very well.

After the case was disposed of Williams got his car back, but Khoza insisted that it belonged to him.

Khoza said he was, however, relieved that the criminal case against him was over, but said a civil claim would follow in order for him to retrieve the car.

He told City Press that he bought the car from Williams for R25 000 after initially having made a deal with one Herbert Sithole.

Khoza conceded however that he did not have documents of ownership because he had not finished paying for the car.

However Williams told City Press he did not know Khoza and had never sold him the car.
North West to sue Mangope for R18-m

The North West government and former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope are set for a court battle which will decide whether or not Mangope should pay R18-million.

The province announced yesterday that its lawyers are to issue summons against Mangope following his failure to meet an extended deadline for payment. The demand follows recommendations from the Skweyana Commission of Inquiry which uncovered "mass misappropriation of funds.

"We've rejected liability and are prepared to defend the matter in court," Mangope's lawyer, Richard Nesbit, told The Star earlier this month.

North West also confirmed Mangope's suspension as chief of the Bahuruthshe Boo-Magwane tribe - Political Reporter.
Mangope heads for court battle

□ R18-m claimed by North West government

Political Staff

THE North West government and former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope are set for a court battle which will decide whether or not Mr Mangope should pay the R18-million demanded by the provincial government.

The North West government announced yesterday that its lawyers, Ismail Ayob and Partners, were to issue summons against Mr Mangope after he had failed to meet an extended deadline to pay the province R18-million.

Mr Mangope’s lawyer, Richard Nesbit, said that on November 8 he notified Mr Ayob that his client would not pay the R18-million.

“We’ve repudiated liability and are prepared to defend the matter in court.”

The North West government has claimed the amount from Mr Mangope for the loss it suffered as a result of the former premier’s involvement in the alleged unlawful misappropriation of the funds, property and services of the government of the former Republic of Bophuthatswana.

The demand followed recommendations from the Skweyiya Commission of Inquiry which uncovered mass misappropriation of funds in the homeland.

Mr Ayob has confirmed to the provincial government that Mr Mangope had not paid the money demanded from him, nor had there been any response from his attorneys, in spite of their claims that a formal reply to the demand would be given to the North West government’s attorneys before the deadline.

The North West government also confirmed that Mr Mangope’s suspension as chief of the Baburutshe Boo-Manyane tribe, which was temporarily held back pending submission from his lawyers about tribal matters, had been reinstated.

The suspension was also a recommendation of the Skweyiya Commission.

It found Mr Mangope had made himself the sole signatory of the tribe’s accounts and used some of the royalties for the tribe as part-payment for Alwynspoort farm, near Zeerust.
Northwest threatens court action against Mangope

Kathryn Strachan

B028 11/95

FORMER Bophuthatswana ruler Lucas Mangope was facing legal action after failing to pay nearly R18.5m — allegedly misappropriated during his term in office — to the Northwest government, lawyers for the province said yesterday.

They were set to issue a summons against Mangope after his attorneys failed to meet an extended deadline for the payment of the money.

But Mangope's attorney Richard Nesbit said yesterday he had notified the lawyers that his client would not be responding or making any payments as the matter would be dealt with "as and when it came to court.

Nesbit accused the Northwest government of trying to make political capital through issuing repeated press releases which took the matter no further.

He said it would take 12 to 18 months for a case such as this to come to court.

The demand for payment stemmed from the Skweyya commission of inquiry into alleged corruption in the former homeland.

Mangope's suspension as chief of the Bahurutshe Boo-Manyane tribe became effective from yesterday after he failed to timeously challenge the move, lawyers for the province added.

Nesbit said his client had had no notification of this, and would dispute the move when it arose.

The suspension followed a finding by the commission that Mangope had used some of the tribe's mining royalties as part payment for a farm.
Inherited red tape blocks
Northwest health reform

Kathryn Strachan

Attempts to rebuild health services in Northwest, particularly in the neglected Bophuthatswana, are being blocked by the impossibly cumbersome civil service the new administration inherited from the former homeland.

While other provinces were forging ahead with new health plans, initiatives in Northwest were being throttled by the provincial services commission whose "slavish attitude" to the bureaucracy it had built up meant very few projects got off the ground, said provincial health MEC Paul Sebulare.

Former Bophuthatswana ruler Lucas Mangope's cumbersome bureaucracy, designed to be tightly controlled by the top so that he could make all appointments and decisions, haunted efforts to get things done, said health services chief director David Rob.

"It requires central government intervention to free health service delivery from bureaucratic procedures designed to run a clerical ticket office, not to set up a new health system," said Rob.

As a result, service delivery in clinics and hospitals had got a lot worse. Clinics in many areas were deserted, in others, they could not function due to lack of medicines or equipment.

While the process of appointing their new managers lumbered on, 860 hospitals were being run without managers or accountants.

Any repair above R5 000 had to be referred to the public works department, which in turn referred it to the Tender Board -- which took at least three months to get a project under way.

"The result is that nothing gets fixed," said Rob "In June Rustenburg Hospital applied for the generator of its X-ray machine to be replaced, and six months later they have still not got it."

Another example of the complete lack of any system, he said, was that 60% of the health department's vehicle stock was unaccounted for after being sent to the government garage for repairs.

"Unless we change the administration, a lot of things we want will not be done," said Sebulare.

"We need to put districts in a position where they can make their own decisions."

"This is our second Christmas and we have only spent 14.6% of our development budget," he said. Only R8.4m out of a total health budget of R57m had been spent.

Health facilities in the former Bophuthatswana, which makes up half of the new province, were in a state of decay. The health status of communities in the former homeland was also far worse than elsewhere, with its high incidence of chronic malnutrition and other diseases of poverty.

After hard bargaining with local authorities, health districts have been established in the province. District health forums will soon be set up to run their districts and, as they prove their competence, will be given the status of full authorities. Once these forums are set up, the pace of development should quicken.

"But so far it has been extremely frustrating," said Sebulare. Rob echoed him: "We've done a bit of clinic building, we've done a bit of hospital planning to the architectural stage, and we've made a few appointments -- that's what we've done in 18 months."

BUSINESS DAY, Tuesday, November 28 1995
The Bafokeng tribe authorised its lawyers yesterday to issue a summons against Impala Platinum, challenging the mine's rights to exploit tribal land.

The move has come on the eve of the Lonrho board meeting to decide the fate of the merger of Lonrho's SA platinum interests with Impala Platinum.

The challenge is based on allegations that Lucas Mangope, president of the former Bophuthatswana, was not trustee of the land when he concluded the deal with Implats in 1990 on behalf of the tribe.

The announcement should give clout to Lonrho ex-chairman Tiny Rowland's bid to block the deal on the basis of the threat posed by the pending Bafokeng court action.

In terms of agreements between Implats and the Bafokeng, Implats has the right to mine the area known as the Deeps in return for a 12% royalty, and other Bafokeng land in its lease area for a 14.9% royalty. The tribe is challenging the Deeps agreement concluded in 1990, and other agreements concluded at the same time.

James Sutherland of lawyers Bell, Dewar & Hall said the tribe based its challenge on a claim that Mangope never became trustee of the tribe's land. He said that in 1977: Nico Diederichs, then president of SA, issued a proclamation transferring the Bafokeng land, held by the then bantu administration and development minister, to Mangope. But the legislation to empower this type of transfer was enacted only 12 years after the land had been transferred.

This was an "astonishing legislative oversight" which left the bantu administration minister's eventual successor, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, as trustee of the land.
Bop Broadcasting head under attack from SABC

Marion Edmunds

The Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation’s (BopBC) new highly paid chief executive, Cawe Mhlati, has been stung with accusations of reneging on agreements with the SABC after less than a week in the broadcaster’s hot seat.

SABC officials have criticised him for her conduct at meetings to discuss the future of public broadcasting in South Africa. The SABC’s Leslie Xingwa complained this week that Mhlati had tried to undermine agreements already brokered by the Joint Integration Board — the body discussing the merging of public broadcasters into a national public broadcasting service — although she had attended the meeting only as an observer. (The North West government had pulled BopBC out of the negotiations at the end of October, ending official participation.)

SABC sources say they suspect that Mhlati and her new deputy, Abbey Chikane, had been coaxed into the BopBC by the North West government so that they could represent the corporation aggressively, should they return to the negotiating table.

Mhlati was coaxed away from a top job at M-Net by a R35 000 a month salary and “great career prospects”. Chikane is being paid R30 000 a month but is still able to run his advertising business, Chikane Hunt Lascaris, at the same time. Both are seen as tough, persuasive negotiators with excellent political connections.

Xingwa charged this week that Mhlati’s and Chikane’s appointments had gone against a gentlemen’s agreement that nobody would be appointed to top positions until the fate of the public broadcasters had been resolved.

Her job and her deputy’s were not advertised and only they and one other were interviewed for the posts by the acting North West MEC for broadcasting, Moteli Sefularo.

The appointments also came at a time when BopBC staff are taking legal action to force the North West government to pay out retrenchment packages and close BopBC down.

Despite the protest from staff, the North West government appears anxious to keep BopBC going, even if it is in a reduced form. “We believe that there is life after integration,” said Sefularo, who has also announced the government’s intention of appointing a new board for BopBC.

Mhlati was “too busy” to respond to inquiries this week. She and Chikane are on six-month contracts.
Tender board fraud claim 'racist'

Justin Arenstein

FACED with accusations of corruption in the awarding of school textbook supply contracts, the Mpumalanga Tender Board has dismissed the allegations as a racist attack on the country's new political leaders.

Officials did, however, concede that a criminal investigation was necessary following irregularities during the awarding of four multi-million rand school textbook contracts.

Disgruntled school textbook suppliers have complained that the tender board, in awarding contracts for 1996, had unduly favoured the same four book-supply companies which enjoyed the patronage of former homeland governments.

"While the board believes that there is some basis for concern, the [allegations] suffer from a major weakness. Namely, a grossly exaggerated view of what constitutes corruption or fraud," explained board chairperson, Lot Ndlouv.

"The allegations also contain the tendency to blame the new government for certain actions taken by the previous, older structures."

Thus, Ndlouv insisted, is reflected in the assumption that the tender board had been aware that the four companies targeted for investigation had previously "monopolised textbook contracts under homeland governments."

"We didn't know that they enjoyed monopolies in the past, but people are judging us for it. These same people are also jumping on the bandwagon and blaming mistakes made during the tender process as corruption and fraud," he said.

When asked why errors were not corrected instead of extending the tender deadlines, Ndlouv said that as supply companies closed over December, the department had to award its tender before then or risk interfering with the 1996 school academic year.

He could not say whether the companies would have been prepared to work during December in order to win the multi-million rand contracts.

The only other point on which Ndlouv was prepared to concede possible error was that he believed to be unaware of the size or value of the school book contracts it had awarded to the four companies.

Even if police and government investigations do reveal that certain companies profited from irregularities within the tender board, the board cannot legally force them to surrender the contracts.
R50- m for 500 BBC WORKERS

By Abdul Rehman

Wednesday, December 20, 1995


Musa General Secretary M.

The Nigerian government's move to

fundamental government is not a

move to suppress the rights of the

workers who have been exploited.

The government has ordered the

release of all workers who have been

jailed for the past few months. The

government has also promised to

grant the workers their demands and

provide them with a fair and just

remuneration.

The government has also promised to

grant the workers their demands and

provide them with a fair and just

remuneration.
North West a success — Molefe

AS 1995 rolls to a close, North West Premier Popo Molefe recounts his government’s successes and failures.

Molefe said the ANC-led North West government had so far succeeded in turning the troubled province into a haven for all its people from diverse cultures and clashing ideologies.

He said as Lucas Mangope’s United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP), Ferdi Hartzenberg’s Conservative Party (CP), Rocky Malebane Metsings’s Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) and Eugene Terre’Blanche’s Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) are all opposed to the process of transformation, the challenge was tough for the ANC-led provincial government.

Molefe, who is optimistic that 1996 would be a better year for the provincial government, said the North West was not given a sight hope for progress and reconciliation to opposing political party’s attitudes.

He however said unless their leadership thought otherwise, the AWB and the CP were heading for the political rubbish heap of history, while as the result of reconciliation white farmers in Midol, Swartruggens and Geysdorp had joined the ANC.

Regarding what he termed black right wing parties UCDP and PPP, Molefe said they were no longer a political factor in the North West Province following their dismal failure in the local government elections last month.

“...In all the rural areas where Mangope and Malebane Metsing’s parties were said to be strong the ANC got an overwhelming 85 percent victory and 77 percent in the urban areas,”

said Molefe.

Molefe said the local government elections were a phenomenal success both for the economy and democracy.

He said the democratisation process had gained legitimacy which was necessary for the successful socio-economic transformation of the North West institutions of governance and society.

Molefe, who will be going to the United States on January 8, where he will be promoting investment and tourism, will also attend a short course on economics.

He told City Press that already some outside countries had started investing in the North West Chinese companies were currently in the process of opening a ceramic tile factory and an explosives firm in Fochville which will create jobs for people in the Province.

Molefe said as a result of his government’s interaction with their Cuban counterparts, the Cubans have already struck a deal with Kaynoon fertiliser company in Potchefstroom.

He said as from next year North West farmers will be able to export their maize to Cuba.

Molefe said Medikwe and Rustenburg game reserves had been earmarked by foreign investors, who will build lodges so as to promote tourism.

“...Right now the Provincial Government is in the process of building 25 000 houses, upgrading more than 15 rural clinics, renovating 650 schools and building an additional 75 classes all at a cost of R164 million. We are also bringing water to more than 80 villages, one of which is the R57 million Moretele Water Project: A water supply scheme for R180 million will be implemented for Winterveldt residents,” said Molefe.

A R35.9 million land reform pilot project will benefit 680 first time farmers.
PS - LA - NORTHWEST

1996 - 1997
Bophuthatswana finale to be probed

Kevin O'Grady

THE Northwest government yesterday announced the establishment of a commission to investigate the March 11 1994 violence that led to the overthrow of the Bophuthatswana government.

Provincial director-general Job Mokgoro said the commission would be headed by a retired judge from the Cape Provincial Division of the Supreme Court, Pat Tebbutt.

It would be asked to investigate and report on the identity of those killed as well as the circumstances and cause of their deaths.

It would also decide whether or not each death was brought about by the act or omission of any person and, if so, would identify those responsible.

Provincial government spokesman Willie Modise said President Nelson Mandela had communicated his desire that such a commission be set up and that he would make an announcement on its establishment soon.

The commission would begin sitting "as soon as possible, maybe even in a matter of days", Modise said.

Some detail about the events of the day in question had come to light in evidence before the Motamela commission of inquiry into local government in Bophuthatswana and it was from that that "we realised the urgency of setting up this commission", he said.

On the day in question, public servants and other Bophuthatswana workers went on strike and took part in widespread rioting that left several people dead and shopping centres burnt out and looted of goods.
Northwest’s Molefe reshuffles his cabinet

Kevin O’Grady

NORTHWEST: Premier Popo Molefe announced a reshuffle of his provincial cabinet yesterday, intended to “maximise the effectiveness of government through the optimal combination of functions”.

Part of the reshuffle involved officially reassigning the portfolio previously handled by axed media and broadcasting MEC Riani de Wet.

Her portfolio will now be controlled by ANC health and social welfare MEC Molefi Sefatiaro, who had handled it since De Wet’s departure last year.

NP economic affairs MEC Abraham Venter lost his portfolio but took over a combined tourism and environmental affairs position, while ANC finance MEC Martin Kuscas took on Venter’s previous function.

The tourism and environmental affairs portfolios were combined “in view of the importance provincial government attaches to development of eco-tourism and its potential for economic growth and job creation”, Molefe said.

The arts and culture function previously handled by De Wet would now be combined with Mamoekeoana Gaoretelelwe’s education, sports and recreation portfolio, Molefe said.

Former agriculture and environmental affairs MEC Johannes Tselapetse (ANC), who lost his environmental affairs function to Venter, would now handle agriculture as the sole concern in his portfolio.

Molefe said the decision to shuffle was taken at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, when it was decided: “there should be an assessment of the most appropriate combination of functions to ensure accelerated delivery and development within the province”.

The decision was taken in terms of his prerogative, provided for in the constitution, to restructure functions and portfolios in the provincial government. The changes did not “reflect any lack of confidence in any particular member of the cabinet”, he said.

Aspects of departmental restructuring emerging from the decisions had been referred to the Provincial Service Commission and the provincial director-general for recommendation.

“Positions and conditions of service within the public service will not in general be affected and there will be a minimum of disruption,” Molefe said.
Cabinet shake-up for North West

North West Premier Popo Molefe has made his third cabinet reshuffle of MECs since taking office 21 months ago, reducing them by one portfolio Molefe said yesterday the shake-up would come into effect on March 1.

He has scrapped the Media, Arts, and Culture portfolio and apportioned its functions to other ministers. The portfolio was held by Ratu de Wet until she was axed late last year after she was alleged to have entertained friends at government expense. It has since been administered by Health and Developmental Welfare MEC Molefe Seifulo, who will take over the Media and Broadcasting functions while Arts and Culture go to Education, Sports and Recreation MEC Mamoekeoa Gaoretelewe.

Molefe also separated Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, and made former Economic Affairs MEC Amy Venter head of newly created Tourism and Environmental Affairs. Molefe said this was "in view of the importance that provincial government attaches to eco-tourism".

A stand-alone agriculture ministry has been retained under the Rev Othetswe Tsapedi, while finance and provincial expenditure MEC Martin Kiscus' portfolio is now Finance and Economic Affairs - Political Reporter.
North West
probes
R35-m scam
By ELIAS MALULEKE EP 18/2/96

THE North West Government is probing a R7 million
3-year management contract between the government
funded North West Transport Investment (NTI) and
the Transport Advisory Services (TAS).

TAS was established by seven NTI senior managers
as a private company in 1990 with R1,6 million of
NTI funds.

Six of the managers resigned after the contract was
signed and returned to their old jobs as consultants.

More than R36 million has been paid to TAS since
1991 - and it is estimated that the NTI would have
saved R30 million in salaries without the contract.

The five-year contract - which virtually places the
entire management structure and business affairs of
the NTI into the hands of TAS - was signed in 1990
by NTI managing director, ST Prinsloo.

Prinsloo is also a TAS founder member, shareholder
and chairman. He could not be reached for comment
this week.

City Press was informed by the North West MEC
for Transport, Frans Vilakazi, that the North West
Cabinet would look into the contract afresh.

This follows City Press inquiries concerning a report
by Michael Katz, who probed the affairs of the NTI,
formerly Bophuthatswana Transport Investment.

Katz was appointed to lead investigations into the
NTI's affairs by North West Premier Popo Molefe,
late last year, after a report by the Skweyiya Com-
mission found irregularities concerning the contract.

A senior government official told City Press that
Katz had handed his report to Vilakazi last December
- but that the MEC was reluctant to make the "dam-
ing" report public because he feared it would cause
the NTI's collapse.

Vilakazi confirmed he had received the Katz report.
He said its contents could not be made public until
the cabinet had viewed it and made its recommenda-
tions.

Vilakazi said the matter was sensitive and needed
to be handled in a responsible manner.

"We are talking millions of rands here, and we feel
that a premature release of the report could spark la-
bour unrest," Vilakazi said.

"The premier has taken the first step by sacking
the entire NTI board of directors and appointing an
interim board.

"The matter is now in the hands of cabinet and it
will now have to negotiate with Cosatu to find a sol-
tion to the management crisis, which could topple
the whole NTI and its subsidiaries," Vilakazi said.

According to a report of the Skweyiya Com-
mission, Prinsloo and his six executives took a R1,6 million
interest-free loan to start TAS.
Molefe reshuffles cabinet

By DAN DHLAMINI

NORTH WEST Premier Popo Molefe reshuffled his cabinet this week, removing the Economics Affairs portfolio from National Party's Amie Venter and adding it to the ANC's Finance Ministry.

Molefe said the reshuffle was aimed at combining functions and expediting delivery and development within the province.

He said in view of the importance that his government attached to the development of eco-tourism and its potential for job creation and economic growth, he combined Tourism and Environmental Affairs and appointed Venter as its MEC.

MEC for Finance Martin Kuscus will now also handle the portfolio of Economic Affairs.

Molefe combined the Arts and Culture functions with the Education, Sports and Recreation Ministry under Mamokwena Gaoretelelwe.
Funds used ‘to buy shiny Merc’

Damning documents

By ELIAS MALULEKE

COMPANY FUNDS were used by the management of North West Transport Investment (NTI) to purchase a luxurious Mercedes Benz 230E for Bophuthatswana Secretary of Finance JP Vermaak, according to documents presented to the Skweyiya Commission, which is inquiring into the financial affairs of the government parastatals.

Moreover, Vermaak received a salary from NTI between 1989 and August 1993, totalling R392 808—even though he was already employed by the Bophuthatswana Government.

The documents show the car, bought from McCarthy Motors in Pretoria in November 1989, cost R96 808 and was purchased through the account of Bophuthatswana Transport Holdings (BTH), one of several NTI subsidiaries headed by NTI vice-chairman and managing director, ST Prinsloo.

Prinsloo is also chairman and shareholder of Transport Advisory Services (TAS), a private management company which was granted a controversial R7 million-a-year contract in November 1990 to manage the affairs of NTI, despite opposition by the government’s auditor-general.

North West Premier Popo Molefe fired the entire NTI board of directors last December, and appointed an interim board. His cabinet is currently discussing a report concerning the NTI affairs and the TAS management contract, which was prepared by tax reformer and commissioner, Michael Katz. He was appointed by Molefe to probe the affairs of NTI after the Skweyiya Commission had painted a “damning” picture of the management contract and alleged financial irregularities.

The Skweyiya Commission found that Prinsloo and seven of his senior managers had started TAS in November 1990 with a R1.6 million interest-free loan from NTI, which it described as “undesirable practice”, and the R7 million contract as “abnormally high”.

The commission found that-with the exception of Prinsloo, the seven executive managers had resigned from NTI after TAS was granted the contract, and also that the auditor-general had opposed the granting of the contract, but was overruled by the Ministry of Finance.

The commission said the double salary paid to Vermaak was “undesirable”, and that the position of Prinsloo as role-player in the granting of the contract was untenable.
In luxury lane – on govt tab

By ROCKY MOKOENA

MORE than R500 000 a month is spent by the Northern Province government to accommodate civil servants in hotels in various parts of the province.

This has continued for more than a year.

These expenses are adversely affecting the government’s budget.

A source within the government told City Press that civil servants are accommodated in three star hotels, including the Park Hotel, Holiday Inn, Ranch Hotel and other lodges in the province.

The source, who works in the finance department, said the expenses included accommodation and daily food, while other statements recorded alcoholic drinks.

He said there was also widespread abuse of government cars for personal convenience.

Civil servants live in costly hotels – at your expense!

The Park Hotel in Potgietersrus confirmed that a government official was staying in the hotel at the government’s expense.

The clerk, who did not want to be named, said the account of the official, who is occupying two rooms, included daily accommodation, food and drinks for his three children and their domestic worker.

Same rates

She said they were charged the same rates as other clients – R250 a day.

The Holiday Inn at Pietersburg confirmed that there were government officials housed at the hotel.

They said these officials were charged the same rates as other clients.

More than 20 civil servants from the education department are also said to be accommodated at the Oasis Lodge on the outskirts of Pietersburg, at a cost of more than R100 000 a month to the government.

Government official Joe Phaahla said the government was entitled to help its workers with accommodation if possible.

He said that the government was to help the civil servants for a period of not more than six months.

He explained that some workers were given accommodation at hotels while the government was busy restructuring government departments.

On the issue of the official at the Park Hotel, he said it was the responsibility of the central government to pay the cost.

Irresponsible

The PAC and Azapo in the region condemned the action as “irresponsible behaviour” by the provincial government.

Azapo slated the government “for using the taxpayers’ money in a wrong direction.”

They said the money could be used for other important projects to improve the living conditions of the people in the province.
Businessmen in the Northern Province form a united to fight against the collapse of services which has resulted in a sharp decline in business activity, **Khathu Mamaila** reports...

Nehawu deputy president Mr Lulamile Sotaka ... locked in a battle with the Northern Province government on the subject of rationalisation.

Some of the demoralised workers also doubted their trade unions because they felt the labour movement was not doing anything to assure them of their jobs.

With the rationalisation process scheduled to be completed by the end of March, public workers wait with bated breath to be told of their fate in the new structure.

At best, most expect to be transferred to faraway places where they will have to find new accommodation or, at worst, to face the axe.

The National Education Health and Allied Workers Union held its regional congress in Louis Trichardt last month. A key issue was the rationalisation of the civil service and its effect on the morale of workers.

**Opposed to retrenchments**

As is to be expected, Nehawu is vehemently opposed to massive retrenchments but the union says it is not opposed to restructuring the civil service.

Nehawu deputy president Mr Lulamile Sotaka told the congress: "Our target in the process of rationalisation is to dismantle the affirmative action of the National Party. Retrenchment should not affect downtrodden workers.

"We remain diametrically opposed to retrenchment so far as it affects the public ser-
Northwest’s additional expenditure totals R422m

John Dludlu

NORTHWEST finance MEC Martin Kuscus presented the provincial Adjustment Appropriations Bill yesterday, showing supplementary expenditure of R422.6m.

The R422.6m additional spending will increase the provincial budget to R6.72bn from the original budget.

He attributed the additional appropriations to salary adjustments, assistance to local government and local government elections. The appropriations would be financed with the help of funds from the national treasury.

The province began the current fiscal year with an expected deficit of R361m. "Of this, R229.57m was negotiated with national government and will be transferred to us in due course."

He said the projected shortfall in education of about R800m was brought down through strict fiscal controls to R100m. "This was achieved through close cashflow management and continuous review of the expenditure pattern in education."

The R100m shortfall would be funded by the national government. An amount of R36.5m was received from the constitutional development and provincial affairs department to facilitate last year’s local government elections. The revised expenditure for the premier’s department was nearly R80m from the original R46.2m.

Kuscus said the increase was caused by the premier’s discretionary fund of R30m and the project preparation and facilities fund of R3m.

The revised expenditure for health and welfare amounted to R31.58m against the original R1.81m due to salary adjustments. Spending for economic affairs increased to R78.5m (R56.5m) because of carry-over funds in compensation for businesses damaged in 1994 (R5.9m), assistance for the Miss World Pageant and the Million Dollar Golf tournament (R6m) and general export incentives (R5.9m).

Widow tells of shooting

Deborah Fine

LENASIA widow Leshchenmy Ramdn told the Rand Supreme Court yesterday she was shot seven times by one of the men accused of murdering her husband outside their home last year.

She was testifying at the trial of Imraan Khan, 22, and brothers Shraaz Essop, 34, and Saa who have pleaded not guilty to fatally shooting Jay Ramdn, 47, minutes after he was acquitted on two charges of murder.

Ramdn was found not guilty on August 8 last year of murdering his wife’s boss, Dawood Motata, 42, and Motata’s nephew, Ismail Tutu.

Testifying in camera and protected by 12 police, Ramdn told the court yesterday he had not attended court proceedings on the day of her husband’s acquittal, but had stayed at home with his sons whom he had been too afraid to send to school.

Draft rural strategy paper is ill-founded

Bernstein

A new national vision of growth and development The rural areas of SA currently contain more than 40% of the country’s population.

There had been little analysis on the cost of implementing a rural development strategy, which was imperative if the private sector was going to be supportive of the strategy, she said.

While it was important that government assessed its strategy, a number of short-term issues should be urgently identified by a government task team appointed at the highest possible level, she said.

Bernstein said that the centre’s response to the rural strategy document had been submitted to Minister without Portfolio, Jay Naidoo, the RDP parliamentary standing committee and Nedlac.

See Page 13
MMABATHO city council in the North West has lost 23 vehicles worth over R800 000 in two years as a result of a massive theft racket, a commission has heard.

This discovery was made by the investigating team of the Motomile Commission, which was set up by Premier Popo Molefe in March last year to probe irregularities in the province’s 84 local authorities.

The well-known advocate Abram “Macaps” Motomile is the commission’s chairman, and the investigating team members are attorney Ratha Mokgwoatleng, advocates Marks Muhlholonyi and Tshepo Sibeko.

Mokgwoatleng said that besides missing 23 vehicles, the massive theft included equipment valued at thousands of rands – computers, radios, vacuum cleaners, tyres, car batteries, tape recorders – and also petrol.

The fact that the thefts took place inside the city council’s Department of Works, which is guarded by 50 security guards, indicated that the thefts could have been an “inside job”.

The commission team is in possession of 20 car theft dockets which remain unsolved by the police.

Mmabatho City Council security guard Justice Moeng told the commission that he had seen Assistant City Secretary Gordon Taku drive away in the council’s Toyota Hi-Ace combi with the registration YBA 18573 on June 24, 1994.

He said Taku later approached him and said that according to rumours around the City Council corridors, the combi had been stolen by the council’s chief executive officer Peter Waugh.

Moeng said Taku then took him to the charge office where he (Moeng) made a statement to the police that he had seen Waugh driving away with the combi.

Contradictions

When asked if Taku had promised him something to shift the blame from him, or if Waugh had threatened him, he had difficulty explaining his contradictions.

Advocate Motomile subsequently warned Moeng that he would be charged under the Commission’s Act for deliberately giving false evidence.

The council treasurers’ secretary, Lesley-Anne Smith, told the commission that as she was driving through the entrance of the council’s parking lot, she saw the council combi reversing towards the entrance.

She said she had to reverse her car to allow the combi to pass her and exit through the entrance.

“It was strange that the driver of the combi had to use the entrance to get out while the exit could have been used. I could not see the driver because the combi’s front seats were high,” said Smith.

The chairman remarked that the person who drove the combi on that day must have known that if he used the exit, he would have encountered problems because the security guards would have taken his details.

Mokgwoatleng said the commission had also discovered that the combi’s petrol voucher was used for filling up its tank the following day in Kimberley.

An agitated Waugh denied having stolen the combi, saying that on that day, he was nowhere near the building where the combi was stolen.

He told the commission that he had taken his children to school, and that he had had about three meetings in the morning before leaving for Vanderbijlpark with his colleague, J Mokgou.

When Taku was called to testify, candidate attorney V de Klerk told the commission that he was representing him.

But the chairman ruled that De Klerk could not represent Taku because he was a candidate attorney and therefore did not have appearance powers.

De Klerk asked for a postponement saying his seniors would represent Taku when the commission resumed on Tuesday.
Mangope, jun, won’t confirm R5-m golden payout

The son of former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope is believed to have been paid a R5-million retrenchment package by the North West government. He had occupied a senior position at the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation.

The provincial government and Eddie Mangope confirmed a settlement had been reached, but neither would give details.

Mangope, jun, a former senior manager at the corporation, has been on forced paid leave for the past two years.

His retirement came two years after the sacking of 13 Bophuthatswana state secretaries, who were paid out R13-million.

“I have an agreement with the BNDC that the terms of the settlement will be confidential,” said Mangope.

A provincial government spokesman, Paul Daphne, said that in terms of the agreement, the precise content could not be disclosed.

Mangope was paid R354,000 a year while on forced leave. — Sapa.
‘R5-million’ handshake for Mangope’s son

JOHANNESBURG: The son of former Bophuthatswana president Mr Lucas Mangope was believed to have been paid a R5-million retrenchment package by the North-West government to vacate his senior position at the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation, it was reported on television last night.

A provincial government spokesman and Mr Eddie Mangope confirmed a settlement had been reached but neither would give details.

Mangope jun, a former senior manager at the BNDC, has been on forced paid leave for the past two years.

While on leave he has been paid an annual salary of R354 000.

His forced retirement came two years after the sacking of 13 former Bophuthatswana state secretaries who were paid out R13 million.

Provincial government spokesman Mr Paul Daphney said that under the agreement reached between Mangope jun and the board of the corporation the precise content could not be disclosed.

Mangope said in an interview: “I have an agreement with the BNDC that the terms of the settlement will be confidential.”

There have been numerous controversies surrounding the BNDC and a number of disputes between the BNDC and the SABC.

The station was established under the homeland government of Mangope sen before he was ousted from power. — Sapa
Mangope settlement R1m, claims govt

THE Northwest government has denied claims that the former senior manager of Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation, Eddie Mangope, had received a payout of R5m, saying that a capital settlement of R1m had been agreed upon.

Part of the settlement included a sum of R500 000 for restraint of trade, which meant Mangope, the son of former homeland leader Lucas Mangope, would not be allowed to use the Northwest Development Corporation's property and intellectual rights to further his own private business.

Several deductions had been made for Mangope's debts to the corporation and he had received a pretax sum of only R327 925, the government claimed.

Northwest finance MEC Martin Kuscus said after Bop's collapse the Khumalo commission had been instated to investigate the corporation and Mangope.

Mangope was suspended for his own safety due to hostility from staff. The commission found that he had been implicated in irregularities, but they did not warrant his immediate dismissal.

However, it was not deemed to be in the interests of the corporation to keep him on board, hence the settlement.

Business Day criticised the Northwest government yesterday for failing to disclose details of the settlement. However, it accepts that the government disclosed these details earlier.
Northwest Women Support Group

Northwest Women in Support of Rural Women

Commission for Women

Director: Julie MacKenzie

industrial, rural, and town
women's concerns.

The workshop on women's

movement in the region

has been organized to help
women in rural areas of the
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The workshop was held in
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program on rural women's
movement.
Easy job, while it lasts

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE DIRECTOR of the Mmabana Cultural Centre in Mmabatho — who has for the past two years been paid by the North West government for doing absolutely nothing — would like to get back on the job.

But it seems unlikely that the provincial government will allow Rosemary Mangope — the daughter-in-law of deposed former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope — to return to her post.

This became clear this week, when Premier Popo Molefe's spokesman, Willie Modise, said that Mangope — who is under investigation for alleged mismanagement — had not been in contact with her office lately.

Modise said the report on whether to reinstate or finally dismiss her was nearing completion. She would be the first to know the outcome, he said.

"There will be an official report as soon as she has been informed about the results of the investigation," said Modise.

Mangope's brother-in-law, Eddie Mangope, who was facing a similar situation, was reportedly given a golden handshake of over R1 million.

Mangope told City Press she wanted her job back and fiercely disputed Modise's report that she had been drawing a R400,000 a year salary.

"Yes, technically I am still employed at Mmabana Cultural Centre — and I have been earning my salary every month. But it is far less than Modise claims," she said.

Mangope said she knew of the investigation into her alleged mismanagement at Mmabana and was "eagerly" awaiting its findings.

She said she had been advised by the then administrators of Bophuthatswana, Prof Tjaart van der Walt and Job Mokgoro, to stay at home from March 1994 as they could not guarantee her safety at work.

PAID FOR NOTHING...

Rosemary Mangope stays at home.
‘They just hate me, that’s all!’

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE NORTH West government may be blinded by hatred of the Mangopes and had wasted more than a million rand of taxpayers’ money when it sacked him, Eddie Mangope — former top official of a North West parastatal — charged this week.

The son of former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope was responding to his firing as senior general manager of the North West Development Corporation (NWDC).

Eddie Mangope attacked City Press and other newspapers which had reported on his dismissal and his alleged R1-million golden handshake — saying the facts had not been verified with him.

He said the North West government had confused the public by juggling the figures when questioned about the R1-million payout. Mangope said they were trying to lower the amount paid to him.

He said he was surprised to learn that he had been sacked because in his negotiations with the NWDC it had been stated that all the issues between them had been “amicably resolved” and that he had “resigned” to “pursue his own personal business.”

“What they have said so far regarding the actual payment is a lot of nonsense!” fumed Mangope. “It’s a pity I cannot comment on that aspect because I am bound by our settlement agreement — which bars both parties from divulging its contents. Whether they had paid out R1 million as they claim add the two years’ salary, bonuses and annual increases I received while on forced leave — and you can deduce how much they have paid out.”

“They did not need to pay me if Molefe had let me keep my job, the taxpayers would not have lost so much. This is not good governance on his part,” said Mangope.

“I am not a politician. I just wanted to do my work. I am a lawyer by training and a professional manager with an MBA from the North Western University in Chicago. I also hold an Executive Programme Certificate, a Certificate in Strategy and Organisation from the Stanford Business School in California.”

The government had paid him out even though his first option had been to continue where he had left off before his suspension, he said.

He said the Khumalo Commission which had probed him and others, had found that the NWDC was run like any business and he was commended for having run his division effectively. He said the Commission had subsequently excoriated him.

Despite this, NWDC chairman Joe Pamensky had told him that Premier Molefe had said he should not be reinstated.

Mangope said before working for the NWDC he had been an investment banker in New York for eight years, and he was going back to the private sector.

He said he looked to the future with confidence as there were good opportunities for him.

“I have business proposals — and I might have to look beyond Mmabatho because this is going to be a big venture” said Mangope.

Pamensky confirmed that the premier and the then MEC for Finance, A Venter, had instructed him to inform Mangope that he would not be reinstated. But this had been a cabinet decision guided by the recommendations of the Khumalo Commission, he said.

Molefe’s spokesman Willie Moeis said the decision had been a government one dictated by the circumstances of the time.

He said the government had no hatred or special programme against the Mangopes.
Reconciliation has paid dividends for provinces

Kevin O'Grady

ADOPTING reconciliatory positions and attempting to allay the fears of the white right wing had been central to the Northwest and Northern Cape governments' success in ruling their provinces, premiers Mameo Dipico and Popo Molefe said yesterday.

Speaking in Midrand, near Johannesburg, yesterday, Northern Cape premier Dipico said that when his province was created after the 1994 election, he realised it was "targeted as a volkstaat, with 70% of the population being Afrikaans speaking".

However, since taking a "calculated risk" by awarding the Freedom Front one MEC position even though it was not entitled to one, the party had "never again raised the issue of a volkstaat".

Dipico said, "Reconciliation was the issue, and we had to work at it. To date we've been partners, and good partners, and because of that we've achieved stability."

The white right wing also had a "very strong base" in Northwest when Molefe's government took over, the province's premier said.

"Nobody gave us a ghost of a chance of governing."

Now "the Afrikaans community has increasingly accepted the new government". Schools, even in such right-wing strongholds as Ventersdorp, had integrated without problems and farmers had accepted and were contributing to the RDP.

Dipico and Molefe were speaking as part of a three-week series of briefings by ANC ministers, premiers and MECs on "24 months of governance: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and the way forward".

Problems the Northern Cape government had experienced since coming to power included the size of the province and communication problems related to that, the small slice — 2% — of the national budget the province receives and the absence of a tertiary education institution considered so necessary to building the province's human resources.

"The possibility was now being discussed of establishing a satellite campus on Ekoms premises with the involvement of Free State, Stellenbosch, Vista and Western Cape universities and a number of technikons."

Molefe said his government had taken strides in attracting investors to the province but greater efforts needed to be made to offer incentives including export processing zones.

Education had been a focal point of his government and this was shown by the fact that 200 000 more children were attending school this year than last year and 243 of 500 planned new classrooms had been built.

A policy of emphasising the teaching of mathematics and the sciences, subjects black schoolchildren were traditionally discouraged from studying, had been adopted.

He admitted his government had been "very slow in terms of housing projects", having completed only 2 000 of a planned 26 000 new homes in a province where there was an acknowledged 190 000-house backlog.

Of great concern was planned gambling legislation which would require it to sell its 40% share in Sun International casino operations within two years.
Bop broadcaster in merger talks

By Bonani Mngomezulu

The Monde

94.7 FM

BRITISH SILK PRODUCERS A LING" almost

4.4

The British Silk Producers Association has been approached by a potential buyer.

The association is said to be considering the offer, which is reportedly worth $50 million.

British Silk Producers Association (BSPA) said that it was in discussions with the potential buyer and that it would make a decision on the offer in the coming weeks.

BSPA is one of the largest silk producers in the UK, with a turnover of around £100 million.

The potential buyer is said to be interested in acquiring BSPA as a way to increase its market share in the UK silk market.

"We are in the process of evaluating the offer and will make a decision on the matter in the coming weeks," a BSPA spokesperson said.

The British Silk Producers Association has been operating since 1965 and is a member of the World Federation of the Silk Industries.

The association represents over 500 silk producers in the UK and has a membership of over 2,000 individuals.
North West gets R21-m investment

The North West provincial government has secured a R21-million investment from an Indian pharmaceutical company in a deal that is likely to create 150 jobs.

North West Premier Popo Molefe met Dr Anny Reddy, an Indian pharmaceutical scientist of Reddy’s Labaratories, on Tuesday.

They discussed the investment which will lead to the erection of a manufacturing and packaging factory in Rustenburg which specialises in anti-cancer, asthma and diabetic drugs. The factory will be built in the next nine months.

North West spokesman Willie Modise said Reddy’s laboratories would offer shares to both labour and doctors in the province.

The deal was brokered by businessman Professor Mohale Mahanyele, who said: “We are investigating a 20-acre (about 8ha) piece of land in the North West as the climate in the area is ideal for the manufacture of the drugs.”

Molefe said the operation would be well placed to export drugs to other parts of Africa.

The two delegations agreed to conduct workshops among the North West business community and after which the premier will lead a delegation to India.

— Political Staff

ASTON 23/5/96
Second ‘relief of Mafeking’ on way

(Paul Wilkinson)

LONDON: A partnership of British academics and local government workers has won a contract of over R5-million to bring about the second ‘relief of Mafeking’.

The first cheered British colonial hearts when troops lifted the siege of Baden-Powell’s garrison in the town during the Anglo-Boer War.

The second, a century later, is intended to ensure South Africa’s fledgling multi-racial democracy takes deep roots in the North West Province of which Mafeking, now renamed Mafikeng, is the capital.

Staff from the University of Liverpool and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council will spend two years working alongside provincial officials to help set up new administrations in the region.

The contract, which will start in July, is funded by the Overseas Development Administration as part of Britain’s R330-million programme for reconstruction and development in South Africa.

Top of the list of priorities is ensuring that the black population, previously excluded from the polling booths, can play a full part in local politics.

In the new SA local councils are seen as the main mechanism for delivering improvements in the standard of living in isolated areas.

Considerable work has to be done to ensure that the new local councils are equipped to contribute to South Africa’s social evolution.

Darkey Africa, the Minister for Local Government in the North West Province, acknowledges that the Merseyside experts would play a vital role.

He said: “We are quite confident their input over the next two years will change our country’s history for ever. We have experienced enormous change over the past years but now we need help to go forward.”

Dr Christopher Pycroft will be seconded to Mafikeng from Liverpool University to co-ordinate the project in which joint task teams from the university and Knowsley Council will work alongside provincial administrators to establish new systems for personnel management, financial management and rural development.

At the same time, other advisers from Merseyside, the university and Knowsley will spend shorter periods working with the provincial and local governments on strategic management, local economic development, change management and capacity building.

The partnership was selected in the face of strong competition from other British academic development and administration organisations because it was able to offer both academic and practical expertise.

Pycroft said: “This contract is a major compliment to local government on Merseyside. It recognises that local government is well organised and well managed here and that it can provide a model for the new democracy of South Africa.” — The Times, London
The company's concern with proper job work and maintenance of machinery is much needed. The company has not done much work in Mabopane, hasn't done much. The company paid for maintenance work in contracts neglected.

By Mokgadi K Letsoho

27/1/97 (Signed)
Provincial councils' accord on casinos

Ingrid Salgado

THE Northwest and Free State executive councils agreed yesterday on several areas of co-operation to enhance service delivery in the two provinces, including that they share casino opportunities — and possibly licences — and municipal levies arising from the Vaal Reefs mining area.

Shared casino opportunities would avoid "unnecessary rivalry" between Free State and Northwest, the provinces said.

It would ensure that neither province unfairly disadvantaged the other in the location of casinos, Northwest premier Popo Molefe’s spokesman Willie Modise said. It was also possible that one province would hand over a casino licence to which it was entitled to the other province. This would be negotiated.

The provinces agreed to share municipal levies paid by Vaal Reefs, which falls under both Orkney in the Free State and Viljoenskroon in Northwest. Local government MECs, relevant local authorities and district councils would negotiate the levies shares.

The executive councils also agreed that all provinces in the region be entitled to use assets retained by Northwest’s Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation on a private and commercial basis. A portion of the assets will accrue to the SABC.

The provinces would ask the SABC to increase provincial television window time — airtime dedicated to provincial coverage and received only in the relevant province.

Radio Bop should be retained to service these provinces. It should also be established if Mmabatho’s community radio station, Radio Sunshine, could extend its reach to other provinces.

The Northwest executive council also undertook to discuss the possibility of Bloemfontein becoming the seat of Parliament.
Who’ll take the rap for R20-m cheque?

Possible suspension and criminal charges could result from unauthorised public works expenditure

BY JONAH RANTAO
Political Correspondent

At least three senior officials of the North West department of public works are to be hauled before an internal disciplinary hearing and face possible suspensions as well as civil and criminal charges for unauthorised expenditure involving R20-million.

The North West government announced yesterday that an investigation had revealed that the officials, who will be named only once the probe has reached an advanced stage, paid R20-million to buy electronic communications equipment from a Johannesburg-based electronics firm on behalf of the departments of health and transport.

The department of public works serves as a procurement arm of the provincial government.

The Star has established that the Johannesburg-based firm had issued an invoice for R126 000 which the department of public works paid with a R20-million cheque. Investigators are still trying to establish what has happened to the balance.

"Firm action will be taken as soon as certain facts have been established by the investigation," a government source said. "The investigation is still at a sensitive stage and that's why we're not disclosing the names of individuals and the firm implicated."

The Star reported yesterday the investigation was part of its commitment to instil responsible government and stamp out maladministration. "The matter is at present being considered with a view to taking legal and disciplinary steps against the officials responsible."

Jan 19 1996
lobbing in two most powerful regions in North West has reached the stage of suggering replacements for provincial chairmen.

Third ANC Provincial Premier Likely to Lose Power

By Justice Mullana

The provincial premiers of the Northern Cape, Free State and the North West are facing a challenge to their positions as replacements have been suggested by the ANC. The process is expected to be completed in the next few weeks before the provincial conferences are held.

The Northern Cape Premier is rumored to be a strong contender for the ANC's provincial leadership, while the Free State Premier is seen as vulnerable due to recent allegations of corruption. The North West Premier is also expected to face a challenge, as the ANC is looking for a new leader to take the province forward.

The ANC's provincial conferences are scheduled to take place in the coming months, and the new leaders will be chosen based on the suggestions made during the lobbying process. The ANC is expected to make some significant changes to its provincial leadership, as the party looks to strengthen its position in these key regions.
Mangope to face inquiry

By DAN DILAMINI

ROSEMARY MANGOPE (right), daughter-in-law of former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope, is to appear before a commission of inquiry set up by North West Premier Popo Molefe to investigate the Mmabana Cultural Centre which she headed as director.

For the past two years she was paid by the North West government — allegedly for doing nothing.

She could not be reached for comment this week.

The premier’s spokesman, Willie Modise, claims as director Mangope drew a salary of nearly R400 000 a year.

Mangope has said she earned far less than that.

Her brother-in-law Eddie Mangope, who was said to be in a similar situation, reportedly received a golden handshake of over R1 million. Observers claim the huge payout embarrassed the provincial government, and it has ordered the investigation to prevent another.

The commission’s terms of reference include investigating possible nepotism in Rosemary Mangope’s appointment in January 1985 by Agrico to the department of health and social welfare. Also to be investigated are allegations of maladministration, misuse of funds and a vehicle allegedly bought for her with approval by the chairman of the Mmabana Board of Trustees.

☐ A BMW 535i worth R125 000, bought on February 14 1991, is involved. Rumours are that Mangope disliked the colour and upholstery and asked that it be returned to the dealer. She allegedly ordered one with a different colour, costing Mmabana an extra R33 220.

The commission also has to investigate an allegation that Mangope instructed her staff on June 29 1992 to use R7 675 of Mmabana’s funds to pay for an air ticket for her husband, Kwenka D Mangope, to accompany her to the Olympic Games in Barcelona — while the Board of Trustees had only authorised a trip by her and a Marina Steyn.

☐ This week Mmabana Board of Trustees chairman Jonathan Procter was to give evidence before the commission chaired by Advocate JJ Chulu, but he did not turn up.

Investigations team leader advocate FD Kgomo said Procter’s lawyer had said he would only be available on August 27.

Mangope will testify after him.
Mangope served summons for R18m

Kevin O'Grady 806/9/96

THE Mmabatho Supreme Court has been asked to decide whether former Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope should repay R18m he is alleged to have misappropriated while leader of the homeland.

Northwest government spokesman Willie Modise said yesterday a summons had been served on Mangope, leader of the United Christian Democratic Party, as he had ignored a letter of demand last year for the money.

Modise said the filing of papers had not, however, halted the Northwest attorney-general's criminal investigation into allegations by the Skwevuya commission of inquiry last year that Mangope had misappropriated the funds and property.

Modise could not give a court date but said the matter was likely to be placed on the roll early next year.

He said the civil action was the direct result of the commission's finding that Mangope used funds, material and labour worth about R5m to improve his own properties and businesses; that he channelled R10m in state funds to his then- Christian Democratic Party; and had been paid R2.5m in mining royalties due to the Bafuthahe-Boo-Manyane tribe.

The claim was based on commission findings that Mangope used R4.5m in funds, materials and labour from the homeland administration for improvements to his Motswedi residence. The commission found improvements worth R79320 were made to Mangope's Motswedi Diary while R61990 went into his Moeng smallholdings.

Modise said other respondents in the case would be the Christian Democratic Party, Q-Projects, Q-Projects director David Immelman and former Bophuthatswana Information Service director-general Jerry Reid.

The commission last year found Immelman had signed a R6m contract between his communications consultancy and the Bophuthatswana government after the homeland government was disbanded ahead of the 1984 election. It also found Immelman had paid Reid R136000 to sign the contract.

Mangope's attorney Richard Nesbit said he had no knowledge of summons being served.
Corruption in high places:
let us follow Molefe’s lead

THE FULL range of corruption in the former Bophuthatswana will never be known, but the lessons are nonetheless painfully apparent.

But events of the past week, unnoticed by the public media, show that SA has taken an important step toward democratic governance.

Last Wednesday, further indictments were served against Allen Soul, David Immelman, and Q Projects on counts of fraud and bribery directed against the Joint Administrators of Bophuthatswana in the days after Lucas Mangope’s removal from office.

Taken together with the civil summons presented in the Mmabatho Supreme Court on 5 September aimed at recovering the R5 million involved in these indictments, plus the R10 million given to the former BCDP by Mangope himself and the R2 million that he misused from Bahurute tribal authority accounts, the parallel hearings on Rosemarie Mangope’s management of the Mmabana cultural centres, it is now clear that Mangope himself will be indicted within months.

Mangope set the tone for personal corruption among cabinet members and officials at all levels, down to school principals, who extracted bribes from book publishers.

Government funds were misused conveniently under the guise of “national security,” to build up the BCDP (Q Projects had a central role in “water education”) and to weaken the ANC, the NUM and other unions, the SACC and any and all perceived regime opponents.

The corruption of homeland government fitted Pretoria’s priorities, both overtly (via Foreign Affairs and other departments), and more or less covertly (via Military Intelligence with ties to senior Bop men or women – Rowan Cronje was probably a central figure), but unfortunately these relationships will remain largely unexplored.

Nonetheless, there are abundant lessons.

First, Premier Popo Molefe deserves credit for establishing the commission of inquiry chaired by Advocate Louis Skweyiya that brought forth a range of recommendations in October last year, which are now being acted on (The linking of Skweyiya and outsiders to North West political life with a two-man investigative team steeped in the nitty-gritty of Bophuthatswana political fact, gossip, and rumour, brought a happy combination of verifiable evidence and unquestionable integrity in its evaluation).

Molefe deserves credit for continuing the investigation, adding an advocate and a seconded SAPS officer to round out its work.

Further, partly because the press had badgered him about rumours of corruption in his own government, and partly because Mangope has piously pleaded that he was singled out on partisan grounds, Molefe has been a leader among his provincial counterparts in dealing with allegations of corruption.

Why have there been no similar provincial investigations?

Can it be that other provincial leaders are disinclined by the possibility that ANC supporters in these homeland administrations might be discredited and, somehow, the ANC as well?

Can it be that they have not recognised the necessity of dealing with past corruption as a step in making their present administrations more resistant to future temptations and their citizens more supportive?

Dullah Omar’s Justice Department is putting forward legislation intended to facilitate investigations like those begun in the North West.

Hopefully, investigators will combine a detailed knowledge of the politics of the particular province under investigation with a detachment and integrity that makes their work beyond suspicion.

But this new national initiative will depend on political will. The people involved will need to take initiatives to investigate past and current corruption, even if it involves ANC leadership in the province.

The national government will need to give unequivocal support.

The Free State example suggests the tensions: Patrick Lekota, to his credit, wants to deal with corruption; Shell House seems to put party unity above the sorting out of corruption. The pursuit of stable democracy is ill-served.

This is an article. John Seeler, an American political scientist permanently resident in South Africa. His book, “Transforming Mangope’s Bophuthatswana”, will be available from Indicator Press (University of Natal, Durban) by mid-October.
Probe finds suspect land deals in Bop

Louise Cook

A NUMBER of high profile people in the former Bophuthatswana - including a string of politicians and their families and associates - obtained farms from the former homeland government under questionable circumstances, the De Meyer commission of inquiry has found.

The commission, which is probing irregular land deals in former homelands, has uncovered a host of dubious transactions and "gross irregularities" in Bophuthatswana that cost millions of rand. Unpaid rentals on state farms, farms being sold at give-away prices and the faulty valuation of land for sale are among the irregularities mentioned in the commission's third report, published today.

The report accuses former President Lucas Mangope of "unlawful intervention" in at least one government land transaction. The Bophuthatswana Agricultural State Lands Board and the homeland's former agriculture minister "consistently ignored the most important provisions" of the State Agricultural Land Act and Bophuthatswana Land Control Act.

The commission said agriculture minister Phumelelo M Koketsa processed his own application to buy a state farm and ended up with a purchase price that inexplicably dropped by R40 000.

"It was a gross irregularity for Koketsa to deal with his own application. When this was put to him, he agreed that he should not have done this. He offered the astonishing justification that the civil servants who prepared the papers should have drawn his attention to the fact that he was dealing with his own application."

In another deal, the commission found that chief TV Makapan arranged arrangements with Koketsa, at a social gathering, to lease additional land. No formal application was ever submitted and it was the availability of the land advertised. "Chief Makapan was allocated the farm without having to compete with other interested persons."

The account shows that Chief Makapan is presently in arrears by R6 054."

Other high-powered beneficiaries of suspect land deals were deputy agriculture minister KGsee, Jantjie, Moketsa's son, farm minister SV Suping, land and rural development minister DC Mokale, manpower minister S Seodi, economic affairs minister BE Keikalamo, post and telecommunications minister MZ Masilo, deputy law and order minister A Seges, Lands Board members KL Panyeye and LJ Mmaphathi, Agrbank directors AD Dpale and MG Morule, Mangope's brother-in-law PH Ditebetele, Mangope's protocol officer the Rev Shale, Mangope's farm manager JP Smith, governing party chief organiser NB Tselaadumlo, Agric director QW Motsatsi and co-operative chairman SB Meresotho.

In one instance, a state farm was sold for no apparent reason at a fraction of the purchase price. The homestead government not only lost R42 000 on the deal, but failed to attempt to recover any of the costs of supplying the farm with electricity before it was sold.

In another case, a farm near

Continued on Page 2
Eignt fortunes

By RAY HARTLEY
Political Correspondent

WHEN they weren't on
diplomatic visits to
each other, the foreign
affairs departments of
the former homelands
whiled away their time
buying up dozens of
properties across South
Africa and the globe.

A Foreign Affairs inven-
tory lists four properties in
Europe worth around R30
million which were pur-
chased by the then Bo-
phuthatswana govern-
ment.

These include an R11.5-
million residence in Lon-
don's upmarket Holland
Park, and a R9-million
country mansion in Amer-
shane in Britain.

Other properties bought
by Bophuthatswana were a
chic house in a fashionable
quarter of Paris and a lux-
ury R9-million villa in
Ladispoli, Italy.

While foreign affairs of-
cials are yet to decide the
fate of the European prop-
erty portfolio, most of the
dozens of houses and flats
bought by the homelands
in South Africa have been
handed over to the Depart-
ment of Public Works.

The properties are ex-
pected to be sold off if no
use can be found for them.

In Pretoria, the capital of
the only country which
granted full recognition as
an independent state, Bophuthatswana bought a
chancery, a block of flats
in Arcadia, and four resi-
dences.

In Johannesburg, it
owned three residences,
with another six properties
scattered across South
Africa, including two in
Vryburg, and one each in
Klerksdorp, Bloemfontein,
Welkom and Kimberley.

Although not as keen on
international property as
Bop, the Transkei none-
theless accumulated an
impressive portfolio. It
bought nine official resi-
dences, including several
in Pretoria's exclusive
Waterkloof Heights.

The most luxurious of
these was a two-level, four
bedroom house in Stre-
litzia Road.

Its appetite for property
was unquenched, the Transkei
went on to buy seven
blocks of flats, in Johan-
nesburg, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Port Eliza-
beth and East London.

Not to be outdone, Ciskei
authorities bought six resi-
dences and three flats in
Pretoria, including accom-
modation in the exclusive
Waterkloof Heights and
Arcadia areas.

And in Johannesburg,
Ciskei officials invested in
three houses and a three-
story block of flats in
Bellevue East.

Two residences in Port
Elizabeth and two more in
Cape Town as well as a
block of flats in Vrededorp
were also bought.

By comparison, Venda
was positively modest, set-
ing for a mere 11 official
residences in Johannesburg
and Pretoria and a
messy three flats in Wa-
terkloof Heights.
Molefe is elected again in North West province

President Mandela warns ANC leaders that the party is bigger than their ambitions

North West Premier Popo Molefe has been re-elected unopposed as the African National Congress chairman in the province.

At a conference attended by more than 550 delegates in Rustenburg this weekend, only two of the party’s top five positions were contested.

Agriculture MEC OJ Tselapedi beat Tourism and Environment MEC Ednah Molewa, to be voted in as the deputy chairman by 372 votes to 178.

Dumisa Ndelelu was unopposed for the secretary’s position.

Addressing supporters at closed meetings in Kimberley over the weekend, President Mandela condemned personal rivalries in the ANC, insisting the party was bigger than the ambitions of its leaders.

He said in the capital of Northern Cape province, on a swing through all nine provinces halfway through its government’s first five-year term: “Let us put politics above personalities, programme above individualism instead of embroiling ourselves in paralysing factionalism.”

Mandela’s appeal came after a week of behind-the-scenes jockeying for a place in the queue to succeed him, either in December next year when he steps down as party president, or after his successor retires in 2009 at the latest.

Healthy competition between individuals for election to posts is a natural part of any democratic organisation.

“But when personal competition starts to absorb all one’s energies, when political programmes are forgotten and when solid grass-roots work is neglected, then matters become very serious,” Mandela said.

Mandela referred only briefly to the dismissal earlier this month of the ANC government in the Free State.

Also in Kimberley was ANC deputy secretary-general Cheryl Carolus, who said on Sunday provincial branches of the ANC supported the action to redeploy senior politicians in the Free State, including provincial premier Patrick Lekota.

“These comrades, and we are not being judgmental at all, have just proven themselves incapable of resolving their differences” she told Sapa, saying the conflict between them was beginning to divide the province and was affecting the way it was governed.

“It was a hard and painful decision but was the only one which could be taken. It is unfortunate because that province was really one of our model provinces,” Carolus said.

She said the organisation felt it could rebuild itself in the province and as a consequence rebuild good governments and deal with corruption effectively.

She was speaking in Kimberley where she is accompanying President Nelson Mandela on a visit to the Northern Cape.

The president is to visit all the provinces in the run-up to the ANC’s National Congress next year. He will visit the Western Cape in December and has just returned from a visit to KwaZulu Natal.

Preparations for next year’s conference were well under way and a venue would be announced in January when the party’s National Executive Committee meets.

The ANC Youth League in the Free State, one of the most important players in the leadership squabble there, has backed Safety and Security MEC Papi Kganare to take over as the premier of the province.

The league’s move yesterday came after it was announced on Thursday that Premier Patrick Lekota would join the Senate and that his two main rivals are also set to be “redeployed” this week.
Satisfactory report card for the North West

*Astor 25/11/96* (266c)

**By Justice楠ala**

Provincial Correspondent

An important ANC internal document has expressed satisfaction with the party's performance in the North West provincial government since the organisation swept to power in 1994. However, crime and the pace of transformation were still cause for concern.

The document said the provincial government had to battle perceptions that the North West was criminalised. In addition, the transformation of the state machinery had not gone far enough and the restructuring of the numerous parastatals "left much to be desired."

It said, however, that "overall a good start had been made" and the new democracy was delivering on its promises.

The paper, entitled "Two-and-a-half years of governance: a medium-term critical assessment of the North West provincial government", was distributed to delegates at the organisation's provincial congress at the weekend.

"Before the end of the term of the present government in 1995, it would be in strategic importance to be able to put a 2020 vision and a plan on the table, which would be informed by the successes and failures of government programmes within the current term," said the document.

It said the North West government had swung into action faster than most of the others after the general election and had managed to pass 24 acts by the end of 1994.

"What has to be acknowledged, however, is that the transformative content of most of this legislation was minimal."

"In this regard it should be acknowledged that the North West provincial government has not over the past year or so been sufficiently focused on the requirements of an ongoing legislative programme, and that is one of the areas of governance that requires urgent attention."

On housing delivery, the paper said it was clear that initial targets for delivery were "unrealistic". It said by September 30 this year, 20,798 subsidies had been approved but only 3,602 houses had been built.

Meanwhile, 42,000 new jobs were needed each year to absorb new entrants into the market.

The paper said on-going data collection on a quarterly basis was needed to reflect the number of temporary or permanent jobs available.

The report said it was satisfied with water delivery, noting that 360,000 people had been provided with access to clean water since 1994.

The provision of basic health care and the re-orientation of the system towards primary health care had also been successful.

The document said "the province had succeeded in unifying the six former education departments into one. An estimated 3,233 classrooms would be built by the beginning of 1999."

It said, however, that lack of funding was still hampering the province's education programme.

"There are at present no apparent solutions to this issue, which has the potential to seriously undermine efforts to address the backlog in providing access to schooling facilities in the province."

The document said that "the new provincial government's actions had successfully derailed the right-wing movement, prevalent in the region, any base on which to whip up emotions of the conservatives and to mobilise them."

"However, their subversive activities are continuing clandestinely, and they need to be monitored very closely," it warned.

The document said the provincial government needed to step up its fight on crime. While statistics showed that crime was on the decline, people still believed it was running rampant.

"An investment in combating crime is therefore an investment in the economic growth of the province and it is crucial that the North West should be able to market itself as a relatively crime-free province," it said.

On housing delivery, the paper said it was clear that initial targets for delivery were "unrealistic". It said by September 30 this year, 20,798 subsidies had been approved but only 3,602 houses had been built. Meanwhile, 42,000 new jobs were needed each year to absorb new entrants into the market.

The paper said on-going data collection on a quarterly basis was needed to reflect the number of temporary or permanent jobs available.

The report said it was satisfied with water delivery, noting that 360,000 people had been provided with access to clean water since 1994.

The provision of basic health care and the re-orientation of the system towards primary health care had also been successful.

The document said "the province had succeeded in unifying the six former education departments into one. An estimated 3,233 classrooms would be built by the beginning of 1999."

It said, however, that lack of funding was still hampering the province's education programme.

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**Informed vision needed by 1999**
Commission told how 11 children died in Bop strife

Strikes in former homeland brought medical services to a standstill

SAPA
Mbabatho

Eleven children died because unrest and strikes brought medical services to a standstill in the former Bophuthatswana in 1994, the Tebbalut Commission heard in Mbabatho yesterday.

Nursing sister Gertruda Oliver said Bophelong Hospital outside Mafikeng was from February 14 crippled by strikes which soon spread to all clinics in the Mbabatho-Mafikeng area.

Patients from Bophelong were transferred to Victoria Hospital in Mafikeng, where Oliver worked. Many of them, including prematurely born babies, were very weak when admitted.

“Eleven children died from natural causes because there were no medical services,” Oliver said. “They would have all probably still have been alive if the people had not gone on strike.”

The commission heard earlier that Victoria Hospital was the only one in the Mbabatho-Mafikeng area which remained in operation during 1994’s violent clashes in the former homeland.

Oliver said the hospital had run out of blood about two weeks before the unrest worsened on March 10 and 11. The hospital also had no oxygen.

“The whole transport system collapsed. Only staff with their own cars could go to work. Others were intimidated into staying away.”

Dudue Paduma, a receptionist at Victoria Hospital, said nurses came to work in civilian clothes to avoid harassment.

Oliver said patients arrived in droves at the hospital on March 10 and 11.

The commission yesterday also heard claims that khuku-clad whites in light delivery vehicles shot at blacks in Montshwara township on March 11.

Mareboots Motsami said he and other employees were attacked by whites as they were loading furniture onto light delivery vehicles at the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation.

The white men arrived at the premises of the BNDC, shooting randomly at bystanders. Motsami testified he was wounded in the back and left arm.

In the ensuing chaos, co-worker Phillip Msebenzi was knocked down when a colleague attempted to remove the loaded delivery vehicle from the scene.

One of the assailants threatened to “finish off” the injured man, Motsami said. His employer, Awe Davids, intervened, and the whites left.

Motsami said one of the bullets which hit him was still lodged in his back. “I am still feeling pain. It will cost me about R30,000 to have the bullet removed. Where will I get it?” he asked.

The commission also heard further evidence on the alleged rape of Edita Mofhobi by whites in Mbabatho.
Strikes crippled health care, probe told

ELEVEN children died because unrest and strikes brought medical services to a standstill in the former Bophuthatswana in 1994, the Truth Commission heard in Mabatho in North West yesterday.

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Dudue Padima, a receptionist at Victoria hospital, said nurses came to work in civilian clothes to avoid harassment.

The commission on Wednesday also heard claims that khaki-clad whites in light delivery vehicles shot at blacks in Mondehwa township on the morning of March 11, 1994. - Sapa
Mangope freed on R50 000 bail to await trial on R16m charges
Manqopane: 208 charges

Charges:

By Joana Kapeko
Manège: 208 Charges

[Image: 208 Charges]

By Joseph Kabbeko

[Signature: 6/1993]
Damp squid for Skewyva Commission

BY DAN DILLAMINI

1994/95

The court was told that the case of the accused was one of the most complex in recent years.

The judge, Justice John Jones, said that the evidence presented by the prosecution was not clear and that any

BETAC

The judge ruled that the case not be

The judge ruled that the case not be reheard.

The judge ruled that the case not be reheard.
North West revises budget after overspending

by R666m

(26c)
AWB 'never invited to crush Bop uprising'

STAFF REPORTER

Malikeng - Rowan Cronjé, state affairs minister in the now-defunct Bophuthatswana homeland, denied yesterday that the Afrikaner Weerstandsbevordering (AWB) was ever invited to crush an uprising in March 1994. He was testifying before the Tebbutt Commission of Inquiry into the March 1994 violence that claimed 60 lives and which led directly to the toppling of the government of Lucas Mangope. Five AWB members were among those killed, three at the roadside in the then-capital Mmabatho. They were part of a right-wing invasion intended to secure Mangope's position. Cronjé said the homeland declined AWB military assistance instead, it had approached General Constand Viljoen, who was then leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront.

"There was no arrangement to have the AWB in Mmabatho because of the perception that they are a racist organisation," he said. The commission also heard that people might have vented their anger about being denied an opportunity to participate in the first non-racial elections in South Africa and also due to the homeland being incorporated into SA.

The violence erupted when people rose up against Mangope. Cronjé said it was a fallacy to say that free political activity was not allowed in the former homeland. He said the basic requirement was for an organisation to register as a party. The presence of the AWB was inflammatory and made it even more difficult to control the situation, he said.

Cronjé also said "elements" who were based in from South Africa had instigated the violence.

He said Bophuthatswana had asked Viljoen for soldiers to maintain law and order.

Viljoen is to testify today.
MAFIKENG — The March 1994 Afrikaner Weerstandsbewegung invasion of BophuthatSWana was linked yesterday to claims that senior AWB members were working for intelligence agencies.

"It was clear from the Bop point of view that any association with them (the AWB) was the kiss of death," former Bophuthatswana cabinet member Rowan Cronje told the Truth Commission in Mafikeng.

"That is why, I think, perhaps they came in. On whose agenda, who knows?"

Testifying about the 1984 popular uprising which led to the fall of former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope, Cronje said history might have turned out differently had the AWB not interfered. "They have done enormous damage," he said.

The AWB invaded the former homeland on the night of March 10 after Mangope requested the support of the Afrikaner Volksfront under the leadership of Gen Constand Viljoen.

AWB members and their leader Eugene Terre'Blanche turned up despite calls by Mangope and the Volksfront for them not to, Cronje said. Chaos was the result.

"The AWB inflamed the situation and put it out of control."

Cronje said it appeared to him there was a strange pattern in the AWB's activities.

"And there is a perception that maybe some senior people in the AWB were in the pay of some intelligence organisations," Cronje said. Denying the violence was caused by a government refusal to take part in elections, he said: "The perception Bop was headstrong was not based on fact. Government would have voted to participate." — Sapa

Municipality building burnt

Stephané Botha

A FIRE caused damage estimated at millions of rand to the Pretoria municipal building Munitori last night, destroying computers and records, police said.

The fire started at about 6pm and emergency services were still on the scene last night.

The vehicle licence and water and electricity departments, both of which have new computer systems, are housed on the two affected floors. It was not known if anybody was injured.

Go-ahead for electoral body

CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela had accepted recommendations by the Steyn commission on pay and benefits for members of the Electoral Commission, presidential aide Parks Mankahlanla said yesterday.

Mandela's decision clears the way for the appointment of the commission, which will help steer SA through the 1999 elections.

Mankahlanla said Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi had been asked to prepare a presidential minute determining commissioners' salaries. Mandela would appoint commissioners after receiving the minute.

Last month, co-chairman of the local government election task group, Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, warned that delays in appointing the commission could seriously affect the running of the polls.

He said SA was running a year behind schedule if it wanted to hold "proper" elections.

The commission's main task will be to finalise a proper voters' roll and to demarcate voting districts. — Sapa.

Telkom

Continued from Page 1

Naidoo said the ultimate aim in re-granting the licence was to provide appropriate and affordable telecommunications services to as many people as possible within the shortest time.

Renee Grawitzky reports that SBC Communications said last night it was clear that its consortium with Telkom Malaysia had been selected to enter into final negotiations for a stake in Telkom SA. Once negotiations with the SA government had been finalised, which was expected by April, the details of the consortium's bid, including modernisation commitments and the financial offer, would be announced.

Telekom Malaysia's CEO Dato' Mohamed Sani Mohamed Ali said his company was confident its partnership with SBC International, it had "the knowledge, experience and technology to make a significant contribution to meeting the needs of the needs of SA as Telkom's strategic equity partner".
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Mangope spoke of outside help

Bop leader threatened troops and police who wouldn’t support him, probe told

SAPA
Mafikeng

Former Bophuthatswana
president Lucas Mangope
told his police and defence
forces early in March 1994 he
would get outside help if they did
not want to defend his reign, the
Tebbit Commission heard yester-
day.

Oupa Pilane, chief of the
Bophuthatswana security branch
at the time, testified in Mafikeng
that Mangope first raised this
issue when he addressed defence
forces officers on March 8.

Two days later, Mangope had
repeated the message to police
officers. Pilane said he had attend-
ed both meetings.

“My interpretation is that it
seemed the two forces had lost
some commitment.

“He wanted to inform them
that if they did not want to defend
the sovereignty of Bophutha-
tswana, they should step down
and he would get foreign assis-
tance,” Pilane said.

The commission earlier heard
that an uprising against Man-
gope’s refusal to take part in the
April 1994 general election had
been building up in the first 10
days of March.

Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF)
right-wingers under General Con-
stand Viljoen entered Bophutha-
tswana early on March 11 at Man-
gope’s invitation to help contain
the upheaval.

At the two meetings with his
security forces, Pilane said, Man-
gope had spoken about people
plotting against him and offering him
assistance.

“He did not mention specific
organisations, and did not specify
where this help would come
from,” Pilane said.

Mangope had raised the question of help from
the AVF later at national security
council meeting.

“I attended this meeting and
saw Constand Viljoen there,” he
said.

Was offered assistance ...
Lucas Mangope.

Happiness with Mangope’s
regime had spread throughout
Bophuthatswana before the
March 1994 unrest, Pilane said.

Civil servants had demanded
pay rises and their pension money,
while youths were organising
meetings and marches. Both
groups had demanded Bophu-
thatswana’s participation in the
general election and its reincorpo-
ration into South Africa.

Another witness, former Bop-
uthatswana detective chief Jo-
seph Sedumedu, was questioned
about inadequate investigations
into deaths during the unrest on
March 11.

He said detective work was
not up to standard because, at that
time, police were disillusioned
and uncertain about their future.

The community, which did not
coop-erate, also still regarded
them as puppets of the old
regime.

Commission officer Terrance
van Rensburg said police dockets
had not even been opened in a
number of cases.

Sedumedu said much of the
shooting on March 11 had been
the work of whites wearing bala-
clavas who could not be identi-
fied. “There was chaos at the
time,” he added.
North West budget gives fillip to social services and education

Kevin O'Grady

NORTH West finance MEC Martin Kuscus unveiled a R7,106bn budget in the provincial capital, Mafikeng, yesterday, with R5,028bn (78%) allocated to social services of which R2,748bn (36,6% of the total) went to education.

In his budget speech, Kuscus said the province’s budget expenditure of R7,106bn was equal to the budgeted revenue and 2.2% higher than budgeted expenditure in 1996/97. The amount shows a 6.1% decrease over last year’s revised expenditure of R7,573bn.

Kuscus said the R5,028bn allocated to education, welfare and health was a 12.8% increase for social services, “contrary to speculation that government’s quest for fiscal rectitude through deficit reduction will result in a decline in social services delivery.”

The grant is 2.4% higher than the 1996/97 revised spending of R4,966bn on social services, with education receiving 3.5% more than last year’s revised amount, health 6.9% less, and social welfare 6.4% more.

Kuscus said his own revenue declined by R123,936m or 38.4%, from last year’s R468,586m. The main reason for this was the introduction of Value Added Tax on gambling from October last year.

Reconstruction and development programme funds amounted to R91,62m, R49,07m less than last year’s figure. The province’s share of national revenue came to R6,692bn, 6.1% more than in 1996/97.

Kuscus said the budget had new features resulting from negotiations in the Budget Council, comprising provincial finance MECs and Finance Minister Trevor Manuel. For the first time, provinces had been allocated global amounts and were given autonomy in restructuring and preparing their own budgets.

Strategies

The budget reflected North West’s development strategies and was consistent with national objectives, Kuscus said. It had “broken decisively with the past incremental budget approach” and aimed for human development and economic growth.

Examples of this new trend were increased spending on social services and a boost in funding for entrepreneurial development in the agricultural sector (R146m from last year’s R66m), government’s small medium and micro enterprise support programme (doubled from R20m) and ecotourism (R75,5m from R68m). Infrastructure development was budgeted at R137m.

Kuscus said the priority previously given to urban development over rural development had been reversed, with a 14.9% decrease to R206m in the former and an increase from R16,74m to R128,46m for the latter.

Spending trends that previously favoured general hospitals now favoured community health services. This had resulted in a 9.7% budget cut to R322m for hospitals and a 32.9% increase to R291m for community health services.

Other allocations included R58,91m for the premier’s department (22.7% less than 1996/97) and R28,8m for the legislature’s office, a 16% increase due to the inclusion of expenditure on the National Council of Provinces.

The health department would receive R1,186m, social welfare R1,096m, the public service commission R43,38m, safety and security R6,65m, and tourism and environmental affairs R2,35m. Finance and economic affairs would get R158,8m, local government R452,32m, transport and civil aviation R357,7m, public works R227,87m and agriculture R257,96m.

Kuscus said that while education’s R2,746bn allocation was the budget’s largest expenditure item, the real challenge was to transform educational opportunities into job creation initiatives.
Bop soldiers wanted to ‘get to grips’ with AWB

MAFIKENG. Bophuthatswana soldiers were itching to take up arms against rightwingers in Mmabatho in March 1994, former Bophuthatswana Defence Force (BDF) chief Mr Jack Turner told the Tshwane Commission here yesterday.

"They really wanted to get to grips with the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB)," said Turner.

He said a group of his soldiers at Molopo army base in Mmabatho (now Mafikeng) on March 11 were trying to get weapons for this purpose. A magazine at the base was broken into on that day.

"They wanted to attack the AWB at the air force base outside town," said Turner.

Previous witnesses told the commission the AWB had turned up uninvited in Mmabatho on the night of March 10, after the former homeland had asked the Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) to help contain an upsurge.

The protest was against former Bophuthatswana president Mr Lucas Mangope's refusal to take part in the April 1994 general election.

Turner said by March 10 his soldiers regarded all rightwingers in the area as AWB members.

The issuing of weapons to AVF members earlier was stopped because BDF members refused to co-operate. They felt they were distributing weapons to men who were going to shoot the local population, Turner said.

According to earlier evidence, the provocative conduct of AWB members resulted in an eruption of violence on March 11 that toppled Mangope.

Turner said he addressed his soldiers at Molopo base at 2pm on March 11, after learning of their threats to take up arms against the rightwingers. He told them that the rightwingers would be withdrawn.

Denying earlier evidence of a mutiny in the BDF, Turner conceded it had been difficult to control his troops.

They had pointed out spots at Molopo army base where they said AWB men had shot at them. AWB members had also fired at their homes, the soldiers claimed.

Turner said it was possible "loose cannons" among his forces might have fired on a retreating AVF convoy later in the day.

AVF member Buks Venter died from wounds sustained in the attack. The AVF was called in because Mangope did not trust the former South African government, Turner said.

Duties such as restoring order in three prisons and keeping emergency hospital wards going stretched the BDF to the limit. Although he favoured asking the South African Defence Force to help, Turner said he went along with the AVF mission because it might have been successful.

He blamed Conservative Party leader Mr Ferdi Hartzenberg for pressuring Mangope, on March 11, 1994, from asking the SADF to stabilise the former homeland.

Mangope had virtually agreed to the idea at a meeting with his security force chiefs in Mmabatho when Hartzenberg arrived, he said.

"Mr Mangope's mood changed after they dropped and he said the SADF should under no circumstances be allowed to deploy in Bophuthatswana," said Turner.

Later that afternoon Turner took it upon himself to invite the SADF to stabilise Bophuthatswana. Mangope was upset when he learnt of this, he said.

Mangope is to testify before the commission today — Sapa
Mangrove demand Terrestrial's pact claim

WARN. 26/3/97 (266)

Wannbut, I'd learn the AWB with a bargain pole. Former leader of Boorungathrawa tells inquiry
Mangope's long, hard descent

Former leader recalls trying house arrest and 'total betrayal' by Nats

FORMER Bophuthatswana leader Chief Lucas Mangope yesterday recalled how he was placed under strict house arrest after he was deposed on March 12 1994.

"When I had to answer the call of nature I was accompanied by armed soldiers to the toilet," he testified before the Tebogo Commission in Mafikeng.

"I was not allowed to leave my bedroom and was placed under impossible conditions. It was harassment and almost unbearable."

Mangope said "thousands" of former SA Defence Force members invaded his home at Motswedi, near Zeerust, on the night of March 13.

"His attempts to speak to former state president Mr FW de Klerk were in vain. Later he asked Inkatha Freedom Party leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to speak to de Klerk on his behalf.

"On March 16 a Constable Engelsbrecht told me my house arrest had been lifted."

Mangope said a delegation led by former foreign affairs minister Mr Pak Botha and African National Congress member Mr Mac Maharaj visited him at his home on March 12 to tell him he was no longer president of Bophuthatswana because of the riots and unrest in his country.

"I told them they did not have the constitutional right to depose me. I acknowledged that they were not the ANC but said the ANC was responsible for this."

"To this there was no reply, not even from Mr Maharaj," he said.

"Mangope said the ANC had all along intended to topple him."

In February 1992 he met ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela and raised his concerns about the organisation's policy of making Bophuthatswana ungovernable.

Mandela undertook to ensure that this approach by the ANC would be terminated.

"But that policy continued until the fall of my government."

Mangope said his relations with the National Party reached a turning point when the NP conceded a record of understanding with the ANC on September 25 1992.

"I call that a record of total betrayal," Mangope said - Sapa
Mangope: ‘The buck doesn’t stop with me’

In his testimony to the Tebbit Commission, Mangope laid blame on everyone but himself for the violence that engulfed Bophuthatswana in the last days of his regime. He denounces the ANC’s plan to render the homeland ungovernable in the early 1990s as a three-phased ANC plan to render the homeland ungovernable in the early 1990s. He claimed intelligence reports verified this, and that a later report also warned that 50,000 Umkhonto weSizwe troops were ready to invade the homeland in the “final phase” of March 1991.

Despite Mangope’s assertions, he was more interested in blaming the ANC delegation, which included Mandela, in February 1990. He claimed that he had promised to stop the policy of harassment until the fall of his government.

Another ingredient in the Mangope conspiracy theory is the “record of understanding” in October 1993 between the ANC and the NP. The South African government withdrew its military presence in Bophuthatswana in terms of the Southern African Customs Union Agreement. “They promised to stop the harassment of those who had worked with them,” he said.

Mangope argued that in March 1994, he had decided not to call in the South African Defence Force, as he had done during the 1988 coup attempt against him. Instead, he called the Voortrekkers to help “stabilize” the homeland. There had been reports that the communist party’s Joe Slovo, then on the Transnational Executive Council, had threatened to “send in SADF tanks” to topple his government. If he did not, he said, the ANC would have come to power.

Tebbutt put to Mangope that there was evidence that ordinary Bophuthatswana soldiers and police members had felt the presence of “white ideologically inclined Voortrekkers” as probably a right-wing invasion, which contributed to the violence.

Lucas Mangope: ‘I did my duty’

The Bophuthatswana police chief at the time, RJ Selkie, had told the commission that he had warned Mangope about the situation. Mangope’s response was that he had not been present, and it was not his duty to inform him.

Reminded that he himself had caused unrest when he ordered his security forces to break up protesting civil servants, he said, “The civil service wanted increases and persons while they were not even at work.”

He even turned on his own defence chief, Jack Turner, saying that he had lied when he testified that Mangope had berated his officer corps for being “disloyal.”

The idea of a Mangope conspiracy does not sit well on campus, which is a focal point of the 1994 unrest that marked the end of Mangope’s rule.

“His place now in South Africa,” said one student, who dismissed Mangope’s support base as limited to “old women” from rural areas.

One such old woman, asked to comment on the benefits Mangope had brought to Bophuthatswana. He had built shopping centres, she said. A civil servant talked of the former leader’s development of education and sport.

Mangope probably could not rule, but he could play a role in opposition movements, suggested a civil servant, who did not want to be named. It may be that he himself had been involved in the creation of a new political party. The word is he was asked to be invited.

The prospect of such an alliance would have been greeted with scepticism by many.

Abeshm Matebele said Mangope would bring Holomisa’s coup to fruition. He would have been a critical voice in the creation of a new political party.

The word is he was asked to be invited.

Mangope campaigns to return

Jim Day

LUCAS Mangope is campaigning hard for a political comeback but so far his support base is limited to the rural elderly and disgruntled civil servants.

He took time out on Tuesday to face a scolding by the Tebbit Commission, but for the rest of the day, Mangope is out delivering his anti-ANC message to a small but attentive audience.

“I’m not saying he may come to power, but he is making inroads,” said Andrew Mathaba, a lecturer in political science at the University of the North-West. “He’s taken seriously. When we were here, people had jobs and crime was low. And he’s aware of people’s disillusionment with the ANC.”

Mathaba said his message is resonating with a growing number of people who think the current government has failed to deliver on its promises.

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North West survey on RDP gets mixed reaction

The North West government has received mixed reactions from the province's citizens about the progress of its government and delivery on Reconstruction and Development Programmes (RDP) services.

A provincial government-commissioned survey conducted by North West University and Potchefstroom University has established that residents desire to see infrastructure development reaching the four corners of the province.

North West citizens who were currently witnessing physical implementation of RDP projects openly expressed satisfaction about the things they benefited from. In the Rustenburg area, for example, 65% of participants in the survey indicated having benefited from RDP projects.

The survey was presented to Premier Popo Moleto this week and would be forwarded to North West members of the executive council. Its main objective was to inform and assess public perception in North West regarding public service delivery.

The institutions which conducted the survey warned that efforts should be made to inform the public about development projects planned in the area.

Government initiatives should be announced on most media, especially on radio, which was found to be the main source of information regarding public service, policies and programmes in the area.

The lack of effective communication, the survey commented, was a key problem. The survey found that health facilities were mostly utilised in the province followed by municipal and education facilities.

It noted residents had some difficulty distinguishing the functions of the provincial government from those of local government, including the implications of affirmative action policies.

Another difficulty citizens had was understanding the role of district councils (traditional rural councils).
Leeudoringstad is ‘a success’

Jacob Dlamini

A SMALL North West town has earned the distinction of being the most successful local authority in the province. Leeudoringstad, in the southern region of the North West, boasts an average 83% payment level for service charges and has had 1 878 housing applications approved.

Town clerk Andre du Plessis said that the high levels of payment have allowed large-scale development to take place.

Work is under way on the upgrading of roads and the installation of a stormwater drainage system. The local council is also installing a waterborne sewage system in the local township, Kgakala, where 20 000 of the town’s 22 000 residents live.

Du Plessis said the town owes its success to the locals’ willingness to work together. “Politics don’t play a role in this town and there is a very good relationship within the community,” he said.

Mayor George Mogogane is an independent councillor. The ANC controls five seats, and the Leeudoringstad Gemeenskap’s Vereeniging (Community union) has the other four seats.

“This town used to be right wing territory, with a 100% CP (Conservative Party) council, but when change came we decided to go along with the stream and concentrate on development, which is what this town needs,” Du Plessis said.

Leeudoringstad was the first town in the province to establish a transitional local council in July 1994, he said. “The TLC at the time realised that the Masakhane campaign was the only drive to normalise governance and to provide basic services at local level. Numerous meetings were held and today the council and the inhabitants are pleased with the progress made.”

The town’s biggest source of employment was the North West Co-op, followed by the local council and the mills. Du Plessis said that there were a substantial amount of households with no income whose service charges were subsidised by the council.
North West in disarray as premier disputes candidate list

Popo Molefe says the list was not final and still had to be ratified

BY RAMOTERA MABOTE
Political Reporter

The ANC in the North West has been thrown into disarray by Premier Popo Molefe's apparent insistence on nominating Patrick "Terror" Leekota for the position of ANC deputy president ahead of the organisation's 50th national congress in December.

Molefe said the North West's list of candidates released to the Star this week was not final and still had to be ratified by the ANC's general council.

Mpusumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa featured as the North West's sole candidate for the deputy presidency. Leekota's name did not appear in any of the top six positions.

While the ANC's official spokesmen refused to comment, sources within the organisation revealed that rumours were flying that "heads would roll" once Molefe took action against some members for releasing the list.

ANC provincial secretary Joe Selau, who said earlier this week that Phosa had been nominated because he was a "cool person" who had done a good job in the ANC, refused to talk to the Star yesterday, but instead referred all inquiries to Molefe.

Senior members of the African National Congress in the province, who spoke on condition of anonymity, refuted Molefe's claims, saying the list was finalised by the provincial executive committee three weeks ago.

One senior ANC source said the nomination of both Leekota and Phosa had been debated, but after a vote, Phosa came out the frontrunner. Before the list was made public, it was approved by the top six ANC members in the province, he said.

The source said it was the provincial executive council's decision to publish the list and that lobbying had already begun to influence other ANC structures to back the North West's choice.

In an interview with The Star yesterday, Molefe said the people accusing him of interfering in the nomination process could be biased against Leekota and, therefore, wanted to publish the list without Leekota's name.

"We were not able to come up with only one name and we were still going to take the matter to the provincial general council which would discuss it. We were not supposed to take the list to the media," said Molefe, describing the situation as "precipitous."

The tensions in the North West could intensify rumours that a UDF lobby within the ANC wants to see former senior members of the Mass Democratic Movement occupy some of the organisation's more influential positions.

Molefe dismissed the suggestion of a UDF lobby, saying there was only one ANC that did not consist of other compositions. He said individual merit and not association with any organisation was what counted.
Black officers refused to have anything to do with the AWB, commission told
R30m lost in Bop funding

ELIAS MALULEKE

THE North West government is at the centre of a scandal involving the unauthorised use of R30-million to fund the cash-strapped Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation.

But, despite receiving the money, the corporation was unable to pay salaries and bonuses to some staff members earlier this year.

The money was channelled into the corporation’s coffers in monthly instalments of R7.5-million from September last year on the instructions of the provincial minister for health and broadcasting, Dr Paul Selularo. This was in defiance of an order in June by the MEC for finance, Martin Kuscus, that the corporation’s funds be frozen.

The issue was discussed by the provincial cabinet early this year, but Selularo was let off the hook after he gave an undertaking that he would repay the money from his own ministry’s budget.

The government did not make the unauthorised spending public.

Selularo declined to comment on Friday, saying he was on his way to Cape Town and would release a statement on his return on Tuesday.

The provincial auditor, Bryant Madlwa, confirmed that Selularo had released the money “unprocedurally”, and that the auditor general had been asked by the treasury to include the amount in the health and broadcasting department’s 1996/97 financial report.

The release of the money contrasted sharply with Kuscus’s directive that further funding to the corporation be halted because of alleged financial irregularities.

Premier Popo Molele could not be reached for comment.

Kuscus put the screws on the corporation last June after the standing committee on finance and the treasury tabled reports which found there was no proper financial control at the corporation.

The reports prompted the province’s director general, Job Mokgoro, to institute an investigation by the accountants, Coopers and Lybrand.

Their findings are due to be tabled in May.

The Sunday Times has been informed that Selularo released the funds after he was appointed acting premier during Molele’s trip to China in September.

Selularo, who has been at loggerheads with Kuscus over the handling of the corporation’s financial affairs, ordered the treasury to release the funds to the corporation without cabinet approval and Kuscus’s knowledge.

Selularo’s promise to repay the money has not been met.

Instead, in February this year, Kuscus was ordered by the cabinet to release a further R16-million to the corporation.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION
Appointment of Commissioners

The Panel constituted in terms of section 6 of the Electoral Commission Act, 1996, to recommend a list of candidates for consideration as electoral commissioners has reviewed all nominations received with due regard to the suitability, qualifications and experience of nominees.

Of the 129 persons nominated, 23 have been selected for further consideration. The nominations will be considered next week.

MEETINGS AND COMMISSIONS
Policeman says he killed AWB men
EXECUTION - two minutes past when she was given 30 minutes in the death chamber during
the day of special 10 recovery. She was convulsed in the middle of a head explosion.

A STATE OF WAR AT THE TIME
Killing of AWB to Pop cop confesses to
Bop policeman recounts shooting AWB trio

SAPA AND STAFF REPORTER
Mafikeng

A former Bophuthatswana policeman confessed yesterday to shooting dead three AWB members as they lay wounded next to their car in Mmabatho on March 11 1994.

In a written submission to the Tebbutt Commission in Mafikeng, Orlametse Bernstean Mnyatsoe, now a constable in the SA Police Service, said he had seen the situation as "a state of war".

"I was enraged by the attempts on my life and the indiscriminate shooting of defenseless members of the public," said the submission, read by Mnyatsoe's advocate, Thomas Bokaba.

Mnyatsoe confessed to having fired the shots that killed Fanie Uys, Alwyn Woflaardt and Nick Fourie.

Sergeant Philemon Nare, who was not present at the hearing, had always been suspected of killing the men. North West police said last night that the case against Nare, now a sergeant in the SAPS in Mafikeng, would in all likelihood be dropped.

Nare proclaimed his innocence to the commission in an unswear statement in March.

He said he had been severely traumatised because of mistaken identification by a single witness which labelled him a cold-blooded killer.

Yesterday Mnyatsoe, who did not testify under oath, said he had felt obliged as a policeman to do everything in his power to stop the carnage.

"My actions on March 11 1994 should not just be seen through the lens of the camera that focused on the dramatic moment showing a black policeman firing at three khaki-clad, swastika-bearing white men.

"We must bear in mind that during this period, more than 40 people had died and many were injured."

He had been condemned as a murderer by some, while many others, regarded him as a hero, Mnyatsoe said. His duties at the time of the unrest included guarding the house of Major-General P J Seleke, then commissioner of the Bophuthatswana police.

Bokaba said his client was in the process of applying for amnesty before the cutoff date on Saturday.
North West reducing its civil service
(2bce)

By Hopewell Radibe
 Provincial Reporter

North West Province has scrapped about 2,722 posts in an attempt to reduce its army of civil servants it inherited from the former Bophuthatswana and the Cape and Transvaal provincial administrations.

Addressing the National Council of Provinces yesterday, Premier Popo Molefe said his government had finally cleared a major hurdle it had inherited from the apartheid era.

Molefe said the voluntary severance incentive package had elicited a total of 1,471 applications. Of these, 1,268 were approved without compromising the goal of retaining skills and enhancing productivity.

He said North West's public service was characterised by serious structural and attitudinal problems that originated from the racial, political and social orientation of the previous order.

The government had integrated and rationalised the administrations, but due to the large number of government-supporting institutions of the former Bophuthatswana, great caution had to be exercised.

Molefe said the parliamentary portfolio committee on the public service had complimented North West on its success in rationalising the province's civil service.

He said the process was proceeding without hitches and the absorption of excess staff into the public service was almost complete.

He challenged the national government to demonstrate its commitment to the principles of affirmative action and to set an example by reflecting the country's racial and gender demographics in the personnel composition of its key institutions.
Provinces asked to resolve dispute

The Free State and North West governments will have to intervene to resolve the latest deadlock in talks to settle the dispute over assets worth R60m belonging to the North West Development Corporation, a Free State Development Corporation spokesman says.

The Free State Development Corporation, which is refusing to pay for the assets belonging to the former Bophuthatswana Development Corporation, has proposed an interim management deal to North West Development Corporation to prevent the degeneration of factories and shopping complexes which have become “ghost towns” in Thaba Nchu.

Free State Development Corporation public relations manager Kgotso Tau said yesterday the corporation’s management had briefed finance MEC Zingile Dungani about the latest deadlock in negotiations with the management of the North West parastatal, which took over the activities of the now defunct Bophuthatswana corporation.

“Clearly, the opinions of the two (North West and Free State development corporations) do not seem to meet,” Tau said. His management believed the solution would be political intervention.

The dispute arose in 1994 after the elections which saw the provincial boundaries being redrawn, placing Thaba Nchu in the Free State.
The party that Bopped

By DAN DHLAMINI

WHILE former Bop President Lucas Mangope is facing 208 counts of alleged theft and fraud in the Mmabatho Supreme Court, his party—the United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP) could cease to exist by next week.

Mangope, who is entangled in a lengthy court case—in which he is accused of having defrauded and stolen R18-million from among others, his tribe’s royalties from Chrome Mine—has pleaded not guilty. His case resumes again on Tuesday.

To add to the uncertain future of Mangope’s followers the party’s national youth organiser Lukas Thutlwa has been suspended.

Thutlwa’s suspension follows his strong opposition to the dissolution of the UCDP, and its individual members joining Bantu Holomisa and Reolfo Meyer’s new political group.

“I was not the only one who opposed the idea of disbanding but I was singled out and suspended without even being called to a hearing,” said Thutlwa.

“My sin was when I tried to bring to attention the fact that we are a party with a great support base from grassroots, whereas Holomisa and Meyer do not have anything at the moment,” said Thutlwa.

“We were not against the disbanding as such, but we felt that the two men were going to use our masses to their advantage,” said Thutlwa.

Thutlwa said the UCDP’s top brass have been pressured by Holomisa/Meyer New Movement Process (NMP) to announce their dissolution on September 6—because the new party would be formed on September 27.

Reacting to the suspension, National Party MP Charles Ntsazi said the UCDP has violated Thutlwa’s right to freedom of speech.

“Their action has now intimidated even those who would have had good ideas which could have salvaged their party and which could do very well regionally,” said Ntsazi.

“They are now vulnerable and are going to be swallowed up by big political sharks,” said Ntsazi.

Attempts to contact Lucas Mangope and national secretary Kgomoito Dinhaeto have been unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, South Africa’s Foreign Affairs Director General (DG) claims he has been encountering problems in recovering property estimated at R180 million from overseas—which belonged to the erstwhile Bophuthatswana government.

In a written submission to parliament, the DG of Foreign Affairs, Rusty Evans, stated that there was a problem with recovering R14 million from an “American law firm” due to alleged misrepresentation regarding the purchase of a R18,7 million property in the US.
Nepotism in North West

Controversial MEC proves too much for one of her top officials, writes Andy Duffy

The head of education in the North West province has quit his post in protest against alleged nepotism by the provincial education MEC, who handed out plum jobs to members of her family.

Gulam-Hussein Mayet quietly stepped down as provincial education deputy director general four weeks ago, after a long and bitter turf war with the MEC, Mamekoena Junior Gaoretelewe. The two, who hold the most powerful jobs in state education in the province, have not co-operated since April.

Relations between them collapsed when Gaoretelewe ordered Mayet to employ her sister-in-law as an attorney in a costly legal battle to dismiss more than 400 foreign teachers employed by the province.

The education department was already receiving free legal advice from the state attorney, and it is not clear what tendering procedures if any were followed in the appointment.

Gaoretelewe also employed her husband, Walter, as a deputy director in Mayet's department, and apparently refused to consult Mayet on any other appointments she made in his department.

The two also fought over allegations that Gaoretelewe used the department's 13 community liaison officers — employed to spread the message about national education policy — as her lobbyists during the elections last year for the African National Congress's provincial executive committee. Gaoretelewe won a seat.

The dispute sucked in North West Premier Popo Molefo, three other MECs and Deputy Education Minister Father Smangaliso Mchatswa, who have all attempted to mediate a settlement since late last year.

Their efforts ended last month. Instead, Molefo ordered Gaoretelewe's ministry be split, and a new arts and culture ministry was established under MEC Ray Motsepe, with Mayet as his deputy director general.

Technically, Mayet has only been seconded to Motsepe to safeguard his public service rights — which leaves Gaoretelewe without a replacement. Provincial director general Job Mokgoro has been forced to temporarily take over.

Mayet declined to comment this week, beyond confirming his departure. Gaoretelewe has refused to respond to faxed queries for the past three weeks. Mokgoro added that "there might have been compatibility problems" between Gaoretelewe and Mayet.

A representative for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said the ministry had tried to resolve the "differences of opinion" but that the responsibility lay with the province. "We can't comment on the solution they've come up with," he added.

Molefo was not available.

Mayet's departure robs the province of one of its most experienced education administrators. An exile for 29 years, Mayet was running education in the massive South London borough of Lambeth before he returned to South Africa.

The friction between the two started almost from the day Mayet took up the job in June 1996.

Among Gaoretelewe's first orders was that Mayet sack 417 foreign maths and science teachers, recruited from other African countries by former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope to plug gaps in rural education. Gaoretelewe decided the foreign teachers should go at the end of 1996 to create jobs for South Africans.

But the foreigners succeeded in gaining a court order preventing their dismissal. Many of them had gained citizenship or permanent residence, and were strongly supported by their schools.

The battle went to the Mmabatho Supreme Court, and to the Constitutional Court earlier this year. A ruling is imminent, though the province is seeking a settlement. The foreign teachers remain employed.

Mayet had told his officials not to recruit replacements for the foreigners until the issue was resolved. Many officials, taking their cue from Gaoretelewe, did recruit, so the province is now paying at least 20 foreign teachers their full salaries to stay at home. The additional cost is thought to run to at least R2-million so far.

Mayet informed the provincial government of Khumalo's appointment, and of the recruitment of Gaoretelewe's husband as a deputy director.

The tension between Gaoretelewe and Mayet was first signposted in the recently released government provincial audit, compiled by Provincial Service and Administration Department Director General Paseka Nicholo.

Mayet worked closely with Nicholo's officials during their investigation.

Mokgoro said he had heard the "rumour" about Khumalo's appointment, which would be "unfortunate" if proved true and should be "clarified" for the taxpayer. But her husband's appointment was justified as he was qualified.

Nicholo disagreed. "It is not desirable state of affairs," he said this week. The appointment of Nomso Khumalo could not be corroborated, Nicholo added, and so had been omitted from his final report. He said Mokgoro had not raised the issue of Mayet's departure but that he would pursue this with him.
Nepotism in North West

Controversial MEC proves too much for one of her top officials, writes Andy Duffy

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Their efforts ended last month. Instead, Molefe ordered Gaoretelelwe's ministry be split, and a new arts and culture ministry was established under MEC Ray Motsepe, with Mayet as his deputy director general.

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"We can't comment on the solution they've come up with," he added.

Molefe was not available.

Mayet's departure robs the province of one of the country's most experienced education administrators. An exile for 29 years, Mayet was running education in the massive, South London borough of Lambeth before he returned to South Africa in the 1980s.

The friction between the two started almost from the day Mayet took up the job in June 1995.

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Gaoretelelwe, apparently unhappy with Mayet's efforts, last year ordered him to recruit Johannesburg attorney Nosmo Khumalo as instructing attorney.

Khumalo is married to advocate AA Motumele, Gaoretelelwe's brother. She was unreachable this week.

Mayet informed the provincial government of Khumalo's appointment, and of the recruitment of Gaoretelelwe's husband as a deputy director.

The tension between Gaoretelelwe and Mayet was first suggested in the recently released government provincial audit, compiled by Provincial Service and Administration Department Director-General, Paseka Nhcho. Mayet worked closely with Nhcho's officials during their investigation.

Mokgoro said he had heard the "rumour" about Khumalo's appointment, which would be "unfortunate" if proved true and should be "clarified" for the taxpayer. But her husband's appointment was justified as he was qualified.

Nhcho disagreed. "It is not desirable state of affairs," he said this week. The appointment of Nosmo Khumalo could not be corroborated, Nhcho added, and so had been omitted from his final report. He said Mokgoro had not raised the issue of Mayet's departure but that he would pursue this with him.
North West province Premier Popo Molefe wants his education MEC to explain to the public why she engaged her sister-in-law’s legal services instead of using state attorneys at no cost.

An investigation Molefe ordered last year into education in the province uncovered severe management failings, with evidence that MEC Mamoe-Conna Gaoretelwe was often absent from her post.

Provincial education deputy director general, Gulane-Husain Mayet, has quit. His turbulent relationship with Gaoretelwe collapsed when he insisted he appoint her sister-in-law, Nomsa Khumalo, as instructing attorney in his department’s battle to dismiss 417 foreign teachers.

It is not clear what tendering procedures were followed.

Gaoretelwe has so far refused to comment. But Molefe says he wants her to justify the appointment to him and to the public, and to explain what procedures were followed.

“I would have done it differently,” Molefe says. “It’s a matter I’d like to look into and to get an explanation from her.” He declined to comment on possible action.

But Molefe defended the appointment of Gaoretelwe’s husband, Walter, as a deputy director in the province’s Department of Education.

“The appointment of a family member is not a violation of any rule, if that family member is qualified for the post. Why was there no hullabaloo when the president had his wife appointed as a deputy minister?” he asked.

Mayet stepped down last month after months of fighting with Gaoretelwe over lines of responsibility. Their battles prompted Molefe last year to call in an independent team, led by academic TW Kambule, to find out what was going wrong.

The team found a lack of leadership, and that the MEC had been absent for many of last year’s labour disputes. Mayet was found to be power-hungry.

Molefe says the team’s recommendations were being implemented. A key finding, that arts and culture be taken out of Gaoretelwe’s portfolio, was pushed through last month with the creation of a new ministry under Ray Motsepe. "Mayet is now Motsepe’s deputy director general."
Debt-ridden ex-homeland broadcaster is still being funded by South African taxpayers

BY JACQUIE GOLDING-DUFFY  SATURDAY 27 September 1997 (SABC)

South African taxpayers are paying R50-million annually to keep the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation (BopBC) afloat.

But the channel is still out of reach to the vast majority of the country’s television viewers, it can be picked up only in North West province and on the western fringes of Gauteng.

Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister spokesman Connie Molosa said this week that BopBC was being funded “via the national focus budget through an allocation from the North West”.

He said funds from the state coffers allocated to North West had R50-million earmarked specifically for BopBC.

Last year the beleaguered broadcaster had all its funds frozen by the province’s MEC for finance, Martin Kuseve. Although more than a year has passed since the Independent Broadcasting Authority recommended that BopBC become part of the National Public Broadcasting Service, the debt-ridden organisation has still not been integrated.

Its planned integration into the SABC remains in the air until such time as the North West government repeals an old homeland law that currently permits the broadcaster to operate as a separate entity.

BopBC insiders, who refuse to be named for fear of reprisals, argue that the Government has fallen into a trap by allowing “the scrapping of legislation which prevents integration from being speedily implemented to be conducted at a provincial level”.

But officials say the Government’s hands are tied because, “by law,” the province has to repeal laws that affect and apply to that particular province before new laws can be enforced.

According to Molosa, the matter of integration is in the hands of the North West MEC for Broadcasting, Dr Paul Selukuru.

In its Triple Inquiry Report, the IBA recommends that all the broadcasters from the former TRC states integrate with the SABC to form a single National Public Broadcasting Service.

Furthermore, Bop TV’s external broadcasting obligations should be assumed by the NPBS and its facilities used for any proposed public-service satellite and external services.

The IBA also suggests that the Government should pay out the former Bophuthatswana Government Pension Scheme, whose funds were used to establish the advanced recording studios in Mmabatho; and that this facility be given to the SABC.

Selukuru could not be reached for comment, while BopBC acting chief executive Caswile Mahlali, whose reign at the corporation has been marked by staff revolts and acts of defiance against integration, said: “All policy issues regarding BopBC should be directed to Dr Selukuru.”

Mahlali, whose contract expires at the end of this year, is unsure whether she will renew it, but sources claim she is hedging her bets and is involved in other ventures.

Crisis committee chairman Kopano Rammokwa said this week that most reporters and producers at BopBC want newsroom head Martin Dumini dismissed. They have threatened a news blackout, and a petition was signed highlighting their grievances, ranging from alleged sexual harassment to unhappiness with Dumini’s management style.

Rammokwa said she is in the dark regarding the integration process, adding that many employees have adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

The fact that BopBC is not accessible to all South Africans because of its limited signal is also a contentious issue. For BopBC to be able to transmit to more South Africans, it would have to apply to the IBA for a licence if it wants to operate outside of the SABC.

The IBA, it is understood, has “unquestionable jurisdiction over BopBC” in terms of licensing. If integration is not finalised, and the Government does not continue to fund BopBC for the next financial year, the former homeland broadcaster will be forced to apply for a licence from the regulator if it wants to operate independently.
Case argued for regional services council levies

Deborah Fine

THE only thing worse than having regional services council (RSC) levies is not having them, according to North West finance and economic affairs MEC Martin Kuscus.

Speaking in Mafikeng at the Afrcare-sponsored local government conference on rural financing, he said while it was clear the levy was "a bad tax", it nevertheless constituted the main local source of income for rural district councils.

RSC levies are imposed on businesses in the form of a tax on annual turnover as well as a payroll levy on the number of employees within companies. Legislation stipulates that the levies should be used by local authorities to fund development in disadvantaged areas.

Kuscus said the advantage of the levy was that it was widely complied with by companies and redistributed funds to rural areas from urban centres.

The weakness of the levy was that it operated as a disincentive to investment and entrepreneurial activity.

This "regressive" aspect seriously limited local councils' ability to increase desperately-needed incoming revenues by increasing the levy. If the levy was raised too high, it would discourage labour-intensive production techniques. Companies would also move out of areas with high RSC levies.

Moreover, tax equity required that those who paid tax should have representation on the democratic structures which spent the taxes. Hence rural district councils were forced to have some members from the urban areas in which the companies were based.

Kuscus said it was therefore imperative to find alternative sources of income for rural municipalities. These could include agricultural or rural land tax, taxes on traditional authorities and a share of revenues from central and provincial governments.
President Nelson Mandela’s visit to strife-torn Rustenburg last weekend failed to attract the expected crowds after North West Premier Popo Molefe refused to let Mouthpeace Workers Union president Kazier Moyakhe share his platform.

Sources say the union insisted at a meeting with Molefe two weeks ago that it be allowed to speak at the rally, as it was also a stakeholder in the conflict. Molefe refused to budge, sources say, even after Mouthpeace leaders (with the exception of Moyakhe) slammed the table to drive their point home.

Molefe’s refusal is based on fears of a possible backlash from his allies in the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which has been involved in violent clashes with Mouthpeace this week. Twenty-two Mouthpeace members were convicted on charges of public violence and sentenced to five years’ imprisonment each.

NUM officials say they were briefed on Molefe’s meeting, but maintain that they were given the impression that he would only meet their archenemies in his capacity as premier. They were surprised to learn that the meeting took place at African National Congress headquarters.

“We are scared that the premier might be moving to a point where he would give recognition to people who are killing ANC members,” said an NUM member from Klerksdorp.

However, Molefe is planning a meeting with NUM leaders to report back on the Mouthpeace meeting. His representative, David van Wyk, says he understands NUM’s anger. “I think their reservations are based on the fact that when this whole thing [the violence] started and their members were killed, we were not active enough, even when they called us for assistance. But we were instructed to take a back seat and leave everything with the Ministry of Labour.”

At Mandela’s rally in the village of Sifikile, a group of men gathered on a hillside overlooking the venue. According to locals, they are members of Mouthpeace who chose to observe the peace rally from a “safe” distance.

Mandela spoke to several hundred villagers and miners on an open piece of land, the majority of whom were clearly members of the ANC or NUM.

Mandela came to Sifikile — and later to Bleskop Mine — as part of his continued efforts to bring about peace between Mouthpeace and NUM.

At Sifikile and Bleskop, both villagers and miners feared the failure by Mouthpeace members to make a formal appearance did not bode well for future peace endeavours.

Sifikile’s Pius Mpudi (78) left the rally mid-way through Mandela’s speech. “The people from the other union should have attended,” he said, pointing at the men dotted on the side of the mountain. “Why should they watch from the distance instead of joining the rest of us in finding peace?”

Walking alongside Mpudi, his neighbour, Selina Mabe, said, “I thought President Mandela would give us an idea what the fighting is all about, because everybody is fighting but nobody knows why.”

Later in his speech at Bleskop Mine, Mandela himself seemed to ponder the cause of the violence. “I am dismayed at the continued violence on the mines in this area, where workers are divided for reasons that remain elusive,” he said.

Young mother Maria Duma came to the rally but moved into the shade of a mule cart to breastfeed her little daughter Palesa. “I have lived in Sifikile all my life and have never seen anything like this before. It is frightening. We are not used to the sound of guns here.”

The mood on the ground at the Bleskop Stadium was slightly upbeat about Mandela’s visit. “He is our president and we are certain he will bring about peace and protect us against those who are against peace,” said miner Mosise Morake.
Deadlock over assets stifles development.

NEGOTIATIONS over the transfer of about R45m worth of assets in the former homeland capital of Thaba Nchu from the North West Development Corporation (NWDC) to the Free State Development Corporation (FSDC) have reached a stalemate.

FSDC spokesman Kgotsa Tau said yesterday that a meeting on the disputed assets, including the Thaba Nchu Sun hotel with one of the only two casinos in the province, a shopping complex in Slooshoa and several factories, was held in August. He said the NWDC made it clear that it would not let the properties go for free.

The quasi-government FSDC contends that the assets should be transferred to it in terms of the Free State Development Corporation Act of 1996.

The Act, which established the FSDC, made provision for the dissolution of all development corporations existing in the Free State prior to its enactment. It also mandated the FSDC to take over the assets and liabilities of the dissolved corporations.

Since then the Highlands Development Corporation in QwaQwa and the Economic Development Corporation in Botshabelo have been dissolved and incorporated into the FSDC.
Mangope should accept blame for unrest

MABOPANE — Former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope and his cabinet should accept a large portion of the blame for the March 1994 unrest in the homeland, which claimed the lives of about 49 people, the Tebbit Commission's legal representative Terrance van Rensburg said yesterday.

Van Rensburg said it was improper of Mangope to have sought the assistance of right-wing paramilitary forces to quell the unrest in the territory.

Evidence before the commission is that Mangope and his security council had called on Gen Constant Viljoen of the Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) to bring his men into the capital, Mmabatho, when rioting broke out. "If they wanted to bring in someone, it should have been the South African Defence Force (SADF)."

Van Rensburg pointed out, however, that because of rising dissent in the homeland, nothing could have saved the Mangope regime — "definitely not the AVF."

"It is quite clear that Mr Mangope and his cabinet wanted to cling to power at all costs, and it was the population which paid the price. It was quite clear at the time that the right wing was exploding bombs all over SA. Calling a group like this (to assist him) was very dangerous," he said.

This danger was increased by the involvement of Eugene Terre'Blanche's Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging.

Van Rensburg said one of the reasons why Mangope brought in the AVF was that he could not trust his own security forces.

He said it appeared that during the dissent in the homeland, Mangope had not only lost touch with the feelings of the population but with those of the security forces.

Van Rensburg argued that Mangope should have read the signs of dissent among the population as early as the homeland's abortive coup of 1988, when the SADF intervened to prop up Mangope's regime.

The SA government under President FW de Klerk also came in for a tongue lashing from Van Rensburg. "They tried to sit on two chairs. First they claimed in Bop they were dealing with an independent country, but the next thing, they did things they should not do in an independent country," Van Rensburg said.

This, he said, included the interim constitution of 1993 when Bophuthatswana's independence from SA was nullified.

"They should have expected some reaction, and that reaction was the ugly situation which developed," he said. Van Rensburg's submission resumes today — Sapa.
Bophuthatswana official paid to withhold ‘damaging’ information

Taryn Lambert

Former Bophuthatswana finance secretary Johan Vermaak received a gratuity payment of R150,000 from then President Lucas Mangope because Vermaak "had a lot of information which could have been damaging to the government," former homeland national security council secretary Jacob Esterhuizen said at the High Court yesterday.

Esterhuizen was testifying in the case against Mangope, who is charged with 208 counts of fraud and theft involving about R18m. There had been animosity between Vermaak and former Bophuthatswana finance minister Martin van den Berg, and it was decided that Vermaak's contract would not be renewed in September 1982, Esterhuizen said. Vermaak had refused to co-operate.

On September 8, 1988, Mangope authorized Esterhuizen to pay Vermaak an amount of R150,000 as "a single gratuity for services rendered to the Bophuthatswana government," the court heard.

The payment was allegedly not authorized by the public service department as required by law.

"Vermaak had information that was potentially damaging to the government. It was a sensitive matter," Esterhuizen said.

The payment had also been made because Vermaak had rendered a good service.

Vermaak, who was convicted of the theft of R850,000 last week, had his sentence reduced from eight years to three years, suspended, to five years with three years suspended, on appeal.

In January 1984, Esterhuizen met with Van den Berg and former foreign affairs minister Rowan Cronje to discuss "cover-up expenditure," Esterhuizen said.

"I was aware that we were heading towards grave embarrassment for both the president and the country," he said. It was decided that "the situation was getting out of hand and should be stopped" and that Van den Berg would meet with Mangope to advise him to "stop the expenditure," Esterhuizen told the court.

"The total destruction of records" was needed, but there would be difficulty in explaining the missing records to the auditor-general, he said. Esterhuizen testified that a series of building projects, referred to as "Bopsec 10," had been funded by the national security council, "but none of the Bopsec projects had been referred to the council.

The building operations were all allegedly authorized by Mangope.

Esterhuizen also testified that he had transferred R850,000 to a security council bank account in Jersey in the Channel Islands on the instructions of Mangope.

He believed the money would be used to buy private property in Italy for Mangope.

Esterhuizen said that he had spent five weeks in Africa last year checking on a possible SA connection following testimony by former Vlakplas commander Eugene de Kock.

On Monday the truth commission released reports from organisations which had been doing research on his behalf abroad. The Netherlands Institute apparently reported there was strong evidence of an SA connection in the murder.

Truth body sources said, however, that this evidence had not been corroborated.

Evidence linking SA to Palme murder "thin"

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — The theory of an SA connection in the 1986 assassination of Swedish premier Olof Palme is not favoured in Swedish investigative circles.

Stockholm chief prosecutor Jan Danselius said that the SA connection was only one of the many possibilities. "The other theories are more likely than the SA one."

He had spent five weeks in Africa last year checking on a possible SA connection following testimony by former Vlakplas commander Eugene de Kock.

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Truth body sources said, however, that this evidence had not been corroborated.

Body allowed into security industry talks

Hamill said the organisation, which represented 22,000 of SA's 100,000 registered guarding personnel, had been given four seats on the 12-seat bargaining forum after obtaining a court order halting the negotiations.

The five founder members — Callguard Security Services, Fidelity Guards Holdings, Gray Security Services, Magnum Security Services and Shield Security Group — recently resigned from the SA National Security Employers Organisation (Sansea) which had already started talks.

A Sansea spokesman said an agreement had settled a dispute over whether the SSEO could join the talks at such a late stage.
MABOPANE — Embattled Afrikaner Weerstandsbewegung (AWB) leader Eugene Terre'Blanche and his lieutenants should be held criminally accountable for the deaths of civilians during the March 1994 unrest in former Bophuthatswana, the Tebbutt commission heard yesterday.

Commission legal representative Terence van Rensburg submitted that presiding judge Pat Tebbutt report to President Nelson Mandela that criminal action be taken against AWB leadership.

Van Rensburg described the AWB's actions in Mmabatho on March 10 and 11 as "racism in its most extreme form".

He said on arrival in Mmabatho an AWB member was heard stating that "we shot grenade on the kaffirs to skut (we came to shoot the kaffirs)."

Van Rensburg said the statement clearly demonstrated that Terre'Blanche and his militia did not go to Mmabatho to help quell the unrest as they have claimed.

Following the gunning down of innocent people by AWB members, Terre'Blanche claimed victory saying four to five AWB members may have been killed, but his men had killed 50.

"The commission has ample evidence of AWB members killing people and destroying property," Van Rensburg said.

Further investigation should be carried out to probe the actions of the AWB in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act and the then Riotous Assembly Act, he said.

He called for the investigation of Terre'Blanche and the AWB's so-called "general staff" on the grounds of "common purpose, conspiracy" and incitement.

There was evidence, he explained, that the AWB was engaged in plain killing of defenseless civilians.

He said the Bophuthatswana Defence Force did not do enough to prevent the killings and that the AWB had at the time been under the nominal command of the homeland defence chief General Jack Turner.

Tebbutt can be expected to complete his final report by early next year. — Sapa.
Mafikeng — The former Bophuthatswana National Security Council created a system to allow former president Lucas Mangope to transfer more than R1.3m of his private funds out of the country and into an offshore account in Jersey, in the Channel Islands, the High Court heard yesterday.

Mangope is facing 298 charges of fraud involving about R1.8m.

Former security council secretary Jacob Esterhuizen testified that a system had been put in place whereby money could be transferred from an account at Standard Bank in Mafikeng to an account in Jersey.

Both accounts were opened by Western Management, a bogus company set up by the security council to conduct “covert” transactions. He said R800 000 was transferred to Jersey on the instructions of Mangope.

The money was later transferred from the Western Management account in Jersey to an account in the name of DS Grey, because “Mr Mangope was overseas and needed to make use of the funds.”

Esterhuizen believed the money would buy Mangope private property in Italy. Mangope allegedly gave the security council a personal cheque, made out to cash, for R800 000.

Although the money went through as a diplomatic transfer at the bank, the money was not transferred for official purposes, Esterhuizen said.

Other amounts of R260 000 and R290 000 were transferred similarly.

Both accounts were later refunded to the security council in cash rates, via Mangope’s private secretary.

Esterhuizen also said a series of building projects, referred to as Bopsec 10, were funded by the security council on Mangope’s instructions.

The projects included construction on farms at Alewynspoort, Strydfontein and Mureelakop, improvements to Mangope’s private residence and the building of a shopping centre at Lehurutshe.
Forlorn and desolate Mangope on theft rap

THE MORAL support for former Bophuthatswana president who is facing 208 charges of fraud and theft involving R18 million is dwindling by the day.

This week Lucas Mangope's support which was previously characterised by United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP) men and women in their attitude was reduced to bodyguards and about five loyalists.

Inside court he built, Mangope cut a lonely figure as he sat behind his advocate, listening to Jacob Esterhuizen, the former Bop National Security Council's (NSC) secretary, testifying against him.

Esterhuizen said as on March 17, 1993, there had been a growing concern regarding Mangope's expenditure.

He said Martyn van den Berg, the then minister of finance in the homeland, and Rowan Cronje who was minister of defence had agreed that the situation was getting out of hand and that it had to be stopped.

According to Esterhuizen, Cronje suggested that all documentation be destroyed in order to protect Mangope and the country.

He said the total destruction of the records was needed but Cronje had provided a solution on how expenditure would be explained.

The Auditor-General Esterhuizen said the NSC had created bogus companies in Western Management and Fucura Enterprises to conduct "covert operations".

These included a number of housing projects, shopping centres and improvements at Mangope's homestead.

He said system also enabled Mangope to transfer R18-million of his private funds out of his Standard Bank account in Mafikeng and into an offshore account in Jersey in the Channel Island.

Esterhuizen told Justice Mullins sitting with two assessors that a system had been put in place whereby money could be transferred.

He told the court that R800 000 was transferred to Jersey on the instructions of Mangope who allegedly wanted to buy private property in Italy.

Esterhuizen said the money went through a diplomatic transfer at the bank, it was not for official purposes.

He said the amounts of R250 000 and R200 000 were transferred along the same line as Mangope's instructions.

Esterhuizen also told the court how Johan Vermaak, the former finance secretary in the homeland - currently in jail for theft of R800 000, was given a "gratuity payment" of R150 000 in a bid to silence him because he had a lot of information which could damage the Bop government.

The payment came about after Van den Berg and Vermaak were at loggerheads, Esterhuizen said.

Advocate Frans Kgomo finished leading evidence, defence counsel Wilhe Vermeulen said he would not cross examine Esterhuizen before he got Vermaak's statement.

Kgomo said the State would contact Vermaak and his lawyers in a bid to obtain his statement.

Vermaak, who was jailed for eight years, of three of which three years were suspended, had his sentence reduced to five years, with three years suspended, on appeal, meaning he would effectively serve two years in jail.

The trial, which was initially scheduled to last six months, might drag on longer.

Mangope is still faced with yet another 10 counts of theft involving more than R10,3-million.

With him on the dock on December 12, will be Ephraim Kekelem, Gert Nikau and the UCDP.
DP wants ‘R3m adviser’ probed

CAPE TOWN — The Democratic Party (DP) has called on President Nelson Mandela to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry to probe the appointment of Emmanuel Shaw as a R3m-a-year adviser to Central Energy Fund chairman Don Mkhwanazi.

DP minerals and energy spokesman Kobus Jordaan moved a motion in the House of Assembly yesterday calling for an investigation into Shaw’s background and his involvement in oil deals including those concluded during the pre-1994 sanctions period.

Shaw allegedly participated in a series of shady business deals with Lebena’s minister of finance.

Jordaan proposed the commission also inquire into the circumstances surrounding Shaw’s appointment; any possible role he might have played in the suspension of CSIR GM Kobus van Zyl; and the role, if any, of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, Minerals and Energy Minister Penuel Mduna and deputy director-general Gordon Sibiya in his appointment.

Such a judicial commission would be in addition to the departmental commission of inquiry appointed by Mduna about two weeks ago.

Jordaan said it appeared Mkhwanazi had misled Parliament at a meeting on November 3 about Shaw’s appointment.

ANC rejects call for debate on health bill

CAPE TOWN — The African National Congress (ANC) yesterday rejected a National Party (NP) motion calling for a parliamentary debate on the public protector’s findings that Health Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma had grossly exaggerated and misleading claims about the price of medicines in SA.

In a report released on Friday, Public Protector Sikhanyiso Baqwa found Zuma had failed to prove the claim that SA’s drug prices placed it among the five most expensive countries in the world.

The claim that some medicines in SA sold for up to 4 000% above the world average was found to have been based on a wrong calculation and a statement by a health department official that SA paid 2 600% more for anti-tapeworm medicines was found to be misleading but not improper.

Baqwa found claims that medicine costs had increased at double the inflation rate in the past decade had been made by the media, not the department.

He found Zuma had given misleading but not improper information about the use of generics in the UK, the US and Germany.

His findings followed a Pharmaceutical Manufacturers’ Association investigation into the conduct of health department officials regarding the above allegations.

Baqwa said that while he had found no evidence to suggest Zuma and her officials had acted improperly, he called on the department to try to use correct information in public statements.

Baqwa did find that pharmaceutical profits in SA were substantial. The average amount spent on health care was nearly triple that of other countries.

Zuma’s spokesman Vincent Hlongwane welcomed Baqwa’s findings and said the minister would take his advice about using accurate information in future.

Pharmaceutical association CEO Mirryna Deeb welcomed the findings and called for a review of the legislation allowing for the parallel importation of drugs, as Zuma’s arguments had been based on incorrect data.

The association had asked President Nelson Mandela not to sign the legislation into law and would possibly launch a Constitutional Court challenge if he ignored their request, Deeb said.

NP spokesman Kobus Gous, whose motion for a debate on the report was rejected as “cheap politicking” by the ANC, called for Zuma’s resignation and for Mandela not to sign the bill into law.

‘Cost containment measures will save millions’

PULE MOLSEBELE DI

RUSTENBURG — North West had introduced strong measures to manage its finances in a manner which would not allow for runaway expenditure to occur, the province’s premier Popo Molefe said this week.

Molefe said North West was regarded as one of the provinces which was handling its expenses relatively better than others. The province had projected over-expenditure of about R700m, but through cost containment measures, “we will be able to reduce it to R70m.”

The entire country was experiencing fiscal constraints, with the result being insufficient money allocated to the provinces for the next financial year.

Molefe said north west was projected to have overspent due to backlogs in social services like education, health and social welfare, as well as government’s commitment to cash containment measures.

Molefe said he had introduced a string of measures to fight corruption within his government.

This included the appointment of a unit to fight corruption which had already been instrumental in 66 people appearing in the regional court on corruption charges.

The special unit was investigating 118 cases of corruption, a number of which had been report wide members of the public through an anti-corruption hotline at Molefe’s office.

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`Cost containment measures will save millions`  
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PS - LOCAL AUTH. NORTH WEST

1998
Tebutt blames all parties for deaths in Bop '94 unrest

By JOHNNY MASILELA

THE FATE of former Bophuthatswana president, Lucas Mangope, and a host of other stakeholders will be tabled by the Tebutt Commission into political violence in the former homeland next month.

Commission secretary John Baken this week said a full report would only be made known in February and not this month, as suggested by chairman Justice Tebutt at the close of proceedings last November.

Already Tebutt Commission legal representative Terrence van Rensburg has recommended that stakeholders across the political spectrum should share the blame for the violence. Some 88 lives were lost during the March 1994 unrest, which culminated in Mangope’s downfall.

Van Rensburg blamed, among others, the ANC, the former National Party government, the erstwhile loose alliance of the Constand Viljoen–led Afrikaner Volksfront and, above all, Eugene Terre’Blanche’s AWB.

In rounding up his submission at the final sitting of the commission last year, Van Rensburg said the ANC’s programme was a factor in the build-up of tensions between Mangope’s regime and people on the ground.

He should be asked why, with them (the ANC) sitting on the (then) Transitional Executive Council, they did not recommend the intervention of the South African government.

“Maybe such action did not suit their mass action, whereby they wanted to bring Mangope and his government to a standstill,” Van Rensburg charged during the final sitting held in Mabopane, north of Pretoria.

As for AWB leader Eugene Terre’Blanche and his lieutenants, Van Rensburg told the commission in no uncertain terms that they should be held “criminally” accountable for the deaths of civilians.

Van Rensburg said on arrival in Mmabatho an AWB member was overheard saying that “ons het gekom om die kaffirs te skiet” (we are here to shoot the Kaffirs).

He said it was clear that Terre’Blanche and his militia did not go to Mmabatho to help quell the unrest as the AWB initially claimed.

The National Party government, he said, tried to sit on “two chairs at the same time.”

“In one instance they would say in Bophuthatswana they were dealing with a sovereign State. Then they do things they should not do to a sovereign State,” Van Rensburg submitted.

“First (FW) de Klerk gave the impression Bophuthatswana was a sovereign State, but when the interim constitution came into being their independence was nullified.”

He said it was quite clear that Mangope and his Cabinet wanted to cling to power at all costs, “and it was the population which paid the price.”

Referring to General Viljoen, van Rensburg said before bringing his men into Bophuthatswana, the general should have known, as former chief of the SADF, about inter-state agreements between the homeland and South Africa, whereby the South African government, not a private militia, could have been called in.

The Tebutt Commission is expected to report back to President Mandela on its findings.

FALLEN DICTATOR . . . Former president of Bophuthatswana, Lucas Mangope, faces an uncertain future.
Provident fund processing last batch of worker rebates

Josey Ballenger

The administrators of the former Bophuthatswana National Provident Fund, which sparked protests this week by health workers in the North West province over the nonpayment of pensions, said yesterday they were processing the last batch of rebate's to former temporary workers.

About 2 000 members of the National Civil Service Organisation (Nasco) have been picketing outside Odi Hospital in Mabopane since Monday in protest over the lack of payment to more than 200 workers in the district.

National organiser Sam Bokonyo said Bokonyo acknowledged that more than half of 500 entitled workers in the district had received payments so far.

Tom Molamu, GM of the provident fund's administrators, Sefalana Employees Benefit Organisation (Sebo), said only former public and private sector temporary workers who were now contributing to other retirement funds were entitled to payouts. Sebo had been gradually processing the rebates. Those workers who currently contributed to the fund would not receive payouts until retirement.

Molamu said, "We received the last (rebate) applications in December and are just about to pay the remaining ones — almost 300 — this month."

Thousands of workers have been paid. It is a lengthy process, and the health department has been very cooperative in getting people to fill out applications."

Bokonyo said the union waited government to pay "salary arrears" for nurses and administrative staff who had been promoted but had not received compensation, and also to promote other people eligible since 1994.

"There are people who have completed their courses but are still being paid salaries of student nurses and nursing assistants."

North West health department spokesman Nombulelo Legalaleng said officials would meet with the union and Sebo management today. The meeting would be chaired by health department chief director Squire Mahlangu in the absence of health MEC Paul Selolane.

Nasco represents about 1 500 administrative staffs, paramedics, nurses and other health workers in the district. There would be a noticeable dent in health services if their protest escalated into strike action.

"If the (health) department honours its obligations, there will be no reason for us to go on strike. If they don't meet our demands, we will have no option but to launch a full-blown strike," Bokonyo said.
The source and the reasons are
the same. The government has
been using the same methods of
fraud and corruption for decades.

1. Massive fraud in North West.

2. Fraudulent elections.

3. Rampant corruption.


5.�*


during the last election cycle. The
government has been using
the same techniques to cover up
their crimes.

The NCP's campaign was marked
by widespread fraud and
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North West Fraud: 20 suspended

BY MASHABE MOFOLO

20/01/98 (WCC)
Probes finds
R38m fraud

Kevin O'Grady

AN anti-corruption unit set up by North West premier Popo Molele last year had so far uncovered seven cases of fraud involving at least 22 government officials and more than R38m.

A provincial government spokesman said a forensic audit team, appointed by Molele to investigate departmental expenditure, had also delivered results but details would not be released until the findings had been submitted to Molele.

One of the irregularities uncovered by the anti-corruption unit was a school textbook scam involving 12 officials who allegedly spent R30m on textbooks "that were irrelevant to the school curriculum", the spokesman said.

In another case involving R1.5m, four officials had been suspended on allegations that they ordered books and stationery for their departments from government stores and resold the materials to private retailers.

The other five cases involved cheque fraud and attempted fraud in several departments. The cases involved amounts ranging from R100 000 to R3m and several suspects were either on trial or awaiting trial.

The spokesman said that the unit had also managed to prevent the cashing of R15m worth of fraudulent cheques last year and had recovered R2m in stolen funds.
North West leadership ‘split in two’

By DAN DHLAMINI

CONTRARY TO denials by the ANC leadership in North West, there are strong indications that Premier Popo Molefe’s government is split down the middle.

Despite public denials by both Molefe and his rumoured opponent, ANC provincial deputy chairman Johannes “OJ” Tselapedi, party insiders this week told City Press that there was infighting within the provincial hierarchy which has “split” the party into two major factions.

And it is widely claimed in the “Platinum Province” that matters could come to a head before the August provincial elections.

Molefe’s opponents, particularly within the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC), got an early morale boost this week when they forced the premier to resign his position from the influential ANC National Executive Committee (NEC), which is the party’s highest decision-making organ.

The PEC had challenged Molefe that in terms of the current ANC constitution, one cannot retain a senior PEC position — in his case he is the provincial chairman — and also be a member of the NEC. One must relinquish one of the two positions unless the PEC makes a special dispensation to allow one to hold both positions.

A special case is popular ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma, who is also the party’s KwaZulu-Natal chairman.

The fact that Molefe could not persuade the PEC to allow him to retain the two positions like Zuma is a clear indication that battle lines are being drawn in North West.

Molefe’s supporters have so far vowed that he would get the chairmanship for the second term, they said, and they would not let an ANC veteran be toppled by Tselapedi, whom they described as a “Johnny-come-lately” to the movement.

An ANC PEC Youth League member, who asked to remain anonymous because he claims they are trying to reconcile the two factions, said Molefe is a veteran of the struggle who distin-

—

gushed himself in the days of the Black Consciousness Movement (Azapo), then the United Democratic Front (UDF) and his current status within the ANC, both provincially and nationally.

“Moruti Tselapedi was initially an insignificant Azapo member, hardly known to the organisation leadership of the 1980’s. He only came into the limelight late in 1993 through radio and TV talk shows where he and other Bophuthatswana priests criticised the Mangope regime.”

Although Tselapedi’s supporters could not deny his alleged “Johnny-come-lately” tag, they emphasised that Molefe had been “imposed” upon the ANC rank and file in the province in 1994 by a then influential section of ANCYL in the province.

According to one of Tselapedi’s supporters, also a member of ANCYL who asked for anonymity, Molefe was “not in touch with the people at grassroots level and was not forcefully implementing changes which could change the lives of the ordinary man in the street.”
Official ‘paid bogus book supplier R1m’

By Monk Nkomo and Makhubu Mbolelo

A senior administration clerk is accused of defrauding the Rectors’ Court of R1m.

The court has been accused of paying R1m to a company called "Van Schalk Bookbinders" for books that were never delivered. The investigation was led by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU).

The investigation revealed that the senior administration clerk had submitted invoices for books that were never delivered. The court then paid R1m to the company based on these invoices.

The SIU found that the senior administration clerk had been paid R1m for books that were never delivered. The investigation also revealed that the senior administration clerk had been paid R1m for books that were never delivered.

The SIU recommended that the senior administration clerk be charged with fraud.

The senior administration clerk has been charged with fraud and is due to appear in court soon.

Business plan was changed, audit finds

By Monk Nkomo and Makhubu Mbolelo

A business plan for a new university was changed to avoid auditors finding out.

The new business plan was approved by the university’s board of directors, but the auditors were not notified. The auditors found out about the change when they reviewed the business plan.

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The auditors recommended that the university’s board of directors be informed about the change.

The university’s board of directors has agreed to inform the auditors about the change.

How to reach Gwambe

By Monk Nkomo and Makhubu Mbolelo

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How to reach Gwambe

By Monk Nkomo and Makhubu Mbolelo

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Book Supplier says it can prove it is clean.

Each product is purchased directly from the manufacturer and inspected by the supplier's quality control team before being shipped. The supplier ensures that all products meet the highest standards of quality and performance. Additionally, each product undergoes rigorous testing to ensure its reliability and durability. The supplier's commitment to excellence is backed by a comprehensive warranty program, which guarantees the customer's satisfaction. Whether it's for personal or professional use, the supplier's products are designed to exceed expectations and provide years of service. Contact the supplier today to learn more about their extensive range of products and how they can meet your specific needs.
Cases of graft, theft

R3.26m lost in 70

By Kithaya Membali

Koton 5/3/98
'R326m lost to fraud in Northern Province'

Kevin O'Grady

The cash-strapped Northern Province government has lost more than R326m to fraud and theft, according to the latest report from the SA Police Service's commercial crime unit.

Provincial safety and security MEC Seth Nthai said yesterday customs and excise, the education and welfare departments and the receiver of revenue were identified in the report as being among those hit by fraud, theft and corruption on a large scale.

He said 47 people had been charged in connection with the cases which were among 65 investigated by the police in the province since 1995. Irregularities ranged from petrol card fraud to theft of government cheque books and theft of medicines from hospitals and clinics, Nthai said.

The most severely hit department was customs and excise, which lost R172m in two cases of fraud.

Nthai's spokesman Charley Nkademeng said government was involved in an application to liquidate Soko Enterprises in an attempt to recover R36m allegedly defrauded from the provincial education department. Another case involved recovery of revenue officials who allegedly colluded with businesses to evade income tax totalling R61m. The water affairs department lost R6.3m, while the health and welfare department lost R3.5m. A fraud case involving R45m was also under investigation.
Lack of proper controls cost North West govt millions

By Monk Nkomo and Matshube Mfoloe

UNAUTHORISED expenditure, wastage and loss through fraud and uncontrolled spending has cost the North West government millions.

This is the conclusion of a report by the forensic auditors probing allegations of fraud and corruption in the department of education.

“We conclude in general that controls, procedures and practices in both the procurement and payment cycle at both the department and the tender board are not adequate,” the report said.

About the 1995 textbook tender the auditors said there was sufficient evidence to suggest that book suppliers Education and Stationery misrepresented the value of its tender.

Professor AM Labuschagne, former financial adviser in the office of the education MEC, had also misrepresented the value of the tender submitted to the board.

It also appeared that eight other book suppliers may have misrepresented their VAT status, prejudicing both the department and Receiver of Revenue.

In tenders awarded to Artistic Value Publishers and Bopharuma, the auditors could not find that the tender board had acted in a corrupt manner.

No evidence

They could also not find any evidence that Education and Stationary had claimed additional VAT.

The auditors recommended that in instances where they found cause for recovery, the matter should be referred to the attorney general for the institution of recovery proceedings.

“Suppliers found to have received payment, and in respect of which we found no proof of delivery in the department’s records, should be asked to provide the department with the required proof of delivery. If no such proof can be provided, the state attorney should institute action against such suppliers,” the report said.

According to the report several members of the tender board had interests in that companies allocated tenders to supply books and stationery.

Bopharuma is one of the companies whose directors included chairman of the tender board Mr GM Mokgoko and Mr AM Dlavan. They were both allegedly present when the company was awarded a tender last year.

“In accordance with our understanding of all tenders being decided on a consensus basis, we can come to no other conclusion but that Mokgoko and Dlavan were present and concerning to Bopharuma being awarded the tender,” the auditors said.

In an interview with Mokgoko, the report added, he told the auditors that he had declared his interest in the company and had recused himself from the deliberations.

“We have as yet not seen any documentary evidence to this effect,” said the auditors.
Corruption report to be tabled today

By Matshube Mfolo

NORTH West Premier Popo Molefe will table the Goboedo Incorporated Forensic Accounting report at a special sitting of the provincial legislature in Mafikeng today.

The 119-page report details alleged acts of corruption, financial irregularities amounting to more than R74 million and irregular tender procedures implicating high-ranking officials in the department of education and on the tender board in the procurement of school textbooks and stationery from 1995 to 1997.

The report also lists book suppliers who swindled the department of huge amounts in many ways, including the use of fictitious invoices.

Some had benefited financially without even having been awarded tenders.

Molefe is expected to table the Goboedo report and indicate what action his government will take against those implicated as recommended in the report.

North West communication spokesperson Ms Zephora Mothoae clarified the confusion yesterday about the suspension of the 10 officials, some of whom were still on duty.

She said two of the officials had since resigned. Their cases had been referred to the state attorney for further investigation and action.

Criminal charges have been laid against two other officials. The other six had been charged with misconduct regarding a number of issues in terms of the "Public Service Regulation.”

Mothoae said the director-general and heads of department and the investigating officer had to consider several factors before suspending an official. These are:

- Is the suspect in a position to tamper with evidence during the investigation?
- Is the suspect in a position to intimidate potential witnesses?
- Is the suspect in a position to perpetrate similar offences?

Six die as taxi leaves the road
Northwest consultant is getting a whopping R38 000 monthly salary

By JIMMY SEEPE

A FORMER public relations officer of the now defunct New Age Beverages, which bottled Pepsi Cola in the country, has been hired as a consultant to transform a North West government parastatal for a salary of R38 000 a month, according to documents held by City Press.

The former Pepsi employee, Pule Pule, who acted as NAB corporate communication manager until the company was shut down last year, has been employed by Northwest Transport Investment (NTI) since last July in a controversial posting that has generated criticism.

The salary perk, which translates to R456 000 per year, means that the former PRO of NAB will walk out with a year's earnings.

Deputy ministers in the national government earn a salary of R385 392, almost R80 000 less than Pule's earnings.

Documents in City Press's possession not only show that Pule receives a monthly salary of R38 000 but he has also been guaranteed the luxury of using a petrol card with a maximum limit of 5 000 km per month, and also unlimited use of his cellular phone.

Pule's appointment was signed by board chairperson Selwyn Silent on July 23, 1997. Payment for Pule's appointment, although signed on the 23rd, was confirmed as starting from July 1 until June 1998.

Silent, when approached by City Press, said the appointment of Pule followed proper "corporate governance procedures."

He said Pule's appointment was approved by the entire board after careful consideration of his past experience with several companies.

"Pule's involvement in the field of transformation dates back to 1986 according to his curriculum vitae (CV). He showed the necessary expertise needed by the NTI,"

But NTI members continue to question Pule's professional background and knowledge of transformation of the transport parastatal.

Other questions which are being raised is whether proper tendering procedures were followed to appoint Pule and his company two months after the dissolution of NAB.

Insiders within the NTI told City Press that they are still waiting to see the changes that Pule has effected since his appointment last year.

They said that they have still not seen any document that has been drawn up, or for that matter even proposed, for the structural changes and transformation of the parastatal.

Questions are also being asked as to whether Pule's appointment had anything to do with one of his directors and former NAB head, Khehla Mihembu.

Mihembu is also chairperson of the North West Development Corporation, to which NTI is accountable.

Silent rejected any notion that there could have been an influence from any of the board members, saying Pule's appointment was made after he had made a presentation to the company.

North West MEC for Finance and Economic Affairs, Michael Kuscu, told City Press through his spokesperson that the NTI and the NWDC are usually entrusted with making appointment decisions on their own and do not have to report to him.

"The only time the MEC gets involved is if there are irregularities in the development corporation and so far he has not had any reason to get involved," he said.

Pule declined to comment on his appointment and referred all questions to the board.
Sacked officials challenge layoff

Leaking of Gobodo Report stirs up a hornet's nest in North West Province

(315/98)

Tob AREA RESIST "C" (Name of person)

P.O. Box ABC 123

Gobodo Local Government Area

West Province

(000) 123456789

(Email Address)

Date: 31st December 1998

Subject: Sacked officials challenge layoff

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent layoff of officials in the Gobodo Local Government Area. The decision to sack these officials has caused a stir in the community, and we are calling for an explanation of the reasons behind this action.

The Gobodo Local Government Area has always been a hub of economic activity, and the loss of these officials will undoubtedly impact the local economy. The officials are integral to the functioning of the local government, and their absence will leave a void in the provision of essential services to the community.

We are aware of the financial challenges faced by the local government, but these issues should not be used as an excuse to lay off long-serving officials who have dedicated their careers to serving the community. The decision to sack these officials has been met with widespread outrage from the community, and we believe that a thorough investigation is necessary to ensure that the decision was made fairly and transparently.

We are calling on the local government to provide a detailed explanation of the reasons behind the layoff and to ensure that the rights of these officials are protected. We respectfully request that the decision to lay off these officials is reversed, and that the local government works towards finding solutions that will ensure the continued provision of essential services to the community.

Yours sincerely,

(Name)

(Signature)

Gobodo Local Government Area

West Province
Media briefing on corruption fails

Eight officials to face charges of negligence and mismanagement

By Matshube Mfolo

A media conference which was to have been addressed by North West Premier Popo Molefe in Mafikeng yesterday was called off at the last minute.

The briefing was to deal with the findings of the Gobodo Commission’s investigations into corruption in the departments of sports, arts and culture, education, public works, and health.

The investigation recently found that the department of education alone had been swindled of more than R74 million between 1995 and 1997.

The first explanation for the cancellation of yesterday’s briefing came from North West communication services spokeswoman Ms Ziphora Motha, who said the final report regarding the other departments—public works, health, agriculture, and sports, arts and culture—was not ready.

Later in the day, Molefe’s spokesman, Mr David van Wyk, said the premier had a tight schedule for the day and was looking at a new date for the briefing.

A carefully worded prepared statement from the premier’s office made available to Sowetan yesterday described only some of the actions taken by the North West government regarding corruption in the involved departments and general preventative measures being taken.

Some of the actions are in line with the recommendations of the Gobodo report published by Sowetan three weeks ago.

The statement says the measures taken so far in the department of education are:

- The state attorney has been instructed to recover all monies that are due to the state on account of non-delivery of books.
- Cases where there is an indication of possible criminal conduct have been referred to the South African Police Service and criminal investigations have started;
- Certain book suppliers suspected of unethical conduct regarding government tenders and contracts have been blacklisted, and;
- Disciplinary action in terms of the Public Service Act has been instituted against officials in the department of education in keeping with the recommendation of the Gobodo report.

The statement also revealed that eight officials from some departments had been charged on allegations relating to negligence and mismanagement.

The cases of a further two officials who had left the public service will be referred to the state attorney for possible civil claims.
North West puts 79% of purse into social spending

Kevin O'Grady

NORTH West finance MEC Martin Kuscus unveiled a balanced R7,577bn budget in the provincial legislature yesterday, raising social spending to 79%, or R5,988bn, of the total.
The total budget is 6.6% higher than 1997/98's budgeted R7,105bn.
However, Kuscus said in his budget speech that the province's wage bill remained "unacceptably high" at 58% of total spending.
With the province's unemployment rate unchanged at 36% and the dominant mining sector detrimentally affected by a declining gold price and rising production costs, Kuscus said another priority of the 1998/99 budget was job creation.
To this end, several initiatives would be started this year and R2,917bn — or 3.7% of the total budget — had been set aside for economic development.
This was "key in ensuring that our people are provided with jobs and expand the tax base." Infrastructure development, at R27,68m, or 9%, and allocations for "optimal governance" (R33,59m, or 4.0%) also took a large portion of the budget.
Kuscus said the latter, most of which would go to the finance and economic affairs department, was necessary to eliminate "bureaucratic delays and inefficiencies." Kuscus said education, health and welfare would continue to be the province's main spenders this year, with the departments' combined allocations up R960m, or 19%, compared to the R5,026bn social spending allocation in the 1997/98 budget.
Of these, education took the lion's share, with 41%, or R3,066bn, of the total budget. This was down slightly on 1997/98's actual spending of R3,152bn.
In terms of medium-term expenditure framework planning, this amount was set to rise to R3,145bn in 1999/2000 and R3,307bn the following financial year.
Social welfare, with budgeted spending R229bn higher than 1997/98's actual spending, took the next biggest chunk of R1,316bn, increasing to R1,405bn by 2000/01.
Health spending totalled R1,286bn, increasing to R1,385bn in the third medium-term expenditure framework year.
Kuscus and social spending also included R188,176m in commuter subsidies and a R4m community support programme.
On the revenue side, Kuscus said 96%, or R7,216bn, of the province's total funding requirement came from national government, while own revenue sources made up the remaining R341,4m.
Kuscus said social spending also included R158m in "other taxation", R5bn from levies, R14,1m from loan recovery, R33,5m from interest and dividends and R118,82m in departmental revenue.
Provincial revenue had declined since 1997/98.
Revenue Consulting Southern Africa had been employed to investigate the causes of "this serious problem.
Kuscus said there were new plans for the financial year ahead to manage the budget efficiently. These included a cash flow management system that would do away with manual orders and replace them with computer-generated orders. This would mean that "departments will not be able to exceed their allocations as the system will automatically reject (these) orders at the ordering stage.
Commercialisation of non-core functions was also planned. Among these were outsourcing of the province's motor fleet management, privatization of provincial airports, outsourcing of catering and drug distribution in the health sector and contracting out of credit control.
Search for stolen money

By Matshube Mfologe

The special investigating unit headed by Judge WH Heath has moved into North West to help recover millions of rand lost through alleged corrupt practices revealed in the Gobodo and other similar investigative reports.

The Heath Commission was appointed by President Nelson Mandela with full powers to enter and seize property or government funds from individuals who had acquired such property through illegal or corrupt means.

The North-West government's legal affairs director, Mr Justice Heath and members of the special investigating unit and discussed ways with the North-West executive council to ensure the unit can assist in recovering the missing millions and properties.

North-West is still reeling from the scandal in which the department of education was scammed out of R74 million between 1995 and 1997. The money was meant, among other things, for textbooks and the RDP Culture of Learning.

Other departments that have allegedly been hit by fraud and financial mismanagement — though figures have not been released — include the department of sport, arts and culture, which has since suspended 10 top officials; the department of health; the department of public works and the department of transport.

Spokesman in the office of North-West Premier Mr David van Wyk confirmed yesterday that “the recovery process started immediately” after the meeting with Judge Heath.

He said that the Heath Special Investigating Unit had obtained files and docket from the police at the weekend. The unit was in the process of obtaining permission to enter certain premises or properties to start its work.
Missing millions: judge gets report

By Matshuba Mfolo

The Health Special Investigating Unit (HSIU), set up by the North West government to help recover state assets and funds lost because of fraud, corruption and misadministration, has been supplied with a copy of the Gobodo Incorporated Forensic Accounting report.

The damning report confirmed the more than R74-million scandal in the education department alone during the 1995-97 academic year.

The report also highlights incomplete, inaccurate and duplicative forms, which vary depending on the individual involved; and implicates high-profile people and book suppliers with regard to the scandal during the procurement of school textbooks and the RDP 'Culture of Learning in North West'.

The manager of the Health Special Investigating Unit (HSIU), Steve Barkhuizen, confirmed the latest development yesterday, saying that a number of departments and institutions have also referred matters to the SIU for further investigation.

"Though we did not identify the individual departments that had been investigated, but the findings of which are still being withheld, are the departments of sports, arts and culture, transport, public works, finance and agriculture," Barkhuizen said.

Barkhuizen said his unit, which would be in Marikana next week, had established a network with the Gobodo investigators, provincial government and CORDS 'Afrikan' Police Service in order to facilitate investigations.

"Various meetings have been held to identify problem areas and to initiate investigations with a view to recovering state property.

"The initial investigations involved the collection and coordination of sufficient evidence in order to obtain the necessary authorization by proclamation from the President's office," he said.

The HSIU, headed by Judge Willem Hough, moved into North West about two weeks ago at Premier Popo Molefe's invitation, to help recover millions of rands lost through alleged corrupt practices as identified in the Gobodo Report and other similar investigative reports."
North West urged to stop influx to towns

"North West’s high unemployment rate, coupled with its variable agricultural potential and the limited services available in most rural areas, causes people to flock towards the province’s urban centres and mining areas where the potential for employment is higher," Craig Schwabe of the HSRC said yesterday.

"It is therefore essential to balance the provision of services and infrastructure in the rural or tribal authority areas and in urban areas more evenly." — Sapa
FORMER Bophuthatswana leader Chief Lucas Mangope was found guilty on 89 charges relating to theft by a Mmabatho High Court judge yesterday.

Mangope (74), of Motswedi in North West, was found guilty on 88 charges of the theft of royalties amounting to R2 million due to his tribe, Baluntshe-boo-Manyane.

The royalties to the tribe were from the Marico Chrome Mining Company for carrying out mining operations on the tribe's land.

He was also found guilty on a single charge relating to the building of a students' quarters by fraudulently using funds from the former homeland's security council.

Initially, Mangope faced 208 charges of fraud, theft and of contravening foreign control regulations totalling R16 million. The verdict on the remaining charges is expected to be passed today.

Twenty-four charges out of the original counts against Mangope were withdrawn on March 16.

Mangope had pleaded not guilty on all the charges and was on bail of R50 000.

Before passing judgment, Judge J Mullins said there had been a "conspiracy of silence" which had existed for a long time over the royalties that were due to the tribe.

"Mangope was in collusion with certain members of the tribal authority not to inform the tribe about monies due to them from the mining company," Judge Mullins said.

He said Mangope had only informed the tribe about the funds in February 1993 before the collapse of his political reign.

"The accused had deliberately deposited his personal finances into the tribe's account in an effort to make it difficult to keep track of the royalty cheques deposited into the tribal banking account.

"For 14 years Mangope had a monthly expenditure estimated at R30 000 and had never on a single occasion before February 1993 informed the tribe about the existence of the royalty funds."

"Despite having been informed that the tribe needed some money for social services, he never intervened financially to help them," the judge said.

Judge Mullins dismissed Mangope's defence that as a chief of the tribe he (Mangope) was entitled to use the tribe's money for both his personal benefit and for that of the tribe.

"The assertion that customary law gives you the right to use the tribe's funds as you please is not only ludicrous by Western standards."

"In customary law it became clear that such customs were done voluntarily by members of the tribe when they gave sections of their profits or yields to the chiefs," Judge Mullins said.

The judge dismissed the claims by Mangope that he had the sole right to the mining royalties because his father was the owner of the Strydfontein farm, where the mine is situated, by saying records had proved that the farm was owned by Mangope's father and several other men in 1912 but was later sold to the department of native affairs in 1917.

Before he entered the court building yesterday morning, Mangope pleaded with his followers to stop taunting the prosecutor, Mr Frans Kgomo.

However, despite his pleas, scores of his supporters prevented a Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation TV crew from filing a story outside the court building after the trial.

The judge will continue with his judgment today.

A Lucas Mangope supporter displays a placard against the prosecutor, Frans Kgomo, outside the Mmabatho High Court yesterday. The former Bophuthatswana president was found guilty on 89 charges.

PIC: ANTONIO MUCHAVE
By Mzuli Mkhwanazi

Former Bophuthatswana leader Chief Lucas Mangope was found guilty on 89 charges relating to theft by a Mmabatho High Court judge yesterday.

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Before he entered the court building yesterday morning, Mangope pleaded with his followers to stop taunting the prosecutor, Mr Frans Kgomo.

However, despite his pleas, scores of his supporters prevented a Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation TV crew from filming a story outside the court building after the trial.

The judge will announce his judgment today.
Job equity bill hits early obstacle

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

The Government's showcase affirmative action measure, the Employment Equity Bill, was struck an early obstacle in Parliament, with organised business claiming that a new draft did not reflect concessions it had won during negotiations.

Parliament is set to pass the bill before the end of the year. It will compel firms with an annual turnover exceeding R10-million to set aside a quota of jobs for members of previously disadvantaged communities.

Yesterday, at the first of two days of hearings in Parliament, business said an earlier agreement reached at the National Economic Development and Labour Council stipulated that only "suitably qualified" employees should be considered for a job. The new draft provided that a person have "the capacity to acquire the ability to do the job".

Vie van Vuuren of Nedlac said on behalf of Business South Africa (BSA): "It's practically impossible to determine whether a person will at some time in the future acquire the ability to do the job. This will result in an obligation to persons who are not in fact suitably qualified."

"Employers would not only be unable to appoint the best person for the job but might have to appoint persons whose ability to perform a particular job is at best suspect."

The new definition would lead to "compulsory tokenism", he said.

The National Federation of Chamber of Commerce, representing black employers, welcomed the bill and dismissed BSA's objections.

Mangope found guilty of royalties theft

Former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Manyane Mangope (74) was yesterday found guilty by the Mabutho High Court on 16 counts of theft amounting to R265-million.

Judge Tom Mullins said Mangope had during the period 1979 to 1994 misused the position of trust bestowed upon him by the Bakurutshe-Bo-Mangane tribe and used money belonging to them for personal ends including farming and overseas trips.

The court found that Mangope was aware that royalties received from Marico Chrome Mines did not belong to him but he continued to bank it in his personal accounts.

Mangope never informed the tribe of his dealings with the mines.

It took him 14 years to disclose that he was receiving royalties on behalf of the tribe, probably because he knew his reign was ending, Judge Mullins said.

He added that during that period, Mangope's impoverished tribe suffered much.

Guilty - Lucas Mangope

Ow)
Mangope guilty on 90 counts of theft

TARYN LAMBERTI

MAFIKENG — Former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope was convicted yesterday on 90 counts of theft totaling R2.6m, most of which was stolen from the tribe of which he was chief.

He was found not guilty on five charges of theft. Judge Tom Mullins will deliver judgment on the remaining 89 fraud and theft counts today.

The charges amount to about R18m in total.

Mangope showed little emotion during the proceedings, but after the court adjourned, he addressed about 1,000 United Christian Democratic Party supporters who had travelled to Mafikeng to support their leader. He advised them not to attend court proceedings today but to stay at home and to want him when he was in jail.

Mangope has been on bail of R50,000 since the trial started in August last year. His bail was extended yesterday.

Mullins found that Mangope had stolen R2.6m from the Bahurutse Ba Manyane tribe of which he became chief in 1959. After his appointment as chief minister of Bophuthatswana in 1969 and later as president, Mangope’s brother, Amel, was appointed acting chief. Mullins said Mangope had abused his tribe’s trust and had used the money to fund his own “domestic and family expenditure, holidays and overseas trips.”

Between 1979 and 1994 the tribe received R2.6m in royalties from Marico Chrome Corporation for mining on tribal land. All the cheques were deposited into an account for which Mangope had sole signing power.

Mullins said the tribe had gained “no benefit whatsoever” from the royalties except for cattle worth R104,000 which Mangope bought in 1993.

While Mangope’s monthly expenses averaged R30,000, the tribe’s funds dried up and members were forced to pay an annual levy of R125 for 10 years.

Mullins said he found it incredible that Mangope allowed his tribe to be “continuously short of funds” to the extent that it could not afford to buy a creche, buy blankets and soup for the needy, an official vehicle, social services and educational bursaries.

The court rejected Mangope’s claims that the “complex” relationship between a chief and his tribe meant that the tribe’s funds were his funds to do with as he liked. Mullins said Mangope had had “dishonest and dishonourable intentions” all the time.

Mullins said there had been a “deliberate cover-up” by tribal councillors who sought to protect Mangope and there was evidence that anyone who asked for details about tribal finances was threatened. There was no evidence confirming there was a “conspiracy” between them and Mangope.
Tribe suffered as Lucas fiddled

PRETORIA - Former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Manyane Mangope, 74, was yesterday found guilty by the Mmabatho High Court on 88 counts of theft amounting to R2,62 million.

Judge Tom Mulins said that between 1979 and 1994, Mangope misused the position of trust bestowed upon him by the Bahu-rutshe-Bo-Manyane tribe and took money belonging to them for his own use and spent it on, among other things, farming and overseas trips.

During the period that he received royalties from Marico Chrome Mines, he was aware that the money did not belong to him but continued to bank it in his personal accounts, using the name Motswedi Tribal Authority - knowing that it was an outdated name.

Mangope was, during that time, the only person with signing powers and never informed the tribe of his dealings with the mines.

It was only after 14 years that the disclosed that he had been receiving royalties on behalf of the tribe.

Judge Mulins said, "It was only on February 27, 1993 that the accused decided to disclose that he had invested money on behalf of the tribe. We do not know what made him to do this, but it could be because he was aware that his reign was ending."

He added, "During that period, his tribe suffered a lot because a pre-school could not be built as there were no funds. The aged could not be provided with blankets and soup during winter and all the money put aside for bursaries had to be cancelled while the accused was banking royalties for himself."

Judge Mullins said his actions were motivated by greed and he did not care for his subjects, who were made to pay R15 a year for a period of 10 years to help the tribal trust with an income.

The court found out that whenever the investments matured, Mangope re-invested them with interest or used the interest for his personal benefit.

Judge Mullins said the Mangope's claim that he had the right to use the money could not be proved by Setswana custom and that he used his position as President to have the money invested in his personal account.

He said the suggestion that he had the right to invest the royalties could not be accepted by the court because since 1959 after the death of Mangope's father, royalties were invested in the tribal account.

The claim came only after the accused became president and was only willing to return power to the tribal authority after realising that his position as president was in danger.

He added that the claim by Mangope that he was the owner of Strydon had been true because his father had sold the farm in 1917 to the government, which gave it to the Bahu-rutshe-Bo-Manyane — and was therefore the property of the tribe.

The court concluded that Mangope received R2,62m between 1979 and 1994 and was therefore guilty of theft to that amount.

When the judge postponed the final judgment to today, Mangope's supporters complained that he was taking too long to arrive at the conclusion.

A relaxed Mangope appealed to them to be patient, and further suggested that they stay at home today and only come and see him later in jail.

He said it was not for them to answer, as God would do that for them.

The court, which has the sign of the cross on both ends, was turned into a church hall as the Rev Samuel Seodi led an emotional prayer service.
Mangopole Guilty on 105 Charges of Theft, Fraud, Touting
Some material prosecution neg given him major status

LUCAS MANDEPE

TRIAL TORGODES

NEWS
Mangope's four-year legal web ends

Judge calls ex-Bop head an autocrat, liar

The trial of the former South African President Jacob Zuma, who has been charged with corruption and fraud, continues. Zuma is accused of using his influence to influence the outcome of the 2016 local elections and to secure a 2019 presidential election victory. Zuma's supporters argue that the case is politically motivated.

CITY PRESS

... oh, no, it is.
STILL LOYAL... Former President Lucas Mangope's supporters wave placards of him and an old Bophuthatswana flag outside the Modimolle court where he was convicted this week of theft and fraud.

PIC: TLADI KHUELE

...oh, no, it is only just the beginning

By DAN BLAMINI

GAETSO - the multi-million rand home of former Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope in Motswedi near Zeerust sticks out like a sore thumb among rural houses of his subjects.

Although the mansion which was renovated for R4.5 million and is affectionately called GAETSO (our home) by destitute members of the Bakwena tribe, it is used exclusively by Mangope and his family.

The streets are not tarred, lighting is poor and many residents are still without plumbing and reliant on communal water taps.

Just a few houses to have escaped the ruins of the land in the form of mining royalties.

Despite having been convicted of having stolen their money, some Bakwena who are members of the United Christian Democratic Party in Motswedi are still loyal to the former homeland leader.

After the case, Bakwena who are loyal to Mangope said they did not accept the outcome of the court.

But another group of Bakwena who are ANC members strongly condemned Mangope for having deprived them of their money for more than 14 years.

A spokesman for the ANC group Richard Mokopane said they intended instituting a civil claim against Mangope in a bid to retrieve the stolen money.

Mokopane said since Mangope had been suspended by North West Province Premier Popo Molele following the recommendations of the Swiepiva Commission, they no longer recognised him as their chief.

He said the Bakwena who are supposed to be one of the richest tribes besides the Bafokeng, who also receive platinum mining royalties, are living in absolute poverty.

Simon Molokoane, who said he was also a member of the Bakwena, who had been convicted of stealing from the poor, said he had built beautiful schools, hospitals, clinics, a prison and a court in which he was convicted.

Molokoane said that had Mangope not been convicted of the theft and fraud he would not have been found guilty.

Mangope's is to appear again in court on September 14 to face 18 counts of theft involving R54 million.

Recently members of the South African Revenue Services raided his businesses in the North West for alleged tax evasion.

KEEP AWAY... Lucas Mangope's lawyer try to stop the media from taking pictures of him during his trial this week, when he was convicted of theft and fraud totaling R4.84 million.

PIC: TLADI KHUELE
Mangope's swansong

The process that ended the UCDP leader's political career reflects good provincial government but vigilance is still needed, John Seiler argues.

Former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope at the Mnmbatho High Court last week.

The Heath Commission has taken on a number of ad hoc assignments for the national Government – the most recent investigation of a number of Eastern Cape local councils – and the appointment of a national attorney general may provide some overall impetus for an investigation of past and current corruption at all levels of government throughout the country.

There were another dimension to Mangope's lament – that it grew out of partisan politics, an effort by Molefe and the provincial African National Congress (ANC) to destroy Mangope's political effectiveness and to secure its own provincial hegemony.

A talk was inevitable, as Molefe was the provincial record in dealing with alleged corruption involving both MECs and officials in the provincial government.

Does the Mangope judgment matter to politics in North West? Aside from a few die-hard Mangope supporters around the UCDP, its political influence is at an end.

This was evident by 1995 – before the release of the Skewweya Commission report – after local government elections in which the UCDP did badly in overall provincial voting.

It lost the two Mangope home wards of Leiholohwe, whose "tribal" councillor he had been since the mid-1970s, where his Motswedi mansion and private airstrip were located, and where he distributed considerable patronage – government buildings and a shopping mall – over the years.

That M USS found Mangope guilty of theft of mining royalties totalling R2.6 million from the Baharuthe tribal council could only have been the last straw for his residual political support among people who knew best his authoritarian and corrupt behaviour.

This should not suggest the absence of conservative political sentiment in the province, which could be utilised in some future election to challenge the ANC's political dominance.

It is a painful irony, which Molefe and his colleagues appreciate, that the strongest resistance to making government more effective and economic comes from its own civil servants, codified by Mangope and discouraged from taking initiatives at work.

The sharp increase in the number of civil servants, from 66,000 in 1994 to 72,477 on March 31 this year, is discouraging.

The political consequences of rapid civil service reform would be politically disastrous for the ANC in North West – and in other provinces.

Two other significant "conservative" groups are traditional leaders as well as white farmers and businessmen. Most of the older generation of chiefs and headmen were ready partners in Mangope's activities.

Some of them have been bought off by the new regime, as members of the special chambers dealing with traditional affairs. Younger leaders were often ANC supporters and were treated roughly by Mangope.

Matter of necessity

For whites with economic interests, doing business with the new Government is a matter of necessity. Amnesties of their previous intimacy with Mangope are convenient for both partners.

Regardless of the sentence Mullins passes on Mangope and whether or not the former homeland leader is required to refund any of the misappropriated money to the provincial government, the Mangope era has ended.

Ensuring that the personal and political corruption of this period does not recur demands sustained and detailed attention from the media, monitoring agencies, competitive political parties and citizens.

It cannot depend on the present good intentions of the party in provincial power.

(De Seiler is an independent political analyst. Chapters from his book, Transforming Bophuthatswana, can be read on the Web at www.my.co.za/mgnews/97mar22/front-page.html)
For Lucas Mangelo

Day of Reckoning
Womem of Truth for Mungpe

access of missing positions of vast and entire human to the core of millions. "Ageless Bands Reports" once he said and continued with an iron fist, happy to cooperate with authorities, now he stands...
Mangope is sentenced in the high court he helped to build

The trial of former homeland leader Lucas Mangope was rich in irony, reports provincial correspondent Kevin O'Grady, who was there.

SUPPORTERS packing the public gallery of court A in the up-and-coming Mmabatho High Court building fall silent and rise from their seats as former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope enters the room.

In what has become an almost daily ritual since Mangope's trial on 208 counts of theft and fraud charges began a year ago, they bow their heads as a member of Mangope's Bophurutse Boo Manyane tribe leads them in prayer.

The routine has become so entrenched that even the interpreter, the stenographer, the court orderlies and some journalists — those one would expect to be models of impartiality — stop what they are doing and lower their heads in obeisance.

Curious behaviour, indeed, but then this was never a court case that could be described as commonplace.

When it ended on Friday, the man described by prosecutor Frans Kgomo during the trial as "the one person who almost made apartheid work" was sentenced to a R500 000 fine and a suspended two-year jail term and ordered to repay R2,086m to his tribe and the state.

A month earlier, Judge Tom Mullins convicted Mangope on 88 counts of theft for stealing R2,086m in mining royalties from his tribe, on three counts of fraud for illegally transferring R1,83m to an offshore banking account and on another 13 charges of theft for stealing R907 000 in state funds.

Mangope's United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP) has always maintained his was a politically inspired prosecution, something Mangope's defence lawyer, Wilhe Vermeulen SC, also implied during argument in sentencing last week.

There may have been no findings to that effect, but Mangope's status as the former state president of "independent" Bophuthatswana — and the only former homeland leader to be tried, convicted and sentenced for such crimes — certainly added some spice to what Vermeulen described as a "watershed" case.

The trial was marked by a number of other singular features, one of which was that, at least on the 88 counts of stealing from the Bophurutse Boo Manyane, the only complainer was, as Vermeulen put it, an "uncomplaining" one.

During evidence in mitigation of sentence last week, streams of tribe members took to the witness stand and told Mullins that, as far as they were concerned, Mangope had done nothing wrong and should not even be on trial, let alone punished. Customary law expert and advocate Diphy Koyana testified that Mangope's prosecution flew in the face of tribal beliefs that "the chief can do no wrong" and that the tribe's belongings are there for the chief to do with as he pleases.

Then there was the glowing testimony, to frequent murmurs of approval from the public gallery, of a former SA ambassador to Bophuthatswana, Willem Kotze.

Kotze choked back tears as he described Mangope as an "honest" and "decent" man who was so highly regarded by Pretoria during his rule that the SA government would undoubtedly have waved foreign exchange control regulations for Mangope if only he had asked.

Mangope's administration stood above the shoulders of above others and his development programmes were "light years ahead" of the AfNational Congress government's reconstruction and development programme, Kotze told the court.

And finally, Mangope's prosecution and conviction was so rich in irony that even Vermeulen was moved to wax lyrical about the incongruity of it all in his argument in mitigation of sentence.

His trial took place in a town that did not even exist before Mangope's ascension to political power as president of Bophuthatswana in 1977. Mmabatho may no longer exist in name — the North West government wasted little time merging it with neighbouring Mahele — but few doubt that it will lose its association with the man who created it.

Mangope was said to have personally overseen the construction of the Mmabatho High Court while he was in power, and it was "richly ironic that the accused...stands arraigned and convicted before your lordship in this very court building", Vermeulen told the judge.

Kgomo also contributed to the sadistic situation. He was, Vermeulen explained, one of the first black magistrates to be appointed under Mangope's rule and was now personally responsible for his successful prosecution and conviction.

Perhaps this is what made Kgomo probably the most reviled man in the courtroom — Mangope's supporters took a long time ago to displaying grotesque wooden carvings of cattle ("kgomo" in SeTswana for "cow") outside the complex while the court was in session.

The UCDP described Mangope's sentencing on Friday as a vindication, but this can hardly be the case considering Mullins's roundly condemning judgment, which referred, among other things, to Mangope's "callousness and greed".

If there is vindication for anyone in all of this, it can rightly be claimed (and no doubt will be before very long) by North West premier Popo Moleo, who in 1995 appointed a commission of inquiry into corruption in the former Bophuthatswana, as well as the chairman of that commission, advocate Lewis Skweyrry SC, who spent a year digging for the dirt that would bring Mangope to account for his crimes.
Moments of truth for managers:

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"..."
PS - LOCAL AUTHORITIES - NORTHWEST
1999
Pace changes North West deadline

Stephané Bothma

MAFIKENG — Security forces were called in to the North West last night to provide remote rural polling stations without electricity with additional gas lamps and other equipment as predictions were made that voting would continue there into the early hours of this morning.

Fires will also be made at stations to keep queuing voters warm, North West Premier Popo Molele said. Molele said the only major problem experienced with yesterday's election was the slow voting pace.

Northwest provincial electoral officer Khotso Khasu said long queues which will keep polling stations open way after the 9 o'clock deadline were widespread in the province, ranging from villages in Pampersstad to major centres such as Potchefstroom where queues at one stage in the afternoon stretched for about 1.5km.

Police reported 12 arrests — three at Christiana for voter intimidation, eight at Klerksdorp for fraudulent identity documents and one at Vryburg for assault on a politician.

Early yesterday morning, the most serious security situation occurred when the Winterveld presiding officer was taken hostage when he attempted to change locations in line with the mobile voting schedule. He was released later.

Khasu said an estimated 63% of registered voters had cast their ballots yesterday afternoon. He said staff at voting stations would attempt to speed up the pace by segmenting voters' rolls and having the people queue alphabetically. Molele said the ANC had entered into negotiations with the management of certain mines near Rustenburg where thousands of miners about to go underground for night shift still had not voted.

He said the only serious consequence of keeping the stations open late will be that results will be available later than expected.
North West development body probed

Report could lead to prosecution of directors

Patrick Wadula

THE North West Development Corporation's judicial managers, together with forensic auditing firm KPMG, are compiling a report that could lead to the prosecution of some directors linked to the corporation and its listed and unlisted assets.

In February the corporation was put under judicial management at the request of the North West provincial government in a bid to rescue it from being liquidated, after it incurred several hundred millions of rand in debt.

Three judicial managers from Fort Trust, Cooper Trust and Arthur Andersen were called on to investigate the corporation.

KPMG, which was called on by the judicial managers, confirmed that a report is being put together after an intensive forensic investigation into the corporation and its unlisted and listed assets which include Choice Holdings, Yabeng Investment Holdings and Sun International SA.

Former directors of the corporation, as well as Yabeng and Choice directors, could not be reached for comment.

The auditors' firm has reported the irregularity to both the Johannesburg Stock Exchange's listings department, and the directorate for serious economic offences for investigation.

Fort Trust's Ferdi Zondag said the report, which was initially expected to be presented to the Mmabatho High Court on June 10, would not be ready by then as it was still being compiled.

The report could be presented to the court next month.

Zondag said certain directors were being investigated and if gross negligence was discovered, leading to the demise of the corporation, they would be prosecuted.

"The report does not reveal names of the directors as we do not wish to label certain directors to have been responsible for the demise of the corporation."

The corporation is believed to have been stripped of millions of rand by certain directors, stockbrokers and banks, who either did not have the corporation's interests at heart or had taken bad investment decisions.

Zondag said the corporation was suited for a turnaround and was confident this would be achieved. He said that historically, the corporation had performed a development function rather than an economic function.

"The focus has changed since then because what used to be the core business four years ago is no longer," he said.

The corporation, which holds a 30% stake in Sun International SA valued at around R300m, also has a majority shareholding of 40.43% in Yabeng worth R400m, and a number of unlisted assets, including properties and the North West Transport company.

For a year the corporation has tried unsuccessfully to dispose of its interests, in a bid to recoup funds to salvage the corporation.

Zondag said many buyers had initially shown interest, and solid bids were put on the table. However, the deals fell through after careful consideration from the bidders.
ANC’s loss is Mangope’s gain in North West

By John Seller

Monday June 14 1999 BOWETAN

ANC’s loss is Mangope’s gain in North West

Recent local government elections in the North West have seen a change in the political landscape with the ANC losing ground to Mangope’s Bophuthatswana Democratic Party. The result has sparked a significant shift in the political dynamics of the region.

The Bophuthatswana Democratic Party (BDP) has emerged as a major player in the local government elections in the North West. The party, led by Mangope, has capitalized on the dissatisfaction of rural voters with the ANC’s performance, particularly in relation to the provision of basic services such as water and electricity.

Mangope’s BDP has promised to address these issues and deliver on the promises made by the ANC in the past. The party’s slogan, “Mangope ni Mncwane” (Mangope is the leader), has resonated with voters who are tired of the ANC’s lack of accountability and transparency.

The ANC’s loss in the local government elections is a blow to its chances of winning in the upcoming national elections. The party has been reduced to a minority in the municipalities it once dominated, and this will have implications for its ability to govern at the provincial and national level.

Mangope’s BDP has won a significant number of seats in the local government elections, especially in rural areas. The party’s success is a direct result of its focus on addressing the needs of rural voters, who have been neglected by the ANC in the past.

The ANC, on the other hand, has been criticized for its lack of responsiveness to the concerns of rural voters. The party has been accused of prioritizing urban areas over rural areas, leading to a significant gap in service delivery between urban and rural areas.

In conclusion, the local government elections in the North West have marked a significant shift in the political landscape. The ANC’s loss is Mangope’s gain, and the BDP has emerged as a major player in the region. The upcoming national elections will be critical in determining the future of the ANC in the country.
Efforts to create jobs in province

By Shadrack Mashalaba

A Norrn West province Section 21 company is to embark on a massive drive to attract investment and create jobs in the region while at the same time diversifying the region's economy to minimise reliance on the mining sector.

The Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stufontein & Hartebeesfontein (Kosh) Marketing Company has formulated a strategic approach to develop a number of economic development nodes in the region, including surrounding townships.

Kosh Marketing has identified three sectors which include food processing and non-metallic and fabricated materials as main cluster sectors to attract investment in the Kosh region. Among them, they contribute 90 percent of the province's manufacturing output.

The company's director, Louis Kruger, said due to tough economic times, they had to devise alternative economic strategies.

"We are in the fourth phase of our strategic objective. While we cannot quantify how much investment we want to attract, we want as much as we can get.

"We had to devise alternatives to mining by developing capacity, introducing innovations and new industries in the region," said Kruger.

The Kosh region contributes more than 25 percent of the North West gross domestic product. It has a population of about 463,000 people. The company receives funding from local authorities.

"We have managed to settle hawkers away from the central business district into suitable areas to attract more investment in the region," said Kruger.

Some of the success has been the establishment of an information office and the establishment of an entrepreneurial support centre.

Kruger estimates that unemployment in Kosh is hovering at about 35.4 percent. "Just as it took the mining industry 100 years to create jobs, there is no need to panic. We need to be patient as it will also take years to create jobs in other economic sectors."

He said there were also initiatives to develop the tourism sector. "All stakeholders have developed the right climate of thinking towards the development of the area."

Klerksdorp mayor Petrus Matsoetlane said a lot of spending by the council went to infrastructure development in the area. He said a number of incentives such as tax holidays exist for investors.
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Region parties socialist legacy five years after

Whichever party takes the reins in North West Province after the election next week, will have its hands full, with ongoing economic challenges and political divisions. The province, once a stronghold of the ANC, has seen a significant shift in the political landscape in recent years. With the Democratic Party (DA) and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) gaining ground, a new political dynamic is emerging. It remains to be seen how the next government will navigate these challenges and address the concerns of its citizens.