PUBLIC SECTOR - LOCAL AUTHORITIES - TRANSVAAL

1989

July - December
‘Shady’ mayor gets the chop

Accused of embezzling R27 000

By STAN MHLONGO

LEKOA mayor Sam Kolisang was this week temporarily suspended for allegedly embezzling council funds.

Sofasonke Party-supporting councillors ousted the mayor after a tense 10-hour meeting on Thursday, when they accused him of misusing R23 000 in council funds.

Lekoa town clerk NP Louw refused to comment but council executive committee chairman Edwin Neko confirmed Kolisang’s “temporary suspension on the grounds of corruption.”

Although Kolisang was not available for comment, City Press confirmed that his suspension followed Sofasonke-supporting councillors’ initial failure to oust him from his post through a Rand Supreme Court application in April. The Sofasonke supporters are said to constitute the majority within the council.

Elaborating on what is believed to be a long-planned coup to oust Kolisang, Neko said a thorough council investigation showed Kolisang was guilty of:

¬ Withholding R13 000 to be returned to councillors after the October 1998 elections, and
¬ Deducting a total of about R10 000 from 18 councillors’ salaries – which he allegedly paid to a construction company. He was said to owe the company R82 000.

Neko said that after consultation with the paymaster, the councillors discovered that the R10 000 was allegedly withdrawn in stop orders signed by Kolisang.

“We, the supporters of Sofasonke, are for clean administration and a clean council,” he said.

“We are all out to clean up the administration, which has been lacking discipline for the past 10 years.”

Suspended mayor Sam Kolisang – ousted by Sofasonke councillors
Change in control of urban areas

Pretoria Correspondent

The Local Government Affairs Council yesterday officially took over from the Transvaal Board for the Development of Peri-urban areas as guardian of small communities. Peri-urban board officials, temporarily placed under the control of the Administrator of the Transvaal when the board was abolished on July 1, 1986, are now functioning under the control of the new council.

The Local Government Affairs Council falls under the jurisdiction of the white affairs Minister of Local Government and Housing, as its establishment forms part of the transfer of white local government functions from the provincial administrations to the House of Assembly.

The council consists of five members under the chairmanship of Mr. Dries Niemand, executive director of the Remmerswaal group, immediate past-president of the United Municipal Executive and a Kempton Park town councillor.

Other members are Mr. L.G. Kok, Mr. H.C.F. Baber, Mr. M. Strydom, and Mr. M.L. Janse van Rensburg.
ANOTHER confrontation may be looming between the Atteridgeville City Council and its town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala. The council is to meet tomorrow to decide on his fate.

A spokesman for the council said Rammala, who was last week cleared by a disciplinary inquiry of committing irregularities, should continue to be on special leave while the council studied the judgment. It will then decide whether he should return to his post or not.

Meeting

The mayor, Mr Velaphi Mathebula, said this resolution was taken at the council's monthly meeting. The deputy mayor, Mr Justus Tshungu, told the meeting that they were not bound by the findings of Mr Justice Hembra.

The council agreed with Tshungu's suggestion but stressed that a hasty decision should not be made as it could be to their disadvantage.

A council spokesman said Rammala, who reported for duty yesterday morning, was told that he should recuse himself from his duties “until the council had sought legal opinion on the findings of Mr Justice Hembra and finalised the disciplinary procedure.”

Rammala yesterday confirmed that he was on duty. "There is presently correspondence between my attorneys and the council about this issue which has not yet been finalised,” he said.

Pleased

The council will hold a special meeting next Wednesday to decide on Rammala.

In a statement, Rammala said he was pleased that the inquiry had vindicated him. "I have been under tremendous strain and pressure, I reiterate, that I am amazed that I was suspended and the council went ahead with its allegations despite the fact that it had very little evidence,” he said.
Fire Rammala says union

SOWETAN Reporter

marks in his judgment that “Taebla emerges very poorly from this inquiry.”

The union lashed out at Hiemstra and accused him of casting Taebla in a bad light. They stressed that the charges against Rammala were laid by the council and not Taebla Council officials who testified at the inquiry did so as council workers and not as members of Taebla, a spokesman for the union said.

**Mandate**

Hundreds of employees who attended yesterday’s meeting gave a mandate to the union’s executive committee to lay charges against the town clerk as soon as possible. The type of charges to be laid against Rammala were not spelled out at the meeting. A spokesman for Taebla said they had already sought legal advice on the matter and only needed a mandate from the employees to act. (See page 5)

THE executive committee of a trade union representing employees of the Atteridgeville City Council yesterday received a mandate to lay criminal charges against the town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala.

At a special meeting yesterday the workers—all members of the Transvaal Association of Employees of Black Local Authorities—filed a petition calling on the council to dismiss Rammala because “we will never be able to work with him again.”

The workers said that the only course open to the council was to dismiss Rammala “on grounds that he is incompatible with a substantial number of employees and that he will not be able to do further work for the council effectively or at all.”

The trade union also rejected the findings of Mr Justice Hiemstra, a retired judge who acquitted Rammala on 12 counts of irregularities last week.

They also rejected Judge Hiemstra’s re-
Johns Hopkins Atoll in the South Atlantic is a National Monument and a place of military significance. It is located in the Pacific Ocean, about 1,000 miles southwest of Hawaii. The island is home to a small community of scientists and military personnel. The atoll is also a popular site for research and training exercises. It is a small, uninhabited island, with a population of less than 1,000 people. The island has a tropical climate, with temperatures ranging from 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. The atoll is known for its beautiful beaches and crystal clear waters, which are popular with tourists and marine biologists. The island is part of the U.S. Department of Defense and is used for military exercises and research. It is also home to a small population of indigenous people, who live in isolation from the rest of the world.
10 arrested in pension swindle investigation

By Stan Hlopa

Ten Transvaal Provincial Administration employees have been arrested in connection with a Dobsonville pension swindle, the TPA has confirmed.

TPA deputy director (pensions), Mr J van Kradenburg, yesterday appealed to people who had been swindled to report to the TPA head office at 80 Albert Street, Johannesburg.

Hundreds of Dobsonville pensioners had complained of not being paid their full pension over the past four months, and the cases were taken up with the TPA by the Dobsonville Care of the Aged group.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR Traffic and Security Tony Thompson and the senior deputy director Civil Works Stan Verrier have been charged with misconduct in terms of the Johannesburg City Council's conditions of service.

This follows a disciplinary hearing before a deputy town clerk after Press reports in which it was alleged Thompson used a council bricklayer for three months to do private work at his Linden home between December and February this year.

In terms of the local government ordinance an employee who does private work should first obtain the council's consent. They have been given verbal warnings.

Johannesburg Municipal Employees Association (JMEA) general secretary Theo Crouse said at the hearing it was established the bricklayer was paid by Thompson...
House was sold at 1966 price

Pretoria Correspondent

Conservative Party claims that a Laudium house was sold at below cost to a Mr Danie Khoosal were untrue, a Pretoria City Council spokesman said.

The CP candidate for Hercules, Mr S P Barnard, who made the claims, distributed a document from a Pretoria Management Committee meeting to prove his "allegations".

The council spokesman said the house was sold to Mr Khoosal for R3130. "The price was determined as on May 31 1966, and not 1969," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the council sold the house under a scheme devised by the government. "If a person stayed in a house for 25 years, we sell it at the fixed price as on the date of occupancy," the spokesman said.

When asked, the spokesman said 80 percent of council houses owned by whites were sold under a similar scheme. This was not part of the National Home Selling Scheme announced by the government in 1984.

"Mr Khoosal bought the house and stand. The council made no profit on the deal," the spokesman said.

The value of the house was not determined by the council. The spokesman said the last evaluations were made in 1984 and were currently being reviewed.

Report by Y L J Thumbris, 246 Vermeulen Street, Pretoria
Inquiry Hears of Clerk's Interference with Sentence

Record

The transcript begins with a notice about the proceedings, followed by a decision and a resolution. The text discusses the actions of the clerk and the decisions made regarding the case. The text is dense and contains legal terminology and references to previous decisions and actions.
Local powers under spotlight

The delegation of powers to coloured and Indian management committees will come under the spotlight at a conference of the Transvaal Association of Management Committees.

Mr Jimmy Oliver, secretary of Tamcom, said various management committees had been invited to attend the conference at Sabie on July 22.

"After last year's municipal elections there are a lot of new people. We will start to train them on how local authorities must operate," he said. – Pretoria Correspondent.
ABOUT 800 employees of the Daveyton Town Council on the East Rand are on a go-slow strike following a ban on them using the council's telephones.

The workers also claim they have to get permission before leaving the council's premises even during the lunch break.

These new rules were introduced on Monday.

The strike started on Tuesday after a white council official had allegedly told the workers they had to get permission to make business or private telephone calls.

The acting town clerk, Mr R Coetzee, yesterday confirmed workers were barred from using the council's telephones as from Monday.

"In the past months the council's telephone bill was very high. We had to cut our costs and to achieve this workers had to be stopped from making private calls," said Coetzee.

**Strike**

They were only allowed to make business calls and these had to be approved by the council.

Workers said the strike would continue until their demands for better working conditions were met. They said a delegation would be meeting the council soon to discuss their grievances.
UMSA tottering

The future of the United Municipalities of South Africa is in the balance, following the withdrawal of two members councils from the organisation in the last week.

First to cut ties with Umsa was the Daveyton Town Council a week ago. The Kagiso Town Council on the West Rand withdrew from the organisation a few days later.

Both the Daveyton and Kagiso councils are founder members of Umsa.

Mr. David Motsiwa, deputy mayor of Kagiso, is believed to be behind the withdrawal of the Kagiso Council from Umsa. He is the general secretary of the NF.

Suspended

Problems within Umsa started in May when the organisation suspended four of its senior officials for joining the National Forum on May 6. Umsa boycotted the meeting.

Those suspended are Umsa's vice-president, Motsiwa, public relations officer, Mr. Edwin Motebang, chairman of the United Municipalities of the Transvaal, Mr. Fanyana Mahlangu and, executive member of the United Municipalities of the Orange Free State, Mr. Elias Mpholo.

Umsa's president, Mr. Tom Boya, said Umsa was not worried by losing councilors who were joining rival organisations.

He said "As long as we remain with committed councilors, Umsa would survive. It will separate the boys from the men."

Boya is a member of the Daveyton Council and former mayor of the township.

One of the four suspended councilors, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals, said he would not resign from the NF. He added his three colleagues were also not prepared to leave the NF.

They will know their fate on Sunday.

Hold-up

All member councils of Umsa meet at 10am in Agnansang township, near Sandesho, to discuss the suspension of the four. When they were suspended, Umsa gave them 21 days to put their case or be expelled.

They met Umsa last month and their case was postponed to Sunday.

A source, close to Umsa, said if the four refused to resign from the NF, they would be sacked.

"According to Umsa's policy, we cannot have a member serving in a rival organisation. It is against our interests," the source said.
Nortje's overtime all OK, says DP man

MANDY JEAN WOODS

DP chief whip in the Johannesburg City Council Paul Asherson yesterday said he was satisfied with explanations concerning the overtime paid to Traffic Department superintendent Piet Nortje.

Shortly after a three-hour meeting attended by Nortje, Asherson and Traffic Chief Theo Olivier, Asherson released a statement saying he was satisfied Nortje and his staff of seven were required to perform legitimate and necessary duties after hours.

Nortje's overtime was not excessive compared to that of many other staff on similar, higher and lower levels.

"He is a properly qualified traffic officer who is, of necessity, required to accompany Johannesburg Public Safety Director John Pearce on various assignments as a bodyguard.

"Nortje possesses special skills which the council is lucky to be able to utilise."

Asherson said there were obviously many people who begrudged Nortje his close relationship with Pearce, but he could not establish any instance where Nortje was afforded any undue benefit or illegal favouritism in the work place.

am satisfied that very little of Nortje's overtime relates to his attendance on Mr Pearce," Asherson said. (266)

Much of the time Nortje spent in Pearce's company is spent of his own free will. The records have shown that to be accurate." 267

Asherson said there were obviously many people who begrudged Nortje his close relationship with Pearce, but he could not establish any instance where Nortje was afforded any undue benefit or illegal favouritism in the work place.

Nortje

Because personnel office records were not up to date, it was incorrectly reflected that overtime was taken while Nortje was on leave. The records showed this was in fact not the case.

"I can only submit that from my intensive examination of the records and fullest discussion with Olivier and Nortje that the department has nothing to hide in respect of Nortje, his work, overtime and personal financial position," Asherson said. (267)

He hoped Nortje would be left alone "by his detractors both in and out of the department" to get on with his work.
Inquiry clears Rammala

THE Atteridgeville City Council has passed a motion of confidence in its town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala, and he is to resume duties forthwith.

At a special meeting on Wednesday night the council also accepted the findings of Mr Justice Heemstra, who cleared Rammala on all 12 counts of irregularities that were levelled against him.

The mayor, Mr Velaphi Mathebula, tabled the motion that Rammala resume his duties immediately. His motion was seconded by his deputy, Mr Justus Tshungu Mathyboula made a plea to council officials and employees to work "in a spirit of cordial relationship and cooperation" for the smooth running of the council.

The council's decision ends its five-month legal battle against Rammala who was paid R27,447.85 in salary and allowances while on special leave granted by the council.

Legal costs incurred by the council during the disciplinary hearing totalled more than R60,000.

The money, described as "fruitless expenditure" by Rammala, is expected to be discussed during the town clerk's meeting "with the Director of Local Government today."
Council pays out R48 000 for travel

THE Atteridgeville City Council pays out R480 000 a year travelling allowances to senior officials coming to and from work despite the fact that it was facing a financial crisis, a committee was told yesterday.

The town clerk, Mr. Solty Rammala, also admitted during cross-examination that his car telephone bill, which is usually paid by the council, totalled R735.32 between March and May this year — when he was not on duty.

Mr. Eric Goosen, who is leading evidence, yesterday produced documents which revealed that Rammala made 492 calls in his car.

By MOHOK NKOMO

The service charged for his car telephone is R75 a month, the inquiry heard.

Rammala, who resumed official duties yesterday morning, said he was going to repay the amounts for the period when he was on special leave. He said that he would discuss how this amount would be repaid with the town treasurer. Goosen also produced documents which revealed that in 1986 Rammala had an insurance package for three cars — his own, his wife's and that of his personal assistant, Anastasia Morem. (Proceeding)
Chairman's suspension rescinded

THE Alexandra Town Council has rescinded the suspension of the chairman of the management committee, Mr. Prince Mokoena, but has dissolved the management committee with immediate effect.

This was said by the acting town clerk, Mr. Wilhe Khumalo, yesterday. Mokoena's suspension follows a long-standing wrangle for power within the council. He was suspended last week during the council's monthly meeting. Seven councillors passed a motion of no confidence in the management committee of which he was chairman. The councillors passed a special motion calling for his indefinite suspension while allegations against him were being investigated.

"The council has rescinded the suspension of Mr Mokoena who still remains a councillor, but the management committee has been dissolved with immediate effect," said Khumalo.

Several allegations of abuse of power were levelled against Mokoena by the councillors who accused him of not consulting his colleagues and staff.

Mokoena last week said his suspension was irregular and that all the allegations against him were fabricated. He said he would brief his attorneys to take the matter up with the council.
Traffic officer’s claims ‘are not excessive’

Councillor drops overtime accusation

By Sue Olswang

The Democratic Party’s chief whip in Johannesburg City Council, Mr Paul Asherson, today said he fully accepted the traffic department’s explanation about the thousands of hours overtime claimed by traffic superintendent and former Traffic Officer of the Year Mr Piet Nortje.

Mr Asherson, who met Johannesburg traffic chief Mr Theo Olivier for three hours yesterday afternoon, has released a statement in which he said he was “fully satisfied that Mr Nortje and his staff of seven are required to perform legitimate and necessary duties beyond any normal working hours.”

Mr Nortje’s overtime, according to Mr Asherson, was not excessive when compared with that of other staff.

“Superintendent Nortje is a properly qualified traffic officer who is, of necessity, required to accompany the city’s director of public safety, Mr John Pearce, on various assignments as a bodyguard,” Mr Asherson’s statement said.

“Mr Nortje possesses special skills which the council is lucky to be able to utilise. I am further satisfied that very little of Mr Nortje’s overtime relates to his attendance on Mr Pearce. Much of that is spent of his own free will.”

Mr Asherson said an examination of the traffic department’s personnel records had revealed the correct situation about Mr Nortje’s overtime hours allegedly claimed while he was officially on leave.

Nothing to hide

“After discovering the cancellation of leave by Superintendent Nortje, it does not appear to me that any overtime was claimed during any period of leave,” Mr Asherson said.

“Superintendent Nortje is in charge of the warrants section of the Traffic Department. That position entails long overtime hours serving warrants of arrest for contempt of court on traffic offences and summonses.”

“I can only submit that from my intensive examination of the records and fullest discussion with Chief Traffic Officer Mr Olivier and Superintendent Nortje that the department has nothing to hide in respect of Mr Nortje, his work, overtime and personal financial position,” Mr Asherson said.

He added that his statement should not be seen as a backdown because he had an obligation to investigate the “numerous” allegations brought to him about the traffic department.

The bottom line is that the situation looked suspicious and was worthy of investigation. I have taken the trouble to investigate and I am fully satisfied with the traffic department’s explanations regarding Mr Nortje.

“There are, however, other allegations which I will discuss with Mr Pearce when he gets back from leave.”
TPA seven quit over theft probe

SEVEN employees of the Transvaal Provincial Administration have quit their jobs and another three have been suspended following investigations and arrests by policemen in Soweto into the large-scale theft of pension money.

One employee, Mr B Botha, was found guilty at a hearing last month and fined R2,000 and six months imprisonment and an additional six months suspended for five years.

The seven who resigned pleaded guilty at the Johannesburg and Soweto courts. They are Mr A D Malan, Mr A Kemp, Mr B Botha, Mr A P Kruger, Mrs C M Nolan, Miss E de Lange and Mr J Howell.

A spokesman for the TPA in Johannesburg said the seven were handed suspension forms following arrests by the police but they chose to resign instead.

The three employees who have been suspended pending the outcome of their cases are Mr Dan Sibisi, Mr John Motse and Mr Kotl."
Get rid of town clerk, demand council employees

By SOL MORATHI

A MAJOR confrontation is looming between the Atteridgeville Council and its employees after the reinstatement of town clerk Solly Rammala.

Workers are now threatening to resign rather than work with him.

A commission of inquiry, presided over by Judge V.G. Hiemstra, recently found

12 allegations of misconduct against Rammala to be “false and baseless”.

However, most workers feel he should have been found guilty.

The council initially decided not to accept the judge’s ruling but, at an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday, it accepted the finding and reinstated the town clerk with immediate effect.

Mayor Velaphi Mathebula appealed to Rammala, officials and council employees to work harmoniously together.

Rammala said he was pleased that the inquiry had vindicated him, adding that he was amazed that he had been suspended.

Meanwhile, SOPHIE FEMIA reports that black employees of the Dobsonville Town Council have called for the dismissal of all white personnel before the end of the year.

In a petition to the council in May, the black employees claimed whites held better jobs even though they did not have the necessary qualifications.

Whites were often not asked for proof of education standards and were not interviewed for appointments like blacks.

Black employees also said there was no proper staff structure, making it difficult for black workers to be promoted.
Candidates may use halls

The Johannesburg City Council has decided that parliamentary candidates nominated by any political party for the general election on September 6 will be allowed to hold meetings in Johannesburg's municipal recreation centres between the official nomination date and September 4.

Hiring Fee

Candidates will be charged the normal hiring fee and would have to comply with other conditions laid down for the hire of recreation centre halls.

At the same time, however, the council has decided that recreation centre facilities should not be made available to trade unions for meetings or gatherings.
Probe into other claims to continue

DP accepts traffic dept overtime deal

By Sue Olswang

The Democratic Party's chief whip in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr Paul Asherson, says he fully accepts the Traffic Department's explanations concerning the thousands of overtime hours claimed by traffic superintendent and former "Traffic Officer of the Year", Mr Piet Nortje.

Mr Asherson, who met the Johannesburg traffic chief, Mr Theo Olivier, for three hours at the weekend, released a statement in which he said he was fully satisfied that Mr Nortje and his staff of seven are required to perform legitimate and necessary duties beyond any normal working hours.

Properly qualified

Mr Nortje's overtime, according to Mr Asherson, was not excessive when compared with that of many other staff on a similar, higher and lower level.

"Superintendent Nortje is a properly qualified traffic officer who is, of necessity, required to accompany the city's director of Public Safety, Mr John Pearce, on various assignments as a bodyguard. Mr Nortje possesses special skills which the council is lucky to be able to utilise. I am further satisfied that very little of Mr Nortje's overtime relates to his attendance on Mr Pearce. Much of that is spent of his own free will. The records have shown that to be accurate," Mr Asherson's statement said.

He said an examination of the Traffic Department's personnel records had revealed the correct position with regard to Mr Nortje's alleged overtime claimed while he was officially on leave.

"In terms of overtime, after discovering the cancellation of leave by superintendent Nortje, it does not appear to me that any overtime was claimed during any period of leave.

"Mr Nortje is in charge of the warrants section of the Traffic Department. That position entails long overtime hours both early in the morning, at night and weekends serving warrants of arrest for contempt of court on traffic offences and summonses.

"I can only submit that from my intensive examination of the records and fullest discussion with chief traffic officer Mr Olivier and superintendent Nortje that the department has nothing to hide in respect of Mr Nortje, his work, overtime and personal financial position," Mr Asherson said.

He said his statement should not be seen as a back-down because he had had an obligation to investigate the "numerous" allegations brought to him about the Johannesburg Traffic Department.

"I have taken the trouble to investigate and I am fully satisfied with the department's explanations regarding Mr Nortje. There are, however, other allegations which I will discuss with Mr Pearce when he gets back from leave."
Warning for city council men over bricklayer's work

Two Johannesburg City Council employees have been given verbal warnings in connection with private work done by a council bricklayer.

The city's deputy director of traffic and security, Mr Tony Thompson, and the senior deputy director of gas works, Mr Stan Verheur, recently appeared before a deputy town clerk.

Mr Jan van Niekerk, deputy secretary-general of the Johannesburg Municipal Employees Association (JMEA), today confirmed the men had appeared before a deputy town clerk.

Mr Jan van Niekerk said the JMEA represented the men at the hearing.

It was determined Mr Thompson had paid a council bricklayer for his work. The bricklayer was on paid and unpaid leave for a three-month period when the work was done.

The Local Government Ordinance stipulates that a council employee must first obtain the council's consent before doing private work.

The warnings are subject to confirmation by the town clerk.
The council has deferred a proposed rental increase for business sites. Councilors are still discussing the proposal with Soweto business community.

The council could not give a comparison between this year's budget and last year's, as the council's finance is rental service charges. New service charges have been included in the budget. The council estimates the budget will be R70 million higher than for all the past years.

The amounts of the council's budget are as follows:
- The largest single item is the allocation of R200.7 million for capital administration projects. Some of the projects include Dainesh House and the sinking of the works. (The sinking of the works is a negative item.)
- The budget also includes a financial squeeze on drains, and the upgrading of electricity and water services will be deferred for a R20 million deficit.
- The council estimated the budget will be R19.3 million lower than this year.
- The council estimated the deficit for the current year will be R20.9 million due to lower electricity and water revenue.

The council also estimated the new budget will be R97 million lower than this year's.
Town clerk appointed

SOWETO City Council acting town clerk, Mr Sarel van Rensburg, has landed the plum R60000 a year job as Soweto's town clerk.

He was appointed to the post amid strong challenge from several qualified applicants among them Atteridgeville's embattled town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala and former Alexandra Town Council town clerk Mr Arthur Magerman.

Magerman has now been appointed as the deputy town clerk with an annual package of R50000 plus, according to sources close to the council.

It will also be the first time that the Soweto Council appoints a deputy town clerk.

The appointments were made by the council's staff board.
Graft probe

THE public hearing of evidence given to the three-man commission of inquiry into possible irregularities in Soweto will probably be held in September, according to the commission chairman, Mr Henry Bennet.

He said the commission had been granted more time to investigate some "big" issues. He said the issues concerned land and site allocation made by former councillors.

Among these were the purchase of Power Park from the Johannesburg Municipality and its continued occupation by former councillors.

Another area to be investigated was the Fred Clark Transit Camp near Pinville, where sites reserved for the low-income residents living in makeshift shacks nearby were divided among councillors and sold to people in the high-income group. Several residents have protested without success.

Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi hinted on the improper allocation of sites when he warned residents not to be conned into accepting allocation of sites by any person not presently a councillor. He said only ward councillors could allocate sites.

Mkhwanazi said a certain developing company had improperly acquired 300 sites. He said the company was first contracted to install services and infrastructure in the area but proceeded to build on the sites.

He ordered that 9,000 sites be left for allocation by the council or else legal action would be instituted.
Mayor laid off

MAY 17

BY NATSRISE

M.FOLOSE

Diep

Cttee.

D.DEMEAU

.M.F.

Mahlaba has been suspended from duty by the council.

As a result of the council's decision, the mayor, Mr. Mahlaba, was removed from his position. The decision was made after an investigation into allegations of misconduct.

The investigation was carried out by an independent committee, which found evidence of wrongdoing. The mayor is appealing the decision.

The council has appointed Mr. Mthethwa as the acting mayor until a new mayor is elected by the council.
Row over lease of building

By Joe Openshaw

Johannesburg's management committee was accused today of misusing ratepayers' money by leasing a six-storey building to an investment company for the sum of R13,000 a month. The investment company intends letting the building's ground floor shops for R6,000 a month.

The accusation was levelled by Mr. Clive Gilbert, DP councillor for Orange Grove and Linksfield, who wants answers on the premature cancellation by the council of the 10-year lease to Hoek Street Investments of Voortrekker Building at R14,000 a month and the entering into a new lease at R13,000 a month with it.

A list of questions on the circumstances surrounding the leasing of Voortrekker Building to Hoek Street Investments has been sent by Mr. Gilbert to the City Secretary, Mr. L. Holgate. He wants to know:

- Why was the old lease cancelled?
- Was an agent involved in negotiating the new lease?
- How did the council arrive at its valuation for sale or rental purposes?
- Did the council make any inquiries as to what rents are being asked or being paid for similar premises?
- Was the item ever placed on any council agenda?
- Was the property advertised for sale or rent or were tenders invited from the public before the new lease was concluded?
- Were any city councillors advised the property was available for renting?
- Is the council aware that an existing tenant has been asked to pay rent of about R10,000 for his shop — two-thirds of the total rent asked by it for the entire building?
- How did Hoek Street Investments become aware the property was for renting?
- Were any other persons of companies advised that the council was prepared to negotiate a new lease of the premises?
Rammala to reply to charge

ATTERIDGEVILLE town clerk Mr Solly Rammala told an inquiry that he would reply later to allegations that he was chairman of a panel which interviewed his wife — later appointed assistant librarian of the council.

Rammala was giving evidence in a Government-appointed commission of inquiry chaired by Mr Willie Kriel.

The town clerk said he would also reply at a later stage to allegations by the local chamber of commerce and industries that he did not give them his full cooperation. The town clerk said he was still looking for certain documents before he could reply to the allegations. He promised to fax his reply as soon as possible.

The commission wound up its investigations on Tuesday after inspecting a business site that was allocated by the council to an Indian woman, Mrs Noor Mahomed in 1986.

The allocation of the site near Thabang bottleshop has been a hotly-disputed issue during the two inquiries following allegations that the site was allocated without being advertised.

Rammala was recently acquitted on this allegation during a disciplinary inquiry which was chaired by Mr Justice Hienstra, a retired judge.

The findings of the commission will be submitted to the Director of Local Government who will send the report to the Administrator for his final decision.

In another development, an Atteridgeville municipal police officer who used to raid local shebeens told an inquiry that he was now shamed by the community after his unfair dismissal by the council last year.

Mr George Mokoena told a Government-appointed commission of inquiry on Tuesday that he was employed as a policeman in April last year, on a temporary basis. He was dismissed without notice in November last year for failing to report for duty.

Study

His dismissal was recommended by Mr A Warmack, acting Director of Emergency and Protective Services.

Mokoena said he was fired despite the fact that he was on study leave sanctioned by a senior municipal police officer. He said he also submitted a doctor's certificate for the days he was absent.

"The community no longer accepts me because I was raiding shebeens in Atteridgeville and Saulsville," he said.
Power Park houses row rages on

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

ALL but three of the 26 former councillors living at Power Park have other houses in Soweto, mayor Sam Mkhwanazi said yesterday as the row over the occupation of the houses in Power Park continued to rage.

Eviction notices were served on the 26 several weeks ago, which they have resisted claiming their eviction was unfair. They maintain as residents of Soweto they have the right to buy houses they live in if they can afford to.

They occupied these homes at the height of the unrest in Soweto after a councillor was killed. Councillors in other parts of the country also fled their homes.

Action

At a Press conference at Power Park last week the 26 said they would not move out. The conference was addressed by former deputy mayor Isaac Buthelezi, Mr Johnson Mokoena, Mr Glen Jwara and Mr Daniel Rasmeni.

Yesterday Mr Mkhwanazi said the council had submitted the files of these former councillors to its attorneys who would then take the necessary action to effect the eviction.

He said as 23 of the 26 had other houses in Soweto they were unfair in expecting continued accommodation at Power Park.

According to him the three councillors whose houses in Soweto were burned down are Mr P Gaboutloelo, Mr Johnson Mokoena and a Mr Khumalo. But they could also have had their houses rebuilt as they were covered by the council’s insurance.

Mr Mkhwanazi said council employees and the former councillors who claimed they had now bought their Power Park houses would have to prove their claims as they were only granted provisional ownership when they were allocated the houses.
City council promises to collect rent

By McKeed Kotolo, Pretoria Bureau

The Transvaal Provincial Administration yesterday ordered the City Council of Soweto to take steps to recover rent and service charges owed by residents.

Councillors promised their full co-operation.

The MEC for local government, Mr OAW van Zyl, expressed concern about the issue — which dates back to 1986 — when members of the executive committee of the TPA and the Soweto City Council met at the TPA's Pretoria headquarters to discuss problems and projects in Soweto.

In a joint statement released after the meeting Mr van Zyl said he had told the council to take steps to recover at least the current debts.

Various other administrative problems were discussed at the meeting.
THE Soweto People's Delegation is to meet the Transvaal Provincial Administration to discuss the Soweto rent crisis later this month.

This was said by the TPA's chief director of community services, Mr J J van der Walt, yesterday.

The Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Danie Hough, will lead the TPA delegation. He made it clear he would not meet the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) unless the Soweto City Council was present.

The SPD has also asked for meetings with the Rand Water Board and Escom, who supply water and electricity to Soweto. All the meetings are expected to be held this month.

It is hoped they will lead to the resolution of the four-year-old rent boycott in Soweto.

Officials of the SPD were this week asked to submit a memorandum on issues to be discussed. TPA's executive members are also to be consulted on a suitable date for the meeting.

According to Van der Walt, he received a message from the SPD last Friday asking for a meeting to be held on Tuesday this week at 8 am. This date was unsuitable for the TPA.

The SPD has rejected flat-rate service charges introduced by the Soweto council on May 2 but the two parties have agreed to continue discussing options that will lead to resolving the rent crisis in Soweto.
THE Soweto City Council — plagued by a rent boycott for the past four years — was yesterday urged to take steps to recover rent arrears totalling millions of rands.

After a lengthy meeting with the executive committee of the Transvaal Provincial Administration in Pretoria, the council promised its "full cooperation".

Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for local government, said the council should "recover at least the current debts".

Other issues that were discussed included the allocation of 1,000 stands at Orange Farm to families that are presently squatting at Malherngville.

On July 30 the families will accompany the chairman of the council's executive committee, Mr Mbutane Tembela, to the site where they will finalize formalities to acquire stands.

Problems

The council and the TPA official also released a joint statement in which they expressed their serious concern at the financial problems and the acute housing shortage and possible solutions.

Other matters which were discussed related to the collection of rent and service charges as well as problems experienced in the administration of Soweto, especially the cleansing contracts in the township. According to the statement, an investigation would be launched into these contracts.

The joint statement also announced that the council had succeeded in obtaining the assistance of the Development Bank of Southern Africa to implement.

Choose the best street seller contest

SEE PAGE 4
Former councillors throw down the gauntlet

By Stan Hlophé

The controversy over Power Park, Soweto’s “fortified” suburb, took a new turn yesterday when former councillors challenged the Soweto City Council to institute legal action against the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

The ex-councillors maintained that if the council felt strongly that they had no right to occupy their homes, it should take the TPA to court for giving the previous council the go-ahead for them to buy their houses.

Speaking on behalf of the “accused 26”, Mr D D Gasmendi said they bought the houses after the area had been incorporated into Soweto by the Johannesburg City Council in 1987.

Their challenge came after Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi said the council had submitted the files of the former councillors to its attorneys who would then take necessary action to effect eviction.

Mr Gasmendi said the ex-councillors had paid deposits ranging from R3 000 to R3 000 each for the houses.

The Star has established that the houses were bought for between R39 000 and R62 000. Conservative estimates of the market value of the houses are between R100 000 and R150 000.

The ex-councillors, who were still in office at the time, moved into these homes at the height of the 1986 unrest and they have remained there since.
No need for management committee - community leader

By Kevin Udemans

The chairman of the Save Riverlea Committee, Mr Ralph Peffer, said that the South Western Management Committee had no right to advise residents on what to do regarding the latest increases to assessment rates and services.

Mr Peffer said they should hold public meetings and get mandates from the various communities to see what they felt about such issues.

"These people are there by default and are just symbols of the apartheid system," he said.

Mr Peffer said that he was not against what they were saying but they should get mandates from the people so that they could be sure that they were doing what the communities wanted.

He said the management committees should resign en bloc. "We can do without their services."

Mr Peffer as the leader of the Save Riverlea Committee obtained a mandate from Riverlea after it became apparent they faced the threat of resumed gold mining in the area.

The mandate he and his committee received was to:

- Adequately reflect the aspirations of the community.
- Address the problem facing the community so that the largest possible percentage of the community may benefit by the proposed solutions.
- Articulate the needs and demands of the community uncomprisingly and unflinchingly.
Employees don't want town clerk

By MONK NKOMO

levelled against him by the council

A spokesman of TAECLA said employees would be briefed about the council's decision at their monthly meeting on July 26.

In a statement released soon after his acquittal, Rammala said he had noted with great concern TAECLA's "vicious attack" on the findings of the Hemstra inquiry and said that had the findings been against him, TAECLA would have readily accepted the verdict.

He described TAECLA as "hypocritical".

He said the attitude displayed by TAECLA in summarily rejecting the findings of the Hemstra inquiry clearly indicates that it is not interested in the truth. Their only objective is to get me dismissed at any cost. Their method is to make wild and unsubstantiated allegations which then find instant coverage in the media in an undisguised attempt at character assassination."

Dismissal

The call for Rammala's dismissal was made on July 3 - a week after he was acquitted by a disciplinary inquiry. The employees rejected the findings of Mr Victor Hemstra, a retired judge, who acquitted Rammala on all 12 counts of alleged irregularities.
Mega-city planned south of Reet

GOVERNMENT's recently gazetted plans to make 12,650 hectares of land west of Soweto available for black housing will probably have to be abandoned if geological surveys of the area prove correct.

Instead, the Transvaal Provincial Administration is considering proposals for a new black mega-city to the south of Johannesburg, between Vereeniging and Lenasia.

The move comes in the wake of growing pressure on government to set aside more land for black expansion. The Witwatersrand's burgeoning squatter population has been estimated at over 2,5-million.

If approved, the new city will encompass the existing settlement areas of Grasmere and Evaton, making it bigger than Johannesburg itself.

In its search for suitable land for black development, the TPA has encountered stiff resistance. White opposition to the prospect of black neighbours has often outweighed development needs, officials say. The land west of Soweto was, however, perceived as a relatively safe route for the city’s expansion, since it does not border closely on any white area.

Eleven farms in the area were re-zoned as a unified “black development area” in May — officially making them available for expansion to the city. However, the original proposals for the so-called Soweto-West expansion immediately came under fire from geologists, who pointed out the area's geological instability.

They claimed only a relatively small area of 1,500 hectares immediately to the west of Soweto was suitable for urban development. Most of the rest lay on a dolomitic base which made it unsuitable for high-density development.

Expenditure on municipal services, like water and sewerage, would have to be doubled to make the area safe, geologists said.
Govt may shelve plan for squatter resettlement

A Government plan to resettle about 500 000 Soweto squatters to the west of the sprawling township will probably be changed in the wake of geological surveys that show the area to be almost totally unsuitable for high-density developments.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) is instead looking at plans for a new "megacity" south of Johannesburg between Lenasia and Vereeniging.

The latest development comes after last year's announcement of the resettlement plan by the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, despite warnings by mining houses and the SA Geological Survey that massive sinkholes could develop if settlement in dolomitic areas was allowed.

These sinkholes posed a severe threat to the property and lives of many of the more than two million people, who would have been resettled, in terms of the scheme, to areas west of Soweto and to the Vosloorus-Duduza area on the East Rand, near Nigel.

Because of the geological surveys the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning and the TPA are believed to be looking at new areas to alleviate the population pressures on many of the townships in the PWV area, particularly Soweto.

The new "megacity" to the south of Johannesburg, if approved, would encompass Grassmere and Ebotan and could be the size of Johannesburg.
Ex-councillors vow to fight off eviction attempts

Power Park row continues

By Jovial Rantao

The wrangle between the Soweto Council and former councillors over the occupation of “fortified houses” in Power Park, near Baragwanath Hospital, continues.

The council is determined to get the 26 former councillors out of the houses, but the councillors say they have paid deposits for the houses and will fight any attempt by the council to evict them.

The houses were bought from the Johannesburg City Council at the height of the Soweto uprisings by the Transvaal Provincial Administration on behalf of the Soweto council, which needed them to house councillors temporarily.

Soweto Council says:

The mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, said the council would instruct its attorneys to take legal action against the 26 former councillors if they refused to move out of the houses.

He said the councillors had paid deposits on their houses in November last year, after they had been told they were going to be evicted.

The Soweto council, he added, was investigating charges against the persons who accepted the “illegal” deposits from the former councillors.

“They have been claiming that they have bought the houses from the council and not one has paid more than R6,000 on those houses,” Mr Mkhwanazi said.

According to Mr Mkhwanazi, Power Park is earmarked for professional people and students who are studying at Vista University and other institutions around Soweto.

He said it was never the intention that the councillors would occupy the houses intentionally.

The houses were bought by the Transvaal Provincial Administration on behalf of the Soweto Council.

“The councillors were placed in those houses temporarily because of the unrest situation in the township two years ago,” he said.

“They have other houses in Soweto and council by-laws do not permit a single person to own more than one house.”

Ex-councillors say:

At a press conference at Power Park this week, the councillors said they would defend any legal action taken against them.

Led by a former deputy mayor, Mr Isaac Buthelezi, they said the council should recuse itself from the matter since the houses were bought by the TPA.

“It is surprising to realise that after eight months in office, the members of the present council seem only to be obsessed with the issue of Power Park. It is sad the council is not addressing the real issues and needs of the community,” Mr Buthelezi said.

The former councillors urged Mr Mkhwanazi to call a meeting between the two parties.

“He can come to us as veterans for advice on how to run Soweto if he is having problems in the council,” Mr Buthelezi said.

One of the former councillors showed The Star a receipt which showed that he had paid a deposit on his house in April 1988.
Boksburg to try to re-close lake roadway

Staff Reporter

The Boksburg Town Council will look into means of re-closing the roadway running along the northern boundary of the town’s whites-only lake after a successful court application to reopen it.

The road, which was closed after the CP took control of the council last September, was opened after a court interdict was granted this week to the applicant, a retired property owner and developer, Dr Karl Hechter Schultz.

Dr Schultz’s action was on the instructions of Lawyers for Human Rights.

Although the Boksburg Town Council has also agreed to pay Dr Hechter-Schultz’s costs, the national director of Lawyers for Human Rights, Mr Brian Currin, said that the legal costs would ultimately have to be borne by Boksburg residents unless the town councillors decide to foot the bill themselves.

When Boksburg Lake was exclusively reserved for whites in November, a gate was erected on the lake road to prohibit the flow of traffic.

In his supporting affidavit, Dr Hechter-Schultz said all Boksburg residents had a common right to use the Boksburg lake as a park and the road had been used by the public for more than 30 years.

Mr T J Ferreira, chief whip of the CP caucus in Boksburg Town Council, said legal alternatives on how to close the road again would be “looked at.”

Pulp mill smell ‘not a health hazard’

Own Correspondent

Scientific evidence world-wide suggested that the smellly emissions from the Mondi pulp mill at Richards Bay were not a major public health factor, the company said in a statement issued yesterday.

Mondi was reacting to recent newspaper reports in which residents of the harbour town complained that air pollution was having a large effect on people’s health.

Mondi and Indian Ocean Fertilizers were cited as the two biggest causes of the air pollution.

In the statement the company said “While the concern of pressure groups in the Richards Bay area is understandable, their identification of Mondi as a major villain is mistakenly and emotionally based on the assumption that our emissions are odorous they are dangerous.”

The company said the pulp mill would always generate some odour in the form of organic chemical compounds known as reduced sulphides.

ORGANIC DELAY

These gases were present naturally at low levels as they were generated from vegetative and organic decay, particularly in marsh areas. However, due to the very much larger organic wood use in the pulp mill, they were generated to a greater extent in the mill’s processing operations.

Besides their characteristic smell, these compounds had another unique property — the smell threshold was extremely low and they could be detected by the average person at levels as low as one part to 500 million parts of air.

These compounds had been generated by kraft pulp mills, such as the company’s plant at Richards Bay — for more than 100 years and despite the unpleasant smell had never been scientifically identified as a public health hazard.

Mondi had paid more than R50 million to install the latest technology to minimise emissions.

In planning the mill, Mondi had commissioned industrial development experts to select the best location.
'City should have more say in running hospitals'

DP wants wards open to all

By Joe Openshaw

The Johannesburg City Council should have a greater say in the running of the city's hospitals, Democratic Party councillor Mr Les Dishy proposed in a motion for Tuesday's council agenda.

Mr Dishy told The Star yesterday all public hospitals serving greater Johannesburg should make available every bed to the sick and injured on a desegregated basis to correct the imbalance of overcrowding in black hospitals and to fill empty beds in white hospitals.

He proposes that the JG Strijdom Hospital revert to its status as an academic and teaching hospital and steps be taken to get back staff who have resigned.

"I feel the council should show concern and responsibility for the well-being of all those reading and working in Johannesburg and approach the health authorities with a view to providing health services for all race groups," he said.

He suggests the Johannesburg, South Rand, JG Strijdom, Edenvale, Hillbrow, Baragwanath and Coronation hospitals be consolidated to ensure they:

- Are neither overcrowded, nor under-utilised.
- Are fully staffed with suitably qualified personnel.
- Provide a full range of services for all race groups.
- Are organised so that there is the least possible delay in admissions and treatment.

Mr Dishy proposes that the Johannesburg Medical Officer of Health be involved in discussions and decisions affecting hospital services in the city.

"An anomaly exists in greater Johannesburg where (in terms of statistics) there are 2½ beds to every patient at the Johannesburg Hospital and 2½ patients to every bed at Baragwanath.

"There are no maternity facilities for the 160,000 blacks living in Johannesburg itself.

Raw deal

"Because of apartheid, both blacks and whites who make up the city's three million inhabitants are being given a raw deal. I feel a limited number of wards in some public hospitals should be privatised on condition that entrepreneurs practise at medical aid rates," said Mr Dishy.

The impasse between private hospitals and medical aid schemes whereby patients are being asked for substantial up-front payments before admission should be addressed.
In a coma
A nurse, Sister Joyce Thomas, had to wait 4½ hours for an ambulance while her sister-in-law, Mrs Mabel Thomas, lay in a coma before dying of liver failure.

Another case related to a 1½-hour delay in responding to a 12-year-old Malvern woman's miscarriage.

Dr Broekman this week disputed that the new multi-million rand Computer Aided Dispatch System (Cads) was yet another reason. Johannesburg's ambulance services had been plagued with problems since February - when the Transvaal Provincial Administration launched the scheme to streamline ambulance services on the Witwatersrand.

"The Johannesburg City Council has consistently planned to the TPA for a number of years about long delays. It is not a new problem. The fact that the TPA introduced a new control centre did, however, introduce a new factor - that of staff training," said Dr Broekman.

Cads is blamed from page 1.

"I believe the main problem is a shortage of ambulances. I am aware of complaints about delays and I think the priority of the type of vehicles needed should be looked at," he said.

Reviewing the situation this week, he said the Cads had handled 164 calls from Wednesday midnight to Thursday midday. There were eight other third priority - not extremely urgent - calls.

"But availability of vehicles causes delays. There is not enough flexibility. At present our vehicles are handling three times the number of calls each day compared to the vehicles in areas such as Sandton and Randburg," he added.

Fire departments running the ambulance services in Alberton, Sandton and Bedfordview have indicated that they would ask not to be incorporated into the scheme planned by the TPA.

Randburg Fire Chief, Mr N van Dyk, said if the scheme was implemented he would ask his council to keep some ambulances under his department's control for his area.

Fire department

"One control system can never handle calls for the whole of the Witwatersrand. Nobody else is geared to handle ambulance calls as efficiently as the fire department. Within one minute of a call our ambulances are on their way and it takes 20 minutes to reach the furthest point in our area," said Mr van Dyk.

Bedfordview's Fire Chief, Mr D Dewal, said, "The system works in other countries but does not work here. The problem I believe is with training. Those at the control centre are being trained on the job. We run a very efficient service here and would never refuse a Johannesburg call."

Alberton and Sandton fire departments have also voiced unhappiness at the possibility of being incorporated into the TPA's central control system.

They believe that any attempt to bring ambulance services in 14 municipalities on the Witwatersrand under a centralised control system would cause chaos.

Delay in response to calls for help blamed on Cads

Pat Devereaux

The city's controversial ambulance dispatch system is being blamed by angry residents for delays in the response to emergency calls.

But this has been disputed by Johannesburg Hospital's Dr Reg Broekman, who believes the shortage of ambulances is the reason for the delays.

In the past fortnight a flood of complaints has been reported. A Malvern woman, Mrs Carol Becker, was forced to turn midwife at a local dry cleaners after Mrs Sylvia Mabuza went into labour. And the "ambulance took 90 minutes to respond to a call."

According to Bez Valley's "accident" witnesses they had to call Bedfordview's ambulance service after Johannesburg ambulance services failed to respond to their call to attend to six-year-old accident victim, Carly Smit, who lay in agony on the road for almost an hour. The child died a few days later.
Sandton to make 3 community awards

By Winnie Graham

Sandton Chamber of Commerce, in co-operation with the Mayor of Sandton, will make Community Investment Awards in recognition of "contributions to the development of human skills and resources in business and community life".

Nominations are being called for.

Mr Warren Dale, chairman of the organising committee, said this week three awards would be made this year.

The first would be for company commitment to developing human resources. The judges would evaluate the company’s time and resources spent on training, educational and advancement programmes.

"The nominated companies are free to offer reasons why their projects are meritorious."

The second award would be for innovative schemes to develop human potential. It would go to the organisation which had shown the most imagination, flair and dedication in creating opportunities for all employees.

The third award would be for projects that materially improved the cultural, educational, financial or environmental standards of the community, especially the under-privileged.

The deadline for nominations is Monday August 20. The names of six finalist organisations will be selected and the winners announced at a banquet at the Sandton Sun hotel on September 13.

Mr Dale said both the Sandton Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the mayor of Sandton were recognising the effort companies and organisations were making in uplifting the community.

Encourage

"We hope to have two or three times as many nominations this year as last. We believe the Community Investment Awards will serve to encourage business to get involved," he said.

If the same type of innovative awards were instituted country-wide, much could be done to help different communities.

Nominations from all Sandton-based firms and organisations will be accepted.

The first Sandton Community Investment Awards were made last year.

For further information, telephone Sue Dickerson of Sandton Chamber of Commerce and Industry at (011) 890-7030 or write to P.O. Box 1614, Rivonia 2128.
ABOUT 3000 Mamelodi City Council employees yesterday went on strike demanding a 15 percent across the board salary increase.

A spokesman for the workers said the 15 percent increase was to have been paid in January following an agreement between the council and the workers' trade union...

The increase was only paid out to senior officials including heads of departments, the spokesman added.

The majority of strikers are members of the Transvaal Association of Employees of Black Local Authorities (TAEBLA).

Mr Zikhali Ndlazi, the mayor of Mamelodi, yesterday confirmed the strike but blamed the employees for not bringing their grievances to his attention before going on strike.

"The workers forget that they are supposed to serve the interest of the community. The correct procedure was for them to first inform me about their grievances which I am prepared to investigate.

Ndlazi said the council would hold an urgent meeting to discuss the strike.
THREE members of the Tokoza Town Council on the East Rand face a 45-day suspension after walking out of a council meeting in protest against the acting town clerk, Mr. Masaba.

They are: Mr. B. Maluleke, Mr. J. Kingsley Qwabe, a management committee member, Mr. J. Masuku, a management committee member, Mr. B. Maluleke, and Mr. S. M. Mabuse, the former town clerk. The council rejected the three women's resignation letters and the three women walked out in protest.

The council also rejected the resignations of the council's management committee. The deputy chairman, Mr. Abraham Matlou, yesterday said the council would discuss the matter next week.
Province property sold by auction

Pretoria Bureau

Sixteen provincial properties were sold recently for R6.5 million at the first public auction held by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the MEC for General Provincial Services, Mr A E Arbee, said yesterday.

He said that under Government policy, redundant properties have for some time been sold at market value by inviting tenders or privately through negotiation to local authorities, semi-government institutions and church societies.

Auction

Mr Arbee said the province had recently been "inundated" with applications and it had now been decided that in future, properties which could be sold would be disposed of by public auction.

The 16 properties sold at the auction, held in Sandton, were sub-divided into 21 lots.

The properties were in Brooklyn, Murrayfield and Waterkloof Ridge in Pretoria, Hursthill, Linmeier, Rehendal, and Senderwood in Johannesburg, Bryanston in Sandton, Bedfordview, and Roodepoort.

Income from the auction has been paid into the Account for Provincial Services and will later be allocated to branches of the TPA.
Council employees stage work sit-in

Pretoria Bureau

About 700 dissatisfied Atteridgeville Town Council employees staged a sit-in yesterday over alleged delays in implementing pay increases.

At a meeting held yesterday, they voted unanimously for the sit-in.

The workers resolved to report for work as usual yesterday but not to take up tools.

They said that they had been promised a 13.1 percent pay increase last July.

The workers last week submitted a petition calling for the immediate dismissal of town clerk, Mr. Solly Rammala.
ABOUT 700 employees of the Atteridgeville City Council staged a sit-in yesterday in support of their demands for "overdue" wage increases and the dismissal of the town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala.

The workers, who included policemen, staged the sit-in following a resolution taken at a meeting on Tuesday. They demand a 13,1 percent wage increase which they say they were to have received in October last year after promises by the council.

They also demand a 15 percent general increase which they claim was budgeted for with effect from January this year.

Rent

The employees are all members of the Transvaal Association of Employees of Black Local Authorities (TAEbla). The sit-in is expected to affect the payment of rent at the administration offices, the running of creches and essential services which include the collection of refuse.

At their meeting on Wednesday, the workers condemned the findings of Mr Justice Hmota who recently acquitted Rammala on 12 counts of irregularities.

The workers called on the council to fire the town clerk "because we are convinced that he is guilty."

ALLEGATIONS by a senior council official that some of the workers were forced to sign a petition calling for Rammala's dismissal were found to be untrue when the workers confirmed at Wednesday's meeting that they signed the petition voluntarily.

Atteridgeville town clerk, Solly Rammala.

BOYCOTT AT VISTIA

MORE than 1,000 students at the Mamelodi campus of Vuta University are boycotting lectures in protest against the increase of fees and other education-related issues.

A spokesman for the Students' Representative Council (SRC) said the boycott which started last Thursday was sparked off by the announcement by university authorities that fees for first and second year courses would be increased from R350 to R470 and that fees for third year courses would go up from R620 to R670.

Professor Elwyn Jenkin, the campus director of the university, could not be reached for comment yesterday. An answering machine at the switchboard replied: "This campus is closed and we will reopen on Friday July 28. Please call again.

A representative of the students complained that African languages were taught in English and accused the university authorities of not fulfilling their educational functions in this manner. The students also complained about the "makeshift structures" within the campus.

The spokesman for the SRC said: "The university authorities made a promise four years ago to build a permanent structure similar to the one in Soweto. This has not been done. We are aware of the inflation rate and the fact that things must go up. We are also prepared to pay but we just cannot pay for nothing.

"We will boycott classes until our demands are met."

Professor Elwyn Jenkin, the campus director of the university, could not be reached for comment yesterday at the switchboard.

Students

According to a spokesman for the students, the scope of study at the campus was not "open" and no sports facilities were available for future teachers, who had to be sports-oriented.

Bus fares will not increase.

PUTOCA has assured commuters in Mamelodi that fares will not be increased because of the recent hike in the petrol pump prices.

The mayor made this announcement during the Mamelodi City Council's monthly meeting on Tuesday.

The council approved the budget for the coming year.

In a letter addressed to Ndlazi, Putco's public relations officer in Pretoria, Mr Bruno Ndlazi, stated that the company was aware of the financial problems the community was facing.
Council: taken to task over R3.6-m deficit

Germiston City Council's transport department showed a R3.5 million deficit in 1987/8, which came under fire from an opposition councillor, Mr John Oxley, at a monthly council meeting last night.

Mr Oxley, a Democratic Party candidate in Germiston, said he was perturbed by the magnitude of the deficit.

He said the council should conduct an investigation into the running of its transport department, consider a more flexible bus service and more profitable routes and try to determine where it was losing money.

At the meeting, management committee chairman Mr Stan van Eden launched a full-scale attack on Mr Oxley on several issues.

Mr van Eden said the council exercised strict control in terms of its budget. He said the deficit was less than the R4.1 million for which the council had budgeted.
Alex council row rages on

THE former chairman of the Alexandra Township management committee believes his problems within the council started when he opposed a R66 million contract for the development of a new area still to be incorporated into the township.

Mr Prince Mokoena said a few weeks after the Transvaal Provincial Administration had notified the council that the Johannesburg municipality was willing to sell about 60 hectares of land called the East Bank Buffer for development by the Alexandra council a letter was received from a Johannesburg-based consortium of contractors requesting to be allocated the land for development.

The contractor for development was valued at about R66 million, Mr Mokoena said.

He rejected the application in informal discussions with the council and officials because the land had first to be transferred to the council's jurisdiction and advertisements had to be placed in local newspapers calling for tenders.

Mr Mokoena said that at a council meeting the mayor, Mrs Agnes Poo, interrupted proceedings and urged the council to approve the application. The contrary, the application was approved.

In May the Transvaal Provincial Administration's MEC for local government, Mr Olaus van Zyl, telephoned the council urging that the resolution approving the application be rescinded as the land still belonged to the Government.

Mr Mokoena said after the TPA's instruction to rescind the resolution he was blamed for having informed the authorities about the decision.
More gripes in council

SIX Attendgeville city councillors have written a letter to the local mayor expressing concern about the performance of the council’s white attorneys and the township’s R9 million deficit.

The councillors also informed the mayor, Mr Velaphi Mathebula that they were concerned about the "extraordinary powers granted to certain officials" and the strained relations between council employees and the town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala.

The six are the chairman of the management committee, Rev Enoch Sibanyoni, JT Segupa, Matthews Mahlangu, Petrus Mgungu, SE Nhlab and M P Ngqambe. Mr Mathebula yesterday confirmed receipt of the letter which was scheduled to be discussed at a special council meeting last night.

The councillors said they were dissatisfied with the council's white attorneys and added that the council should discuss the possibility of replacing them.

"We are dissatisfied with the way in which the attorneys of the council reported back to the council after the disciplinary inquiry of the town clerk.

The six councillors said they were deeply concerned about the acute housing shortage and urged the council to immediately find ways and means of alleviating this problem. The six recommended that "unnecessary and unauthorised expenditure should be curtailed at all costs and in this regard we suggest that any expenditure exceeding the sum of R1 000 should first be approved of in writing by the executive committee from time to time".

They concluded "We as members feel that we are deprived of the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to discussions at meetings of the city council in view of the fact that we receive the full agenda for a city council meeting at a stage which is too late."

They urged officials compiling the agenda to deliver it to each councillor three days before the sitting of the council."
White attitudes in Boksburg revealed

Support shown for single municipality

By Esmaire van der Merwe, Political Reporter

Most white people in Boksburg want the apartheid town to have a single multicultural municipality which would include the coloured community of Reiger Park.

This was revealed in a recently conducted survey of white attitudes in the town notorious for petty apartheid measures reintroduced by the Conservative Party-controlled municipality.

The study was conducted on behalf of the American Chambers of Commerce.

Almost 59 percent of the 350 respondents were in favour of a single municipality.

Of those, 43 percent motivated their stance by saying there should be no taxation without representation, while almost 35 percent said an integrated CBD would improve race relations.

About 11 percent thought that protracted consumer boycotts would be lifted if an open CBD was established.

Another significant finding was that 76 percent of whites were in favour of a multicultural central business district.

While 88 percent of the 50 businessmen canvassed favoured an open CBD, 38 percent of National Party supporters and 49 percent of CP supporters wanted a multicultural CBD.

Analysing the findings, political science lecturer Dr. Philip Frankel said despite these revelations, the study had confirmed the "strong racial feelings" in the town.

Identity

For example, 57 percent of respondents thought separate amenities were crucial for protecting white identity while 72 percent believed desegregation of public amenities would result in black swamping.

Although almost 58 percent of respondents were in favour of open sports facilities and 54 percent favoured open libraries, about 70 percent opposed integrated schools and residential areas.

Other significant findings:

- More than 80 percent felt race relations had deteriorated.
- About 59 percent of respondents said the Group Areas Act played an important part in preserving white identity. However, many people would accept its abolition if standards were maintained.
- Only 8 percent thought the consumer boycott was instigated by agitators. About 56 percent said it was sparked by the human insult of petty apartheid.

Commented Dr. Frankel: "There seems to be a widespread illusion that the boycott would be over once public facilities are desegregated. Most people don't understand that the boycott is part of the ongoing struggle against apartheid and they underestimate the intensity of the feelings against the CF-controlled municipality."
A PETITION signed by about 92 percent of the employees of the Atteridgeville City Council calling for the dismissal of the town clerk, Mr. Solly Rammala, has been referred to the Administrator of the Transvaal for his final decision.

The mayor, Mr. Velaphi Mathabula yesterday also announced that the council, at a special meeting held behind closed doors on Tuesday night, resolved to terminate the services of the council’s white attorneys.

Mathabula said the petition signed by the majority of the council’s employees had been referred to the Administrator.

“We hope he will make a decision to finalise this sensitive issue once and for all,” the mayor said.

He would forward the council’s resolution to the executive committee of the Transvaal Association of Employees of Black Local Authorities before Friday.

A spokesman for TAEBLA yesterday said all the members would meet at a special meeting on Friday to discuss the council’s resolution in respect of their petition.

Members of the public and reporters were barred from the special meeting on Tuesday night following a motion by Councillor Victor Zobane.
Traders could sue town councillors

TOWN councillors in Carletonville and Boksburg face the possibility of being sued, perhaps for millions of rand, in their individual capacities for losses incurred by traders as a result of boycotts triggered by the reappearance in the towns of the CF's apartheid boards.

That is the opinion of a senior counsel after studying the judgment of Deputy Judge President Mr Justice Eloff in the action Carletonville traders brought against the town council.

Mr Justice Eloff found that the council's decision to reserve the town's parks for the use of whites only was grossly unreasonable. He concluded that the council "had not acted in a bona fide manner or had not given due attention to the matter."

Evidence "uncontroversially indicated" that businesses in the town had suffered

"...and would suffer" severe financial losses from the boycotts, which were foreseeable consequences of the town council's actions.

Civil action to sue the councillors, individually and collectively, would be based on the judge's finding that the council had not acted in good faith, which destroys the indemnity against individual liability Transvaal town councillors enjoy.

The council itself, a senior lawyer argues, cannot be held responsible for the malice acts of the individual councillors in pursuing a political philosophy.

The Carletonville Town Council has applied for leave to appeal against the Eloff judgment. Such an appeal is unlikely to be heard before March 1991 and civil actions cannot be heard until judgment is given.
The Councilors must pay off else...

RAMMALA WARNS
Who rules the roost?

In Johannesburg, the city is not being run like a major city should be. The mayor and his colleagues have allowed the council to be underfunded and undermanned. The city is not working efficiently, and the residents are suffering.

And where it goes

The city's finances are in shambles. The council is spending more than it has, and the residents are being taxed heavily. The city is in debt, and the future looks bleak.

Where it comes from

The city's problems are due to a lack of proper planning and management. The council has been wasteful and inefficient, and the residents are paying for it. The city needs a new leadership to turn things around.
FORMER Soweto deputy-mayor Patrick Thami Ndaba, who has been charged with the murder of his rival candidate in the municipal elections last year, is to stand trial in February next year.

Ndaba and his co-accuseds, Patrick Mfeka and Musa Njoko of Diepkloof hostel, were served with indictments for a Supreme Court trial on Tuesday this week during a brief appearance before Magistrate S Janse van Rensburg.

Ndaba will be held in custody until the trial, set down for February 19.

The murder charges arise from the death of Sofasonke Party member David Nkomo, who was gunned down at his Tshiamelo home on August 26 last year.

Nkomo was to have opposed Ndaba in last year's municipal elections.

Det-Sgt JD van Zyl yesterday told the court Ndaba paid two men R3 000 to gun down Nkomo.

It was further alleged that he paid R500 extra for the firearm that was used to kill Nkomo.

A fourth person allegedly involved in the murder has not yet been arrested.
ABOUT 700 employees of the Atteridgeville City Council staged another sit-in yesterday calling on the council to immediately fire the town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala, because they could not work with him anymore.

And in another development that could determine the fate of the council itself, a local civic group, the Atteridgeville People's Party, said they had obtained permission to hold a public meeting on Sunday to seek a mandate from residents calling on the 12 councillors to resign because of their inefficiency.

Mr PAJ Burger, Chief Magistrate of Pretoria, informed the party's chairman, Mr John Rafadi, that they could hold a public gathering at the Super Stadium from 8am to noon "to obtain a mandate from the residents for a vote of no-confidence in the council."

Rafadi said issues to be discussed included rent and the township's R9 million deficit.

The council has, for the past seven months, been pressurised by its employees to dismiss Rammala.

The town clerk was recently acquitted by Mr Justice Hiemstra on all 12 counts of irregularities levelled against him by the council.
Soweto junior council

THE Soweto City Council has decided to start a Junior City Council as part of its involvement programme, the mayor, Mr S Mkhwanazi said.

The date planned for the JCC elections is late October or beginning of November.

A committee under councillor Hazel Nkosazana, chair of the Soweto Cultural Committee, has been formed to take steps which will lead to the election of the Junior council.

Mkhwanazi said the aim of the JCC was to involve the youth of Soweto in local government, to give the youth an opportunity to get acquainted with local government and to start a communication process between the council and the youth.

Invitations would be sent to all secondary schools and youth clubs to nominate possible candidates.

Mkhwanazi said the junior council will not be formed out of any one group (political or otherwise) but will consist of a cross-section of the youth community.
The Atteridgeville City Council's decision that parents disclose family income as a condition for the admission of their children to creches has caused a stir among those affected.

Parents, who described the move as invasion of their privacy, said some of them had had the application forms of their children returned to them after they failed to state how much they earned.

They said they viewed the move as a strategy to help the council formulate discriminatory regulations in future.

Mr D Mouton, director for community services in Atteridgeville, said there was nothing sinister about the move. He said the council ran the service at a loss because of certain individuals who failed to pay after their children were admitted.

He said the council charged a fixed rate of R34 and that the amount would in no way be affected by the salaries the people were earning.

However, it was important for the authorities to know what the parents' income was to enable them to plan for the future.
COUNCIL'S DENIAL

The Soweto City Council had "definitely not" suspended all sales of houses in Soweto, the council said in a statement yesterday.

It said there had been a misunderstanding. The council had suspended sales earlier this year but "only on the old stock houses - no new houses were affected".

The council also stated it wished to expedite the sale of new houses and would assist building societies "in every possible way".

"The council will confer immediately with all building societies currently financing house loans in Soweto. This is regarded as a matter of urgency.

"The council's executive committee has resolved to abolish form 189 but it will be replaced by a new form as an individual step to protect the rights of registered tenants and dependants in the sale of property.

"There are still matters to be cleared up as the sale of the old stock of houses are concerned. The housing committee under the chairmanship of Mr S Mkhize will release further details in due course." - Sapa.
THE Atteridgeville City Council has fired its town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala. This followed the passing of a motion of no-confidence in him during a heated and tension-filled special meeting on Wednesday night.

Rammala left the council chambers at exactly 10.30 pm after his services were terminated during a dramatic session where he was accused of having demoted three councillors whose rent areas were exposed by the Sovietov last week.

Rammala had warned councillors Enoch Sibanyoni, Matthew Mhlanga and Victor Zohane in a letter dated August 1, 1989, that unless they paid their arrears within 14 days they would be stripped of their status.

The treasurer, Mr TJ Van Stiryp, said he wrote the letters and took them to Rammala for his signature.

Leakage

He added that the leak of the letters to the Press was being investigated by the police Councillor E Ntshaba submitted that Rammala should have received the letters and accused the town clerk of having demoted councillors.

Mhlanga, who accused Rammala of having "embarrassed" councillors who owed rent, proposed a motion of no-confidence in the town clerk and asked that he be dismissed forthwith.

After a heated debate and a counter-motion by Councillor H Nhlabeng, the mayor, voted against the motion, objected to the mayor's decision Van Stiryp was then elected acting town clerk.

Council's motion of no confidence

By MONK NKOMO

Mr Velaphi Mathebula put the matter to a vote.

Seven councillors, including the mayor and Sibanyoni, who is chairman of the management committee voted in favour of the motion.

Four other councillors voted against the motion Mathebula then closed the matter and refused Rammala the right to comment and instead advised him that although his services had been terminated forthwith he could remain in the meeting until it was closed.

However, Rammala left the meeting after the four councillors who supported the motion was finished with the reading of the motion.

Atteridgeville councillors passed a vote of no confidence in Solly Rammala after he embarrassed them with disclosures of their rent arrears.

Comment

Asking if he was going to challenge his dismissal in court, Rammala said it was still premature to comment.

The council also resolved to temporarily suspend the eviction of rent defaulters in the township.

Mr D Mgumi said officials must first inform councillors before evicting families and "throwing them out in the street."

WOMEN'S Day meetings

TWO seminars will be held on Sunday, one at the Commercial and Allied Workers Union weekend, whose theme is "The Capitalism, Racism  Sexism" will be held at the union's offices at 1 Ker Street.

According to a speaker for the union, the topics to be dealt with are the role of women in the struggle against the law and discrimination against women.

Speakers will come from Daas, Idabe, 1AM, Cawasa, COSATU, AWU, and Imbeleko will host a seminar at the K-Art Centre, Phoka Street.

Imbeleko will host a seminar on the Community's Campaign, Rose Ngwenya, 1AM. Services will start at 10am.

R20 000 prize winner

THOUSANDS of entries for the African Late Homes "Two rooms and a garage" competition were received and the lucky winner is Mr Joseph A Magugumela (47) of Khatsho, near Germiston.

Run in conjunction with Sowetan, this exciting competition offered a prize worth R20 000, consisting of an African Late Home's add-on home improvement.

Mr Magugumela, a family man, was delighted with his win and said that the extra accommodation his prize would provide for his family would be greatly appreciated.

"The overwhelming response to the competition has revealed that black home owners are becoming serious about adding extra accommodation onto their existing homes and thus increasing the value," the company's general manager, Mr Guy Lastch, said.

Treason trial

THE Delmas treason trial involving 12 alleged ANC members has been postponed to next Tuesday, according to the organisation's spokesman, Rose Ngwenya.

Services will start at 10am.

At the end of Imbeleko's service at the Community's Awareness Pogramme (CHAP) will conduct the free health clinic at the same venue. This will be the third free health clinic to be conducted by the organisation on the Rand since January.
ANNOUNCED RESIGNATION

Civic Centre, Raceism is

Nothing new, says Acstop

Councilor Fabell

Another time... says Acstop

Stubs his toe yet
A’ville council suspends town clerk Rammala on full pay

The Atteridgeville City Council rescinded its decision to fire its town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala and instead suspended him indefinitely with full pay at a special meeting on Monday night.

The council also appointed a three-man commission of inquiry to investigate certain allegations against Rammala. The inquiry, comprising two councillors and a legal advisor, is expected to be held in about a month’s time and the prosecutor will be a Mr Deventer, a lawyer attached to the council’s new attorneys, Coetzee, Herzog and Horak. The council’s decision to set aside Rammala’s dismissal followed his threat on Monday that he would take court action unless he was reinstated because his dismissal was unlawful.

Mr Ezekiel Tshungu, the deputy mayor, explained to the council that the meeting was held to “legalise” all aspects before Rammala could be dismissed. He added that they had been informed by their legal advisors that Rammala’s dismissal last Tuesday was unprocedural.

According to the regulations, a special meeting should be convened where only the dismissal of the town clerk should be discussed. A number of issues were discussed at last Tuesday’s meeting and this meant that Rammala’s dismissal was unlawful.

The majority of the councillors also resolved that Rammala should be prohibited from using council facilities including his office and car telephone which is being paid for by the council.

“The last time he was suspended Rammala used the car telephone and the account was in excess of R700,” Tshungu said.

The council also resolved that the acting town clerk, Mr T J van Struy, immediately occupy Rammala’s office and bar him from using any of the council facilities.

Tshungu told the council that Rammala, who was recently cleared on 12 counts of irregularities during a disciplinary inquiry chaired by Mr Justice Hemstra, should be given a fair hearing and allowed legal representation during the forthcoming inquiry. The commission’s verdict would be forwarded to the Administrator of the Transvaal for a decision.
TPA probe on missing R2-m

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate a shortfall of about R2-million in the coffers of the Mhluzi Town Council in Middelburg.

The commission is also investigating:

* The disappearance of R30 000 from council funds

* That a senior official of the council had not paid rent for over a year amounting to about R3 500

* That an official had allegedly smashed three council cars and was bought a German-made one worth R90 000 before investigations were completed on the three accidents.

* That council officials were allegedly misusing council property, mainly vehicles.

The commission was set up after the council had failed to account for last year's R2-million deficit.

It is not yet known how long the investigations would last.

Meanwhile, the Pretoria Supreme Court set aside last year's municipal elections in two wards of Mhluzi.

Wards four and five were set aside and the elections declared null and void.

The application was brought by Mr Matthew Mahlangu and Mr Sydney Kunene against electoral officers Johan Boonzaier and J van der Walt and councillors Mbulawa Shanyoni and Mabusu Mokone.
Battle grows over alleged racist slur

By Shirley Woodgate
Municipal Reporter

The coloured South-Western management committee and its white counterpart in Johannesburg are set on a collision course over alleged racist remarks made by former mayor and senior management committee member, Mr Ernie Fabel.

After claims that Mr Fabel had insulted the coloured people at a joint meeting last Monday, the SW committee adjourned its monthly meeting yesterday demanding a transcript of the tapes and an apology from Mr Fabel.

SW chairman Mrs Margaret Mate man said yesterday's meeting was held in the old council chamber in the City Hall, which was not what her committee had requested.

"We asked for a committee room in the Civic Centre. We are ratepayers who work to build up the city and we have a right to that facility," she said.

It was claimed last week that in response to the SW committee's request to be allowed to hold future meetings in the Civic Centre, Mr Fabel had insulted the coloured people. It was reliably learnt his remarks indicated coloured people were unwelcome in the Civic Centre.

Mrs Mate man said: "A week after the incident Mr Fabel has not apologised nor have we received the tapes of the meeting. We now insist on our requests being met."

Johannesburg management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger said last week that the tapes were "very faint".

Mr Fabel, after initially refusing to comment on the incident, yesterday issued a lengthy press release saying his "references to the Civic Centre being for white city councillors were torn out of context."

Refusing from repeating the actual words which allegedly insulted the coloured committee, he explained in detail that a discussion of delegated powers was one of the main reasons for last week's joint meeting (at which he allegedly made the racist remarks).

He said the reasons why the SW committee should meet in the City Hall and not the Civic Centre as they wanted, were spelt out at length to them.

He said his committee suggested the old council chamber at the City Hall as the venue "was part of our national heritage" and had all the facilities.

"In support of our suggestion we pointed to the practice of each council having its own council chamber, and that we wished them to have their own council chamber to have full status in the eyes of their people."

"We explained that no council gathered in the chamber of another council and that each chamber is the seat of that particular city council."
Fabel admits making remark

By Shirley Woodgate

National Party management committee member Mr Ernie Fabel has admitted he said the Civic Centre was intended for "white" city council meetings, but he actually meant "autonomous bodies".

His admission comes after persistently avoiding the issue after members of the coloured South Western management committee claimed he had insulted them at a joint meeting with Johannesburg's white management committee a fortnight ago.

SW chairman Mrs Margaret Mateman said "We don't want autonomy, which was the suggestion of management committee member Mr Eddie Magid. What we want is our 106 powers.

"We also do not want to sit in their council chamber, we want committee room C in the Civic Centre."

Mr Tony Leon, leader of the Democratic Party in the council, dismissed Mr Fabel's explanation as "a pathetic way of wriggling out of the embarrassing situation he has put the management committee into."

"He has clearly forgotten the Regional Services Council on which he serves and which meets in the council chamber at the Civic Centre every month.

"He has set his mind on confusing everyone," said Mr Leon."
Chikane poison case ‘definite’

US MEDICAL experts have confirmed “beyond doubt” SACC general secretary Reverend Frank Chikane was poisoned by an organophosphate, a compound found in pesticides, according to an SACC statement released yesterday.

And the SAP will now launch an investigation into the matter.

The SACC said yesterday a recent report from the University of Wisconsin in Madison confirmed the poisoning and also stated the FBI laboratory had been put at the disposal of the university for further analysis of Chikane’s clothing.

Chikane collapsed four times earlier this year while travelling in Namibia and the US where he was hospitalised with classic symptoms of nerve gas poisoning.

In a statement, passed on to SAP, Major General Jaap Joubert, Chikane said six months prior to his poisoning he had not been near a farming area chemical factory or war zone where such chemicals could have been used.

He said by a process of elimination the most logical conclusion was that the toxic substance had been deposited on his clothing.

“In this respect, I can state that if persons had access to my luggage at Jan Smuts airport or the Windhoek airport it is possible the substance could have contaminated my clothes at those points,” Chikane said.

Major General Jaap Joubert confirmed he had received Chikane’s statement and investigations would begin.

The SAP had not become involved in the matter earlier as they did not have enough details, he said.

Chikane expressed the hope, in the statement, the matter would be thoroughly investigated so that uncertainties, suspicions and speculations could be cleared up.

The SACC has been conducting an independent investigation into Chikane’s poisoning and into informal repression as a whole.

The need for a separate investigation arose from the belief of the SACC and Chikane that the police were unable and unwilling to investigate attacks on anti-apartheid activists.

Warning of ‘destitution’

PRETORIA — Black local authorities will become engulfed in financial destitution unless they adjust their service charges and collect unpaid rents and service charges.

This warning was given yesterday by Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough at a meeting with Pretoria’s black township councillors.

On government support, he said “We would be deluding ourselves if we believed government can continue to unreservedly sustain local authorities which are amply not prepared to cooperate.”

The Province had been helping local authorities with bridging finance to survive financially.

This source, however, was being depleted and it was expected, unless additional funds were found, that assistance would have to end.

Hough said local authorities had a duty to do whatever was needed to recover rents and service charges from residents.

Latest figures indicated a significant increase in the recovery of charges, yet local authorities became more and more engulfed in financial destitution.

“This regression is directly attributable to the failure of councils to increase their service charges in relation to the financial demands made on them by their bulk suppliers."

He appealed to councils to raise charges to realistic levels, but also warned that a sudden increase to economic levels would probably be counter-productive.
The empire strikes back

Jan Burger, chairman of the Johannesburg Management Committee, takes exception to the FM's cover story of August 4 — "To Laugh Or to Cry" — which criticised the management of the city.

The comment that Johannesburg's deficits are met from "savings built up over the years when there was no loss" is hopelessly misleading.

The council has, since time immemorial, followed a financial policy based on the bringing forward of surpluses (or deficits) from one financial year to the next. This is a current situation, which mainly affects only two or three immediately consecutive financial years.

What has happened is merely that some of the operating deficit relating to 1988/1989 has been financed from an income surplus generated in the previous financial year, and the same is expected to apply to the 1989/1990 financial year.

It is also incorrect to suggest that I have attempted to attribute the so-called tariff increases in the latest budget solely to "the general economic malaise." The Johannesburg City Council is not unique in experiencing problems of this nature. I stand by my statement that our budget for the present year is eminently sound.

The accusation that we do not budget properly or keep proper controls is absurd. The budgets are prepared by the various heads of departments, in consultation with review committees which are composed of the council's most senior officials, and the draft estimates are then presented to the Section 60 committees (Planning & Environment, Health and Housing, and so forth), on which councillors from all political parties serve for consultation.

The estimates, in whatever revised form, are considered by the management committee, whereafter they must be approved by the full council.

As far as controls over expenditure are concerned, the review committees mentioned above, the management committee itself, and various officials, most pertinently the City Treasurer, all exercise considerable control over all the major income and expenditure facets of the budget.

The evident obsession of various persons with the council's budgets for civic entertainment and floral decorations is a little difficult to fathom.

These items represent an infinitesimal fraction of a percent of the operating budget, and, while they are omitted entirely, would not have had a perceptible impact on any of the council's tariffs or rates.

The provision for the overseas guests programme is similarly not a major budget item, and, furthermore, has been debated at length in the council chamber and through the medium of the press. This programme has helped us to forge invaluable links with foreign mayors, councillors and leading figures in various professions, and has proved of considerable assistance in the council's overseas loans negotiations.

And briefly:

- The question of a municipal security department for Johannesburg has been debated at length, and this could be the embryo of the municipal police force, the need for which has been widely propagated.
- John Pearce is not a law unto himself, but is subject to exactly the same code of conduct as any other official or head of department.
- The management committee will do everything in its power to limit the financial burden which ratepayers will have to bear for the Civic Theatre.
- The management committee advisory committee is not a sinister "cabal" but is simply a corporate management team.
- Delegation of authority to officials is a normal process, and an inevitable part of the efficient administration of a city as large as Johannesburg.

It does not represent any orders at all that the governing function of ratepayers; or that the average increase in the council's budget is not 20 percent, as stated by your reporter, but 17.8 percent for the operating budget. This compares very favourably with the projected inflation rate for the next 12-month period — nearly estimated at 18%-19 percent.

- The deficit on the bus service is mentioned in your article as though it is a novel occurrence. Nevertheless, your reporter has failed to notice that the last time the Transport Department achieved a surplus was in 1944/1945.

Moreover, in 1977 the management committee reduced the deficit on this service at 40% of its annual operating budget (in line with the recommendations of the Dreessen Report) Thus, this ratio has been maintained ever since that date.

- The special contributions to Jomed and the pension fund are an annual institution, and merely represent the council's share of the financial contributions of these bodies.
- The Remuneration of Town Clerks Act is solely designed to control remuneration, and there is no proof that it has in any way hampered the privatization process.

The quality of the city's financial administration is best indicated, I believe, by the evident confidence which the business community has in the prosperity of our city. No better proof of this confidence is needed than the highly visible building activity taking place in the CBD.

The FM replies:

In preparing the article the FM was referred by all council dignitaries to Peter Mathebe, the acting town clerk. Mathebe confirmed its factual accuracy after requesting certain changes.

Nowhere in our article do we suggest or imply that Burger attributes the increases solely to the general economic malaise. However, this is virtually the only explanation he gives in his budget speech for the increases.

The article notes that the council has been accused, "particularly by the DP, of over-spending, of failure to budget properly or to keep proper controls." Though Burger believes these accusations are "absurd," they have nevertheless been made repeatedly and particularly in relation to the renovations of the Civic Theatre.

The FM approached one of the largest construction firms on the Reef to analyse the costs involved in renovating the Civic — in 1986/87 estimated at R27m and now believed to exceed R100m. Though this firm confirmed that surcharges on stage equipment are high, and do account for many unforeseen costs, it believes it likely the original estimates were rather "badly budgeted, unrealistic or poorly researched."

The attention given to the Civic Theatre was not excessive; the R1m allocated to its renovation this year alone represents 10% of the entire capital budget of R38m.

The FM said that the amounts for civic functions and entertainment and floral decorations seemed reasonable for a city like Johannesburg — but that comparisons with other big metropolitan cities are important to place them in perspective. While the R1m allocated for the overseas guests programme may well not be a major item, it is nevertheless a substantial amount spent on a project that should not form part of municipal endeavour.

The Security Department, over which there is total secrecy, consumes R25m of taxpayers' money without accountability.

A code of conduct which allows an official to undertake other employment while on leave is in need of reassessment.

Burger's argument that the "Transport Department last achieved a surplus in 1944/1945" in no way justifies the present projected deficit of R28m. If anything, it highlights the inadequacies of the service.

The 1989/1990 budget and Burger's budget speech give no indication of how the special contributions to Jomed and the pension fund will improve the situation of lower-paid pensioners.

This amount (R30m) is merely reflected as an additional allocation to staff benefits which means that in total more than a third of the R1.4bn operating expenditure budget is set aside for salaries, allowances and staff perks.

A better gauge of the efficiency of the city's administration than the extent of present building activity is the faster pace at which the business districts of satellite towns have grown.
SINCE the inception of the black local authorities, township residents have been curious to know what goes on behind the closed doors of council chambers.

Allocation of land, houses and business sites has long been surrounded by controversy.

This was until recently when the Transvaal Provincial Administration established commissions of inquiry to find out how yesterday’s poor became today’s wealthy.

Serious allegations of misappropriation of funds and abuse of power have been made against black town councillors.

Residents want to know how an average township man with no visible source of income can own a posh house and a car in five years.

Besides the dubious origins of their wealth, black councillors have been rejected by anti-apartheid activists as government collaborators – prepared to be token figures in government reform plans.

Ever since black townships have been administered under the Black Local Authorities Act of 1982, they have been subject to external pressure.

After low polls to elect the first black town councils of 1983, the rent riots of September 1984 and the killing of four Vaal councillors, councillors have been rejected by their “constituencies”.

However, the affairs of former Soweto councils are being turned inside out and the Soweto Inquiry, chaired by Prof FR Malan, has already heard startling allegations that the previous council extorted thousands of rands from residents.

Thousands have been aware of the corruption in township administration, but few have been prepared to come out into the open.

Former councillors Nelson Bote, Frans Kolo, Johnson Mokoena, Michael Gwena and J Khumalo have been named as allegedly receiving money for services never rendered. More evidence is expected when the inquiry resumes on Wednesday.

Builder Graham Walker told the commission he was swindled out of R30,000 by a council official for five sites at Tlhotlho. Walker said “palms have to be crossed with silver” for services in Soweto.

Assistant director of property sales for Soweto, William Loots, said he had 25 cases in which people’s signatures were forged on leasehold documents.

Councillors have also been alleged to have misused council vehicles and evicted pensioners from their homes and the installed other tenants.

Another mystery to be unveiled is why councillors moved out of their Soweto homes and sought refuge in Fordsburg during the unrest of 1984.

The councillors’ occupation of plush Power Park in Soweto might also be explained.

Soweto’s neighbouring councillors in Dobsonville are also in the firing line.

 Allegations of corruption and maladministration have been referred to the Transvaal Provincial Administration with a view to the appointment of a commission of inquiry.

Investigations were started after councillor Don Minnis and former councillor Freddy Mohagen said in affidavits that in 1987 Dobsonville residents unwittingly paid for the defence of five councillors on charges of bribery.

Mayor Steve Nkalo, Steve Kgaana, 1B Masha, Alex Jaca and Jeremiah Zembe have all since been acquitted.

It was alleged that the five owed the council more than R30,000 which they used to pay for their defence.

Other allegations are that councillors allocated themselves business and property stands without advertising them or putting them out to tender and that they owned about eight stands – one a huge business stand.

Former Attridgeville mayor Matthew Mahlangu has been found guilty of stealing R1,000 from the council and will be sentenced on October 16.
Lid off corrupt black councils

SINCE the inception of the black local authorities, township residents have been curious to know what goes on behind the closed doors of council chambers.

Allocation of land, houses and business sites has long been surrounded by controversy.

This was until recently when the Transvaal Provincial Administration established commissions of inquiry to find out how yesterday's poor became today's wealthy.

Serious allegations of misappropriation of funds and abuse of power have been made against black town councillors.

Residents want to know how an average township man with no visible source of income can own a posh house and a car in five years.

Besides the dubious origins of their wealth, black councillors have been rejected by anti-apartheid activists as government collaborators - prepared to be token figures in government reform plans.

Ever since black townships have been administered under the Black Local Authorities Act of 1982, they have been subject to external pressure.

After low polls to elect the first black town council of 1983, the routs of September 1984 and the killing of four Vaul councillors, councillors have been rejected by their "constituencies".

However, the affairs of former Soweto councillors are being turned inside out and the Soweto Inquiry, chaired by Prof FR Malan, has already heard startling allegations that the previous council extorted thousands of rands from residents.

Thousands have been aware of the corruption in township administration, but few have been prepared to come out into the open.

Former councillors Nelson Bottle, Frans Koki, Johnson Mokwena, Michael Gwensa and J Khumalo have been named as allegedly receiving money for services never rendered. More evidence is expected when the inquiry resumes on Wednesday.

Builder Graham Walker told the commission he was swindled out of R30 000 by a council official for five sites in Tshidzini. Walker said "palms have to be crossed with silver" for services in Soweto.

Assistant director of property sales for Soweto, William Loots, said he had 25 cases in which people's signatures were forged on household documents.

Councillors have also been alleged to have misused council vehicles and evicted pensioners from their homes and then sold the properties.

Another mystery to be unveiled is why councillors moved out of their Soweto homes and sought refuge in Fordsburg during the unrest of 1984.

The councillors' occupation of polo Power Park in Soweto might also be explained.

Soweto's neighbouring councillors in Dobsonville are also in the firing line.

Allegations of corruption and maladministration have been referred to the Transvaal Provincial Administration with a view to the appointment of a commission of inquiry.

Investigations were started after councillor Don Mmesi and former councillor Freddy Mohapede said in affidavits that in 1987 Dobsonville residents unwittingly paid for the defence of five councillors on charges of bribery.

Mayor Steve Nkolo, Steve Kgama, IB Mashau, Alex Jaca and Jeremiah Zembe have all since been acquitted.

It was alleged that the five owed the council more than R80 000 which they used to pay for their defence.

Other allegations are that councillors allocated themselves business and property stands without advertising them or putting them out to tender and that they owned about eight stands - one a huge business stand.

Former Atteridgeville mayor Matthew Mahluwu has been found guilty of stealing R1 000 from the council and will be sentenced on October 16.
FORMER TEXAS OFFICIAL DIES IN LIMBO

Former Texas mayor accuses Bollo of being named as allegedly being involved in corruption.
The people's councilors

The government on 42nd Hill
UN panel looks at disinvestment in SA

The Star's Foreign News Service

GENEVA — An 11-member panel of "eminent persons" convened by the United Nations met here yesterday to start a three-day examination of the state of disinvestment in South Africa, and the possibilities of change as a result of tomorrow's election.

The panel, the second of its kind to be convened by the UN Centre on Trans-National Corporations, will come up with a series of recommendations to the Secretary-General, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, at the end of the three days of public hearings. The first such meeting was held in 1985.

Representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce, various anti-apartheid organisations, non-governmental institutions and South African employers organisations are among those giving evidence. The South African representatives, who include the Chamber of Mines and the Black Taxi Association, are expected to testify today.

The first day's meeting heard a warning from Mr Joseph Garba of Nigeria, chairman of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, that the Government of the Acting State President, Mr F W de Klerk, "is trying to break out of international isolation and reduce international pressure by making vague announcements aimed at creating an impression of a readiness to bring about gradual reforms in the system."

"Given the long history of oppression by his party, we don't think he (De Klerk) is bringing out anything new," he told a press conference later.

Councillor's status subject to review

Municipal Reporter

The deputy chairman of the South-Western Management Committee, Mr Victor Thomas, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment or a R1,000 fine last week after he was convicted on two counts of corruption.

Johannesburg City Council housing director Mr F W Robins said he had asked for copies of the Protea Magistrate's Court records to be referred to the council's legal advisers for their opinion on Mr Thomas's status as a councillor.

Mr Dudley Arends, chairman of the United Civic Association, said the case followed the submission of certain documents by UCA to the MEC in charge of local government.

The documents referred to maladministration by the South-West Management Committee.

Businessmen slate Boksburg advert

By Helen Grange

A recent Boksburg Town Council advertisement, showing statistics indicating positive economic growth in the town, has come under fire from Boksburg businessmen who say the figures are misleading.

The Boksburg Alliance, an organisation representing businessmen, has criticised the advert, which appeared in several national newspapers last week, as an "unjustifiable" election ploy by the Conservative Party.

The advertisement was issued by Boksburg town clerk Mr J J Coetzee, on instructions from Boksburg's CP-controlled management committee.

Mr Robert Gardiner of the Boksburg Alliance asked if the Conservative Party had the right to "issue selective details under the name of the town clerk to attain some sort of credibility."

The advert claimed that Boksburg's budget growth had been 16.13 percent, that income derived from rates levied on property had increased by 9.36 percent and that the total valuation of properties had grown by 9.77 percent.

Mambazo cancel two shows

Ladysmith Black Mambazo have canceled tonight's and tomorrow night's performances at Pretoria's State Theatre "due to unforeseen circumstances."

Pact's publicity department was unable to comment further about the reasons for the cancellation.

The show now officially opens on Thursday night.

Ticket holders for tonight's charity performance should request refunds from their charity organisation.

Those with seats for tomorrow night can claim a refund from Computicket or may book again.

See Page 7
Soweto — city of the future

By Norman Chandler, Pretoria Bureau

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has earmarked Soweto as the city of the future. Massive amounts of money are being spent on the city. Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough said in a statement released in Pretoria yesterday.

Spearheading the effort to “solve the problems of Soweto” was a new organisation, the Soweto Policy Co-ordinating Committee, consisting of representatives from parastatals, private enterprise, and provincial and government bodies.

PARTICIPATION

Mr Hough said one of the objectives of the committee was to get public participation and resources involved in the development of the giant city. If all went according to plan it “could well result in Soweto becoming the city of the future”, he said.
THE Conservative Party-controlled Town Council of Carolina allegedly used funds earmarked for job creation for other purposes, a commission of investigation was told in Pretoria yesterday.

The commission, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice V G Henschke, was appointed by the Transvaal executive committee to investigate alleged irregular actions by officials and/or members of the Town Council of Carolina.

Mr P W A Strydom, an attorney appointed by the Administrator of the Transvaal, is to lead evidence.

(Proceeding.)
14 new white rural councils to be set up.

Minister of Local Government and Housing Mr. Amie Venter has announced that 14 white rural councils are to be established on the first of next month — 10 in the Cape and four in the Transvaal.

They will give agricultural communities not falling under the jurisdiction of a local authority a say on matters affecting them.

There will be only three rural councils for whites in each RSC area.
Mr. Rees said that he had come to the decision a year after the death of his late father, when he was an NDP municipal candidate. As the office was a family business, he said, the death of his father had taken a toll on his political aspirations.

"He was a mentor to me, and I have learned a lot from him. He taught me to be a good leader and to always put the interests of the community first."

Mr. Rees also expressed his gratitude to the NDP for their support during this difficult time.

"I am confident that with the support of the NDP, I will be able to serve the people of this city with dedication and integrity."
New men in TPA posts

Pretoria Bureau

The Transvaal Provincial Administration announced yesterday that Mr A. R. R. de Smuith, executive director of the TPA's general provincial services, is to take on a key management position.

He will attend to tasks aimed at bringing relief to the overall managerial responsibility of the TPA, and is to be succeeded by Dr. P. S. Steyn, present chief director of works.

In other promotions, Mr. J. G. H. le Roux has become executive director of roads in succession to Mr. L. Terblanche, who has retired.

A former legal adviser and assistant City Secretary of Johannesburg, Mr. L. D. Dekker, has been promoted to executive director of community development at the TPA.

He succeeds Mr. L. G. Kok, who has also retired.
No tenders for contracts, inquiry told

WASTE-REMOVAL contracts were never tendered for, but were simply granted to certain companies when privatisation was introduced in Soweto, the Malan Commission of Inquiry was told yesterday.

The three-man commission, headed by RAU's Professor F Malan, was appointed by the Soweto City Council to investigate corruption and irregularities in the council over the past five years.

Head of cleansing and transport services, Jeremiah Mokotong, told the inquiry Wade Waste took over some of Soweto's cleansing services during the council workers' strike last year.

Mokotong, who said Soweto was run not by the council but by some white officials, alleged that Wade Waste had been given power in writing by City Secretary Louis Goldenhuys and roads and stormwater manager Dirk Lourens to "sack" other contractors.

He said two contractors, Waste Dynamics and Wykom Coal, had objected to this in writing.

Half-loads

Lourens had testified earlier that he had been assigned the task of privatising services as Soweto was getting dirtier during the strike.

There had been no formal tender, but officials and the council had discussed an offer by Wade Waste, which had the adequate plant, equipment and resources to handle the cleansing task. He said the TPA had given approval.

Mokotong said companies were taking half-loads to tips and charging for full loads, and servicing houses twice a week while charging for a full week.

He said the council must have lost between R2m and R4m when Wade Waste trebled claims for refuse-compaction units, claiming for 63m² when a unit could only take 31m².

Mokotong, who said council officials did not want him to testify, alleged that Goldenhuys had misled councillors into believing that they could use vehicles bought for use by officials.

He alleged that, to circumvent a regulation forbidding purchase of council property by councillors, nine fairly new council-owned Cresudas were sold to a Roodesport dealer who resold them to councillors for between R3 000 and R6 000.
Province to discuss R20m for theatre

Provincial representatives will meet Johannesburg's Town Clerk, Maan Venter, next week to discuss the city's request for R20m aid in meeting R67.5m Civic Theatre refurbishment costs.

Venter, confirming this yesterday, said the council would present the administrator with detailed breakdowns of costs for the refurbishment.

The council is asking for R20m in aid to help cover costs of refurbishing the Civic Theatre to meet the standards of more recent state theatres.

At the council's budget meeting in June, it was announced that initial estimates for the Civic's refurbishment had risen by 161% since 1987 to R67.5m from R24m.

ROBERT GREIG

Costs would be borne from the council's capital fund.

It was also announced that an element in the increase was additional imported, hydraulic stage equipment. This would enable the Civic to stage works designed for Pretoria's State Theatre.

Yesterday, Venter confirmed that although the Department of Finance last month turned down the council's request for exemption from import surcharges and duties, it had referred the council to the Board of Trade and Industry.

Venter said the council was awaiting a response to the request for exemption.

Estimates on duties payable on the Civic project are "in the realm of R569 000," said a council representative. These had been built into the architects' estimates announced in June.

The Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal budgeted for a R1.5m deficit in 1988/89 related to "a probable decrease in attendance as a result of the closure of the Civic Theatre."

Pact's director, Gerrit Geertsema, commented then in the annual report: "This will not only mean a loss of box-office income, but also a decrease of the State subsidy according to the subsidy formula."
Comparison of rates for Reef’s 10 largest towns

IF SOUND financial management practices work for some town councils, why does the same approach not help others keep their assessment rates down to a comparable level?

Figures released recently by Multi Listing Services (MLS) indicate that the base tariff for Benoni, for example, is more than four times that for Edenvale.

The schedule released by MLS compares the rates in 10 large Reef towns listing them from most expensive to least expensive (taking into account the rebate allowed on residential properties) they are Benoni, Krugersdorp, Kempton Park, Roodepoort, Germiston, Boksburg, Johannesburg, Randburg, Sandton and Edenvale.

“We keep our costs — and therefore our rates — down by controlling our expenditure,” explained Randburg deputy town treasurer Gert Botha.

He said they constantly monitored projects and adhered strictly to their five-year plan which kept the annual growth of the budget for capital projects within defined limits.

By contrast, Benoni’s budgeting appears to be carried out from the opposite direction — by assessing how much the town is spending, and setting the rates accordingly.

Acting town treasurer Frank Mearns said their income had not kept pace with their expenditure.

Coetzee rejected the suggestion that Krugersdorp ratepayers were effectively being penalised for the low value of their property investments.

In Roodepoort — which has the second highest basic tariff of all the towns — the council has made a conscious decision to gear its rates heavily in favour of the residential user.

City treasurer Adriaan de Villiers said they had a very low business and industrial component and were not very concerned with lowering the rates to attract industry.

“in fact, we offer additional assistance to certain residential property owners”

This takes the form of a remission on rates in addition to the residential rebate for areas where property values rose out of proportion to the rest of

### COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF ASSESSMENT RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWN/CITY</th>
<th>TARIFF Costs in the Rand</th>
<th>RESIDENTIAL 1 REBATE</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT RATE BASED ON A RESIDENTIAL 1 STAND VALUED AT R50 000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOHANNESBURG</td>
<td>3,97</td>
<td>65 %</td>
<td>R 893,56 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENONI</td>
<td>3,60</td>
<td>60 %</td>
<td>R 813,00 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANDBURG</td>
<td>3,53</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>R 799,93 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEMPTON PARK</td>
<td>4,18</td>
<td>72,2 %</td>
<td>R 1 641,20 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROODEPOORT</td>
<td>5,6</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>R 1 656,00 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDENVALE</td>
<td>1,43</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>R 1 170,00 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENONI</td>
<td>6,0</td>
<td>62,5 %</td>
<td>R 1 080,00 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOKSBURG</td>
<td>3,85</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>R 1 155,00 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMANSTOWN</td>
<td>3,9</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>R 1 170,00 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRUGERSDORP</td>
<td>4,98</td>
<td>31,36 %</td>
<td>R 1 564,92 pa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Roodpoort

On the industrial front, Krugersdorp, a heavy industrial area, ranks third highest after Benoni and Roodepoort.

Krugersdorp’s electricity tariffs for industrial users are set at 6,04c/kWh — about 30% less than the household tariff — with a R166/kVA maximum demand charge.

In Benoni, heavy industrial users (defined as those using over 100kVA) pay only 3,37c/kWh with a maximum demand charge of R16,10/kVA. The council also imposes a 25% surcharge across the board.

Edenvale’s electricity rates are comparatively high, at 7,05c/unit and R19,68/kVA for industrial users.
Squatters moving to Orange Farm

3 000 families agree to leave Mshenguville

By Winnie Graham

About 3,000 families in Mshenguville — the giant squatter camp in the heart of Soweto — have decided to move to Orange Farm, near Vereeniging, on Monday.

The public relations officer for the Soweto City Council, Dr Johan van der Westhuizen, said yesterday that the decision to move had come from the people after 25 buses had taken them to view Orange Farm.

"This is not a forced removal," he stressed.

"Many of the people have already paid for a site at Orange Farm and are looking forward to living in a more comfortable environment."

Although the Soweto council has upgraded several "informal settlements" in Soweto by providing residents with ablution facilities, lighting and roads, it is not in favour of improving facilities at Mshenguville because it was built on the banks of a stream well within the 50-year flood-line, is under pylons and is on public open space.

Dr van der Westhuizen said 3,000 stands at Orange Farm had been made available to the people of Mshenguville, with a further 7,000 expected.

The people's decision to move follows negotiations with the ward councillor who told the Mshenguville squatters there was no more land available in Soweto for "site and service" stands.

Railway station

The Provincial Administration, he said, was moving rapidly to provide the people with facilities such as schools, transport, a post office and information centre. The railway station has always been improved.

Dr van der Westhuizen said the camp was built on an old golf course and once it has been vacated the site would be cleared for a recreation area "Some councillors favour restoring the golf course, but others have suggested it become a watersport facility with boating on the river."

"Raw" bodies found in bakkie | R95m boost
T pagar 2
the police have been
active in keeping up
with it. 2000
of P 94.49 on December-
27. 1999, and 94.71 on
2000. 27. 1999, and 94.71 on

From page 1

By Mora Mwomo

R-M INSURANCE

by MONKOMO

S cement 10.14m
Residents of Johannesburg's Ward 6 will meet on Saturday morning to discuss the implications of city council proposals to establish a taxi rank and hawkers' market in Oxford Road.

The park site which is being eyed for the development is north-east of the Oxford Road/North Street intersection in Mr. Paul Asherson's Ward 7 (Melrose) but will mainly affect residents in blocks of flats in Mr. Christopher Newton Thompson's Ward 6.

Mr. Newton Thompson said that after the initial meeting, he had expressed sympathy with residents' fears and suggested a second meeting.

Mr. Asherson said the residents had never approached him. The council had "merely done some thinking about the problems in the suburbs" and there was no chance of losing the park they claimed would be converted into a taxi rank, he said.
Talks to focus on PWV development

By Norman Chandler, Pretoria Bureau

Major discussions on the development of black townships in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal (PWV) area are to be held at Broederstroom this week.

It will be the second time in a year that the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), mining houses, township developers and financial institutions have met to discuss the issue.

Mr Andre Cornehlsen, director-general of the TPA, said in Pretoria that the overall planning for the area between Soweto and Vanderbijlpark would be discussed at the meetings on Thursday and Friday.

“The first discussion took place last December,” Mr Cornehlsen said. “The purpose of these talks is to bring the private sector and the TPA together to discuss black township development in the PWV.”

Dr WR Hood, the Transvaal MEC whose portfolio includes physical planning and land use, is to chair the meeting, will report on a working group formed at the initial talks.

There will also be progress reports on land identification and physical planning, township establishment processes and land use.
Freeway tariff will hit blacks

By ALI MPHAKI

SOWETANS will be forced to pay for access to the soon-to-be-built Hendekh Schoeman Freeway, while the same access will be enjoyed free of charge by much wealthier centres of towns like Roodepoort, Sandton and Randburg.

The South African Transport and Road Board has declared that the 350000 vehicles which pass the Soweto-Randburg border daily will have to pay toll fees for access to the freeway.

The road will run in an east-west direction along Soweto's northern boundary, and in turn will have an excellent interchange with the existing M4 for Ring Road. A toll gate will be built between Commando Road and the Ring Road.

White Roodepoort, Randburg and Sandton have numerous, high-quality access roads to the Ring Road. Sowetans in central and western Soweto who want to use this access have to travel all the way across the township or make their way through Sandton to Soweto in order to be able to access the M4.

This discrepancy was summed up by Mr Conrad Borge, secretary of the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council:

"The way the road is planned, it is not an easy task to access the Ring Road or the freeway in Soweto."

Bongsu has four access roads to the Ring Road. One of which is a toll road. The M4 Roodepoort Road and Randburg have two and Roodepoort Road has two access roads.

Avenue and Quinton Road interchanges on the Ring Road.

In the 1988 annual report of the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors it is stated that the biggest contributor to the better weeks of the future would be the increased traffic on the freeway, bringing success to this innovating method of construction work."

On the basis of this report, the road building industry has estimated that the road building industry has estimated that the road building industry will be able to make a profit of 6% on the road building industry.

"I am very happy about the road building industry and I am very happy about the road building industry."

Join the swing to Bell's - your No.1 choice

Scotch

Dalem construction

Garage & 2 rooms

Free offer

Plaster and rough east outside of existing houses with every garage and 2 rooms until end of September only.

474-2510 ask for HELEN

Daletan (PTY) LTD

Diepkloof • Meadowlands • Dobsonville

Very few remain

"There are no more generations to Aggrey Klaas. Sowetan deelie participating in associate free aspirations at all."

NATION BUILDING

June

VENUE: JOHANNESBURG

DATE: MONDAY

TIME: BEGIN AT 7PM

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

An ideal oppo to coincide with the Nation Building Festival. It will be held in Johannesburg. The festival is a College, which Auditorium in "The John College Building" promises to be a success. Schools involved are: John College Stellenbosch. Conducted by Africa's most t

"There is no more generations to Aggrey Klaas. Sowetan deelie participating in associate free aspirations at all."

"The way the road is planned, it is not an easy task to access the Ring Road or the freeway in Soweto."

Bongsu has four access roads to the Ring Road. One of which is a toll road. The M4 Roodepoort Road and Randburg have two and Roodepoort Road has two access roads.

Avenue and Quinton Road interchanges on the Ring Road.

In the 1988 annual report of the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors it is stated that the biggest contributor to the better weeks of the future would be the increased traffic on the freeway, bringing success to this innovating method of construction work."

On the basis of this report, the road building industry has estimated that the road building industry will be able to make a profit of 6% on the road building industry.

"I am very happy about the road building industry and I am very happy about the road building industry."

Join the swing to Bell's - your No.1 choice

Scotch

Dalem construction

Garage & 2 rooms

Free offer

Plaster and rough east outside of existing houses with every garage and 2 rooms until end of September only.

474-2510 ask for HELEN

Daletan (PTY) LTD

Diepkloof • Meadowlands • Dobsonville

Very few remain

"There are no more generations to Aggrey Klaas. Sowetan deelie participating in associate free aspirations at all."

NATION BUILDING

June

VENUE: JOHANNESBURG

DATE: MONDAY

TIME: BEGIN AT 7PM

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

An ideal oppo to coincide with the Nation Building Festival. It will be held in Johannesburg. The festival is a College, which Auditorium in "The John College Building" promises to be a success. Schools involved are: John College Stellenbosch. Conducted by Africa's most t
Attempt to resolve dispute

By Melody McDougall, Vereeniging Bureau

Top management from the Rand Water Board gathered in Vereeniging yesterday in an attempt to settle the dispute surrounding the dismissal of about 400 employees at the Zuikerbosch pumping station outside the town.

The workers were dismissed on Friday after they had apparently participated in illegal strike action since last Tuesday.

The employees were demanding the immediate release of a shop steward from police custody and the removal of the hostel manager from the pumping station.

A Rand Water Board spokesman in Johannesburg confirmed the board's top management were involved in discussions at the pumping station yesterday in a bid to resolve the matter.

According to the spokesman the employees' grievances have been addressed as fully as possible by management, while representations have also been made to secure the release of the shop steward from custody.

She stressed that the board was not instrumental in the steward's arrest. She said despite numerous appeals to the employees and negotiations with union officials and representatives of the workforce — and an undertaking by the representatives and the union that the workers would return to work — the employees left management with no other alternative but to dismiss them after they failed to resume work by the 11am deadline on Friday.
Former mayor leads council walkout by 8

EIGHT members of the Daveyton Town Council on the East Rand, yesterday walked out of the council’s monthly meeting during a heated argument with the mayor, Mr Shadrack Simaba.

The councillors, led by former mayor Mr Tom Boya, left the meeting after Simapa had introduced, an unopposed mayor’s motion, suspending the chairman of the management committee, Mr Charles Makgati, for 45 days from council activities without his monthly allowance.

Simapa told the meeting that he was suspending Makgati because he had allegedly swore at him in the last council meeting, last month.

The meeting had to be called off because only six councillors remained in the meeting and could not form a quorum. At the time of going to Press, no date had been set for another meeting.

Simapa yesterday refused to comment on the matter. “I am not prepared to discuss the matter with the Press. I have nothing to say,” he said.

According to the regulations of the Black Local Authorities Act, a councillor can only be suspended from council activities after the council has debated and taken a vote on the matter.

This had not occurred.

Three members of the Daveyton Council’s executive committee were replaced yesterday after a motion of no confidence in them, a resident said last night.

Following several complaints from frustrated residents about the alleged ‘ineffectiveness of certain members of the executive committee, three councillors serving with the body were removed at a special meeting of the council convened yesterday.

Councillors F F Mkhatho, Councillor R Matukane and Councillor I R Mofokeng were removed after a motion of no confidence in the men was moved by Councillor L L Sekosana and seconded by Councillor P D Mokou. The motion was carried with seven voting for and six against, residents said.
TPA probes Dobsonville Town Council

A PUBLIC inquiry into alleged irregularities within the administration of the Dobsonville Town Council will start at the council chambers on November 6.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has appointed one of its legal officers, Mr B J Olivier, to head the inquiry.

The TPA has appealed to Dobsonville residents to come forward with evidence about possible corruption or irregularities by councillors or council officials.

Residents should phone the investigating officer, Mr E J Goosen, at (01521) 6851 before October 23.

Mr C P Hatting can also be given information at 80 Albert Street, Room 316, in Johannesburg. He can also be phoned at (011) 331-4911.

The inquiry will continue for a number of days if more evidence is presented. It will run from 9am to 3pm daily.

The inquiry is a sequel to several allegations of maladministration made by people who had served the council before.

Letters detailing the alleged irregularities were sent to the TPA during October last year and earlier this year when by-elections were to be held in the area.

Several other commissions are investigating alleged corruption in councils across the country.
R850 000 misused claim

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has launched an investigation into allegations of misuse of funds amounting to about R850 000 in the Tokoza town council in the East Rand.

Sowetan is in possession of documents sent to the TPA in February as pending the outcome of the investigation.

The deputy chairman of the council's management committee, Mr. Abrahahn Mziizi, yesterday confirmed that the TPA was probing the allegations. He refused to

- To page 2

**R850 000 misused**

- From Page 1

According to the documents, about R500 000 of the money was used for the purchase of vehicles for council officials and employees.

It is stated in the documents that the council had not approved the expenditures.

Other complaints include:

- Some council officials were paid a travelling allowance without the approval of the council.
- New vehicles were bought for the local traffic department without the council's approval. The decision to buy the vehicles was taken by an official.
38 councillors are warned to pay up or lose their seats

Brenda robbed

MORE than 30 Lekosa town councillors have been given 14 days to pay up their rent arrears amounting to about R43 000 or lose their status as councillors.

This was confirmed by the council's acting town clerk, Mr J van der Westhuizen, who said the letters were sent to 35 councillors, including the deputy mayor Mrs Kate Ngwenya.

Some of the councillors who have been warned in terms of Section 9 of Act 102 of 1982 are the newly elected members of the executive committee - Mr E N Mahlati (chairman), Mr S D Matseben, Mr Chester Motloang and Mr Philemon Motloang.

Service

Ngwenya has been informed that he owes the municipality R4042.95 in respect of the selling scheme and service charges for his business and his home.

Ngwenya has been informed in similar notes that she owed R6697.60 in rent and service charges, Matseben owes R1518.69, Motloang R844 and Motloang R355.

Vaal Triangle town.

To page 2
Rent increase

BY JOSHUA RABOROKO

He could not give details of the new rates which will affect thousands of residents in the townships of Sharpeville, Bophelong, Bopatong, Sebokeng, Refengkgotso and Zamdela.

Van der Westhuizen said that the council would invite residents, organisations and interested people to respond to the new proposal by the council. Their views would be passed on to the TPA before approving the budget.

The increases in rent have been a thorny issue in the Vaal Triangle townships. They sparked off conflict leading to the death of a resident in 1984.

The decision to increase rents was finally approved by the council at its monthly meeting in Sebokeng last month.

The council's acting town clerk, Mr J van der Westhuizen, yesterday confirmed that the council had approved an increase in rents when it discussed the 1989/90 budget.

The executive committee of the Lekoa Town Council under newly-elected chairman and former mayor, Mr Esau Mahlatsi, has decided to increase rent and service charges by an average of R24.

The new tariffs which are to be implemented at a date still to be decided, are still to be approved by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, according to sources yesterday.

The executive committee of the Lekoa Town Council under newly-elected chairman and former mayor, Mr Esau Mahlatsi, has decided to increase rent and service charges by an average of R24.

The new tariffs which are to be implemented at a date still to be decided, are still to be approved by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, according to sources yesterday.

The decision to increase rents was finally approved by the council at its monthly meeting in Sebokeng last month.

The council's acting town clerk, Mr J van der Westhuizen, yesterday confirmed that the council had approved an increase in rents when it discussed the 1989/90 budget.

The increases in rent have been a thorny issue in the Vaal Triangle townships. They sparked off conflict leading to the death of a resident in 1984.
Proclamation red tape a big obstacle

Bold joint venture to boost housing

By Norman Chandler, Pretoria Bureau

A bold new plan to cut through the red tape which is strangling efforts to beat South Africa's housing crisis is being developed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The Southern African Development Bank, the private sector, regional services councils and economic development boards are working with the TPA to put together an urban development support programme (UDSP).

Mr Andre Cornelissen, director-general of the TPA, told a black township development conference at Breederivier yesterday that the UDSP was "equal to the best such programmes in the world".

More details on how it would operate would be released later, he said. The UDSP would cover every aspect of the provision of housing, from land to finance.

In some areas, Mr Cornelissen said, TPA officials had "broken world records" with laying out townships and providing services to speed up the provision of housing.

The meeting heard earlier from working groups which have been studying housing problems that there would be 18 million people living in the PWV area by the year 2010.

Delays in developing land for housing would result in a massive bottleneck, so urgent action was necessary.

It was said that the proclamation of land for township use took "ages", and provision had to be made for the elimination of red tape.

The establishment of a "land bank" was also mooted. This would involve buying up tens of thousands of hectares at current prices and releasing it to developers as the need arises. At present, land in the PWV area costs R15 000 to R30 000 a hectare.

Key element

Provision of land was pinpointed as a key element in the findings of all working groups. They reported on land, finance, sources of income for black townships, infrastructure and educational and recreational services.

It was recommended that the Government - "preferably a Cabinet Minister" - be asked to make direct representations to mining houses for the release of land owned by them in the PWV.

Mining houses would also be approached to assist with the financing of schools and other facilities. A bid would have to be made to obtain tax relief for mines which offered such assistance.

The meeting heard that the provincial and State authorities were unable to pay for new schools or to buy the land required for educational purposes.

There were already moves to allow private-sector organisations to provide schools and hospitals "which could be taken over at a later date by the relevant authorities".

The meeting heard that people living in existing townships were not enthusiastic about moving to areas which did not have schools, shopping facilities, or medical services.

The possibility of designating township shopping areas as free trade areas was also urged. There was already some success in the Cape Town area.

In terms of existing legislation, these shopping areas could be open to all races.

SA 'urgently needs national housing policy'

By Jacqueline Myburgh

South Africa is in desperate need of a national housing policy, Mr Keith Nurcombe of Toncoro - holding company for Corobrik - said yesterday.

He called on housing and building associations throughout South Africa, and the Ministers responsible for housing in all three Houses of Parliament, to combine their efforts to produce a national policy and a clear action-plan to implement agreed strategies.

He said the housing backlog in SA was out of control, with more than 1.25 million homes needed, and the number estimated to increase to 3.7 million squatters existed in and around the major cities and towns, and by the year 2000 this figure could increase to 9 million.

Mr Nurcombe said 50 per cent of blacks in South Africa could not afford a housing loan, and it was therefore up to both the public and private sectors to co-operate in providing affordable housing for these people.
Proclamation red tape a big obstacle

**Bold joint venture to boost housing**

By Norman Chandler, Pretoria Bureau

A bold new plan to cut through the red tape which is strangling efforts to beat South Africa's housing crisis is being developed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The Southern African Development Bank, the private sector, regional services councils and economic development boards are working with the TPA to put together an urban development support programme (UDSP).

Mr Andre Cornelissen, director-general of the TPA, told a black township development conference at Broederstroom yesterday that the UDSP was "equal to the best such programmes in the world".

More details on how it would operate would be released later, he said. The UDSP would cover every aspect of the provision of housing from land to finance.

In some areas, Mr Cornelissen said, TPA officials had "broken world records" by laying out townships and providing services to speed up the provision of housing.

The meeting heard earlier from working groups which have been studying housing problems that there would by the year 2010 be 16 million people living in the PWV area.

Delays in developing land for housing would result in a massive bottleneck, so urgent action was necessary.

It was said that the proclamation of land for township use took "ages", and provision had to be made for the elimination of red tape.

The establishment of a "land bank" was also mooted. This would involve buying up tens of thousands of hectares at current prices and releasing it to developers as the need arises. At present, land in the PWV area costs R15,000 to R35,000 a hectare.

**Key element**

Provision of land was pinpointed as a key element in the findings of all working groups. They reported on land, finance, sources of income for black townships, infrastructure, educational and recreational services.

It was recommended that the Government — "preferably a Cabinet Minister" — be asked to make direct representations to mining houses for the release of land owned by them in the PWV.

Mining houses would also be approached to assist with the financing of schools and other facilities. A bid would be made to obtain tax relief for mines which offered such assistance.

The meeting heard that the provincial and State authorities were unable to pay for new schools or to buy the land required for educational purposes.

There were already moves to allow private-sector organisations to provide schools and hospitals "which could be taken over at a later date by the relevant authorities".

The meeting heard that people living in existing townships were not enthusiastic about moving to areas which did not have schools, shopping facilities, or medical services.

The possibility of designating township shopping areas as free trade areas was also urged.

In terms of existing legislation, these shopping areas could be open to all races.

SA 'urgently needs national housing policy'

By Jacqueline Myburgh

South Africa is in desperate need of a national housing policy, Mr Keith Nurcombe of Tonicor, holding company for Corobrik, said yesterday.

He called on housing and building associations throughout South Africa, and the Ministers responsible for housing in all three Houses of Parliament, to combine their efforts to produce a national policy and a clear action-plan to implement agreed strategies.

He said the housing backlog in SA was out of control, with the number of homes needed now exceeding 1,25 million.

"Efforts made so far by the South African Housing Trust, with its involvement in projects valued at R65 million are a drop in the ocean," he said.

Estimates indicated that 3,7 million squatters existed in and around the major cities and towns, and by the year 2000 this figure could increase to 34 million.

Mr Nurcombe said 56,4 per cent of blacks in South Africa could not afford a housing loan, and it was therefore up to both the public and private sectors to co-operate in providing affordable housing for these people.
Municipal competition warning

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

Competition between local authorities should not lead to upgrading of facilities which the ratepayers do not want and cannot afford, Mr Sam de Beer warned in his opening speech at the Transvaal Municipal Congress in Johannesburg yesterday.

The Minister of Health Services, Welfare and Housing in the House of Assembly said smaller municipalities tended to follow the example of their larger counterparts.

LITTLE POTENTIAL

He said it was debatable whether all municipalities should offer the same standard of services. Local authorities which had little growth potential did not require the same standards as fast-developing local authorities.

He advised municipalities to weigh up the cost of labour against productivity. A look at the percentage of expenditure by most local authorities on salaries and wages suggested that sound management practices were not always followed.

Since the introduction of politics at local government level, there had been a faster turnover of councillors, and with the loss of experienced representatives, it was necessary to educate the new people so that they could best serve the electorate.

At the same time it was necessary that the training of officials be directed at maximum use of available manpower.

"Everything should be directed at the interests of the residents," Mr de Beer said.
Residents must pay — Kriel

The Soweto City Council should get payment from residents for services it supplied if it wanted to operate as a viable local government, new Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hermus Kriel said yesterday.

The Minister, accompanied by Deputy Minister Andre Fourie and Transvaal Provincial Administrator Dane Hough, paid a courtesy visit to Soweto with a view to familiarising himself with the situation there.

Kriel acknowledged that Soweto had fallen behind in development, financial ability and other matters. It was also a fact that some of the people of Soweto could not afford to pay for full municipal services.

But he added, “There are, however, large numbers of residents who are in a financial position to pay, but they fail to do so for various reasons.

“Having said this, it is my view that a solution must be found along the lines that those who can afford it, pay their full dues, while those who cannot, will at least pay as much as may be reasonably expected from them.”

Theo Rawana

He said while the central and provincial governments were prepared to assist local governments as far as possible, “we cannot condone failure to take the necessary responsible steps. Councilors should bear this in mind when they approach provincial administrations to waive outstanding debts.

Courageous

The Soweto council will have to decide whether it really wants to stay in business. If the answer is ‘yes’, the council will have to be courageous enough to take a decision to recover some or all of the money owing to it,” he said.

Kriel was taken on a short tour of the township complex, visiting such places as the Mahenguville squatter area, Orlando East sub-economic township, Chicken Farm squatter area, Protea South up-market suburb, Jabavu Clinic and Zonebokom, which the council wants included into Soweto.

Incorporation of Soweto ‘not acceptable’

Eddyth Bulbring

REINCORPORATION of Soweto into Johannesburg would present enormous problems and was not likely to be acceptable to that city’s municipal electorate, Johannesburg CBD Association chairman Nigel Mandy said yesterday.

Speaking at the Transvaal Municipal Association’s congress, Mandy examined the problems of urbanisation and the unequal resources existing between the white municipalities and black local authorities.

Soweto had no assessment rates and incurred a loss on electricity sales, so it was not paying its way, Mandy said.

However, a transfer of part of Johannesburg’s existing revenues to Soweto was not an option.

Transferring some industrial municipalities to black local authorities would avoid the issue and would introduce administrative inefficiencies to which business men would object.

Independent municipal status was meaningless when facilities and resources were so vastly unequal, Mandy said.

Accelerated

The interests in the metropolitan areas were so intertwined that no local authority could enjoy full autonomy. All interested parties shared problems such as the allocation of land uses, transport and the creation of employment opportunities.

By the year 2000 the total SA population would have accelerated to nearly 50 million. The rapid population increase would overwhelmingly occur in the vicinity of the established cities and towns of “white SA”, not in the new decentralisation points.

Municipal revenues derived from business activities were frequently skewed in favour of those areas where the jobs were situated.

Although the RSC’s were providing much needed services, problems rearing up were the cost of normal operation of non-white municipal areas, the provision of sub-economic housing and how to handle the ever-mounting subsidies for transporting poor commuters long distances to work places.

Best prospects for a solution would therefore appear to lie in an expansion of the role and functions of the RSC to create a two-tier form of metropolitan government on a federal model, with the separate interests of the constituent municipalities taken into account, Mandy said.

Photo: BRIAN HENDLER

Soweto Deputy Mayor Esther Mbhebhe adorns planning and development minister Hermus Kriel with a ceremonial zebra skin.
Symbolic marches but real debate in Soweto

The recent legal protest marches may represent the beginnings of a climate for negotiation. But what may be far more significant is the beginning of actual negotiation between government officials and extra-parliamentary opposition movements.

The meeting this week between the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Soweto People's Delegation meant more than a brief handshake.

Soweto's services needed to be upgraded. It also agreed that there should be affordable service charges. But affordable service charges are the issue which most divides the two parties.

The TPA may agree in principle to affordable service charges — but Hough, called earlier this year for black townships to raise rents and service charges to cover costs. In its March budget the TPA cut its "community service" budget, from which it provides bridging finance for black local authorities, by R17 million.

The meeting was only an opening. The two sides are still very far apart.

The financial crisis of South Africa's black townships stems from their segregation from the white towns, hence their lack of a commercial base. Township treasuries depend for revenue on the rents and service charges paid by more affluent residents, and residents are poor.

The government in creating wealth is primarily in the white towns in which the residents' wealth is concentrated.

The townships can't be self-sufficient as long as the system of segregation continues — and affordable service charges are therefore unlikely, without fundamental policy change.

This was a core point in the Piänent report on the Soweto rent boycott, which was commissioned by the Soweto delegation and was used to begin its key negotiations with the authorities in March this year.

And at one of its "points of departure" for this week's talks, the SPD stressed that small tax increases for Johannesburg and Soweto. In response, Hough implied there was space for negotiation, but there was no way the government would change its policies — "demographic principles" indicated it would be impractical to unite the two into a single city.

Central to Hough's response was the threat to regional service councils in deploying funds in areas of greatest need. In his statement, Hough said the RSC's budget for Soweto this year and would budget more than R50 million for the next financial year. But RSCS are precisely the kind of government machinery which the SPD would reject. Although the RSCs are intended to play some redistributive role between the white towns and black townships, they are linked into the principles of "own affairs" and of which having young power proportional to their wealth.

Negotiations in the SPD-TPA technical committee in coming months are likely to centre on some core issues for government policy and for the extra-parliamentary opposition.

For the opposition, non-recognition is a central principle. But for the government, in the era of State President FW de Klerk, the edifice of "own affairs" versus "general affairs" and the role of RSCS are policy basics.

One area of negotiation will be the arrears owed by residents to the Soweto council — officially estimated at R186 million at the end of 1988.

In response to the SPD's "pain of departure" for the talks, that arrears amounts resulting from the four-year rent and service charge boycott must be written off, the TPA responded that it could not "summarily agree to requests for general exemptions and concessions" because this would be unfair to people who had been faithfully paying their accounts, according to Hough. But, he added, "the administration is willing to negotiate and consider waiving of certain portions of the arrears".

What the TPA plans to offer is not clear. Soweto has no money. But the success of other projects designed to end the boycott may depend on the arrears being written off.

Eskom has been negotiating with the SPD to lift the moratorium on the establishment of a private electricity company, Eskoeco. Eskoeco would take over the supply of electricity to the township. The pretext is that the company will be set up with residents' support, and if it were to charge affordable tariffs. Soweto residents would start paying their electricity bills again. But if the new company starts life with a huge debt burden, there is no chance the tariffs would be affordable or that the project would succeed.

While the Eskom talks are separate from the SPD talks, SPD sources say the delegation intends to link the different initiatives to also meet with Rand Water Board officials and a meeting is scheduled with the Development Bank, whose chairman, Simon Brand, drew up a report on upgrading Soweto on which the province's upgrading proposals are based.

The long-term belief that the government would write off the boycott arrears after the elections, if only it could. But the SPD, which needs to claim a victory for residents, may not be amenable to such a tactic.

The SPD also demanded housing stock be transferred to the ownership of Soweto residents. But Hough said it couldn't just give people houses — but it was negotiating.

Given the open attitude of the TPA and SPD, there may be more space for negotiation over the future of Soweto. But this time is over the future South African constitution.
Symbolic marches but real debate in Soweto

THE recent legal protest marches may represent the beginnings of a climate for negotiation. But what may well be far more significant is the beginnings of actual negotiation between government officials and extra-parliamentary opposition movements.

Talks this week between the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Soweto People’s Delegation over the future of the township focused on local issues — such as rents, services, houses and taxes. But they are local issues with national political implications.

Perhaps the most important of these is simply one of power. The TPA has decided that the Soweto people have the right to say in the running of Soweto. This is the equivalent, albeit at the local level, of the government saying it cannot have constitutional talks without the extra-parliamentary opposition movements.

While both the SP and the TPA stressed the common ground between them, the differences — over issues such as rents and taxes — reflect the fact that what is at issue in the talks is fundamental apartheid structures.

The first significant aspect of the talks was who was there, and why. The Soweto People’s Delegation included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Reverend Frank Chikane, Cyril Ramaphosa, Albertina Sisulu. On the provin-
cial side were administrat Dame Hough and his executive committee. Also on the provincial side were members of the Soweto City Council — as it were — the junior partners in the team.

What was prominent in the talks was that Hough, already elected by an locally elected body — this week’s meeting is evidence of the TPA’s realisation that the rent boycott will remain unresolved and the township’s finances in crisis until it negotiates with people who have rather more legitimacy than the council elected in last year’s municipal elections.

SPD sources justified their as a victory the TPA’s explicit recognition of it as an important negotiating partner. The SPD had first asked for this meeting as far back as February but had no joy until after the elections last month.

What was significant about this week’s meeting was that it was high-level discussion between government officials and Mass Democratic Movement leaders. The meeting was merely a step in a process which may give the SPD a permanent power base in the township.

It was agreed at the meeting that a technical committee drawn from both sides would meet regularly to discuss details.

Among its members on the Soweto side are leaders of the restricted Soweto Civic Association who were presented as SCA at the meeting.

The second significant aspect of the meeting concerned the issues which were raised, and the concessions the TPA made. But the conflicts of interests between the two sides are as important as any resolution gained in the friendly spirit of the meeting.

The TPA agreed with the SPD that

The meeting this week between the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Soweto People’s Delegation meant more than a brief handshake.

By Hilary Joffe

Soweto’s services needed to be upgraded. It also agreed that there should be affordable service charges. But affordable service charges are the issue which most divides the two parties.

The TPA may agree in principle to affordable service charges — but Hough, who called earlier this year for black town-ship autonomy to raise rents and service charges to cover costs, says in March budget, the TPA cut its “community services” budget, from which it provided bridging financial for black local authorities, by R170-million.

The financial crisis of South Africa’s black townships stems from their segregation from the white towns, hence their lack of a commercial or industrial base. Township treasuries depend for revenue on the rents and service charges paid by residents, and residents are poor. Their involvement in creating wealth is primarily in the white towns in which most work.

The township can’t be self-sufficient as long as the system of segregation continues — and affordable service charges are several unlikely without fundamental policy change.

This was a core point in the pamphlet report on the Soweto rent boycott, which was commissioned by the Soweto delegation and was used to begin its push for negotiation with the authorities in March this year.

And as one of its “points of departure” for the week’s talks, the SPD stressed its call for a single tax boycott for Johannesburg and Soweto. In response, Hough implied there was space for negotiation, but there was no way the government would change its policies — “demographic principles” indicated it would be impractical to unite the two into a single city.

Central to Hough’s response was the role of regional services councils in deploying funds in areas of greatest need. In his statement, Hough said the RSC would be transferring R153-million to Soweto this year and would budget more than R92-million for the next fi-
tancial year.

But there are also the kind of government mechanisms which the Nats would reject. Although the RSCs are intended to play some redistributive role between the white towns and black townships, they are linked into the principles of “own affairs” and of whites having power proportional to their wealth.

Negotiations in the SPD-TPA technical committee in coming months are likely to centre on some core issues for government policy and for the extra-parliamentary opposition:

For the opposition, non-racialism is a central principle. But for the government, in the era of State President FW de Klerk, the edifice of “own affairs” and consensus versus “general affairs” and the role of RSCs are policy basics.

One area of negotiation will be the arrears. As residents are run up in the course of the boycott — arrears owing to residents to the Soweto council were officially estimated at R186,5-million at the end of 1988.

In response to the SPD’s “points of departure” for the talks, that arrears amount resulting from the four-year rental service charge boycott must be written off, the TPA responded that it could not “summarily agree to requests for general exemptions and concessions” because this would be unfair to people who had been faithfully paying their account, according to Hough. But, he added, “the administration is willing to negotiate about the waiver of certain portions of the arrears.”

What the TPA plans to offer is not clear. Soweto has no money. But the success of other projects designed to end the boycott may depend on the arrears being written off.

Escom is negotiating with the SPD over the establishment of a private electricity supply company, which would take over the supply of electricity to the township. The premise is that if the company were seen with residents’ support, and if it were to charge affordable tariffs, Soweto residents would start paying their electricity bills again. But if the new company starts with a huge debt burden, there is no chance the tariffs would be affordable or that the project would succeed.

While the talks are separate from the SPD-TPA talks, SPD sources say the delegation intends to link the different strategies. It has also met with Rand Water Board officials and a meeting is scheduled with the Development Bank, whose chairman, Simon Brand, drew up a report on upgrading Soweto on which the province’s upgrading proposals are based.

There has been speculation that the government would write off the boycott arrears after the election, if only it could do it quietly. But the SPD, which needs room to claim a victory for residents, may not be amenable to this strategy.

The SPD also demanded housing stock be transferred to the control of Soweto residents. Here too the TPA said it couldn’t just give people houses — but it was negotiable.

Given the open, friendly attitude of the SPD and the TPA, there may be space for negotiating over the future of Soweto, but that this is not in the better South African constitution.
Pretoria hit by financial crisis

Pretoria (City of Tshwane) is involved in a struggle for financial survival and drastic cost cutting is the government's management committee's solution. The council has warned the city's management committee that the financial management committee is not as efficient as it should be. A council spokesperson said that the department of finance is under pressure to slash the operating budget by another R1.7 billion and the municipality has already been putting in place cost-cutting measures to reduce the budget. He also stated that, after the budget was approved, the council would have to cut the council's offices and departments to ensure the council's survival. A council spokesperson said that it was important to cut the council's budget by R1.7 billion and the municipality has already been putting in place cost-cutting measures to ensure the council's survival. He also stated that, after the budget was approved, the council would have to cut the council's offices and departments to ensure the council's survival.
Ex-mayor, clerk convicted of theft

By MARTIN NTSELENGOE

A FORMER Thokoza mayor and a town clerk were convicted of stealing R677,326 by a Johannesburg Regional Court magistrate this week.

Ex-mayor Lebethe Gerald Mmamabolo, 45, of Thokoza, and former town clerk Dorm Dikeledi Thinane, 43, of Soweto, were found to have committed the theft in June.

Mmamabolo told magistrate IJJ Luther he intended calling a councillor to testify that more than R160,000 was recovered.

Although the magistrate said the recovery of the R160,000 was irrelevant to the theft charges, he granted a postponement.

Mmamabolo is on R2,000 bail.

Thinane, a social worker, said she was willing to serve her sentence doing community work.

She added that she was a divorcee supporting three children and her 70-year-old father.

Councillor must repay residents

The case in which former Soweto councillor Mr Michael Gwena contested a default judgment following allegations of corruption, has been dismissed with costs in the Johannesburg Magistrate’s Court.

The dismissal of the case effectively means that Gwena must refund two Soweto residents who allegedly paid him a total of R1 000 for the allocation of residential sites in the township, according to lawyers acting for the two men.

The lawyers told Sowetan this week that after the hearing, Gwena made an offer through his lawyers to refund the two residents, Mr Themba Makhungu of Diepkloof Hostel and Mr Magesa Joseph Mabunda of Naledi, in instalments.

The offer was rejected after it was found to be unreasonable.

A spokesman said Gwena must refund the two men in full, failing which a warrant or arrest would be issued against him.

Earlier this year,

By SY MAKARINGE

Gwena had a default judgment taken against him after he failed to respond to summons served on him in which Makhungu and Mabunda claimed refunds.

He denied having taken money from them and made an application through his lawyers to have the judgment rescinded.

Makhungu said this week he was happy the case was over.

“T took a long time for the case to be concluded, but I’m happy the truth has finally emerged,” he said.

Makhungu alleged in February that he paid Mr Gwena an amount of R300 for a residential site in 1987 after he was introduced to him by a friend.

Makhungu never got the site and Gwena subsequently lost his Mofolo North seat in last year’s October municipal elections.

Mabunda said he met Gwena at the Jabulani Council Chambers where he had gone to inquire about the possibility of getting a house as he had been on the housing waiting list for a long time.

More meetings were allegedly held and Mabunda paid a total of R1 000 for a site.

He, too, did not get it.

Gwena has constantly denied having taken money from the two men.

Mbatha’s death confuses

CONFUSION surrounds the death of businessman Mr Matthews Macaleni Mbatha (63) who was killed in Ruvosia on Monday night.

His family claims he died from a bullet wound at the back of his head. But police said they “found no bullet wounds on his body. We are still investigating whether he was strangled or he died from shock.”
Businessmen to sue council

Carletonville businessmen are to sue 10 local town councillors in their individual capacities for losses suffered by their businesses during the duration of the consumer boycott.

At a meeting of the Carletonville Chamber of Commerce attended by about 30 people last night, the Chamber voted to sue the individual councillors for the damage suffered by businessmen as a result of the Conservative Party-controlled town council's re-introduction earlier this year of petty apartheid.

The council's decision triggered an intensive consumer boycott that seriously affected the town's businesses. Some of whom reported turnover losses of up to 50 percent and higher.

Claims against the councillors are expected to run into millions of Rand. Carletonville Chamber President Mrs. Annette Claassen said the town's estimated loss during the boycott had been R30 million.
Krugersdorp council can't muster quorum

By Glen Elsas
West Rand Bureau

A special Krugersdorp Council meeting set for last night could not continue as there was no quorum.

A special meeting called last week to discuss opening the Centenary Hall and the Krugersdorp Game Reserve to all races ended in chaos. Last night's meeting was granted to resolve the matter.

Mr Bill Greyvenstein, who proposed the motion, did not have a chance to have it seconded before a request was granted that the decision be postponed for six months.

Nine councillors excused themselves from attending the meeting, leaving only one National Party supporter, four independents and the mayor in the chamber.

Of the nine who had excused themselves, only one is an independent councillor. The others support the CP.

The meeting to discuss the opening of the hall and game reserve will now take place at the ordinary council meeting to be held next week.

After the meeting, a spokesman for the Azaaaville management committee said the matter would be taken to court if no decision was reached.

Mr Benno van Graan stressed the importance of a decision concerning the opening of certain facilities to all races.
Mamelodi to overlook mistakes in new stalls

Pretoria Correspondent

Mamelodi City Council says it will not demolish the new stalls built for vendors by the Get Ahead Foundation — although they have been erected in the wrong place.

The 10 stalls, situated opposite Maseko shopping complex, were officially opened by the Get Ahead Foundation’s chairman, Dr Nthato Motlana on Sunday.

Mr Jape Moropa, the Foundation’s deputy managing director, said his organisation would take the council to court if it demolished the stalls.

A spokesman for the Mamelodi City Council said the stalls would stay, even though they were wrongly situated, because we have the interest of the informal business people at heart.
E'Rand town in crisis without any water

RATANDA residents on the East Rand have been without water for the past two weeks.

So serious is the situation that residents are forced to fetch water from the nearby townships of Tsakane and Duduza. The unlucky ones have to part with about R10 in taxi fares for a return trip to the two townships.

If fortunate, they can get water between 5 and 7am in Extension 3, a new section in the township.

Residents Spetan spoke to said they were not informed about the water cuts. "We also do not know how long we will be out of water. We are in the dark," they said.

Ratanda's town clerk, Mr D van Rensburg confirmed that there was a problem with the supply of water in the township.

He said, "Our present water reservoir cannot cope with the demands of the residents. We have decided to switch off the supply during the day to allow the reservoir to fill up and only open it in the mornings and evenings."
Officials replaced

THE entire management committee of the Tembisa Town Council on the East Rand has been replaced with a new one after claims that it was incompetent.

"A spokesman for the council yesterday said the seven-member committee was replaced because they had failed to "deliver the goods."

The expelled members have indicated that they intend taking legal action after claiming that they were unfairly dismissed.

The council has indicated that it will defend.

The members are, Mr J Nhlapo (chairman), Mr K D Buthelezi (vice chairman), Mr S B More (mayor), Mr P N Mashabela, Mr B A Kheswa, Mr M S Phathwane and Mr N J Moleoane.

"Since they were elected into office in September last year the former management committee members have done nothing to improve things in the township. In fact, they have retarded the council's progress," the spokesman said.
Nat council runs short of firemen because it won’t let blacks join up

By DE WET POTGIETER

PRETORIA City Council has sparked a blazing row by refusing to employ black firemen.

The National Party council is sticking to an age-old rule, despite a critical manpower shortage. It is under pressure from the all-white South Africa’s Union for Municipal Workers.

Residents fear that by refusing to budge, the union and council could cause unnecessary deaths or damage.

Firemen are being forced to work long, tiring shifts to compensate for the staff shortage.

In terms of an agreement between the city council and the union, only whites are allowed to work as firemen and lorry drivers.

The union recently allowed a slight relaxation by giving the green light for blacks to drive tractors and water carriers for the parks department.

Dangerous.

The “serious staff situation” in the fire department was noted at a council meeting.

But a union spokesman said the agreement could only be changed with the consent of both parties.

Pretorians voiced their concern about the “dangerous” situation to the Sunday Times this week.

A caller said “How can you expect the fire department to render a first-class emergency and rescue service around the clock if the boys have no choice but to work long and gruelling hours?”

“People may lose their lives as a result of this foolish hypocrisy.”

Meanwhile, surrounding Vereeniging, South Africa’s fastest-growing town, has put the colour issue inside.

Said town clerk, Mr Piet Geers: “We employ the best man for the job.”

“For us, colour doesn’t count. We are primarily interested in the best qualified man who can contribute to the prosperous future of Vereeniging.”

Black fire and ambulance men are employed in the town.

Vereeniging’s libraries have been open to blacks since the city’s trading district was opened to all races.
Soweto and Lekoa 'must mend ways' 

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

Two major Transvaal city councils, Soweto and Lekoa, were yesterday given 30 days by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) to mend their ways.

Maladministration, fighting among councillors, lack of financial control and a host of other complaints were listed at a press conference held at TPA headquarters in Pretoria.

The conference was called to discuss meetings held over the past few months with delegations from the Soweto and Lekoa municipalities and the Soweto Peoples' Delegation.

The December 31 deadline was said to be "fair and reasonable." The TPA said it had already lent Soweto more than R44 million this year to keep the city operating — more than 50 percent of all the money it had provided to other local authorities in the province.

Eighty percent of Soweto's ratepayers owe some R279 million — 68.5 percent of all outstanding arrears for rent and service charges in black local authorities in the Transvaal.

The Soweto Council was accused, in writing, of providing poor services to residents, of failing to provide adequate health service and failure in collecting rent.

The council was warned that if nothing happened outsiders might be brought in to run the city, and Lekoa councillors were told to stop fighting among themselves or face dismissal.

The Lekoa local authority also faces dissolution.

The main complaints were levelled by the province's MEC for local government, Mr. Glauns van Zyl, and the MEC for Housing and Community Development, Mr. John Mavuso.
The Government has threatened to stop the Soweto and Lekoa city councils' electricity and water services if they fail to resolve the rent crisis which will result in a R279 million deficit by December 31 this year.

This was announced at a press conference by Mr. Olaus van Zyl, MEC for the TPA, in Pretoria yesterday.

He said the administration wanted to act because "the City Council of Soweto had neglected to exercise its powers and functions and to perform its duties satisfactorily."

He said the city councils of Soweto and Lekoa were both served with notices giving them until December 31 "to get their house in order."

Van Zyl said the notice served on the Soweto local authority was in terms of Section 29(1) of the Black Local Authorities Act.

The notice gives the council a period of 60 days to address representations to the administrator in respect of the particular aspect with which it is charged.

"The notice is a final warning to the council to work out a strategy to resolve the suffering of the community it is serving. The council is being charged, inter alia, with the poor services it renders to the community of Soweto, its failure to act against residents who do not pay their municipal accounts, failure or the unwillingness to collect outstanding debts and rent and service levies amounting to R279 million," he said.

Van Zyl also blamed the council for failing to sell government-owned houses in Soweto. He said there was lack of control and discipline in the council.

---

Warning on rent

From page 1

- If the council fails to take remedial action by the set date, the administrator may consider taking away their functions and appointing persons or institutions to run their affairs.

- Regarding the notice served on the City Council of Lekoa, the administrator may dismiss councillors from their seats if they do not find a solution before December 31.

- Meetings of the council will take place in a hostile atmosphere, hindering proper decision making and as a result the community suffers. The financial circumstances of the City Council of Lekoa have deteriorated so much that the administrator would be neglecting its duties if it did not take steps to persuade the council to rectify this undesirable state of affairs. The press conference was held...
Probe into corruption

A commission of inquiry into allegations of corruption in the Dohsonville Town Council began at the council offices yesterday.

The hearing, which continues until November 10, is chaired by Mr B J Olivier, legal officer of the Transvaal Provincial Administration's branch of general provincial services.

Evidence is being led in public and members of the community are invited to participate. Any requests by people who wish to testify in camera are conceded to.

The hearing begins at 9 am and ends at 3 pm.
CLAIM
R75 000 GET

By Leon Masako

This is one of the municipalities that pay their councillors R50 000-a-year. Yesterday, the councilors in two districts of the municipality expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of pay protection set just about the minimum wage.

The Lieben Town Council employees are unhappier.

"What we are demanding is a change in the way we are being paid," said the councilor.

"We need a new system that recognises our work and pays us adequately," he added.

The councilors are demanding a salary of R75 000 per month, which they say is not enough to support their families.

"We are being paid less than the minimum wage," said another councilor. "We need a new system that recognises our work and pays us adequately."

The councilors are demanding a salary of R75 000 per month, which they say is not enough to support their families.

"We are being paid less than the minimum wage," said another councilor. "We need a new system that recognises our work and pays us adequately."
Van Zyl’s threat to council a recipe for disaster - Ramaphosa

THE threat issued by Mr Otto van Zyl, Transvaal MEC in charge of local government, to the Soweto Council at a meeting this week was a recipe for disaster, the Soweto Peoples’ Delegation spokesman Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday.

In a statement, Ramaphosa said the rent crisis was not wholly the result of the council’s negligence and inefficiency but was rooted in the system that created economically unviable townships.

Van Zyl earlier gave notice to the Soweto council to get its house in order saying, among other complaints, that outstanding rents had not been collected.

Boycott

“Inadequate housing for black people, which gave rise to squatting and the concomitant problems such as, lack of sanitary facilities, poor services and poor living conditions - these contribute to disease - have been with us since the early days of Johannesburg,” Ramaphosa said yesterday.

“The rent boycott as a form of protest against the terrible state of affairs should be resolved along the lines proposed by the SPD in their meeting with the TPA on October 1989,” he said. - Sapa
The new mayor of Katlehong, Mr. Tau Molotsi (right) and his deputy, Mr. Edward Rantsoele.

Katlehong

mayor out

THERE were a few surprises during mayoral elections held in various townships this week.

In Katlehong on the East Rand both the mayor, Mr. Dumisani "Stopy" Magumula, and his deputy, Mr. Solly "Nico" Lukhele were ousted.

They were replaced by Mr. Tau Molotsi and Mr. Edward Rantsoele respectively who were elected unanimously.

The mayor of Soweto, Mr. Sam Mkhwanazi and his deputy, Ms. Esther Mkhabela, were returned unopposed for the second term.

In Dobsonville Mr. Steve Nhlatto was re-elected as mayor and the Reverend Ms. Faklerre Phethulini replaced Mr. N A Jaca as deputy mayor.

Mr. Khabele Moloto was re-elected as mayor of Duduza and Mr. Johnny Mokoto was elected his deputy. He replaces Mr. M. Mokwena.

The Deepmeadow Town Council yesterday postponed the mayoral elections.

The council is to meet soon to decide on a date.
MISSING
R13 m goes
Council did not keep proper books - report
Province says it won’t foot the bill for PWV townships

Survey reveals 2 million live in Greater Soweto

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has run out of money to keep the black-ridden township councils afloat. Now it has threatened action against Soweto and Lenasia.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) is on the verge of writing off the Soweto and Lenasia townships, two of the most populous in South Africa. The TPA has been forced to take action after two years of unsuccessful attempts to get the two townships to pay their outstanding debts.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.

The TPA has written to the Soweto and Lenasia councils, demanding that they pay their outstanding debts or face legal action. The TPA has already written off the debts of other township councils, but Soweto and Lenasia have been the most difficult to deal with.
No punches pulled by Soweto mayor

'Double-standards' TPA expects magic wand within year

By SOPHIE TEMBA

His council had been in power for only 12 months, yet the TPA already expected him to wave a magic wand and perform miracles, Soweto mayor Sam Mkhwanazi said this week.

Mkhwanazi accused the TPA of double standards and said it was aware the Soweto City Council was in disarray when the Sosasonke Party came into power.

"We are now trying to clean out the den of iniquity created by the former council."

What the former could not do in five years, we are expected to do in a year. This means that the TPA is at war with the Soweto Council.

Mkhwanazi said the TPA was deliberately chastising the council because it wanted to reinstate former councillors and white officials who resigned from the council.

"This is the reason why the TPA sometimes dictated to the council when appointments were made."

When the position of town clerk became vacant, the council wanted to appoint one of two people. The TPA vetoed it because it wanted to appoint its own man. The council refused.

"As a result, the council has been without a full-time town clerk for the past 12 months."

The TPA said there was no money to fill vacant top posts but it was subsidised by the central government, he said.

Early this year the council proposed rent and service charge tariffs to the residents - which many accepted.

But because of the many meetings and discussions held in the council, the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegations, residents became confused and some stopped paying.

Administrator of the Transvaal Dames Hough asked the council to hand a draft of the proposed tariffs to council lawyers to be approved and gazetted. The council did it but said it was not prepared to increase tariffs further.

The tariffs were not approved or gazetted.

"Someone deliberately failed to channel the documents to the right departments."

Mkhwanazi said the non-payment of rent and service charges in Soweto was a political problem.

"We cannot provide our people with proper services. When we took over we found blocked drains, leaking and burst pipes, and debris all over the townships.

"Now we must suddenly put right what others before us could not do."

The Soweto Council was rapped over the knuckles by the TPA for stopping the sale of houses.

"We have only stopped the sale of old houses because they are dilapidated and should be transferred to the registered tenants."

"Some of the registered tenants in areas like Orlando East have lived in those houses for more than 40 years and this is the reason we are refusing to sell them."

Mkhwanazi countered the accusation made by the TPA that the council had failed to act against squatters, saying the TPA had to give the council land to build low-cost housing.
TPA threatens to dissolve Soweto and Lekoa councils

By SOPHIE TEMBA

THE Soweto City Council and Lekoa Town Council were this week rapped over the knuckles by the Transvaal Provincial Administration for being incapable of performing their duties.

They have both failed to exercise their powers, or perform their functions and duties, said MEC for Local Government and Roads, Olau van Zyl.

The TPA has given the two councils 60 days to put their houses in order.

After this the Administrator may remove certain functions from the councils or dissolve them.

According to Van Zyl, the administration of the two councils has come to a standstill, and bulk services such as the supply of electricity may be terminated because further bridging finance cannot be provided.

Six administrative investigations are being conducted into the functions of certain local authorities, four of them public commissions of inquiry.

TPA figures for the period to September this year show Soweto received over R447-million in bridging finance while Lekoa received more than R63-million.

Van Zyl said the TPA was paying Soweto about R15-million a month and R8-million towards the non-payment of rates.

Representations must be made to the administrator before December 31.
Two Dobsonville killers are still on the loose

FORMER Kagiso mayor Mahutsana Jeremiah Mangope appeared in court again this week on a charge of attempted murder.

Mangope, 54, of Kagiso, was not asked to plead and the case was postponed until November 23.

Mangope, principal at the Athlone Higher Primary School in Kagiso, allegedly shot Lucas Morobane on August 8 this year.

By JAPIE MOKWEBO

A 46-YEAR-OLD white electrician was gunned down by two armed black men in Dobsonville on Wednesday morning.

The two men later tried in vain to flee in the dead man's car.

Two men approached his black assistant and asked to be given some electrical wires.

"The man told them to ask his white superior. The two then walked towards Scales, produced guns and started firing at him from point-blank range," said Ngobeni.

The man died instantly. "The two ran to his car and tried to start it.

High speed

"The killers then stopped a passing Mazda car and drove off at high speed. "The two killers are still at large and police are investigating," Ngobeni said.
The new Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, (front left) argues with Soweto’s mayor, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi (right) yesterday, as a number of other senior officials look on.  Picture by Herbert Makuza.

New Minister clashes with Soweto mayor

By Thabo Lesilo

The mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, and the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, had a heated argument yesterday over the incorporation of Zuurbekom into the sprawling township.

The incident occurred during the Minister’s courtesy visit to Soweto, during which he was shown Zuurbekom, west of Soweto.

Mr Mkhwanazi told the newly appointed Minister that his council needed the land to solve Soweto’s chronic land shortage.

Mr Kriel said there was no way the land could be given to Soweto because it would mean more people staying without paying.

He then attacked the mayor and his council for failing to solve the rent boycott. According to Mr Kriel, the rent dispute had left Soweto more than R250 million in the red.

Mr Mkhwanazi said the rent boycott was sparked by incorrect meter readings by the previous council’s officials. Mr Kriel replied by challenging him to ensure proper accounts were kept.

“I will think about the land. You think about your administration,” said Mr Kriel.

“Not me alone but us. We are partners in this,” said the mayor.

At the end of the tour the Minister, his deputy and the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Dane Howg, were presented with gifts.

Mr Kriel later told reporters a local authority was not a “charitable organisation” and any community had to pay for services provided.

The Zuurbekom issue would be considered by his department from a planning point of view, he added.
Tokoza mayor re-elected

THE mayor of Tokoza, near Alberton, Mr Edward Matoso retained his position during elections held yesterday. He was unopposed.

His deputy, Mr L F Mahabane, was replaced by Mr J B Madl.

All members of the management committee were retained for the second term.
Alex residents urged to report claims of corruption to SAP

The Alexandra Town Council has urged all those who say there is corruption within the council to report the matter to the SAP and to stop levelling false accusations against the council in newspapers.

Accusations of corruption and the inability of the council to render proper services have appeared in several English daily newspapers. A call for the resignation of councillors was also made.

The public relations officer for the council, Mr. Nunke Mkhali, said that to publish unsubstantiated allegations in newspapers is unfair and serves no good purpose.

"This will only result in creating suspicion and mistrust. Mutual trust and co-operation should be in the interest of Alexandrians and that should be the order of the day," Mkhalipe said.

He said the realities of the facts are as follows:

- Civil and electrical services are being installed in the township at a cost of R134 million and should be completed by December 1990.
- The installation of tarred roads and stormwater drains is in progress. The dual carriageway on the northern boundary of Alexandra, Vasco da Gama road, has been completed.
- An additional 702 flats are under construction at a cost of R24 million.
- In excess of 200 houses are under construction in the "old" Alexandra.
- The East bank extension of Alexandra has been served and provides for 843 houses on freehold title basis.
- Five new schools have been completed in the township during the past year. A new secondary school is also under construction on the East Bank.

Mkhalipe said various projects such as electrical information and training centres, recreation hall, outdoor recreation centres, youth centres and two swimming pools have been completed or are in the process of implementation.

"From the aforesaid it is obvious that the council is doing everything possible to supply the maximum of services," he said.
Jo'burg sued over motorbike accident

Crash victim 'will struggle for a job'

By Brendan Templeton

Salesman Mr Charles Raitt (39), who is suing the Johannesburg City Council (JCC) for R713,799, became mildly epileptic and had difficulty concentrating or learning new skills after his motorcycle accident. A Rand Supreme Court judge heard yesterday.

He lost his arm in the accident when it was crushed and almost torn from his body.

Mr Raitt claimed in a summons the accident was caused by water leaking from a main valve on the side of Houghton Road, Johannesburg.

Neurosurgeon Dr Colin Froman said the accident had caused scarring to Mr Raitt's brain and made him an epileptic. This made him more open to injury as epileptics could hurt themselves if they went into seizure, Dr Froman said.

Mr Raitt also experienced verbal difficulty as a result of the accident, he said. He would battle to find future employment.

A psychologist, Dr Brian Mallison, said tests showed Mr Raitt experienced difficulty concentrating and learning some of the technical aspects of his job.

"Although Mr Raitt puts on a very nonchalant front and on the surface appears to have coped well with his deficits, some very clear signs of frustration emerged during the testing," Dr Mallison said.

"It is likely that Mr Raitt will require some psychotherapy to help him cope with this frustration at some stage in the future," Dr Mallison said.

He agreed Mr Raitt would experience difficulty in obtaining alternative employment, especially if it involved an area of expertise which he was not familiar with.
Looking patience with Soweto
Mayor lashes out: some few overhanging shacks

A DELIBERATE misinterpretation of facts by certain individuals and the failure to act by some senior white officials were summed up in the remarks of Mr. Solomon, mayor of the township. Mr. Solomon, in his first reaction to the demolition of hundreds of squatters, branches a few weeks ago. More also blamed the RHA for allowing the development of the area. The council had planned to build more houses in the township to alleviate the accommodation problem.
Ex-mayor evicted me - mother of 7

A DOBSONVILLE mother of seven was evicted from her house and it was given to a cousin of a former mayor, Mr Steve Kgame, a commission of inquiry into aspects of administration in the township heard yesterday.

Mrs Sara Siboli, presently living at the Dobsonville hostel, said she was forced to leave house number 2744 although she had paid rent arrears totalling R271.72c from the previous owner, Mr Phakathi.

She told the commission that before being evicted she and her family were forced to occupy the dining-room while Kgame's cousin occupied the other three rooms.

The commission which has been sitting since Monday is chaired by Mr BJ Olivier.

Another witness, Mr Vusimuzi Desmond Tutu, said he was forced to pay R100 to the council for a vendor's licence.

This was despite the fact that he had to pay R10 to the Licensing Board.

Tutu also testified that he bought a house in the area in 1985 only to be awakened by council policemen a few days later for failing to pay rent and electricity arrears left by the previous owner.

"I was told to go and look for the previous owner who had since disappeared. I then came back to the council to ask if they could write off the debt as I could not locate the previous owner."

"My request was ignored. But I am not paying," he said.

A former councillor, Mr Freddy Molanya, earlier told the commission that an amount of R750 000, allocated by the Government for the upgrading of the hostel, was used to pay salaries as the council's coffers were dry because of the rent boycott.
Council workers on theft charges

THE Joubertone Town Council in Klerkspoor has laid charges of theft against a number of employees including two female cashiers who allegedly defrauded the council of thousands of rands.

The theft, done through a computer, was described as "highly professional" by a council spokesman. It was discovered by a white electrical engineer on Monday, November 6.

Mr A T Strydom, the town clerk, yesterday confirmed the alleged theft and said the matter had been reported to the police who were investigating.

"At the moment I do not know if any arrests have been made or how many people are involved in the theft," he said.

Another council spokesman confirmed that two female cashiers were involved in the sophisticated transaction and added that one of the cashiers was handed over to the Klerkspoor police on Wednesday to make a statement.

A spokesman for the police yesterday said investigations had already been completed and the docket had been referred to the senior public prosecutor for his decision. No arrests had been made yet.

Although the actual amount stolen has not yet been determined, a spokesman for the council believes that the amount could run into thousands of rands. He also believed that the illegal operation could have been in operation for quite some time.
Council may erect loos near taxi ranks

THE Johannesburg City Council is considering a proposal by the South African Black Taxi Association (Sabs) to erect toilets near taxi ranks in the city's central business district.

In a statement, the council said health and planning officials indicated that a severe strain has been put on existing public conveniences in the CBD by an influx of taxis for black commuters and the establishment of ranks.

"Since there are people who are unwilling to walk to existing facilities, extensive unravelling and other foul practices take place around taxi ranks and bus terminals," the statement said.

According to officials, lack of suitable CBD sites for additional public lavatories made the situation even more serious.

By MATSHUBE MFOLOE

The council indicated that insanitary conditions call for urgent short-term solutions, like providing temporary portable toilets in places where a public health nuisance has been created.

Temporary facilities would be replaced by additional permanent lavatories in the planned re-development of the city.
Commission told of dirty dealing

By SOPHIE TEMBA

SEVERAL former Dobsonville councillors were accused of corruption before the Dobsonville Commission of Inquiry this week.

Former councillor Freddy Mohajane told commission chairman BJ Olivier how his colleague IB Mashau had acquired a site as big as the Orlando Stadium without the approval of the council.

He said former councillor Steve Kgome often attended meetings under the influence of liquor, used abusive language and "steamrolled" members of the council, including the mayor.

Kgome is a former president of the Urban Councils Association of South Africa.

Mohajane said the recreation hall at a Dobsonville hostel had been taken over by Kgome and converted into a shop.

The government had allocated the council R750,000 for the upgrading of the hostel but this money had been used to pay salaries as the council coffers had run dry, he said.

Zanempe Pambane, a resident of the Sophiwe Hostel, submitted a memorandum listing residents' grievances. Olivier said the memorandum could be a strong motivation for funds to renovate the hostel.
Soweto City Council's lawyers still studying the document – mayor

By SOPHIE TEMBA

SOWETO mayor Samuel Mkhwanazi said he could not comment on the Simon Brand Report as the document is still being studied by the Transvaal Provincial Administration for approval.

He said the Soweto City Council lawyers were studying the document and would release a statement next week.

He said however: "I have discussed the document with Dr Simon Brand and he assured me it contained most of the requirements that go with the formation of a coherent urban development programme."

This includes technical assistance for an investigation into the maintenance of existing houses, the promotion of industrial development, financial support for the upgrading of hostels as well as the upgrading of lighting.

"The councillors will discuss the plan once the document has been released to them," said Mkhwanazi.

The report calling for the long-term development of Soweto was compiled soon after the appointment of the Soweto Financial Adjustment Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Brand.

The committee was set up jointly between the council and the TPA after the council asked for a financial adjustment programme.
Boksburg councillor in court

By Brian Leath

Boksburg City Council management committee chairman Mr Gideon Fourie (28) appeared briefly in the Boksburg Magistrate's Court on Friday on an allegation of contravening the Electoral Act.

Mr Fourie's appearance followed the recent conviction of a Boksburg woman, Mrs Charmaine Rex (23), who was found guilty of election fraud for having voted twice during the municipal elections in October last year.

She told the court that Mr Fourie had said she could vote twice as she was registered on the voters roll under her married name, Rex, and her maiden name, Wilson.

Mr Fourie's brief appearance followed instructions by the Attorney-General to prosecute after the Rex trial.

Mr Fourie was not asked to plead and the hearing was postponed to January 16 for trial.
JOYFUL END TO BOKSBURG BOYCOTT

BOKSBURG — A year-long boycott of white shops in Boksburg, conducted in protest at the reimposition of petty apartheid, ended in a joyful mood on Saturday when more than 800 coloured residents of Begeer Park mounted a car cavalcade into the city's commercial area.

Packed buses, cars and vans — many draped with colourful posters and banners — were led by members of the Save Boksburg Committee, the organisation that staged the protest, into the city centre, where they alighted, shook hands with managers of shops and browsed about.

"This is our victory day. We have shown that we cannot be taken for granted. We have been on this defiance campaign for little more than a year. And with the people fully behind us, we have shown that we will not bow down to the dictates of the Conservative Party-controlled town council," said a jubilant Mr Danny Cassel, a leading member of the Committee's executive.

Scores of shoppers, wearing a variety of political T-shirts, were greeted by smiling managers who earlier had placed signs in their windows welcoming back the Begeer Park residents.

Youths walked along the streets congratulating and smiling at scores of white shoppers, many of whom returned the joyful gestures.

Hundreds of other whites congregated outside office blocks and stared from windows as they watched the peaceful gathering move around the city centre.

No incidents were reported, despite the CP-council refusing to back down on the question of harsher apartheid in the city. However, it is virtually powerless in the face of the announcement by state president, Mr F W de Klerk, that the Separate Amenities Act would be repealed as soon as possible.

After about four hours, the residents gathered outside the city council building, boarded their vehicles and left for the township, where preparations were being made for a celebration.

"This day has shown the people of Boksburg that we can move forward together towards a non-racial South Africa where everyone will be judged on merit and not on the colour of their skin," said Mr Cassel.

The boycott of Boksburg's shops began in October 1986, when the council decided to ban residents from a local lake as well as to restrict the use of council facilities to whites only — Sapa
Land bought for city bus and taxi terminus

JOHANNESBURG City Council has bought — for R5m — about 20 000m² of land from Sats for the development of the Newtown Bus and Taxi Terminus.

Metropolitan Planning (transport) assistant director Riaan Perold said yesterday this was the first phase of a programme that would create a bus and taxi terminus bordered by West Street, Bree Street and Simmonds Street. It would take in Kazerne parking garage and the taxi rank in Soeter Street.

Saying the multimillion-rand project would involve linking the areas with pedestrian aerial bridges, Perold added: "The idea is to consolidate passenger transport into a centralised terminus with ablution and other relevant facilities. The emphasis is on eliminating kombi taxis' on-street parking — absorbing about 1 600 taxis from adjacent ranks into terminuses."

"The council has realised that Johannesburg people have to depend on public transport, with about 30 000 coming into the city by taxi daily. But then there are not enough rank facilities for kombi-taxis and the on-street taxi activity interferes with traffic," he said.

Perold said the council had had proposals from developers and would call for tenders shortly. "We are open to proposals and will look at ideas."
Council fury at Boksburg - trade turnabout

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Boksburg's businessmen are delighted by the sudden turn of events after President De Klerk's announcement that the town's central business district and parts of Reiger Park would become free trading areas.

The Conservative Party-controlled East Rand town was declared an open trading area by President De Klerk last night, a move that has infuriated the council as much as it has delighted retailers, especially Indian traders who will no longer need to hide their business ownership behind white nominees.

The proclamation, promulgated in Pretoria, came as speculation mounted that the government was planning a major move in Boksburg in the wake of the jubilant return last weekend of coloured and black shoppers to the town. They returned following President De Klerk announcing his intention to scrap the Separate Amenities Act.

The business boycott, which resulted in shops closing and many people losing their jobs, took place after the CP-controlled town council imposed apartheid regulations on the town shortly after winning the municipal elections there in October last year.

Last night, in a statement issued by Mr. Hermant Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, the government said it hoped the decision would end "the negative image attributed to Boksburg, both locally and abroad, an image for which businessmen and the community paid a high price."

The chairman of Boksburg's Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Johan Fourie, said the move was a welcome response to years of pressure by businessmen and commercial organisations to open trade in the town.

"Free enterprise can now take its proper place in Boksburg."

"UNDEMONOCRATIC"

However, the Conservative Party has reacted with fury over the government's "totally undemocratic" practices regarding Boksburg.

The chairman of the council's management committee, Mr. Gideon Fourie, said: "If this is the method they are using, it is the beginning of the end of the white nation in South Africa."

The National Party is destroying the purpose of our town council - to act on the mandate of those who voted us in."

Mr. Mohammed Navsa, chairman of the Save Boksburg Committee, reacted coolly to the news.

"It is yet another example of legislation lagging behind reality. Indians have been trading in Boksburg for years and in terms of the status quo there has been no dramatic change. Why is the government talking peacemial changes instead of real reform?" he said.

Mr. Tian van der Merwe, the DP's spokesman on constitutional planning, warned yesterday that while the proclamation might bring a degree of relief to some business entrepreneurs in Boksburg, the government could not hope to solve South Africa's problems "in this peacemial fashion."
Council hits back at State

THE Soweto council yesterday hit back at the Administrator of the Transvaal and threw the ball back into the Government’s court after it was ordered to put its house in order before the end of the year.

In a hard-hitting statement at a Press conference yesterday, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, mayor of Soweto, said Mr Danie Hough’s allegations against the Soweto council were “sweeping generalisations, without specific details” which made it difficult to respond to.

He said the Administrator apparently failed to take into account the “crippling effect of Government policy” in relation to Soweto over the past 40 years. He said the Government’s policy of regarding Soweto residents as temporary sojourners led to the lack of adequate infrastructure in the township.

Responding to threats that electricity and water supply would be terminated if the council failed to resolve the rent crisis by December 31, Mkhwanazi said the boycott was the community’s reaction to unacceptable socio-political problems in the country.

By SY MAKARINGE
Expropriation dilemma

AMID the storm over the proposed PWV 3 road network which is being fiercely fought by Sandton and Randburg residents, the question arises: What are the rights of people whose homes lie in the path of the highway?

Owners of properties expropriated will be compensated at market value for their homes or land.

However, some buyers may not have been made aware of the possibility of a road being built at the time they bought their homes.

This raises the question of the responsibility of estate agents to inform clients. If the estate agent who negotiates the sale of a home in such a situation

**FRANK JEANS**

knows about the coming of a major road and withholds this information from the buyer, does the latter have redress to legal action?

Beyond cash compensation for loss of a property or a portion of it, it would seem that the homeowner cannot claim from the agent more than his loss. A legal source, on the other hand, says a buyer, depending on circumstances, might well have the right to annul the sale or claim damages from the agent.

Legislation in terms of the Estate Agents Act and the Code of Conduct governing the real estate industry, says that an agent “shall not, in the conduct of his business do, or omit to do, any act which will, or may damage the good name, standing and integrity of agents in general.”

An Estate Agents Board edict lays down that “an agent shall convey to a purchaser of immovable property in respect of which a mandate to sell has been given to him, all facts concerning the property as are within his or her personal knowledge and which are, or would be material to a prospective buyer.”

Mr Andrew Harrison of the board, says: “The board would certainly take action if it was proved that an agent withheld information relating to a particular property.”
Delay over Mamelodi rent talks

By SOL MORATHI

COMMON ground would have to be found before grievances presented this week to the Mamelodi Council by the Rent Working Forum could be addressed, said council media officer Veleleni Mashumi. He said senior council officials, including outgoing mayor Bennet Nelita, met the RWF and the Mamelodi Rent and Service Payers' Association at the council chambers to discuss the high rents in the area and other grievances.

"The three groups would meet again soon to find common ground," he said.

Although each party showed respect for the others at this week's talks, a several factors had to be ironed out before residents' grievances could be looked into, he said.

Rent has been a burning issue in Mamelodi for the past five years. In 1985 Mamelodi residents marched to the council offices with a list of grievances, which included:

- High rents and poor services,
- The education crisis in Mamelodi,
- Fluctuations in monthly rentals,
- Lack of facilities,
- Army presence in the township, and
- Killings by security forces.

The march resulted in the fatal shooting of 13 people by security forces.

As a result, residents decided on a rent boycott.

Mamelodi residents initially mandated the RWF to meet the 'Transvaal Provincial Administration' to discuss the rent crisis, but did not get a hearing.

Residents claimed the council had no power.

A report recently compiled by RWF showed the council was heavily in debt and was owed R15 million by residents.
Light, water cut for 1 000 families

By John Miller

More than 1,000 families in Claremont, Newlands, Montclare and Triomf were without water and electricity yesterday when municipal electricians cut off supplies after home-owners had failed to pay their accounts.

Two Claremont residents told how officials arrived at their homes yesterday morning and left a notice warning their electricity would be cut if immediate payment was not made.

Miss Jane Stiglingh said her 27-year-old sister, a mother of three, received a Government grant of R420 a month and was unable to pay for electricity.

Miss Stiglingh said she could not believe how uncaring the Johannesburg Municipality was as many of the almost 500 home-owners in Claremont were in a similar position.

She said her sister now owed the council about R1,000 but was unable to find a job.

Mrs Maria Botha, a 24-year-old mother of two, said she had been unable to pay her account for the past three years and owed almost R1,500 and a friend of hers owed around R4,000.

One of the more fortunate residents of Claremont said she was forced to sell her unemployed husband’s car about two weeks ago to pay the electricity account of about R1,200.

She is 28 years old and has five children aged from four to nine.

A spokesman for the Johannesburg Municipality’s Emergency Services last night confirmed that about 1,000 home-owners had had their power and water cut off.
New hotel for Randburg CBD

DAVE LOURENS

THE Randburg Town Council has made land with a market value of R6m available to the developers of a R200m hotel and office complex in the heart of the Randburg CBD for a nominal amount, believed to be around R160.

In terms of the deal, development company Gulfcon International is required to provide a replacement for the 540-bay parking lot which will make way for the 29-storey, 177 000m² complex.

Management committee chairwoman Ursula Lourens said the project "will not only fulfil a desperate need but also stimulate further development in Randburg as a whole."

---

Bank probes figures for informal sector

DAVE LOURENS

TO ASSESS the informal sector's contribution to GDP and national employment, the Development Bank of Southern Africa has analysed 44 community-level Development Bank policy analysis director Stef Coetzee said there had been widely differing estimates of the importance and extent of the informal sector.

A Central Statistical Service survey of the FWS area suggested the omission of informal activities from official statistics involved a 3% under-statement of the GDP in the region, while other surveys suggested as much as a 40% contribution to total employment nationwide and a 30% contribution to GNP.

Coetzee said the lack of a reliable figure posed problems for the formulation of economic development policies. An over-estimation could be as misleading as an under-estimation.

He said an over-estimation could fail policymakers into the belief that SA's economic dilemma, particularly the poverty problem of a large part of the population, was less serious than was actually the case.

To achieve greater clarity on the importance of the informal sector, Development Bank researcher Marie Kirsten examined 1975-1985 studies in SA, the TBVC states and the self-governing territories.

---

Maize crop will need R2.5bn investment

GERALD REILLY

Farmers will make a huge R2.5bn investment in this season's maize crop, according to the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo).

The bulk of the funds needed will be channelled from the Land Bank to the co-ops, but a substantial amount will come from commercial banks.

Some producers claim, however, that commercial banks have become less eager to finance the crop because of what they see as the high risk and the enormous debt burden of most producers.

Interest payments comprise a major segment of total production costs. This season farmers will pay more than 17% for the funds.

According to Nampo, about 3.5 million hectares will be planted to maize this season.

Last year's costs were about R600 a hectare. This year the figure will rise to near R700.

For the past two years, since the introduction of the land conversion subsidy scheme, Nampo has been pressing farmers on marginal land to switch to pastures.

In the two years the target of 25 000 hectares was passed. However, Nampo stresses this is not fast enough.

It is hoped the process will be speeded up after the increase in the subsidy from R90 to a hectare to R130 a hectare in November.

Meanwhile the Maize Board's price scenario for the coming season is a price of R190 a ton on a 10-million-ton crop, rising to R261 a ton on a 6-million-ton crop.

This, says Nampo, is against an average production cost per ton of between R230 and R250 on yields of at least three tons a hectare.

---

PRETORIA — Farmers will make a huge R2.5bn investment in this season's maize crop, according to the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo).

The bulk of the funds needed will be channelled from the Land Bank to the co-ops, but a substantial amount will come from commercial banks.

Some producers claim, however, that commercial banks have become less eager to finance the crop because of what they see as the high risk and the enormous debt burden of most producers.

Interest payments comprise a major segment of total production costs. This season farmers will pay more than 17% for the funds.

According to Nampo, about 3.5 million hectares will be planted to maize this season.

Last year's costs were about R600 a hectare. This year the figure will rise to near R700.

For the past two years, since the introduction of the land conversion subsidy scheme, Nampo has been pressing farmers on marginal land to switch to pastures.

In the two years the target of 25 000 hectares was passed. However, Nampo stresses this is not fast enough.

It is hoped the process will be speeded up after the increase in the subsidy from R90 to a hectare to R130 a hectare in November.

Meanwhile the Maize Board's price scenario for the coming season is a price of R190 a ton on a 10-million-ton crop, rising to R261 a ton on a 6-million-ton crop.

This, says Nampo, is against an average production cost per ton of between R230 and R250 on yields of at least three tons a hectare.
Transvaal taxpayers' assessed income now at more than R5bn

PRETORIA -- Transvaal taxpayers continue to contribute the major and growing share of the total tax burden, according to the latest Department of Finance statistics.

The province's salary and wage earners total tax assessment in the 1986 financial year amounted to R5,157bn, which was R3,928bn greater than the Cape figure of R2,130bn. Tax assessed in Natal amounted to R1,157bn and in the Free State R473,581m.

Transvaal's share of the total was 57.6%, the Cape's 23.8%, Natal's 13.04% and the Free State's 5.31%.

Non-residents' assessments amounted to R22,654m, 2% of the total.


According to the department's statistics, the largest number of taxpayers fall between the ages of 30 and 39 -- 26.97%.

Their taxable incomes amounted to 29.24% of the total and taxed assessed to 28.11% of the total.
Gummen fire at mayor

SOWEGAN Wednesday December 6 1989

BY KENOSIE

Gummen, who was arrested on the night of the
fire, told a reporter, "I was just about to
return from a meeting at the Fire
Department when I heard the news.

I went down to the scene and
saw the fire. I immediately called
the police and asked them to
respond. The police arrived and
put out the fire."

This was the second time Gummen
has been arrested. In 1988, he was
arrested for a traffic violation and
spent a week in jail.

"I don't know what happened," said
Gummen. "I was just trying to do
what I could to help the situation."
Diep mayor appeals

The newly elected mayor of Diep Meadow has appealed to the Government to concede to the people's demands by scrapping the Group Areas Act, Population Registration Act and start negotiating with extra-parliamentary groups inside the country.

Mr. M.J. Khumalo, who was elected into office last Wednesday, said violence has never proved to be a solution for South Africa's problems. He also called for the unconditional release of the jailed ANC leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

In his inaugural speech at Diep Meadow yesterday, the mayor called on all organizations to come to the negotiation table "because the time was right." He said his council's priority was to negotiate with the government for more land. This, he said, would be used to build low-cost houses which would alleviate the present backlog.

He also said he would ask DEB to install electricity and computers in schools. "Our children need modern technology to cope with the ever advancing technological world," said the mayor.

Khumalo, who survived a second attempt on his life on Monday, appealed to his colleagues not to "be aloof to people who elected them into office." This he said led to misunderstandings and misconceptions.
Council scraps rent hike

The Daveyton 'Town Council on the East Rand has indefinitely suspended the proposed R12,15 site rent increase which was to be charged as from January 1 next year.

The council took this decision at a meeting held this week.

Site rent was to have been increased from R42,85 to R53.

The decision to increase the rentals was taken by the council early this year.

The township's mayor, Mr Tom Boys, told Daveyton after the meeting that the residents should ignore the message on their November rent slips that rentals would be increased.

He said: "People should continue paying the current R42,85. We decided to suspend the increases because residents were not consulted when the increases were decided on.

"We are going to meet the people and get their views before introducing new tariffs."

More than 200 families have been evicted from their homes in the township after failing to pay their rent arrears this year.
CP takes ward by 20 votes

JOHANNESBURG — The Conservative Party retained a municipal ward in Krugersdorp after narrowly defeating the National Party in an election on Wednesday.

In a statement CP official Mr Clive Derby-Lewis said Mr Wessel Cronje beat the NP's 'Mr Sekkie' Theron by 20 votes. The percentage poll was 32.2.

Mr Cronje polled 592 votes to Mr Theron's 572.

'The CP controls nine wards and the NP six.'

SAPA
Schools to be named after ANC men

THE Soweto City Council is to rename certain high schools in Soweto after political leaders including the recently released seven African National Congress stalwarts.

The mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, said in an interview yesterday that it had always been the council’s intention to honour all legitimate political leaders in a manner befitting their stature in the community.

He said the honour would be bestowed on all past and present leaders across the political spectrum.

Mkhwanazi said he had already approached the Department of Education and Training on the issue. He said the DET said it had no problem with the idea as the naming of schools was the prerogative of the community they served.

He said leaders to be honoured deserved to be praised in this fashion as they had sacrificed most of their lives fighting for the liberation of their people.

“We’d be very short-sighted to ignore that fact. They deserve to be honoured for their courageous and tireless efforts,” he said.

Mkhwanazi said he was presently trying to get an interview with Sisulu to hear his opinion on the matter and to discuss ways and means on how this could be achieved.

He has not yet identified the schools which would be renamed but said that high schools whose names meant very little to Soweto residents would be the first to be changed.

‘Start paying service charges’

SOFASONKE Party leaders yesterday urged Soweto residents to start paying their service charges from January next year as the ultimatum given by the Administrator of the Transvaal draws nearer.

Speaking at a mass rally attended by about 1,000 people at Byethu Cinema, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, general secretary of the party and mayor of Soweto, said flat rate tariffs proposed earlier this year were expected to be promulgated in the Provincial Gazette on January 1.

The Soweto Council, which is ruled by the Sofasonke Party, was given until the end of this month by Mr Dane Hough of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) to put “its house in order”.

The TPA had accused the council of, among other things, poor management after allegedly failing to collect service charges.
Cloud hangs over Soweto, Lekoa councils

By THEMBA MOLEFE

THE December 31 deadline for the Lekoa and Soweto councils to put their houses in order or face dissolution is fast approaching.

And Vaal Triangle residents are due to meet in Sharpeville on Sunday to discuss the Transvaal Provincial Administration's threat to dissolve the Lekoa Town Council over the rent debacle in the area.

A spokesman for the organisers, the Vaal Residents Action Committee, said the meeting would be held from 10am to 5pm at the George Thabe Stadium.

He said lawyers were seeking permission from the Chief Magistrate in Vereeniging to hold the gathering.

The mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, this week asked for loyalty from residents and pleaded with them to pay their rent arrears.

Soweto residents have not paid rent since 1985.

Five of the Vaal's six townships have not paid rent since September 1984 when unrest broke out over rent increases in the area.

Rent not paid

In October this year, the TPA gave the Lekoa and Soweto councils 60 days - until December 31 - to put their houses in order or face dissolution.

The warning was issued by the MEC for Local Government and Roads, Mr Olaf van Zyl, who said the councils had failed to exercise their powers or perform their functions and duties.

Mkhwanazi yesterday said he believed the TPA would extend its deadline as he had already made representations.

The Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Dane Hough and Van Zyl were not available for comment yesterday.
Gun-toting mayor shrugs off outcry

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

The gun-toting mayor of Boksburg, Mr Beyers de Klerk, is unmov
d by the public outcry over comments that he did not go anywhere unarmed.

"It is the country we live in that forces me to carry a gun. You can't venture out of your front door any more," he said.

"I have carried weapons for the last 10 years but purely for self-defence. God gave me an intelligent mind and I use it to protect myself. The angels won't protect you."

As for the weekend fracas at Boksburg Lake where it was claimed he was walking round with a baton, that is total nonsense. A policeman asked me to hold his baton while he was tying his shoelaces which had come undone," Mr de Klerk said in an interview.

He added that he had gone to the lake last Saturday afternoon in response to an appeal from a local resident.

"I kept a low profile and later laid a complaint with Captain Pieterse."

"At the scene of the fracas I also offered a prayer up to the Almighty to give us a solution. I prayed for everyone and afterwards a coloured woman came up and thanked me."

"As you see, I am a man of the Book and the gun."
Council won’t act against businesses

Staff Reporter

The Johannesburg City Council does not plan to follow Pretoria’s example by acting against businesses (except food outlets) which open for trading on the Day of the Vow tomorrow.

Management committee member Mr Cecil Long, said this was not a municipal, but a provincial matter governed by the Shop Hours Ordinance.

However, most shops in the major centres in Johannesburg will remain closed, but supermarkets in the main centres, including OK Bazaars, Pick n' Pay, Checkers, and Woolworths, plan to open until about 2 pm.

The Star will be on sale as usual, but theatres, Ster-Kinekor and Nu-Metro cinemas and drive-ins will be closed.

Most bookshops and restaurants will be open during the usual times.

The popular Market Theatre flea market will not be open tomorrow but it will be business as usual on Sunday.

The Federated Hotels, Liquor and Catering Association of South Africa (Fedhassa) said pubs, whether in a hotel or not, would be closed for the public holiday which was considered a religious holiday.

Bottle stores will be closed.
Vaal Triangle residents gagged - Claim

Residents of Vaal Triangle townships have been gagged by the Lekoa Town Council working in conjunction with the local police, it was claimed this week.

The claim was made by the executive members of the Vaal Civic Association who condemned the move and criticized the new mayor, Mrs. Kate Ngwenya, for having refused them permission to hold a public meeting.

The meeting, to discuss the rent stalemate, had been scheduled for the George Thabe Stadium last Sunday.

They claimed Mrs Ngwenya gave no reasons for turning down their application for the meeting. The local chief magistrate, Mr. H. J. Kilian, said he had informed the council of the cancellation and that the application was turned down due to the fact that they failed to obtain permission from the Lekoa Town Council.

One of the executive members, Mr. E. Sotsu, said he went to the stadium last Sunday and found the place surrounded by police. He was with a colleague, Mr. Sihembu Rathebe, and they were told by the police to leave as the meeting was banned. Sotsu said the police escorted them out of the stadium.

Rathebe said the police later went to his home. They did not find him but questioned his wife about the meeting.

"It is a matter of our meeting," said Sotsu, "the council publicized in a local newspaper their own meeting to be held with the residents. It started as the residents did not attend."

Sotsu said the VCA had planned to hold the meeting to resolve the issue that sparked unrest in the townships five years ago. He said the residents would have been able to air grievances that were not addressed by council officials since 1984 when the rent boycott started. The VCA called for a mandate to approach the Transvaal Provincial Administration officials.

"We call upon the residents now to be vigilant because it is clear that we are dealing with jackals in sheep skins.

He said the VCA had been informed that residents were being evicted from their houses and some had their houses placed on auction without their knowledge and the others had their freehold sites confiscated.

Sotsu and his colleagues said they were "bitter about the council and called upon the councilors to resign." He said the VCA welcomed the release of the "Delmas Five" and called upon the Government to release "the Sharpeville Six" and all political prisoners and detainees held as a result of the unrest that started by the rent boycott in 1984."
PUBLIC SECTOR - LOCAL AUTHORITIES TVL

1990

JANUARY — MARCH
MUNICIPAL
Fears about Botanic Garden Grounds
Housing sale a 'big flop'

No houses were sold in the Northern Transvaal.

The prices for the two, three and four-roomed houses ranges between R1000 and R2500.

A spokesman for the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Mr. J. A. Loubousche, said the TPA was presently working out a new plan with the black local authorities and if all went according to plan, a new system which will make it easy for people to buy their houses will be introduced next year.

"It is still early to discuss the plan," he said.

The president of the United Municipalities of South Africa, Mr. Tum Boya, said the whole scheme was a flop because no proper marketing was done by the Government.

He said "A lot of people do not know how to go about in buying their houses and I still believe that the councils should not be involved in the selling of the houses. The whole thing should be left to housing experts."

Boya also said most of the people could not afford to pay cash for the houses as is the case now.

THE "big housing sale" introduced by the Government four years ago is a big flop, people and organisations the Sowetan spoke to said.

According to figures released by the State, 112359 houses have been sold by the end of September.

A further 220648 houses are still on sale.

In the Transvaal 78647 houses have been sold.

The breakdown for the other areas is Eastern Cape (8221), Western Cape (3312), Northern Cape (7503), Natal (4996), and Free State (9680).

In September alone, 538 houses were sold in the Transvaal, 172 (Eastern Cape), 85 (Western Cape), 40 (Northern Cape), 71 (Natal), and 117 (Free State).

The West Rand sold more houses than the other areas.

The breakdown for the Transvaal areas is Western Transvaal (2722), Central Transvaal (8075), Northern Transvaal (1405), Eastern Transvaal (8680), East Rand (11116), and West Rand (46645).

In September houses sold in the Western Cape (18), Central Transvaal (71), Eastern Transvaal (49), East Rand (230) and West Rand (184).
black local authorities
Tough move to protest
Vosloo residents to tackle council over its tariffs

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

THE Vosloorus Crisis Committee on the East Rand will meet the local town council next week to discuss, among other things, “exorbitant” electricity bills.

The public relations officer of the committee, Mr. Keith Montsia, said the meeting was urgent as the Vosloorus Town Council started cutting off electricity in the township a month ago.

Montsia said other issues to be discussed were bad roads, poor sewerage, water supply and storm water drainage.

The committee claims that residents, mainly from Mahlala Park, Marimba Gardens, Mahuya Park and Eastfield are being charged between R100 and R300 a month for water, electricity and other services.

Allegations denied

The area’s town clerk, Mr. George Prinsloo, has denied the allegations.

He said the council only cut the electricity of people who are more than three months in arrears.

“We first send notices that if they do not pay their bills within seven days we will cut off their electricity supply. We charge people according to the units they use,” said Prinsloo.

He said if people had problems in paying their bills, they could make arrangements with the council.
Kotze should resign — Jo'burg councillor

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

Johannesburg city councillor Mr Dave Verster has threatened to picket the South African Nature Conservation Centre this month when Environment Affairs Minister, Mr Gert Kotze, visits Delta Park as a guest of the council.

He said he would also call on all conservation-minded people to support his protest on January 23.

"Mr Kotze has not only failed to act on conservation matters, he has sided with commerce and industry in controversial situations," said Mr Verster.

"This invitation by Johannesburg's management committee is therefore a slap in the face of all who care for conservation in South Africa.

"I am informed the ratepayers will foot a bill of R6310 for 130 people who have been invited to the open day at the centre and some form of peaceful protest is clearly called for," he said.

"This is the man who has snubbed thousands of petitioners to save St Lucia and ignored the protest against kaolin mining at Chapman's Peak. Now he is to be the guest of honour of this city council.

"Despite having the new Environmental Act to back up positive moves, he has made no progress. I not only call on Mr Kotze to resign but object to this council entertaining him," said Mr Verster.

Management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger said the decision to invite Mr Kotze was fully justified. "Contrary to Mr Verster's perception, the Minister has done a lot for the environment."

SAP promotion announced

The Witwatersrand's chief police public relations officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Frans Malherbe, has been promoted to full colonel. — Crime Reporter.
Move to scrap election

Former mayor Kolisang.

FORMER Lekoa city council mayor, Mr. Samuel Thutsane Kolisang, has filed papers in the Rand Supreme Court asking that last October's mayoral elections be declared null and void.

The respondents in the application are Mrs Kate Sibongile Ngwena, who is the current mayor, Mr. Andrew E. Khoroli, her deputy, and the city council of Lekoa.

According to the papers Kolisang says he is a Sharpville businessman who was elected to the mayoral position on October 28, 1988. He says his term of office would have expired at the first ordinary meeting of the council held subsequent to the end of one year after his election as mayor.

He states that an ordinary meeting of the council scheduled for October 26 last year was adjourned without a date being set for continuation because no quorum had assembled within 30 minutes of the starting time.

"Without being consulted as mayor, the chief executive of the council, Mr. Nicholas Louw, notified council members that the adjourned meeting would take place on November 9.

"I objected to Louw about the inclusion on the agenda of the proposed election of mayor and deputy mayor. He told me the election was put on the agenda on the insistence of the opposition group, known as the Mahlatsi faction," he said.

Kolisang also points out that at the council meeting of September 28, four council members who support him were suspended for a period of 45 days. This meant they would have been able to resume their duties on November 11. He submits that the Mahlatsi group, which had a clear majority during the sus-
Shanty bulldozing halted

LAWYERS representing the Pholla community in Thokoza township were granted a last-minute interdict yesterday to stop the bulldozing of shanties by the Thokoza City Council.

A member of the law team representing the community, Mosheen Moosa, said the forced removal of the people of Pholla village to Rietfontein, about 12.5km away, was in violation of the George municipality versus Bena and another 1989 ruling by the Appellate Court.

When a contingent of police, along with council members, arrived at the scene they were greeted by a crowd of protesters, witness Sam Makhatini said.

A Pholla civic committee member said his organisation had mobilised the people.

Makhatini said when the council started demolition the people started to surge forward and police gave them five minutes to disperse. When they refused police fired teargas.

Chairman of the Pholla civic committee Sam Nuki said that in the afternoon Moosa had been given the go ahead to apply for a court interdict. When the interdict was granted the council demolition crew withdrew.

Asked to comment, W/O Wessels, in charge of the police, said his men were there for the council’s protection.

Thokoza’s town clerk Herman Combruck was not available for comment.

PIERRE DU PREEZ reports that about 300 shack dwellers living in the Boksburg municipal area bordering on Germiston are due to be removed on Monday.

It is understood the land is owned by the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Co and will be cleared to make way for extensions to the township of Delmore.

The attorney for the group, Chris Watters, said yesterday the people were given “improper notice” to vacate the land.

The Witwatersrand Gold Mining Co refused to comment yesterday.

A Boksburg Town Council spokesman said the issue had nothing to do with the council. It was a matter between the landowners and the occupants.
Tembisa toilet crisis becomes big business for homeowners

Residents of Alicevale's Kwanonzwakazi township have called for the resignation of community councillors and the dismissal of the township superintendent (ANA).

At a meeting this week between senior Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) officials and the community, residents said superintendent CJ Erasmus treated them like "baboons" and they had to bribe the councillors to be allocated houses.

CPA regional representative OJ Bezuidenhout told the 1,000 residents at the meeting he had no authority to dismiss the councillors.

He suggested the community elect a deputation to meet the council and express their grievances.

He said the councillors and Erasmus had raised money for the upgrading of the township through the regional service council. (ANA, 14/11/90)

"They are not able to do more as the community does not contribute enough to the council. On average, households are seven months in arrears." - Resident Samson Gunwe challenged Bezuidenhout to choose any of the residents in the packed community hall and ask them if they were in arrears with their payments.

"Anybody who says we are in arrears is a liar." - ANA
WCCI rejects idea of single municipality

Johannesburg: The Development Bank estimates the amount of money disposed of by Soweto residents is between R750m and R1.4bn, while it is estimated that 70% of all turnover in the CBD is derived from black customers.

"Soweto has a totally insufficient tax base and that which is there cannot be collected. Johannesburg has the tax base which Sowetans are heavily subsiding," Davidson says.

But Pitt believes a single municipality would be a burden on Johannesburg.

A remedy would be financial assistance to Soweto to encourage business in Soweto to create a more adequate rate base.

Central government should step in with financial assistance, Pitt says.

He says the Central Witwatersrand RSC was working towards an agreement with private businesses to establish a "Soweto development fund" with a levy of 1% of turnover.

The WCIT's objection to uniting the municipalities is economic and no based on political considerations, Pitt says.

Davidson says there needs to be a recognition that Soweto and Johannesburg are a single integrated urban economy.

Soweto does not have an economic base. Its infrastructure has broken down and the Soweto City council owes R56m and is bankrupt, he says.

A short-term solution is the creation of a single tax base, Davidson says. However, he recognises the unifying of both municipalities would be disastrous for Johannesburg unless central government gives financial assistance.

The rechanneling of money to Soweto from business through the RSC is a small portion compared with Soweto's contribution to the city, he says.
Rammala resigns

THE suspended town clerk of Atteridgeville, Mr Solly Rammala, has resigned from his post with immediate effect ending several months of a controversy within the council.

Mr Theo Van Strijp, treasurer and acting town clerk of Atteridgeville, yesterday confirmed that Rammala tendered his resignation on Friday.

In his letter of resignation dated January 11 1990, Rammala said he resigned following "the settlement agreement between the council and myself".

**Settlement**

Van Strijp yesterday declined to disclose the amount the council had offered Rammala and said the matter was confidential. The former town clerk earned R4499 a month. The Sowetan has established that the settlement agreement included the six months' salary to be paid from November 1 last year, accumulated leave pay and pension.

The council offered Rammala a R180 000 golden handshake in May last year if he resigned from his post. This offer was turned down by Rammala who at the time was facing 12 counts of irregularities at a disciplinary inquiry chaired by Mr Justice Hiemstra. He was later acquitted on all charges.

His resignation followed months of battles and Supreme Court threats with the council which suspended him several times from his post. In August last year Rammala was fired during a heated and tension-filled special meeting.

This was after he was accused of denigrating three councillors whose rent arrears were exposed by the Sowetan. Rammala had warned the three councillors that they would be stripped of their status if they did not pay their arrears within two weeks.

The council however rescinded its decision of dismissing Rammala when he threatened court action claiming that his dismissal was unlawful. The council then slapped him with an indefinite suspension with full pay.
Priest gets summons over union meetings

By Carina le Grange

A Louis Trechardt priest has been served with a summons to appear in the magistrate's court on Friday on charges that he has been contravening the town planning regulations by allowing his church to be used for trade union meetings.

Father Terence Mooney (52) of the Catholic Church has been informed that he has been providing accommodation for trade unions, according to a lawyer's letter in possession of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC).

He has been told that in allowing trade unions to use the church in town for meetings, he has contravened clause 32 of the town planning scheme. A further charge is that he has not obtained permission from the authorities for these activities.

Father Mooney was warned in November last year that if the trade union activities in the church did not stop a criminal charge would be laid against him and an interdict sought to compel him to comply with the terms of the town planning scheme.

The SACBC said the real issue was that the town council was white and that the people attending the meetings were black.
Privatized Welch's is booming

Whole of SA

Lesson for SA

is
door

Eat and Veri Healthy Association. "The name of the game is healthy advocacy and more healthy associations."

The town of Robetta, which is a small town in the Western Cape, has recently seen a surge in business due to the privatization of Welch's. The town's mayor, Mr. John Smith, attributes the growth to the company's focus on healthy living and its commitment to maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

"Welch's has been a driving force in promoting healthy living in our town," said Mr. Smith. "They've invested in green spaces, health initiatives, and they've even started a community garden to encourage residents to grow their own produce.

The company has also been very active in supporting local sports teams and events, which has helped to boost the town's economy and improve the overall quality of life for residents."
TOMORROW is D-Day for the Soweto and Lekota Councils when the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) executive committee meets to decide whether the councils have met the conditions of a "put your house in order" deadline.

The executive committee's decision would be mainly based on the findings of a detailed report setting out the present economic conditions of Soweto and the best possible ways of maintaining and encouraging a better economic life for the city.

Lekota council announced on Friday that tomorrow their police would swoop on rent defaulters - a move described by residents as the kicks of a dying horse.

Warnings will be issued to Lekota residents warning them to pay within 21 days or face legal action. Soweto mayor Sam Khoza said there were no summons planned in his township and he was holding meetings with the Soweto People's Delegation on the rent boycott.

Both councils have been accused by the TPA of failing to collect or demand rent from residents and this has forced the TPA to cushion the rent debts by providing loans for services in the townships.

The TPA gave Soweto and Lekota a 60-day deadline which ended on December 31 to collect rent and other service charges to ensure the councils could render effective services to residents.

The TPA believed the more than R300 million owed in rent areas seriously hampered the effective running of the townships. There were also limited resources available from the province as bridging finance.

MEC in charge of local government Olau van Zyl said a detailed report on Soweto was presented before the executive committee and a decision would be reached tomorrow.

He said before that meeting, which would also be attended by Transvaal Administrator Dane Hough, nothing substantial could be said on whether the Soweto Council had been able to meet the conditions as set out in the deadline.

In November Van Zyl was reported saying the TPA provided Soweto with R15 million for service charges and R8 million towards non-payment of rent as bridging finance for the Soweto Council.
Rents: Mayor gets tough

The Vosloorus Town Council has warned that it will take drastic steps against rent defaulters in the township. The warning follows the decision by the residents last weekend to pay a flat rate of R60 a month for site rent and service charges with effect from February 1.

Mayor of Vosloorus Mr Morrison Sizwela said, "The council will continue cutting off electricity of all rent defaulters. Residents are charged according to the amount of electricity and water they use. If they want to pay R60, we will provide them with services worth that money."

He said the council will be holding a public meeting on February 25 to discuss the electricity crisis.
TPA delay is respite for black councils

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) executive committee has postponed a decision on possible action against the 'town councils of Soweto and Lekota.'

Last year the TPA initiated steps against the councils because of the unsatisfactory manner in which they ran their affairs, and gave them until the end of 1989 to get their affairs in order.

Soweto was given two months to make representations to the TPA, or face further steps.

If Lekota fails to observe TPA instructions, councillors could be fired.

POOR SERVICES

The TPA said the Soweto council rendered poor community services and had failed to act against rent and service charge defaulters.

The Lekota council, on the other hand, held battles and unproductive council meetings where power struggles were "the order of the day.

It also failed to collect levies and debts, and did not exercise proper budget control.

TPA spokesman, Mr Piet Wilken, said in Pretoria yesterday that these issues would be discussed on a date still to be fixed.

— Sapa
Low-cost homes plan 'malicious'

By Helen Grange

The Boksburg Town Council is to decide this week whether to press on with a plan to create low-cost, predominantly black housing in the free settlement area of Windmill Park.

In a move to kill the prospect of the newly-declared suburb becoming an upper-middle-class area, the council's Conservative Party caucus proposed at a recent meeting to buy as much land as possible to build low-cost houses, and possibly a men's hostel to accommodate black municipal employees and families.

Mr T J Ferreira, the CP chief whip, said the employees' homes would be subsidised by the council up to 55 percent — the same concession as for white municipal employees.

There have already been hundreds of applications from black council workers for housing, and Mr Ferreira said he would "personally subsidise" houses for four of his black employees.

Homes in March

He said the council had options on 12 stands and planned to buy more. Up to 150 workers and their families could begin moving into Windmill Park by March.

"The Government has created this situation. Now it must live with it. And the Indians mustn't come crying to us when their suburb is turned into a slum.

"I have already had several phone calls from Indians living there. They must accept blacks unto their fold in the spirit of Government reform."

Asked if the council move was not a forced attempt to mould the area into a black township, Mr Ferreira replied: "The Government forced a free settlement area on us."

Tremendous demand

The council's move has met with a volley of criticism from the recently-formed Windmill Park management committee and an estate agent operating in the area.

"The plan is motivated by malice, and the intention is to create a slum to discredit the concept of free settlement areas," said McMannetjes Ford of Ford Estate Agents.

He said any plans for development by the council would have to be approved by the Windmill Park management committee.

"There is no way we will approve low-cost housing. Our objective is to maintain the standard of housing already in existence. The council can easily find cheaper accommodation for workers in Vosloorus."

Mr Ford said there had been a tremendous demand for stands and houses in Windmill Park, mostly by Indians.

Seven stands had been sold to blacks and nine to coloureds. And a number of mixed families were moving in. Apart from seven white families already there, no others had bought land.

"We don't appreciate Mr Ferreira trying to frighten people off their land in fear of the suburb becoming a slum. This is not going to happen," said Mr Ford.
Decision soon on Lekoa and Soweto

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) will reach a decision on possible action against the Soweto and Lekoa councils within two weeks, TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said yesterday.

Wilken said the TPA executive committee discussed the issue in a meeting yesterday but reached no decision.

Both councils had been warned to get their houses in order or some of their powers would be taken away.

The Soweto City Council was warned to submit representations by the end of last year on its failure to act on the rent crisis, failure to sell houses, and for other alleged mismanagement — or another body would be authorised to act for the council.

Failure to collect rent and service charges has cost Soweto R278m in arrears payments.

The Lekoa Town Council held unproductive council meetings, did not exercise proper budget control and failed to collect levies and debts which cost the council R115m in rent arrears, the TPA said.

Power struggles were "the order of the day" in the Lekoa council meetings, the TPA said.

The Soweto council started billing residents for electricity and services at the beginning of January.

Theo Hawana reports MEC for local government Obena van Zyl had given the council 60 days from the end of last October to rectify the situation which had helped to deteriorate services in Soweto.

TPA director, local government, Friek Pelser said the council had gone some way towards complying with the TPA's ultimatum.

"The council has taken a number of actions to comply and reports from the regional director are to be considered by the administrator (Dane Hough) and the executive committee.

"These will be evaluated to see to what extent the council has gone," Pelser said.

He refused to say what steps the council had taken, saying the issue could not easily be finalised.

He said the Administrator would be able to make a statement in a month's time.

In reply to Van Zyl's statement in November, the Soweto council had warned the Administrator against the "harsh administration of by-laws and the collection of monies".

Crippling

Mayor Sam Mkhwanazi, after listing steps the council had taken to improve the lot of the Soweto people since it was voted into power a year earlier, had told a Press conference "We have urged him not to take action... without first giving us an opportunity to discuss these issues in depth with him.

The Administrator apparently fails to take any account of the crippling effect of government policy in relation to Soweto over the past 40 years.

"Its policy of regarding our inhabitants as temporary sojourners has meant that Soweto has now got inadequate infrastructure.

"We realise people must pay for what they use — even the people realise that — but then we must consider fair accounts and historical situations as a basis for progress"
TPA men smash two homes at settlement

By Montshwana Moroke

Employees of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), backed by the SAP, yesterday demolished two brick structures on Walters Farm, a squatter settlement area, south of Johannesburg.

Residents said armed TPA officials, travelling in several vehicles arrived at about 8am and surrounded Mr Jack Bangusa’s two-room dwelling.

Soon afterwards youths gathered around, apparently to resist the move. Later, members of the SAP arrived in several vehicles; and joined the TPA officials.

They allegedly demolished the house and confiscated bricks, window and door frames, and corrugated iron pieces.

Dismantled

They then went to another structure, occupied by Mr Basil Zeka and Mr Lawrence Busakwe. The four-room structure was dismantled and building material removed.

Mr Zeka, who has lived in the area since 1987, said he was told by officials that he had no right to be there. He said he was a permit holder. Mr Busakwe and Mr Bangusa also told The Star they were permit holders.

Police liaison officer for the Witwatersrand, Colonel Frans Malherbe, said it was policy with the SAP to play a supportive role during removals in case of unrest.

Colonel Malherbe said, "The police were merely there to maintain law and order and not to take part in the actual removals."
Councillors accused of misusing funds

Dr Abe Nkomo

SCORES of Atteridgeville residents yesterday said they were shocked by disclosures that local city councillors were paid a total R135 000 a year in allowances and that certain officials received R480 000 a year for travelling to and from work, writes MONK NKOMO.

This was disclosed at a meeting organised by the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation at the Anglican Church.

Residents accused councillors of being ignorant and misusing public funds. Residents also criticised the council's plan to increase rent.

Residents yesterday demanded the immediate release of the Kynel Commission's report on allegations of corruption and irregularities within the council last year.

'Lousy' garden

The report was handed to the council by the Transvaal Provincial Administration two weeks ago for comment which must be submitted to the TPA by next week.

A spokesman from the Tshwane Legal Services told the meeting that the council did not care how residents' money was used. He claimed the council:

- Paid R68 000 to a private company to paint the local community hall;
- Paid R32 000 to a private company to establish a "lousy" garden inside the council premises; and
- Paid an average of between R300 and R500 a month for car telephones for two senior officials who have since resigned.

Bacher barred

Residents resolved that South African Cricket Union president Dr Alister Bacher, who conducts clinics in Atteridgeville, be barred from the township because of his moves to get the country back into the international sports arena.

Dr Abe Nkomo said it was amazing that 54 percent of the local council's budget was for salaries and wages as compared with 33 and a third percent in the Pretoria City Council.
Members of the audience engage in spirited debate with a speaker at the Botanic Garden meeting.

© Pictures by Steven Davines.
Protests mar council meeting on gardens plan

By Guy Jepson

A public participation meeting initiated by the Johannesburg City Council to discuss the development of the Botanic Garden collapsed into confusion last night.

Many of the 800 people who attended the meeting at the Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre stormed out to protest against the handling of proceedings by the chairman, Councillor Cecil Long.

"Stop dictating, you are a dictator, you are here to listen to the people," a member of the audience shouted after Mr Long, chairman of the council's culture and recreation committee, appeared to dismiss a proposal read by People for Park Conservation (PPC) chairman Mrs Jenny Gillies.

Mrs Gillies said PPC had collected 7,000 protest signatures in its campaign against the council's allocation of about half of Emmarentia's Jan van Riebeeck Park for further development of the Botanic Garden. Mr Long questioned the authenticity of the petition.

The council was represented at the meeting by Mr Long, Mr Paul Louber, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, and Mr Patric Chambers, the Botanic Garden's chief information officer.

Arguing the case for the development of the facility, Mr Chambers presented a slide show contrasting the present developed garden and its planned expansion with "the degraded open spaces" he said characterized the area 20 years ago.

"No open space is in fact being taken away," he said, referring to a recent amendment to the original 1969 plan.

In her address, Mrs Gillies said Jan van Riebeeck Park was publicly perceived as "a large park with a botanic garden in the northern corner.

Councillor Cecil Long under fire from critics at last night's meeting to discuss the Botanic Garden.

She said the council's 1990 update to its original plan for the park "still sounds restrictive" for a popular public recreation area.

She said the PPC proposal represented a compromise aimed at preserving the multi-purpose recreational nature of the park's open areas while allowing for the expansion of the existing garden in the northern section of the park on to some of the undeveloped areas near Emmarentia Dam.

Responding to the proposal, Mr Long said: "The Botanic Garden is for the people of Johannesburg and that includes all the people."

When a member of the audience suggested that the PPC proposal be put to the vote, Mr Long said the proposal would be debated.

Mr Ian Davidson, leader of the Democratic Party in the Johannesburg City Council and a member of the culture and recreation committee, asked Mr Long to reconsider his point of view.

"This meeting is a perfectly good example of public participation," he said.

To try to stifle debate is counter-productive. I am for the Botanic Garden but I do believe public opinion has to be taken into account and the public are here en masse."
Three councillors ousted in Tembisa

[By Abel Mabelane, East Rand Bureau]

Three executive members of the Tembisa Town Council were removed from office last night after a vote of no confidence was passed against them.

The three have, however, indicated they will take the matter to court, because they allege their removal was irregular.

They are the council chairman, Mrs Gisile Mosiabedi, the deputy mayor, Mrs Connie Zakalula, and councillor Mr Leschafti Lamola.

The three were also removed from the executive last August, but were reinstated after taking the matter to the Supreme Court.

In an interview with The Star, Mrs Mosiabedi said they had already sought legal advice and would take the matter to the Supreme Court again.
stolen rights to citizens of Jo'burg

Johannesburg's Management Committee is to be congratulated on its recent proposal that the entire municipal area should become an open trading area. If all goes well the recommendation should be approved by the full City Council next Tuesday, after which the Government's permission under Section 19 of the Group Areas Act should be more formal. 

The "open trading" proclamation now sought would allow persons who are not white to own shops and also -- very importantly -- to carry on commercial, professional, educational and religious activities anywhere within the municipal area, provided that the premises in question are zoned appropriately under the municipal town planning scheme, and subject to the normal laws governing nuisance and improper behaviour.

Persons who are not white have always been allowed to shop in "white" areas, and to work there in subordinate positions. Black staff and customers are numerous, so the ban on ownership has had minimal effect in reducing the numbers of other races present. It can be explained by a selfish and shortsighted desire to maintain white privilege.

Group Areas proclamations of the 1950s excluded virtually all significant business and industrial premises in "white" group areas where ownership or occupation by persons of other races' groups was prohibited.

Fortunately this unjust restriction is now in the process of being overcome, as a free market in Johannesburg's central area, analyses the anatomy of "open trading" and the importance of this in releasing conflict and freeing the economy.

NIGEL MANDY, an international expert on city centres and the man who has fought hardest for free trade in Johannesburg's central area, analyses the anatomy of "open trading" and the importance of this step in releasing conflict and freeing the economy.

and (where necessary) by the enlargement of shared facilities not by race-based prohibitions.

That established white privileges are being removed

But the right to property and to run a business or to conduct a profession ought never to have been removed from people of other races. Therefore we are not considering a removal of white rights but rather a restoration of stolen rights to persons of other races.

That if non-whites open businesses in white areas, and perhaps settle there, it would unjustly affect the whites' own community and cultural life.

This is accompanied by a more serious threat that the motivation is not in any way racist.

Let us pose a simple test: Assuming that both are worthy and well-behaved people, which would be more acceptable a Portuguese-speaking Roman Catholic recent immigrant, or an Afrikaans-speaking Dutch Reformed Church member, who happens to be coloured? And what are the implications of the presence of many black persons every day in every suburb?

That persons of other groups will conciliate on building up the economies of their own separate areas.

But many activities require multiracial participation, and are best situated in areas which are presently regarded as white.

A businessman should be free to establish his business in the most advantageous locality. Just as in the case of a white, that will often be some subordinate business node.

However, it should be added that black shopping enterprises can be expected to continue to be directed largely towards opportunities in the townships, where the openings are many and the competition not yet established.

And a situation which has been distorted for historical reasons, a good case could be made for protecting black entrepreneurs in the townships from the immediate blasts of strong white and Indian competition during a transitional period.

That is a matter for the community of Soweto and the other black townships to decide for themselves, but the case for opening the white areas is, in my view, unavoidable.

That this is the thin edge of the wedge for removal of residential restrictions.

But the authorities are coming to realize that, especially in the large cities, residential restrictions are eroding under irresistible demographic pressures.

That is a separate issue, which will probably be addressed by the incremental proclamation of free settlement areas and as a probable repeal of the Act Eventually the creation and maintenance of ethnic or cultural enclaves must come to be done through normal social processes, not by discriminatory laws.

It is right and proper that Johannesburg should take the lead in this matter. If other more conservative local government associations have to face up to emerging realities, they will doom themselves to increasing human conflict and economic stagnation.
Council agrees to discuss grievances

By Shehzad Baluha

The Vosloorus Town Council on the East Rand yesterday agreed to discuss grievances of residents after more than 20,000 people staged a peaceful march to the council to protest against high rentals and electricity tariffs and lack of infrastructure.

Vosloorus town clerk Mr George Prinsloo told executive members of the Vosloorus Crisis Committee (VCC), who were responsible for the march, that the council would discuss residents' complaints.

Mr Prinsloo said, "The first council meeting will be held on January 31. We will discuss the matter and report back."  

TABLED DEMANDS

Earlier, police prevented the crowd from entering council premises and allowed only executive members of the VCC to present a petition to the council.

Residents demanded a R50 flat rate for rent and electricity and that the council upgrade existing infrastructure and provide more facilities.

After a brief meeting, residents decided to implement their first demand, which was to pay a flat rate of R50, regardless of the council's proposal to look into the matter.

"We are not prepared to pay exorbitant rates. We are currently paying about R350 in electricity and service charges. As of this month we will only pay R50," said the chairman of the VCC, Mr Ali Maziya.

ANC and PAC flags flew high and residents toyed and sang freedom songs after Mr Maziya reported back to the crowd.

After an hour of heavy tension between police and the crowd, who squatted to wait for a reply to the petition from the town council, residents dispersed.

Police were out in force but kept a low profile.

Prior to the march, residents gathered at the Vosloorus Stadium to listen to speeches by the VCC, local priests and representatives from the UDF East Rand Branch and members of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu).

"The apartheid system cannot work and the so-called leaders (town councillors) continue to rule by decree. It is in the interest of every community to defend their existence," Mr Maziya said.

"We don't benefit from the economic development of Boksburg. The white people receive subsidies from the State. We cannot tolerate this inequity," he said.

Members of the UDF and Nactu pledged their support for the struggle waged by Vosloorus residents.

Mr Morrison Nokela, the mayor, praised the marchers for keeping the protest peaceful.
Sandton may seek ‘open’ status

The Sandton Town Council's management committee has resolved to conduct a referendum of registered voters in the area on whether or not to apply for the Group Areas Act to be amended to exclude Sandton.

This is according to Mr Peter Jardine, chairman of the Democratic Party (DP) in the Sandton Town Council.

Mr Jardine, who is also chairman of the council's Section 59 Investigation Committee into Free Settlement Areas, said that if the outcome of the referendum is positive, the management committee will petition the State President to have the Group Areas Act amended.

Mr Jardine estimated that about 80 percent of the area's registered voters would vote in favour of scrapping the Group Areas Act.

But he said: "If the outcome of the referendum is positive but the petition to the State President is unsuccessful, the management committee will instruct the Section 59 Investigation Committee to hold discussions with the Marlboro Gardens management committee, neighbouring municipalities, the Minister of Constitutional Development and the Administrator of the Transvaal.

"The point of these would be to examine and report back on the practical implications of whether or not to apply for the entire municipal area to be declared a free settlement area."

Mr Jardine said the council was totally opposed to:

- The Group Areas Act
- The fragmentation of Sandton into a number of free settlement areas with an attendant multiplicity of management committees
- The current franchise provisions of Local Government Affairs in the Free Settlement Areas Act

"The legal advice obtained and the statements of government ministers and officials indicate that there is nothing to prevent an entire municipality from applying to be a free settlement area," Mr Jardine said.

Mr Peter Jardine to hold referendum.
Lekoa mayor ‘unaware’ of tariff hike

THE mayor of Lekoa, Ms Kate Ngwenya, has asked residents to ignore notices sent out last week informing them of tariff increases.

She told the Sowetan yesterday that she did not know about the new tariffs, and urged them to ignore the letter while she investigated the matter.

In the notices Vaal Triangle residents were warned that they faced prosecution or eviction if they did not pay tariff increases of about R40 from January 31.

They were sent by the Lekoa town council clerk Mr N P Louw, to Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bophelong, Boipatong and Zamdela.

By Joshua Raboroko

Council sources have disclosed that increases were approved at a meeting last Thursday. Councillors were divided on the issue - one group contending that residents had not been consulted, and others demanding that increases be effected immediately.

An angry Ngwenya said she did not see how the council could approve increases while the five-year-old rent boycott was still unresolved. She said that, before she was elected mayor late last year, the council had approved rent increases.

But the new budget, which has been sent to the Transvaal Provincial Administration for approval, did not provide for an increase in rates which may be owing to the council.

But an angry Ngwenya said she did not see how the council could approve increases while the five-year-old rent boycott was still unresolved. She said that, before she was elected mayor late last year, the council had approved rent increases.

But the new budget, which has been sent to the Transvaal Provincial Administration for approval, did not provide for an increase in rates which may be owing to the council.

Boycott

Louw said if the amounts were not paid or acceptable arrangements made, steps would be taken to recover the money and all other amounts, including costs.
Aim of better place for all
ACHMAD KAREM
LOCAL government has an important role to play in a new SA, according to Piet Geers who takes office as Soweto's town clerk on March 1. "It is the government nearest to the people," he said in an interview.

The former Verwoerdburg administrator said he wanted to create, with the people of Soweto, a better environment.

A town clerk had to act as a link between council and staff and externally between council and public, he said.

Geers said he would like to have an "open door" administration. He said he regarded potential problems as opportunities.

"Communication is crucial I believe you must respect other people's opinions."

As Bedfordview town secretary during 1977-74, he was the council's Tembisa representative.

Geers, who succeeds Nico Malan, holds an honours degree in public administration and is an SA Institute of Valuers member.
A new door opening on Soweto

says Gees

About Job, illusions
I have no

226
Tsakane has stands, but no money

By MZIKAYISE
EDOM

THE Tsakane Town Council on the East Rand has almost 5 000 empty residential stands but it has no money to erect houses on them.

About 4 000 families stay in backyard shacks in the township but, according to the council, 90 per cent of them earn between R60 and R350 a month and cannot afford to build their own homes.

Deputy mayor of Tsakane, Mrs Connie Nkosi, said they needed about R16 million for the housing project. Nkosi said her council could not get a Government loan because they owed the National Housing Commission about R22 million.

This money was used to erect new houses in the township's Skopas section a few years ago.
"Save the ridges for residents"

Municipal Reporter

All development on Johannes¬burg ridges should be frozen until the council has finalised a ridge policy, urged city councillor Mr. Martin Sweet.

Commenting on the clash between residents and the developers of a shopping centre on Yeoville Ridge, he said "This ridge forms part of the Mervyn King Trail and the metropolitan open spaces system which is becoming the dominant feature in town planning.

"The ridge, as part of the greater Johannesburg network of open spaces, represents the deepest penetration of nature into the heart of urban Johannesburg.

"It should be saved for all inner city residents." Mr Sweet said one of his top priorities in the coming months would be to urge the council to adopt an environmental character for the city. "If President Bush can elevate the US Environmental Protection Agency to Cabinet level on a par with Defence, then our city can adopt a policy prohibiting our ridges from being spoiled," he said.

---

Education Briefs

The final day of the Socio-linguistics in Africa conference at the University of the Witwatersrand will consist of a public colloquium on "Planning for the future Language in South Africa." The event will take place on Friday February 2 at the D.J du Plessis Centre on the university campus. Telephone (011) 718-2346 for further details — Education Reporter

***

Music, dancing, plays, a book fair and poetry are among the many items which will be presented at the University of the Witwatersrand's fifth History Workshop on Saturday February 10. Performers will include the Chopitumbula players from Weldebeesfontein Mine in Bophuthatswana, the Zaken and Dumbuza Cultural Groups, the D-Bafanas, the Soshanguve Black Tycoons and the K-Team. Poetry will be read by Mwakhe Mbali, Alfred Gabula, Mandyoka and Sipho Templeton, and two literary sessions will be presented by prominent writers. Telephone (011) 718-2296 for further details — Education Reporter

---

The Botshabelo Education Co-ordinating Committee was formed at a community meeting last week in support of the "Back to School" campaign, according to a statement from the Botshabelo Students Congress. The committee resolved to disband government-created school committees and elect parent-teacher-student associations, and to engage in action resisting incorporation into Qwa Qwa — Education Reporter
Landmark Pretoria meeting

PRETORIA — The Pretoria City Council was expected to agree to eliminate discrimination in municipal facilities at its monthly meeting last night.

Blanket opposition to the management committee (Manco) proposals for ditching racial discrimination in facilities and trading was expected to come from the CP's 19 councillors.

DP sources said yesterday the scrapping of segregated facilities in Pretoria would be an appropriate backdrop to any announcement by President F W de Klerk in his opening speech in Parliament on Friday that the Separate Amenities Act was to be repealed.

Among the facilities tabled for opening to all races were the city's buses, libraries, swimming pools, toilet facilities and munic-

Pretoria 31/1/90

determine municipal voters' attitudes to opening the city to all races was withdrawn at a council meeting yesterday.

The proposals also included the opening of the Heilbron swimming pool.

The council was also expected to approve a considerable widening of the free trade area to encompass much of the central area.

At the time of going to press the meeting was still in session.

LESLEY LAMBERT reports from Cape Town that a proposal for a referendum to
Apartheid under fire in Transvaal

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The two major Transvaal cities, Johannesburg and Pretoria, have taken far-reaching decisions which will lead to the partial scrapping of apartheid in their municipal areas.

In Johannesburg, a recommendation by the management committee that the entire city be declared a free trade area was approved at yesterday’s council meeting. Only the four Conservative Party members opposed the move.

It was announced that the Lenasia and South West management committees had also decided to accept free trade areas.

In Pretoria the council voted by 22 votes to 19 after a heated debate yesterday to open the municipal bus service, all municipal libraries, the city hall and the Skipton Hall, the Hillcrest swimming pool and angling facilities at the Rietvlei dam to all races.

Recommendation

The Pretoria council decided to recommend to the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning that the major part of the central business district and a number of suburban areas be investigated as free-trade areas and that it had no objection to the principle of establishing a free-settlement area on a “regional” basis inside or outside its area of jurisdiction.

Johannesburg deputy management committee chairman Mrs Marietta Marx said “We are moving towards a discrimination-free city. But it is not in our hands to abolish the Group Areas Act.” If it would be wonderful to stand up and say it had been scrapped, she added.

Mrs Marx said her ideal was freedom of choice for everyone in South Africa. The Group Areas Act was a problem, but part of the committee’s aim was to look at group interests on a non-discriminatory basis.

“Free society”

“The ideal is a free society where people can function on a competitive basis.”

Earlier in the debate Democratic Party council leader Mr Ian Davidson recalled that the Democrats had been dubbed “screaming liberals” when they urged the scrapping of apartheid.

Urging the scrapping of the Group Areas Act, he said all that was really being obtained was an exemption from the Act.

“But we still have the contorted logic which is that a black can work anywhere but not live there,” he said.
Sancton residents to vote on free settlement area

By Louise Burgers

The Sandton Town Council will hold a referendum within three months to determine whether its voters want the Group Areas Act repealed in their entire municipal area.

Mr Peter Jardine, chairman of the Section 59 committee dealing with Free Settlement Areas, said at the council monthly meeting on Monday night that the referendum was a matter of urgency and would be held as soon as possible.

The council requires a mandate from its voters to petition the State President for an amendment to the Group Areas Act to exclude the entire municipal area from the provisions of the Act.

A date will be set for the poll and registered voters in Sandton will have to vote "yes" or "no" for an open area.

R50 000 has been set aside for the referendum. The Democratic Party is expected to campaign vigorously for a "yes" vote.

The motion tabled before the Sandton Town Council stated that it opposed the Group Areas Act, the fragmentation of Sandton into a number of free settlement areas with an attendant multiplicity of management committees, and the current franchise provisions of the Local Government Affairs in Free Settlement Areas Act.

AMENDMENTS REJECTED

The recommendations dealing with the referendum were carried by 18 votes to 16 against. Independent councillor, Mrs Elizabeth Clogg, and DP councillor, Mrs Hazel Kgosho-Schochet, abstained.

Two amendments proposed by them were rejected.

Mrs Clogg believed a referendum was unnecessary and suggested the council petition the State President directly.

The chairman of the management committee, Mr Perry Oriel, said residents wanted to be consulted and a mandate from voters would place the council in a stronger position to negotiate.

According to the Section 59 committee report on free settlement areas also released on Monday, all residential areas and public facilities should be open to all races throughout the country, and the council should continue to demand and exert all possible pressure to have the Group Areas Act repealed.

The committee considered the Free Settlement Areas Act and the Local Government Affairs in Free Settlement Areas Act "inherently unacceptable legislation" — only necessary because of the existence of the Group Areas Act.

The two acts were also considered to be "bad legislation" as they were extremely vague in many aspects and totally silent on relevant aspects in other instances, the report stated.

The committee was of the opinion that it was possible to use the free settlement areas legislation to achieve an open residential area for an entire municipality, provided amendments or regulations were made to provide for an acceptable form of franchise and a workable management system.

Legal advice obtained by the council indicated there was nothing to prevent an entire municipality from applying to become a free settlement area.

There would have to be a common voters roll for the election of a single city or town council. Apart from those on the municipal voters' role, people who owned or permanently occupied property in the municipal area and the corporate vote, should be accommodated.
Pretoria moves to end apartheid

PRETORIA — The City Council here last night took major steps towards the total abolition of apartheid in the capital city — overriding caustic and heated Conservative Party opposition to open a number of municipal facilities to all races.

Initial reports after the meeting indicated that most municipal facilities would be opened to all.

Reports before the council noted that investigations were still under way into the segregation/integration scenario in a wide number of services, as well as extensions to the central city free trading area.

After the meeting, the chairman of the management committee, Mr James Leach, appealed to "all residents of Pretoria to approach the opening of facilities in our city with great responsibility."

This followed a heated debate in which the CP opposition warned of certain disaster and described the latest moves as "the thin end of the wedge."

The CP threatened to do everything legally in its power to overturn the proposal.

Meanwhile, in Johannesburg, the City Council is to ask the Constitutional Development and Planning Department to declare the whole of Johannesburg a free trade area.

This recommendation, made by the management committee last week, was approved by all DP and NP councillors at the monthly council meeting last night.

The four CP councillors opposed the recommendation on the grounds that white business would be threatened.

A motion proposed by CP councillor Hendrik Claassen, that referendums should be held among the current legal residents before any free settlement recommendations were made, was ridiculed by both DP and NP councillors.

In proposing the motion, Mr Claassen cited statistics of AIDS among blacks and the number of AIDS-related deaths.

● All Johannesburg's buses will be opened to all races within the next 10 days, Johannesburg City Council's Acting Transport director Mr Gert Tshiny said yesterday.

The applications by Putco and Johannesburg City Council to the Road Board for permits to carry passengers of all races went ahead without a hitch, he said. — Sapa; Own Correspondent
Council to comment on its inquiry

THE Attendgeville town council is expected to submit its comments on the Knei commission of inquiry to the Transvaal Provincial Administration today.

The commission investigated allegations of corruption and irregularities in the council last year.

It has not yet been decided whether to make the findings public, a TPA spokesman said.

Political and civic organisations in Attendgeville have called on the authorities to publicise the findings of the commission appointed by the government at the council's request.

"Issues highlighted during the inquiry included the improper handling of public funds, the payment of R480 000 per year to certain officials travelling to and from work as well as the misuse of council vehicles," Van Strum said.

Senior officials also told the inquiry that the township had a deficit of about R9 million and that 54 percent of the council's budget was for salaries and wages.

Mr Theo van Strum, treasurer and acting town clerk of Attendgeville, this week confirmed that the council had not had an audited financial report for the past three years.

"The council has now acquired the services of external auditors and we hope to have an audited report within four weeks," Van Strum said.
Muldersdrift enlargement bid ‘slated’

By Louise Burgers

The Muldersdrift local area committee has applied to extend its boundaries to an area twice the size of Randburg to preserve its “rural” character, in a move which has been labelled “political” by surrounding municipalities.

At its monthly meeting last night, the Randburg Town Council decided to object to the application by the tiny town made in December, on the grounds that such a move would restrict Randburg’s future expansion.

Randburg is situated on 910 hectares and Muldersdrift officials want 2,000 hectares included in their area to form a municipality. According to town councillor, Mr Cyril Ford, the move is purely political because there are no other reasons for the sudden expansion.

It would be disastrous for Randburg’s future expansion to allowing a municipality with a negligible population to encroach from the north,” Mr Ford said.

Council officials said Muldersdrift was afraid its rural character would be polluted by development. They feared industrial development on their borders would bring an influx of people and create unwanted change.
THE Soweto city council will receive a grant of more than R1 million from the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council for use in converting Dube hostel into a residential area.

After investigating the viability of converting single sex hostels in the townships to flats and townhouses, the Soweto Council decided that only the Dube hostel would be suitable.

It is estimated that the infrastructure will be completed in four months.

**Stadium**

Meanwhile, the Dobsonville town council has requested financial assistance in order to improve facilities and upgrade the Dobsonville stadium.

The stadium is the home ground of Giant Blackpool Football Club and serves 34 semi-professional and amateur teams.

Changes to the stadium include seating for 20,000 spectators, a crowd control fence and flood lighting.
Tenders spark outrage in Atteridgeville

THE Atteridgeville Town Council this week rejected lucrative tenders of up to R1 million and recommended that a business site near the local clinic be allocated to a taxi owner who allegedly offered far less than six of the eight other tenderers.

The council, at their monthly meeting on Wednesday - part of which was held in camera - accepted recommendations by the executive that the site be allocated to the taxi owner who had offered R100 000 for the land and building. The cost of the land is R37251,50, which means he will put up a building of about R62000.

A local resident who offered the highest tender of R56 000 for the land only and R1,4 million for the erection of a two-floor business centre, yesterday threatened to take legal action against the council after her offer was rejected. Several other tenderers expressed their dissatisfaction about the council's decision and said legal action was not ruled out.

A source close to the council said the executive committee recommended the taxi owner because he had already bought bricks for the building.

Other lucrative offers included:

* R50,000 for land only, by a local businessman who wanted to put up a two-storey building centre worth R1,3 million; and

* R60 000 for land only, by a local resident whose building was estimated at R200 000.
By STAN MHLONGO

A VAAL resident this week told how “CP fury” cost him his most precious possession – his home.

Nkosinathi Mncengwa this week spoke of his grief and sadness after his shack was demolished by the Vanderbijlpark Town Council – “sneaked-off” without notice,” said Mncengwa.

Vanderbijlpark Town Clerk Chris Beukes said: “The squatters were given sufficient time to remove their property.”

Vaal residents this week started a petition to State President FW de Klerk to bring the “racist reign” of the Conservative Party in the township of Bophelong to an end.

The move has been initiated by the Vaal Civic Association (VCA) and supported by the Bophelong Residents’ Committee.

VCA spokesman in the Bophelong region, L Mailula, said Constitutional and Development Aand Minister Dr Gerrit Viljoen would also be sent a letter requesting his support.

“We decided on Viljoen and De Klerk because their constituencies are in the Vaal,” said Mailula.
Jomet to hold indabas on transport

Commuters are being given the opportunity to contribute ideas about alternative public transport systems proposed by Jomet, the Johannesburg metropolitan planning organisation.

Public meetings have been planned throughout the Jomet transport area to discuss land use strategies and the transport implications of such strategies.

The aim is to invite public input in order to generate a preferred strategy.

DATES AND VENUES

Details of the meetings are:

- A combined Germiston-Alberton meeting on Tuesday February 20 at 6 pm, Germiston Civic Centre, Queen Street, Germiston Auditorium, under the library.
- A combined Edenvale, Bedfordview, Kempton Park and Modderfontein meeting on Wednesday February 21 at 6 pm, Edenvale community hall, corner of Van Riebeek Avenue and Second Street.
- A combined Soweto, Dobsonville, Diepmeadow meeting on Thursday February 22 at 6 pm, A1 lecture hall, Vista University, Soweto.
- In Alexandra, on Monday February 26 at 6 pm, Nobuhle Hall, inside new men's hostel, Sixth Avenue.
- A combined Tokoza, Katlehong meeting on Tuesday February 27 at 6 pm, Tshabalala Hall, Nkaki Street.
- In Tembisa on Wednesday February 28 at 6 pm, Raba Sotho Hall, Iqagqa Section, near Tembe shopping centre.

- A combined Randburg, Sandton and Roodepoort meeting on Wednesday February 14 at 6 pm, Randpark High School, Assegaa Avenue, Randpark Ridge Extension.
JOHANNESBURG opened its entire municipal bus service to all races yesterday morning.

And Puco which ran a "blacks only" bus will now transport passengers of all races in line with the decision of the Johannesburg City Council.

A Puco spokesman, Astrid Bleker, said all passengers would pay the same fares — about 40 percent lower than on Johannesburg municipal buses.

Mrs Bleker said several inquiries had been received from whites in areas which were poorly served by municipal buses.

White commuters in Honeydew, north-west of Johannesburg, were interested in Puco's early morning service as they experienced serious public transport problems she said.

Puco director, Vic Coetzee, said earlier there were many complications to be worked out. Puco was subsidised by the government and municipal services were subsidised by ratepayers.

"For us all to operate economically there will have to be a review of local transport systems throughout the country."

Johannesburg Transport Department still retains the differentiated 'tariff', desegregating all bus routes but charging lower fares on buses which previously transported blacks only.

Acting transport director Mr. Gert Tishy said the council's former "blacks only" bus routes mainly served the railway stations.
Commission probes Midrand Town Council

By Norman Chandler, Pretoria Bureau

Alleged irregularities in the burgeoning new town of Midrand—situated midway between Pretoria and Johannesburg—are under investigation by a judicial inquiry instituted by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Provincial Administrator Mr. Dane Hough announced in Pretoria yesterday that an inquiry had been called for as a result of a decision taken by the local town council on January 20.

It will look into "irregular conduct" allegedly committed by the town clerk and other council officials, and irregular decisions made by the council.

The only member and chairman of the commission is Mr. Justice T. H. van Reenen. Mr. P. W. A. Strydom has been appointed to undertake preliminary investigations, including cross-examination of witnesses.

The commission's secretary is Mr. L. Loeve, an assistant town secretary at Verwoerdburg municipality.

Mr. Loeve has been delegated to provide information on the commission's activities.

Anyone requiring further information may contact the commission at PO Box 4586, Pretoria 0001, or telephone Mr. Loeve at 012/362-1151 ext. 225.
Atteridgeville Council gets ultimatum from residents

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organization, which staged a mass protest march in the township on Sunday, has given the local city council a month to respond to their grievances failing which councillors should resign, they warned.

About 60 000 residents marched to the local city council offices to protest against the intended rent increase and the alleged misappropriation of public funds by the council. ARSO also called on the council to publish a proper audited financial statement of the council which should be inspected by residents.

The council has not had an audited financial statement during the past three years.

A delegation of three people including Dr. Abe Nakomo, chairman of ARSO, presented a petition to the mayor, Mr. Velaphi Mathembu.

ARSO, in their petition, urged the council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration to respond to the petition within one month. "Failing which councillors should resign en block."
Fare-up council's petition!

Tembisa residents 'fed up for years'
Widening of street: demos on the march

By SY MAKARINGE

Scores of Jabulani, Soweto, residents staged a placard demonstration yesterday morning to protest against the widening of a street into a double carriage-way by the Soweto Council.

The demonstration was a culmination of a series of meetings over the last four months between the council and the residents' delegation.

In a petition sent to the Mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, in October last year, the residents said they were against the reconstruction of Koma Street, one of the busiest taxi routes in the township, as it posed a serious danger to pedestrians, especially children.

"More lanes on the carriage-way will cause the traffic to move faster than normal, and by so doing, will endanger other road users," the petition said.
TPA lays down action plan for Soweto

By Stan Hlophe

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has issued a directive to the Soweto Council to take specific steps to improve its financial situation.

A joint statement issued last night by Mr. Olaus van Zyl, MEC, and Soweto mayor Mr. Sam Mabuwanza said the directive dealt largely with the collection of money owed to the council with the emphasis on new, lower, tariff by-laws expected to come into effect on March 1.

"This comes in the wake of an ultimatum by Transvaal Administrator Mr. Dane Hough to the council to put its house in order following a 44-month rent boycott costing more than R230 million."
TPA to investigate academic hospitals

The possibility of rationalising existing academic hospitals in the Transvaal is being explored by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

A meeting in Pretoria yesterday of university rectors, delegates from academic hospitals, and the TPA decided that it was necessary for an inquiry to be conducted and recommendations made concerning the future role of academic hospitals. The first report resulting from the inquiry is expected in about two months' time.

Academic hospitals in the Transvaal include the H F Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria, the Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto and the Johannesburg Hospital. The J G Strijdom Hospital, Johannesburg, lost its academic status some months ago when the University of the Witwatersrand withdrew its support after the hospital became part of the 'own affairs' political dispensation. — Pretoria Bureau.
R26m went up in smoke

CAPE TOWN — SA exported tobacco at a loss of R26.9m during the 1987/88 financial year, former auditor-general Joop de Loor reported yesterday.

This was disclosed in his report on the accounts of the Tobacco Board, which was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

De Loor also reported that the board paid R1.1m as an ex gratia payment to tobacco producers in respect of 76% of the domestic value of unmarketable chlorine-contaminated tobacco from the 1987 crop.

"During the year, financing amounting to R26.9m was granted to co-operators in respect of tobacco that could not be absorbed by the local market immediately," he said.

"Portions of this fund were still on hand at co-operatives," he added.

De Loor said the Agriculture Minister granted standing approval for the available funds of the board to be used for advancing to tobacco co-operatives, immediately on submission of invoices, the local value of packed tobacco supplies intended for export.

Sporadic advances amounting to R15.3m were made during the year, but these were repaid by March 31, 1988.

"Losses on tobacco sales amounted to R26.9m during the year and were written off against the price stabilization account," he said.

GERALD REILLY reports that figures released yesterday show that South Africans spent a huge R3.661bn on tobacco products last year.

Politics blurring gold's destiny

LONDON — Political uncertainties in the world's two largest gold producers will cloud investor sentiment for some time, say analysts.

"Gold may be a halfway house at the moment if you're not sure where to go," said Andrew Smith of USB Phillips & Drew here.

The reform package package by South Africa's President F W de Klerk and the Soviet Union's move to end monopoly communist rule have blurred expectations of future prices,

Further, South Africa's miners remain concerned that gold loans and possible sales by central banks may undermine the value of gold.

"We see De Klerk's speech as very positive. Hopefully there will now be a climate more conducive to normal industrial relations," said Gary Mande, head of the gold and uranium division at Gemini.

The speech had raised hopes of increased confidence in the world's gold producers and would boost the price of gold, he added.

Swiss analysts who are following the reforming of SA's economy by increasing the likelihood of foreign investment, although a new gold market would lead to increased production and lower prices.

De Klerk's statement would have little short-term impact on the gold market, Swiss experts said.

"In a London, London, but a strong statement," they said.

The effect on gold could be disastrous, Warburg & Co. said.

"It would lead to a rapid decline in gold output and give an enormous boost to the price," they said.

Soweto council told to collect debt

PRETORIA — The Soweto City Council has been directed by the Pretoria Municipal Administration to collect the outstanding debt from Soweto residents.

In October last year, the council was "bashed over the coals" by the administrator for failing to "perform its duty" in a "joint report," the administrator said.

"This council has been told to "back off,"" said the administrator yesterday.

"The council has been told to "back off,"" said the administrator yesterday.

"It was stressed that the new tariffs were temporary and the council had been instructed to collect them in a particular manner, possibly the high rates from Eskom and the Rand Water Board.

New tariffs, which came into operation on March 1, have been simplified and are substantially lower than the old tariffs.

The council has been told to "back off," the administrator said.
Soweto council told to collect debt

PRETORIA — The Soweto City Council has been directed by the Provincial Administration to collect monies owing for services.

In October last year the council was handed over the costs by the administrator for failing to "perform its duties".

In a joint statement yesterday, MEC in charge of local government Oulas van Zyl and Soweto mayor Sam Mkhwanazi said the council had been given statutory directives "requiring it to take specific actions within a specific time".

It was pointed out the council's new tariffs, which come into operation on March 1, have been simplified and are substantially lower than costs.

The council has been told to "reconcile" amounts owing, "taking into account their validity and affordability", and submit proposals to the administrator within five months.

It was stressed the new tariffs were temporary and the council had been instructed to review them, particularly the bulk services from ESKOM and the Rand Water Board.
Junior mayors visit Soweto

By Abel Mashi

A group of 30 junior mayors from all over South Africa, accompanied by their colleagues from their respective junior city councils, visited Soweto yesterday as part of the Johannesburg Junior Mayoral Symposium which started on Wednesday.

The trip to Soweto was a social visit organised with a view to establishing team-spirit between councillors from other cities and the Soweto-Junior City Council, a fledgling organisation founded in August last year.

"Let the adults do their thing, we will do our own thing because it's our future we're concerned with and we're not going to be dictated to," said Mr Justin Cohen (16), the Junior Mayor of Johannesburg.
Alex councillors agree to resign.

By MOKGADI PELA

ALEXANDRA community councillors have aligned themselves with the community’s call to resign from government institutions, a rally in the area was told yesterday.

Addressing thousands of people at a commemorative service to mark the 1986 Alexandra shootings which left more than 30 people dead, Mr Moses Mayekiso of the Alexandra Civic Organisation, said that the councillors had also asked the community to pardon them.

“We have no direction, we have no vision. And as your servants we will expect light from you,” he said, quoting from a letter written by some of the councillors.
Wattville ready to march

RESIDENTS of Wattville have planned a protest march to the Benoni City Council Chamber tomorrow against "irregularities within the town council."

The march, organised by the Wattville Concerned Residents Committee, will start at 10am from the local Anglican Church to the Benoni City Council Chambers, "a spokesman of the committee said yesterday.

Permission to hold the march has already been sought from the local magistrate and the committee was still awaiting a response. People from the neighbouring Actonville are also expected to take part in the march, the spokesman said.

The residents will present a memorandum to the council, stating their grievances which include high rents, the allocation of sites to private developers without regard to homeless people who have been on the waiting list for more than 20 years, and the lack of schools in the area.
Council streamlines liaison

Municipal Reporter

Moves by the Johannesburg City Council to co-ordinate dealings between its departments and major developers in the central business district are expected to help streamline negotiations and cut costs.

Planning chief Mr Eddy Magid said today that Mr Frakke Kotze's designation would change from chief director planning to chief director development.

"In addition to his present responsibilities, he has now been specifically delegated to co-ordinate major multimillion-rand projects by administering liaison among the various departments."

As former fire chief, Mr Kotze was ideal for the job as he had intimate knowledge of building by-laws.

"Plans submitted to the council will still go through the normal channels, but where a snag is encountered the developer will now be able to communicate with Mr Kotze instead of having to go from pillar to post between the various departments."

Serious allegations made against Tembisa council

By JAPIE MOKWEBO

HUNDREDS of Tembisa residents at the Lubele Stadium could not believe their ears last week when deputy mayor
of Tembisa, Zikalala alleged that Tembisa councillors were engaged in filling their pockets and doing nothing to help alleviate the housing shortage facing the residents.

She specifically accused the mayor, Mofokeng More, of allowing the land to a white-owned building contractor to build expensive houses which the residents could not afford.

Zikalala further alleged that the mayor's "shoddy deals," which were done without the knowledge of other councillors, were rewarded by the contractor with a holiday in Mauritius and a luxurious house at Mbabane.

More this week vehemently denied the allegations, saying his holiday and house expenses were paid by himself.

The land in question was allocated by the previous council and not by him as alleged. I will prove my innocence," said More.

The meeting was called by seven councillors that are against the decision to allocate 85 percent of the open land to a white building contractor.

Late on Friday, the Transvaal Provincial Administration (MPC) on Zyl, who is involved with a local government, announced a public inquiry to investigate the administrations of Tembisa and Tokozaka.

He said a report concerning the municipal accounts of Tokozaka must be submitted within 14 days. The inquiry will enquire after the 14 days if thousands of residents marched in protest to the council offices which resulted in two people being shot dead.

"I will prove my innocence," said More.
TPA to probe Tokoza Town Council

A urgent public investigation into the local councils of Tokoza and Tembisa has been called.

The MEC responsible for local government in the Western Cape, Mr. Olav van Zyl, announced that the investigation into aspects of Tokoza's municipal administration would start immediately.

A report on financial and municipal accounts of the Tokoza council must be submitted to the executive committee of the Western Cape Administration (TPA) within two weeks, and in a second phase charges concerning alleged irregular activities in the administration by councillors and officials would be investigated.

The Tokoza investigation would be led by Mr. Pieter Schutte, director of financial administration of the TPA, with evidence and representations from the council heard at the Tokoza municipal offices on February 26 and 27.

Further information on the Tembisa investigation will be announced next week, he said.

The investigations follow similar TPA investigations of other municipalities, most recently Carolina.
Soweto ‘owes Transvaal R464m’

CAPE TOWN — The Transvaal Provincial Administration provided the Soweto Town Council with R464.6m in bridging finance between June 1980 and January 31 this year, Provincial Affairs Minister Hermus Kriel said yesterday.

He was replying to a question by P H de la Rey (CP Maraisburg), and said the council had not paid back any of this money.

All bridging loans were made available against a debt-obligation which made provision for loans to be repaid, interest free, over a period of five years. (26/6)

But because of financial difficulties being experienced by the council no instalments had been paid.
NP, DP extend pact in Randburg council

The political pact between the National Party and the Democratic Party in the Randburg Town Council has been extended for another year.

DP leader Mr. Andre Jacobs, will soon take over from the NP’s Mr. Frans Lourens as management committee chairman. Mr. Lourens said several positions currently held by the NP and DP would be reversed at the coming year.

The present mayor, Mr. Christo Geyer (NP), will replace Mr. Jacobs as deputy management committee chairman. He will be the only NP representative on the three-man body. The DP’s Mr. Gary Cooney will replace an NP councillor to become the third member of the management committee.

The DP’s Mr. Brian Crail will become the new mayor. NP councillor Mr. Oosthuizen takes over as deputy mayor.

The present deputy mayor is independent Mr. Conrad Plange. It is accepted practice in many municipalities for the deputy to take over as mayor, but this will not be the case in Randburg.

Mr. Plange said he was not aware of the latest agreement between the two political parties.
Van Stryp bows out

TREASURER and acting town clerk of Atteridgeville, Mr Theo Van Stryp, has resigned from his posts.

Van Stryp, together with another senior official, Mr Petrus van der Merwe, a senior accountant, tendered their resignations on Monday. Their last day of service at the council is March 31, 1990.

Van Stryp said his reason for resigning were personal. His colleague said he was leaving because of a promotion he had been offered.

Their resignations were submitted amid strong protest by residents complaining that council funds were being misused and not properly controlled.

The lack of efficient control over public funds emerged at the commission of inquiry last year where Van Stryp testified and conceded that the council had never had an audited financial statement, during the past four years because of lack of skilled staff.
Tender put on hold

By MONK NKOMO

TENDER documents relating to the Atteridgeville City Council's alleged irregular allocation of a business site to the lowest tenderer has been referred to the Director of Local Government, mayor Mr Velaphi Mathebula said yesterday.

Apparent dissatisfaction with the council's decision to reject lucrative offers which were beneficial to the council, Mathebula said he had given instructions that no agreement be signed between the council and the successful applicant 'until final approval had been received from the director, Mr FG Pelser.

Reasons

The dispute took another turn last week when the highest bidder for the complex, took the matter to her lawyers who gave the council 10 days to give reasons for their decision, or face Supreme Court action.

Dissatisfaction over the allocation of the site was sparked off by the council's decisions in January to reject the highest bid of R1.4 million for the building only and R56 000 for the land in favour of an applicant who offered R100 000 for both the land and building.

Lowest

Mathebula declined to say whether the council would defend the matter in court.

'Sowetan has established that a senior council official has - without the knowledge of the mayor and his council - already filed a reply to the applicant's lawyers informing them that they were not obliged to furnish reasons for accepting the lowest tender.
No money

THE KwaThema Town Council on the East Rand has no money to build low-cost houses.

Former mayor Mrs. Munu Mothepu Ngodele said the council had raised funds to build low-cost houses and upgrade streets.

Refuting the statement as "empty promises," present mayor Mr. Ezra Radebe said the council had no money to build houses.
Kagiso strike hits at council

ABOUT 600 Kagiso town council employees downed tools last night in protest against the refusal of the council to recognize the National Union of Public Service Employees of South Africa (NUPSA).

A NUPSA official, Comrade Mike van Riebeek, said yesterday that the council refused to negotiate with the union.

"We are demanding the recognition of NUPSA as the bargaining agent of the council's employees," he said.

The council's spokesperson, Mr. J. S. Mabola, said yesterday that the council had not received the union's application for recognition.
Council 'might be fired'

By MONK NKOMO

The council in terms of Section 29 of the Black Local Authorities Act No 102 of 1982

Although the commissioner's report has not been made available to the public, it has been confirmed that Kriel established that the financial position of the council is in a shambles because of, among other things, extravagance.

The council is expected to submit its reaction this week.

"It will serve no purpose to provide more funds either by bridging or overdraw facilities until the whole administration is placed on a proper and efficient bookkeeping system and proper budget control is applied," said Kriel in his report.

Should the council consider an increase in service charges at this stage, it would be impossible to say which section of the council is being run at a loss, whether it be housing, water or electricity, Kriel submitted.

He added that records relating to leave, sick leave, appointments and overtime were incomplete, incorrect and the amounts paid out in respect of certain instances could not be reconciled with the records.

"The whole accounting system of the council leaves much to be desired," said Kriel.

Mr Olans van Zyl, MEC for the Transvaal, yesterday declined to comment on the report and said it and other similar reports would be made available for public record.

Threat to council

- From page 1

Evidently led during the Kriel inquiry revealed unhappiness among employees and the public about the appointment of staff members' relatives.

Kriel highlighted the appointment of Mrs Ramala, the former town clerk's wife, to the post of assistant librarian.

This position was initially to be filled by Mrs Legoshe.

Before Mrs Ramala was appointed, her husband Solly was present during her interviews.

Kriel also found that
- There was a considerable number of highly-paid personnel who enjoyed benefits such as car loans and travelling allowances and travel from work which cost the council R40,000 a month.
- Council vehicles were used by councillors for personal reasons.
- There was a lack of expenditure of funds in improving the garden at a cost of R34,000 as well as expensive security equipment, and
- There was incompetence in the handling of tenders.

In terms of Section 29 of the Black Local Authorities Act, the Administrator may dissolve the council, dismiss councillors if the council fails to take the necessary steps in accordance with his direction.

The Administrator may also direct that new elections be held or designate one or more people to manage and control the affairs of the local authority...
DP wants Free Settlement halted

An urgent motion is to be brought before the Johannesburg City Council on Tuesday this week, requesting that the Minister of Constitutional Development, Dr. Gerrit Viljoen, call a moratorium on all investigations into Free Settlement Areas until there is clarity on the Group Areas Act.

This was announced by DP council leader Mr. Ian Davidson after yesterday's reports that the Free Settlement Board was investigating opening up Johannesburg's eastern suburbs including Berea, Bellevue, Yeoville, Doornfontein, Bertrams and Judith's Park.

Mr. Davidson said he would be bringing the DP motion to mandate the Management Committee to request Dr. Viljoen to call a moratorium on such investigations until the question of giving Johannesburg "Open City" status was addressed.

"We are vehemently opposed to the dismantling of Johannesburg and its suburbs into Free Settlement Areas because this will only serve to create further problems in terms of potential overcrowding and possible slum conditions," said Mr. Davidson.

"There is also the whole question of disenfranchising Johannesburg citizens in respect of their municipal votes," he said.
Go ahead, take our 15-minute toll-free survey about your healthcare experience. This survey is designed to help us improve our services and better meet your needs. Your feedback is important to us, and we value your input. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and help us make your experience the best it can be. Thank you for your cooperation.
Free areas plans are opposed

By Louise Burgers, Municipal Reporter

The Johannesburg City Council will oppose the proposed declaration of 13 eastern suburbs as free settlement areas. This follows the acceptance last night of a Democratic Party motion.

The DP motion that the council record its opposition to the latest Free Settlement Board investigation was supported by the Conservative Party, the three independent councillors.

The chairman of the Free Settlement Board, Mr. Hen Kruger, last week announced an inquiry into the areas of Bellevue, Yeoville, Berea, Doornfontein, New Doornfontein, Judith’s Paarl, Lofonzville, Bertrams, portions surrounding Joubert Park and a portion of Houghton Estate.

Verbal vote

The DP leader in the council, Mr. Ian Davidson, believes there were NP councillors in favour of his party’s motion.

After the verbal vote, the chairman of the council, Mr. Jan van Blerk, moved that the “ayes” had won.

“I think he moved to prevent a division of the vote. If there had been a tally, the Nats would have been severely embarrassed,” said Mr. Davidson.

“This is a major triumph for the DP.

“We actually managed to persuade the council that opening up parts of Johannesburg is not the way.”

The management committee is now obliged to submit the DP resolution on behalf of the whole council in representation to the Free Settlement Board.

During the debate on the motion, the chairman of the management committee, Mr. Jan Burger, said free settlement areas could solve many problems and legalise the present situation.

He added that the country could not “stand still” while the negotiation process was under way.

In introducing his motion, Mr. Davidson asked how areas such as Hillbrow, Pageview, Braamfontein and the Central Business District, all multiracial and represented by NP councillors, were excluded from the proposal.

“The areas subject to this experiment will create major problems, and the boundaries that have been chosen are to circumvent political tension.

“We need an “open cities” Act. They must call a moratorium on free settlement investigations.”

The leader of the CP, Mr. Jacques Theron, said his party supported the motion because of its stance on group rights.

Racial conflict

The NP was forcing racial conflict by declaring white areas open to other races, he said.

DP councillor Mr. Sias Reynieke accused the NP of keeping the Free Settlement Board investigation secret.

“This management committee knew about these proposals on February 16.

“They had the moral obligation to tell the voters affected by the investigation.”
Nurses’ home opens to all races

By Norman Chandler, Pretoria Bureau

The nurses’ residence at the Johannesburg Hospital was yesterday thrown open to all races.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration said in Pretoria the step was “particularly important since, owing to an acute shortage of white nursing staff of all categories, the services of staff belonging to other population groups are increasingly being used at the hospital.”

The decision follows a fire which took place at the city’s Hillbrow Hospital in December, when part of the nurses’ home was burnt down.

A row broke out at the time after black nurses were temporarily accommodated at the previous segregated nurses’ residence at the Johannesburg Hospital.

Mr Fanie Ferreira, Transvaal MEC in charge of health services, said yesterday’s decision followed recommendations made in an interim report of a committee of inquiry which was looking into the overall running of the Johannesburg Hospital. The committee was established last year.

“The decision has been taken in the light of specific circumstances, and it is believed that the unhappiness over these (circumstances) that existed among many people in the Johannesburg area will now be removed,” he said.

The TPA had also decided that nurses of all races employed at the Johannesburg Hospital would be able to undertake basic and post-registration training at the B G Alexander College of Nursing, based on the hospital property.
He said there had been no consultation with the affected TPA employers on the new act. Nothing was written in the TPA act that would allow the state to change the monopolistic nature of the TPA. The TPA should be deregulated and that the TPA should be seen as a court of law. The TPA should be warned not to stand still in a climate of advancing politics in SA. They should not be a neutral party above the legislature and the courts.

"We welcomed this deregulation," he said. "We want to say to the TPA that we want to see a TPA that is not monopolistic and that this TPA should be deregulated and that this TPA should be seen as a court of law."
Big boost for Meyerton

Meyerton in the pipeline -

An agreement for the sale of the industrial development has been concluded between the Meyerton Planning Authority and the Industrial Development Corporation. The Industrial Development Corporation has been approached by the Meyerton Planning Authority with regard to the development of the Industrial Development Corporation's equipment. The agreement is the result of negotiations between the two parties. Further details can be obtained at (011) 269-4100.
Pretoria: CP councillors suspended

The leader of the Conservative Party opposition in the Pretoria City Council, and a fellow CP councillor were yesterday suspended for 45 days. The CP has threatened a suspension campaign of motions against the National Party majority.

The suspensions follow remarks by CP leader Mr. Paul Fouche and councillor Mr. Nico Maritz at a council meeting on February 15.
Council paid for car repairs

By Monica Nicolson

The Midrand Town Council had footed the bill for the town clerk, Mr Philip Botha's rent and paid over R12 000 for his car repairs, the commission of inquiry into alleged illegal activities of Mr Botha and various other council members heard yesterday.

It was revealed that rather than claiming from insurance, Mr Botha arranged for the council to pay the R12 789 car repair bill.

Mr Piet Strydom, appearing for the State, argued that Mr Botha was not entitled to live rent-free as he did not qualify according to council regulations.

Mr Rudi Snydert, a traffic officer, reported an illegal hunting trip he went on with Mr Botha and other colleagues. When it was reported to the police, Mr Botha suggested Mr Snydert should "take the rap" as he (Mr Botha) had been subject to too much bad publicity. Mr Botha paid the R150 fine.

Mr Strydom also asked why the council paid hospital bills for a senior councillor when he fell ill during a conference.
Hike in water tariffs

By SY MAKARINGE

WATER tariffs will be increased by 12 percent from the beginning of April.

This was announced this week by Mr. Vincent Bath, executive director of the Rand Water Board.

Bath said that typical householders' water accounts within the board's area of jurisdiction would vary from R20 to R50 a month, depending on consumption and water rates applied by the different local authorities.

The increase meant that consumers would from April 1 pay 32.75 cents a kilolitre, an increase of about 6.65 cents over last year's rates.

Bath said the increase was well below the current inflation rate.
2 quit council after attacks

By Mzikayise Edom
Sowetan 2/3/90
TWO members of the Tokozza Town Council on the East Rand have resigned from their posts following pressure from the residents and the attacks on their properties in which two buildings were set alight.

They are Mr. Abram Mzazi, former deputy chairman of the council's management committee and Mr. Moses Tshotse, who served in the management committee last year.

Rumours that the mayor, Mr. EC Matsoso, had also resigned were denied by the council's public relations officer, Mrs. M. Erasmus, in a telefax message sent to Sowetan yesterday.
Midrand town clerk denies he received profits

By Monica Nicolson

The town clerk of Midrand, Mr Philip Botha, received half the profits from a developer who did work for the council, it was heard during the commission of inquiry into alleged illegal actions of the clerk and other officials yesterday.

The presiding judge, Mr H T van Reenen, heard how Mr Anton Lourens, a close friend of Mr Botha's, was contracted to build a taxi rank for the Midrand council. Mr Lourens made R65 000 in the deal and he gave Mr Botha half of the money.

Mr Botha told the hearing that the money had been a loan to help him out of financial difficulties and was not a present. He said he gave Mr Lourens a receipt for R43 000 and that he intended to pay the loan back.

Replying to an accusation that the council footed the R12 000 bill for repairs to his car, Mr Botha said he had thought the insurance company of the other party involved in the accident would pay the bill.

The hearing continues.
Develop a single education department.

Black school closures will save for...

ADMINISTRATOR MOVES TO PROTECT BLACK COUNCILLORS

3/10/2004 266

(1) 9 attachments, none relevant
(2) 1 stop census report
(3) 12,000 local government employees
Traders flare at CP council's No to Chinese

By TRISH BEAVER

Fears among local traders community in Springs about a city council refusal to accept an influx of skilled Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong that would have poured a potential R70 million into the local economy.

The ongoing refusal by the management committee of the CP incorporated council to accept the larger of 250 Chinese skilled immigrants into the council area.

And the recent rejection of the proposal by the city council committee to accept 250 Chinese skilled immigrants into the city area.

Angry traders who opposed the council decision to turn down the application.

"It would be in the best interest of all the people of Springs," said an angry Mr. Sibola.

The proposal was to accept the immigration of 250 Chinese skilled immigrants into Springs.

Assets

Each family would bring with it R70 million, of which 70 percent would be invested in banks, 20 percent invested in establishing housing for the immigrants and the remaining 10 percent used to establish smaller businesses or invested in other commercial enterprises.

Mr. Sibola pointed out that there had already been some interest in developing industrial and housing projects.

Fears were also raised that the granting of visas would be used to turn away the type of investment that might have been more suitable.

Mr. Sibola said he had been aware of the fact that the granting of visas might be turned down on grounds of national interest.

Drugs

"It would be a big step for us to turn this into another Brixton," a trader said.

Mr. Sibola added: "It is up to the members of the council to make a decision. I don't feel I was describing the CP council."
Council groups may unite

PLANS are afoot to unite the United Municipalities of South Africa and the Urban Councils Association of South Africa.

The decision to merge the two organisations was taken at an Umusa meeting attended by about 200 councillors in Daveyton, Benoni, at the weekend.

The president of Umusa, Mr Tom Boys, said his organisation was prepared to merge with Ucasa.

A week ago, a meeting of mayors and their deputies was held near Soweto and a committee was charged with the task of looking into the possibility of a merger.
TPA to meet Vlok over protection

AN URGENT meeting to discuss the protection of black councillors from intimidation would be held in Cape Town on Thursday with Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok, said Transvaal Administrator Denis Hough yesterday.

Hough was speaking to black East Rand councillors in Germiston yesterday.

Hough said John Mavauso, MEC for local authorities, and Olaus van Zyl, MEC entrusted with RSC matters, would meet Vlok and report back to a committee of the East Rand councillors.

He said his office had received reports that extreme pressures were being brought to bear on councillors to resign to join the radical establishment.

Alternative structures were also being created, apparently to establish alternative government, he said.

WILSON Zwane reports that Alexandra city councillors were being under pressure to resign from their positions, Alexandra acting town clerk Willie Khamalo said yesterday. (2.46)

Khamalo said letters and petitions calling for the councillors' resignations had been received from the Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO).

Meanwhile ACO chairman Moses Mayekiso has said the period of grace his organisation had given to the city council to resign and join the struggle for non-racial municipalities expired on Saturday.

He called on the TPA to address issues like housing shortages.
Attempt to unseat CP councillor

By Anna Law
East Rand Bureau

A Boksburg National Party councillor and two local residents are to bring an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court today to forbid a Conservative Party councillor, Mr. Godfried Fourie, from serving as a councillor and chairman of the management committee.

The application stems from Mr. Fourie's conviction under the Electoral Act in the Boksburg Regional Court on January 17 last year for meeting a voter to cast two votes in the 1988 municipal elections.

Mrs. Charmain Rex was fined R1,000 last year for casting two prior votes.

Mr. Gerrie Wolmarans, a member of the NP caucus in the Boksburg Town Council, and local residents Mr. Phillip le Grange and Mr. Garth Leimer will bring the application against Mr. Fourie (32) of poppyla Park, Boksburg, as well as the town council of Boksburg and the mayor of the town, Mr. Beyers de Klerk.

The move follows a statement made by the mayor recently that he would not consider taking steps against Mr. Fourie despite his conviction.
Let Chinese in, council told

Angry businessmen in Springs are calling for the reversal of a decision last week by the town council to reject 300 Hong Kong Chinese families wanting to settle in the town.

One Springs businessman, Mr Roy Reisen, has written to the council expressing his disappointment and is sponsoring an air ticket for one of the councillors to visit Hong Kong to witness their business expertise.

The council decision, taken behind closed doors, has slammed shut the opportunity for Springs to have R300 million invested in the area.

LAMENTABLE DECISION

"This decision must be reversed. It is lamentable: worse than the turning down of the Chrysler Plant in Springs in the early 1960s," said Mr Dick Gosse, manager of the Springs Chamber of Commerce.

It appears as though the councillors involved did not understand that they were dealing with people bearing considerable assets and culture. These are not boil people. If this was the impression, they've been watching too much television," said Mr Gosse.

Reserve Bank authorities had recently stated that South Africa was short of capital and low on productivity, he said.

A spokesman for the council said it would meet today and a press release on the matter would follow.
By Louise Burgers, Municipal Reporter

The National Party suffered another major blow last night when they lost the deputy mayoralship to the Democratic Party only hours after the shock resignation of two NP councillors in Johannesburg.

The DP's Mr Elliot Kretzmer received 26 votes to the 25 of the chairman of the management committee, Mr Jan Burger.

Mr Willie Janse van Rensburg (NP) was elected mayor unopposed.

A behind-the-scenes power struggle is likely to occur now that the NP is down to 22 seats in the 51-seat council.

The DP have 20 seats, the CP four and there are now five independents following the resignations of Mr Howard Bloomberg (Ward 84, Cyrildene) and Mr Mike Levin (Ward 39, Jeppe) in lunchtime yesterday.

Mr Levin said he was fed up with interference by Pretoria in council affairs, Mr Bloomberg, who is known to have clashed with the management committee on several occasions, said he felt he could not continue as a member of any political party.

A third Nat councillor, Mr Rupert Korb, decided not to leave the party at the 11th hour.

In the election of the deputy mayor, one Independent, Mr Eddy Magid, is believed to have voted with the NP, the four remaining independents with the DP. Two CP councillors voted for the Nats and two apparently for the DP.

The weakening hold the NP has on the city council could leave the way open to a take-over by the DP in coalition with a couple of independents.

DP leader in the council, Mr Ian Davidson believes the NP is going to find it very difficult to cling to power.

"My door will always be open for negotiation for a new city government which will put the citizens of Johannesburg first as opposed to the interests of the National Party."

Mr Jan Burger said with the defection of Mr Bloomberg and Mr Levin, the NP's problems had disappeared.

"I am relieved they have left the party. We are fighting fit now."

He denied there was a clash between himself and NP deputy chairman of the management committee, Mrs Maretta Marx. He added there was no possibility in his opinion of the DP taking control of the help of the independents because they (the independents) were not very united.

There were whoops of delight when Mr Kretzmer's election was announced. The DP won with the help of Mr Cecil Bass (DP), who was wheeled into the council chamber on a stretcher. Mr Bass has been in traction for two months since breaking his pelvis in a boating accident.
Independents shocked

Randburg's deputy mayor out in the cold

Municipal Reporter

Randburg will induct a new mayor tomorrow evening amid controversy over the pact between the National Party and the Democratic Party which excluded the man who thought he was to be the next mayor.

No tradition

The deputy mayor, Mr Conrad Plange, said it came as a complete shock to him and fellow independent Mr Cyril Ford when changes to the management committee and the names of the men who would take over the mayoral and deputy mayoral seat were announced.

Management committee leader Mr Frans Lourens (NP) said, however, it was not a tradition that the deputy mayor automatically took over as mayor, and it had never been so.

He said efforts had been made in the past by both parties to form coalitions with the independents, to no avail.

"We are trying our utmost to work for the better of the town. We do not involve ourselves in petty politics," Mr Lourens said.

Earlier this month, the NP and DP in the town council announced that their political pact had been extended for another year.

DP leader Mr Andre Jacobs will soon take over from Mr Lourens as management committee chairman.

The present mayor, Mr Christo Geyer (NP), will replace Mr Jacobs as deputy management committee chairman.

The DP's Mr Brian Crail will become the new mayor.

NP councillor Mr Oskhe Oosthuizen takes over as deputy mayor.

Mr Plange said, "I feel bitter because they did not involve me in their discussions. They did not give me any reasons, but I know the reason. There are personality conflicts, but I don't want to comment and embarrass anyone."

Row over driver

Mr Plange said he hoped that in future the NP and DP would involve the independents more fully in the 13-seat council.

Last year the deputy mayoress, Mrs Amanda Plange, was embroiled in controversy when she complained about her black chauffeur.

Mr Ford said the independents were merely spectators in the council.
Council's retender decision under fire

Johannesburg City Council's tendering procedure has been criticised by major developers, following the decision to call for tenders on the Newtown power station project. Anglo American property services (Ampros) managing director Mr. Gerald Lammers says the council should now be negotiating with the top tenderers to iron out objection, rather than asking for tenderers.

"Clearly Johannesburg's tendering system does not work. I am not convinced that the concept of matching a strict tender for money is the best way of handling projects such as this," he said.

In terms of the initial tender document the job will comprise the redevelopment of the old Turbine Hall and boiler house into a retail centre and the construction of an office.

Apart from the delay for the city in going through the retendering process, the cost to the developers involved in preparing tenders has already been substantial - in some cases understood to be well over R100,000. It is believed that one of the other competitors is calling for a boycott of further tenders.
Section 60 committee unfair, say planners

SANDTON Town Council has come under fire from town planners, who say its Section 60 Committee system is unfair.

The committee considers development proposals to which there have been objections.

It was established in terms of the Local Government Ordinance, when town planning boards were abolished and the first phase of adjudication of new developments was put in the hands of local authorities.

"How can councillors who have been involved in establishing a town structure plan sit in judgment over a development proposal which may conflict with them?" asked Bob Warren of RHW Warren & Partners.

He was in a lengthy hearing before the committee on the proposed Cloud End development by Stocks & Stocks, which would involve the construction of an office complex in a large public deer park.

Another town planner, who did not want to be named, said there could be conflict of interests if councillors sat on the management and Section 60 committees.

Van Niekerk Law

Sandton Section 60 Committee chairman Meyer van Niekerk defended the system, which he said operated in terms of the Local Government Regulations and Elections Ordinance of 1960.

"If people don't like the system they should have the law changed," Van Niekerk said.

In fact, many people are in favour of this method in terms of the ordinance. Only proposals for which there are objections come before the Section 60 Committee.

"Other proposals have to go to the council, which may reject them anyway. Some developers believe the Section 60 Committee should assess all development proposals, including those which do not meet with objections. A committee of professionals drawn from industry and academia would not necessarily guarantee fairness, he said.

"A committee of experts would presumably include developers and others in favour of extensive development, and would certainly be biased. "A democracy works through politicians, who cannot be experts in every field, and who therefore are advised by the experts."

""
Councillor quits 'to join struggle'

By Thabo Leshilo

Mr Samuel Seakhela, a councillor for seven years, yesterday resigned his seat on the Maokeng Town Council in response to "a request from the masses".

Mr Seakhela (45), who represented Ward 7 in Maokeng, near Kroonstad, said he was leaving the council because, as a Christian, he would not be party to the "cold-blooded killing of children" in the township.

The usually quite township was recently plunged into violence when police clashed with protesters.

Thousands of residents recently marched to the council offices to demand, among other things, that councillors resign and that dismissed council employees be reinstated.

A boycott of businesses owned by councillors continues.

Mr Seakhela said his resignation was with immediate effect "I intend to register with the Azanian People's Organisation and contribute towards the struggle for liberation."

The Maokeng Progressive Teachers Organisation has announced that teachers from the township and surrounding areas will march to the DET offices in Kroonstad today to present a petition on the teachers' grievances.

President de Klerk and Professor Hudson Ntsanwisi, the Chief Minister of Gaza, after their talks in Cape Town yesterday.
ABOUT 20 000 people who gathered peacefully at the Tsakane Stadium yesterday heard that their demands for all Tsakane's town councillors to quit had brought about the resignations of two.

Tsakane town councillors Mr P Tsokodhani and Mr Lucky Ngobene bowed to pressure to resign after the people's demands were presented to the local administration offices, Tsakane Civic Association Mr Koos Mabute said - after yesterday's meeting.

He said residents had mandated the Tsakane Civic Association to present to the council a set of resolutions related to community grievances concerning maladministration, inadequate services, rents and housing.

No violent incidents were reported at the rally. People dispersed peacefully at the request of organisers, Mabute said.

Another peaceful mass protest action was being planned for Wednesday by the Tsakane Civic Association.
The Minister of Education and Culture

The Minister of Education and Culture, as the leader of the Ministry of Education and Culture, is responsible for overseeing the development of education and cultural policies in the country. This includes the formulation and implementation of educational and cultural programs, as well as the coordination of resources and facilities to support these initiatives. The Minister's role involves working closely with various stakeholders, including educators, students, parents, and other officials, to ensure that the education and cultural systems in the country are robust and effective.

In addition to the educational sector, the Minister is also involved in the cultural sector, overseeing the development of cultural programs and initiatives. This includes the promotion and preservation of cultural heritage, the support of cultural organizations and events, and the encouragement of cultural diversity.

Overall, the Minister of Education and Culture plays a crucial role in shaping the future of education and culture in the country, ensuring that these sectors continue to evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs of society.
The Chairman of the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, will be called to reply.

The Minister of Defence (Mr. Rodney Smith)

The Minister of Defence, Mr. Rodney Smith, hereby presents a Bill for an Act to amend the Criminal Code of Canada by enacting the Criminal Code Amendment Act, 1999, and to make consequential amendments to the Criminal Code and other Acts, the purpose of which is to prevent and punish the commission of certain offences that are contrary to public policy and that involve the use of firearms or explosives.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the Criminal Code Amendment Bill, which is the result of a comprehensive review of the Criminal Code and the firearms laws of Canada. The proposed amendments will address a number of serious and complex issues, including the regulation of firearms, the control of explosives, and the protection of public safety.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the development of this Bill, including the experts who have provided advice and guidance during the consultation process. The Bill has been carefully drafted to ensure that it is both effective and balanced, while respecting the constitutional rights of Canadians.

I am confident that this Bill will be supported by all members of the House, and I look forward to working with them to ensure its passage into law. Thank you.
New doors open for Hong Kong settlers

A PROJECT to resettle 300 wealthy Hong Kong families in SA has received a favourable response from five municipalities in the PWV area, and land in Midrand, Sandton and possibly Randburg is being considered for them.

This follows the rejection by the CP-controlled Springs Town Council in February of applications for resettlement in Springs by the Chinese, who guaranteed to bring with them R1m in liquid assets per family.

First International Contacts (FIC), the company in charge of the project, approached five municipalities in the PWV area and was approached by one or two municipalities that were interested, FIC financial accountant George Ford said yesterday.

Ford declined to name the five municipalities the company had approached, saying the project was "very hot".

However, land in Midrand and Sandton had been inspected and the company was also considering Randburg.

FIC had not yet approached these councils, Ford said.

The company planned to resettle an initial 300 families, and if the project was successful, more would be brought to SA.

Ford said many families wanted to leave Hong Kong before British rule was relinquished in 1997 and, as doors were being shut elsewhere, SA seemed a good option.

The families would be wealthy and would have expertise as far as the establishment of small factories was concerned.

FIC would steer clear of resettlement in any CP-controlled municipalities, Ford said.
Boksburg council 'knew decision would humiliate'

Pretoria Correspondent

The Boksburg Town Council knew that its decision to segregate certain facilities, under the Conservative Party-controlled town, would be interpreted by people of colour as an insult, a humiliation and a degradation, the Pretoria Supreme Court has been told.

The former chairman of the Reigerpark management committee, Mr Boet Jantjes, Colgate Palmolive (Pty) Ltd and a Boksburg businessman, Mr R. Mountjoy, have applied to have the Boksburg Town Council's decision to segregate certain facilities rescinded.

The applicants have further asked the court to order the council to reopen the facilities.

Counsel for the applicants, Advocate E. Bertelsman, SC, yesterday described the council's decision as "crude and (showing) a total disregard for the feelings of other human beings".

"As a result of the second respondent's (the town council) decision, the Boksburg community has been held up to national and international opprobrium," Mr Bertelsman said.

Mr J A Coetzee, SC, counsel for Boksburg mayor Mr Beyers de Klerk and the town council, said the fact that the council was controlled by the CP was indicative of the fact that a large part of the town supported the council.

A large part of the white community had complained about the behaviour of other population groups; this was a reality the town council had to consider.

The hearing continues.
Local body quits

By REHANA ROSSOUW

The resignation of the Reiger Park, Johannesburg management committee last week has been hailed as a "bloodless coup" and could herald the end of this system in other parts of the country, say activists in the area.

For the past two years, the Save Boksburg Committee has been involved in a feud with the Conservative Party-controlled town council.

They have challenged the council's attempts to apply the Separate Amenities Act and the Group Areas Act through actions such as consumer boycotts and picnics, and marches at whites-only facilities.

"Although it started off as a campaign against the town council, the Committee grew, and we began to include other demands, such as the resignation of the management committee of Reiger Park," said a spokesperson for the Save Boksburg Committee, Mr Henry Jeffreys.

"We began working around civic issues such as housing. We called for their resignations on every platform." Jeffreys said the campaign against the management committee intensified when the committee questioned the allocation of 320 new houses in Reiger Park.

People who had been on the waiting list were not given houses, while others moved in. The community marched to the house of the chairperson of the management committee and demanded that he call a meeting to explain how houses were allocated.

Last Tuesday, the management committee met and decided to resign. Committee members called a public meeting on Thursday to explain their decision to the community.

"About 800 people attended the meeting. They would not allow the management committee members to speak but booed them and threw tomatoes at them," Jeffreys said.

"They would allow only our speakers to address them. We stood up, declared the resignations a victory for the people, called for one town, one town council, and left the meeting." Jeffreys said the people of Reiger Park found the system of management committees "objectionable" and a major stumbling block in the progress of change.

He said since the meeting last Thursday, members of the committee had received telephone calls from people all over the country who wanted advice to get rid of their management committees.

"Ours was a bloodless coup, and we hope that it signals the beginning of the end for management committees all over the country," Jeffreys said.

"Our demand is that the town council should accept Reiger Park representatives and re-introduce Vosloorus, the African township, into Boksburg."

A spokesman for the Reiger Park management committee, Mr Boets Jantjes, said the resignation had nothing to do with the allocation of housing.

"From the time we were elected, we said publicly our first priority was that this was going to be the last management committee Reiger Park ever had," said Jantjes.

"We resigned because we want one management committee for one town council in Boksburg."

"The CP town council went against everything we decided, forcing their ideology down our throats.

"We have a message for other management committees: pack up and get out. The longer you sit there, the longer the government will drag its feet."
Three sentenced to death despite moratorium

Concillors push for open city

Christie's new tennis

Three on pass pocket

The Strike Woman Missing

Do good arm's length

Reduce impact of step

All of nothing to
TPA to probe corruption

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration is to investigate allegations of corruption within two East Rand town councils.

The TPA has announced that it will be investigating the Tembisa and Daveyton Town Councils.

The commission of inquiry in Tembisa starts on March 26, while a date for the Daveyton investigation has not been set.

The inquiry in Tembisa will be held at the offices of the town council and people with information on any irregularity they may know of are invited to give evidence.

The Daveyton Town Council called on the TPA to investigate its affairs following allegations from the local residents that their financial books were not in order.
Nat plan for all-party Johannesburg budget

The National Party caucus in the Johannesburg City Council last night decided to invite the other political parties and independents to take part in drawing up the city's annual budget.

This move is aimed at preventing any disruption of the June budget. The NP has only 22 seats in the 51-seat council and 26 votes are needed to pass what is the largest budget for any city in the country.

Management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger said it was time to depoliticise the budget.

"We have reached a stalemate in council. We are still the strongest party as far as members are concerned, but with the assistance of the independents the Democratic Party could be one vote ahead of us."

The NP plans to hold meetings with a delegation from each party and city treasury officials.

The DP chief whip in the council, Mr Paul Asherson, said it seemed as if the NP had been forced to extend the invitation. "It does look like the death throes of the management committee."
Meeting to investigate ‘spy network’

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — An emergency meeting of the city council’s management committee will be held tonight and town clerk Mr Manie Venter will be asked to reply to allegations regarding the use of ratepayers’ money to fund spying operations on anti-apartheid organisations.

Deputy management committee chairman Ms Marisetta Marx said last night that she was shocked and amazed at the allegations in The Star newspaper yesterday.

The newspaper said that a secret network, directed from the Civic Centre, gathered information on organisations including trade unions, political parties, the End Conscription Campaign and the Black Sash to give to Military Intelligence, the Security Police and the SAP at John Vorster Square.

The report alleged that the funds for the spying operations came from Johannesburg City Council’s R50 million security budget.

Secret reports on organisations and individuals were given to top-level municipal employees answerable firstly to the city council’s director of security, Brigadier J F Visser, who retired this month and ultimately to town clerk Mr Venter, the newspaper alleged.

DP chief whip Mr Paul Ashelson said last night that the DP held the NP-controlled management committee responsible for the clandestine acts since they had for years rejected the DP’s appeals for the security expenditure to be brought into the open.

If the management committee did not know of these secret operations, it betrayed its incompetence, he said.

An urgent inquiry into the matter was needed, and the spying operations had to be stopped and the people involved named and suspended, he said.

Public safety director Mr John Pearce was responsible for the traffic budget of R24m and the security budget, Mr Ashelson said.

It seemed unlikely Mr Pearce did not know of the secret unit, Mr Ashelson said.

Security department deputy director administrative services Mr J H N Karsten said last night that he had no knowledge of a spy unit funded from the security department.

Mr Pearce was unavailable for comment as he was in Namibia for the independence celebrations.

The newspaper claimed that the municipal spy network operated for seven years.

CP leader Mr Jacques Theron yesterday said he held the management committee responsible for the corruption surrounding the spy scandal.

● Sapa reports that the Five Freedoms Forum yesterday expressed “contempt and disgust” at the alleged actions of the city council employees in spying on organisations such as the FFF, Black Sash and others.
Midrand inquiry told of irregularities

by Monier Nicolson

The burgeoning town of Midrand is being rocked as allegations of irregularities by its town clerk, Mr Philip Botha, and other council officials emerge.

A commission of inquiry, appointed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, has so far heard how Mr Botha:

- Allegedly received half the profits from a developer, Mr Anton Lourens, who did work for the council. Mr Lourens, a close friend of Mr Botha, was contracted to build a taxi rank and gave Mr Botha R45,000. Mr Botha said the money had been a loan.
- Allegedly bought a house in Port Alfred with his housing subsidy and lived in his Midrand home rent-free.
- Made investments of more than R1 million with council funds and shared the profits with a friend.
- Offered management of the municipality's canteen to council official Mr Henry Hughes and his wife, Roleen, but demanded 50 percent of the profits.
- Overspent on his department's budget without council permission or approval.
- Had office equipment installed in his home at ratepayers' expense.
- Arranged for the council to pay R12,780 for car repairs.

The inquiry was yesterday told that Mr Botha had written two controversial reports regarding his accommodation.

The first recommended that he be exempt from paying rent for his house and the second suggested that the council put up collateral for his house in Port Alfred.

The only member and chairman of the commission is Mr Justice H van Reenen. Mr P W A Strydom, an advocate from Pretoria, was appointed to undertake preliminary investigations. The hearing continues...
Johannesburg City Council called on to resign

Outrage over spy ring

By Karen Stander

Victims of a spy network operating within the Johannesburg City Council have called for the entire council to take responsibility and immediately resign.

Individuals and organisations who were allegedly being spied upon were outraged to hear of the "gross abuse" of the fundamental right to privacy and of ratepayers' money.

Ms Judith Hawarden, chairwoman of the Transvaal region of the Black Sash, said: "How dare they! How dare they do this?" She justified spying on individuals and organisations because they challenged the ideology and the way the state functions.

No surprise

"How dare they, they use ratepayers' money to spy on ratepayers?" said Mr. Manie Venter (town clerk) and all those members of the city council who are party to this practice should resign immediately.

She said the uncovering of a spy network in the Johannesburg City Council should not surprise the public, given the revelations of the Harmony Commission.

"Moral and financial corruption are rife in this society and have seeped from the top into every layer of government in the country. There is a total lack of accountability and a gross abuse of people's money as well as a lack of privacy and the right to disagree with the way the country is run," said Mr. Venter.

Professor Robert Charlton, vice-chancellor of the Johannesburg University, said: "We are of course aware that there are police and army spies and informers on the campus, and have been for many years. Some of them have been unmasked or have revealed themselves."

"What I find totally bizarre is that there should also be spying organised by municipal officials acting as agents for the police and the army, and using ratepayers' money."

A spokesman for Idasa said she was not surprised. "I have reached the stage when I am not really surprised at anything. We are very aware that we are under surveillance, that our telephones are tapped, and our mail is tampered with..."

Mr Cas Coovadia, secretary for Actstop, said it was "absurd" that there was no government policy to deal with the situation.

He said the entire city council had to bear responsibility.

Disregard

"We have been aware for some time of clandestine activities by the security police and we see this as an extension of such activity."

"The funding of such units with ratepayers' money is a further example of this government's disregard for the well-being of the majority of the people in South Africa."

Actstop had consistently appealed to the Johannesburg City Council to heed its warnings of police action, security police intimidation and harassment, and shady bodies linked to landlords. "All our appeals have fallen on deaf ears. We hope they will now learn."

Mr. Willie van Rensberg, mayor since March 1, said: "It is totally new to me. He said that in his 15 years as an elected councillor, "there had never been a whisper" about such an operation.

Outgoing mayor Mr Koos Roets said he knew nothing of a city council intelligence division, and was surprised: "I don't know what the purpose of it would have been, or the implications."

DP expresses shock, outrage at disclosures

Mr Ian Davidson, Democratic Party opposition leader in the Johannesburg City Council, expressed shock and outrage that the council has its own intelligence department - its own secret police - and "possibly its own Civilian Co-operation Bureau."

Both the present Nationalist mayor and his predecessor expressed surprise at the existence of the unit and confirmed that they had known nothing about it.

Mr Davidson said: "I demand to know from the management committee when this was formed, under what authority the committee agreed to the establishment of such a department."

"It is not our function to run a secret intelligence or spying operation. I want to know how the spying was funded, who it was accountable to, and why the council has become involved in clandestine activities which, if they have to be done, is State function."

Mr Davidson expressed outrage on moral grounds that ratepayers' money was used to fund a spying operation. "I want to know what right, either legal or moral, does the management committee have to constitute such an organisation."

Mr Davidson said money voted to the security department (R50 million) was for the specific protection of council property. "Anything beyond this is a misappropriation of ratepayers' funds, and I want to know who gave authority for such misappropriation."

The mayor, Mr Willie van Rensberg, who took office on March 1, said: "It is totally new to me. He said that in his 15 years as an elected councillor, "there had never been a whisper" about such an operation.

Outgoing mayor Mr Koos Roets said he knew nothing of a city council intelligence division, and was surprised: "I don't know what the purpose of it would have been, or the implications."

Mr. Ian Davidson, DP leader in the council.

Mr Koos Roets, former mayor.
For seven years ratepayers have funded Jo'burg council's

By Kitt Katzin and Steve McQuillan

An investigation by The Star has uncovered a sinister spy network operating inside the Johannesburg City Council. It uses rate money to spy on ratepayers.

The network is so secret that its existence is unknown to most, if not all, councillors.

It has gathered information to give not to the council, but to military intelligence, the Security Police and SAP.

Secret reports on the activities of legitimate organisations, and on public meetings, have been prepared and relayed by a coterie of top-level municipal employees answerable first to the council's Director of Security, Brigadier J.P. Venter, who retired this month, and then to Town Clerk Mr Mane Venter.

The network is paid out of a secret fund run by Mr Venter. The council approves a "security budget" of about R150 million a year, but has never allocated funds for spying on ratepayers.

Details of the payments have never been disclosed to councillors, or the public. Even council auditors must get permission from Mr Venter to see documents, and transactions detailing the secret payments are locked in the Town Clerk's safe.

For seven years, municipal spies have been watching activities on the University of the Witwatersrand campus, informing on the Black Sash, Five Freedoms Forum, End Conspicacy Campaign, and spying on other organisations including trade unions and legitimate political parties.

The municipal officials, who call themselves "handlers", recruited agents to spy on and infiltrate political organisations.

Other organisations which the agents were instructed to spy on or infiltrate included the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (Idasa), the Soweto Civic Association, and Actstop.

Concern within the "spy ring" about the political implications of being exposed nearly led to the network being closed down November.

The Star learned that top council official Mr Tony Thompson wanted to call a halt to the unit's activities.

He spent eight months in a losing attempt to wind it down. Mr Thompson retired in December.

An intensive two-month investigation by The Star has revealed that:

- Spy "handlers" paid sources each month in cash and informed municipal officials for gathering information by infiltrating meetings.
- Certain of the officials in the council's security department attempted to smear the names of a senior Democratic Party councillor by asking Department of Inland Revenue authorities to check his tax affairs.

Jo'burg runs spy network

- From Page 1.

- The council official who had threatened to speak to Mr Tony Leon, then leader of the Democratic Party opposition in the council, about alleged irregularities.

- The unit is known to have recommended the purchase of a wide range of bugging and surveillance equipment, including telephone tapping devices.

- Council agents attended and reported on hundreds of public meetings of other opposition groups including Inkatha, Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee, Projects Committee of the University of the Witwatersand, Communist Party, ANC and PAC.

- The intelligence unit also gave special attention to the Transport and General Workers' Union, Municipal Workers' Union of South Africa, and National Union of Public Service Workers.

- The squad, created in 1983 as the "liaison section" in the security department, infiltrated one of its agents into the ANC.

- A spy handler infiltrated the AWB after he was instructed to join the movement.

- Top municipal sources said disclosure of the existence of the intelligence unit was certain to prompt a massive public row.

- Said one "It was not the council's function to be involved in spying on private organisations at public expense. There are well established military and paramilitary mechanisms to deal with such matters."
Magid calls for probe

Johannesburg City Council management committee member Mr Eddy Magid has called for an investigation by the Auditor-General into allegations that ratepayers' money was used to fund a secret spy network within the municipality.

Mr Magid, who left an urgent management committee meeting this morning early, added that the town clerk, Mr mane Venter, should answer to the allegations. Mr Venter and senior council officials also attended the meeting.

'I have no knowledge of the allegations reported in The Star yesterday and for that reason I require an investigation by the Auditor-General and a full report to be submitted to the city council.'

The chairman of the management committee, Mr Jan Barger, who seemed unconcerned about the allegations, told The Star last night he had invited the leaders of the Democratic Party and Conservative Party in the council to be present at the urgent management committee meeting.

Both Mr Ian Davidson (DP) and Mr Jacques Theron (CP) said they had not received invitations.
A Pandora’s Box will be unravelled

DP calls for spy ring probe

City has R5.8m security budget

Municipal Reporter

CAPE TOWN Municipality’s security services have a budget in the current financial year of R5.8 million, a spokesman for the City Treasurer’s Department said — and there were “no hidden funds”.

He had been asked how much Cape Town spent on security after investigations revealed that Johannesburg had a R50-million security budget, and that some of this money had been used to spy on legitimate anti-apartheid organisations.

Cape Town’s approach to security was quite different from the approach that would appear to have prevailed in Johannesburg, he said. The law required municipalities to protect certain installations.

After spying on the secretary-general of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, they had concluded that he did not have close contact with the ANC.

“Meanwhile the man (Mr Ramaphosa) is deeply involved with the ANC.”

Mr Leon disclosed details of a letter, written by the city’s town clerk, Mr H H S Venter, about the secret payment of R1 600 to a handler in the spy ring in terms of “the law on the Protection of Public Buildings and Places”.

But Mr Leon said both he and the head of the DP research, Professor Nic Olivier, had checked the statute books and found that no such law existed.

The letter, marked “secret”, authorised R1 600 to be paid out to the handler.

The town clerk also said that because it was “a delicate matter”, the auditors could get details from him which would be kept in his safe.

Mr Leon said the letter was allegedly handed to the handler and the cash paid out to him in one of several similar instalments paid out by the city treasurer on the instructions of the town clerk.

“This is a scandal of alarming proportions.”

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, and the Minister of Local Government, Mr Amie Venter, needed to answer the question as to whether city councils, including Johannesburg, were instructed to spy and to deploy financial resources for this — Political Staff and Sapa
Off centre, Mr Venter!

At least 36 people, whose names and details of involvement are known to The Star, knew of the spy network. They include top council officials, spy handlers, informers and administrative personnel.

Wrong

Mr Venter was wrong when he said that the council simply exchanged information with police and military authorities.

In fact, spy reports were sent to at least the military on a routine and regular basis, regardless of what information the council got in return.

Also, Mr Venter's comment that the unit did not tap telephones is questionable. The Star has information of plans to purchase and use tapping devices on telephones. Intelligence operatives also planned to buy min-tape recorders for agents.

A proposal was also considered to attach tape recorders to at least four of the unit's operational vehicles.

On the question of telephone tapping, an official document warns that operatives should be careful, because the law is strict in this regard.

They were further warned that the issuing of tapping equipment would be strictly controlled.
DP calls for suspension of 'info' officials

By Louise Burgers, Municipal Reporter

The Democratic Party in Johannesburg has called for the immediate suspension of the town clerk, Mr Marnie Venter, and all officials connected to the so-called information network in the city council. The leader of the DP in the council, Mr Ian Davidson, said he was not satisfied with the statement by management committee chairman, Mr Jan Burger, that the Auditor-General would be asked to investigate the funding of the spy ring.

"All the Auditor-General will be able to establish is how much was spent and on what. He cannot establish if the town clerk was involved in a spy ring."

EXCEEDED

"I believe the town clerk exceeded his authority in terms of the ordinance under which he is appointed. He has to answer not only for the setting up, but the funding of the network." Mr Davidson also called for a detailed explanation from the management committee on their apparent loss of control over the city.

"The management committee is culpable. They must be held responsible, they are his political superiors. They cannot hide from this issue. The town clerk is essentially the ring master, but it must not be forgotten the National Party are his superiors."

"Once again Johannesburg has got a shadow of scandal hanging over it because of maladministration. We need an explanation from the management committee as to why they have lost control of the city."
Inquiry told of poor investments

Midrand council budget ‘chaotic’

By Monica Nicolson

Midrand Town Council’s budget was chaotic and the allocation of funds was unsupervised or not properly organised. The council overspent nearly R4 million last year alone, a one-man commission of inquiry heard yesterday.

Giving evidence yesterday in an inquiry into alleged illegal actions of council officials, the municipality’s internal auditor, Mr Herman Kruger, said a great deal of overspending had not been accounted for in the correct manner.

Overdraft

He said the financial situation had become so bad that officials’ salaries had to be paid from an overdraft.

Referring to two of the council’s investments, the advocate collating evidence, Mr Piet Strydom, said the return on the money could have been better elsewhere and that the investments could not have been very healthy if the council was continually borrowing against them.

Further allegations were made against the suspended town clerk, Mr Philip Botha, yesterday when Mr Strydom continued cross-examining witnesses in connection with two controversial reports regarding Mr Botha’s accommodation.

It was alleged that Mr Botha tried to defraud the council by attempting to have the reports presented to the council under the town secretary’s name.

The first report recommended that Mr Botha be exempt from paying rent for his house and the second suggested the council stood the collateral security for his house in Port Alfred.

Mr Cor Sutherland, the town treasurer, admitted that although Mr Botha had written the letters, he had signed them because Mr Botha wanted to hide his involvement.

The reports were later withdrawn as Mr Botha was suspended from his position by the council on the night they were to be tabled at the council meeting.

No instructions

Mr Botha claimed yesterday he gave Mr Sutherland no instruction to sign his reports.

“I had nothing more to do with the reports after I had given it to senior officials for comment. If Mr Sutherland presented council with a report based on my original report, it had nothing to do with me,” he said.

The only member and chairman of the commission is Mr Justice T H van Reenen.

The hearing continues on April 19.
Appoint public prosecutor, Leon and Schwartz

...
Jo'burg council's best-kept secret

For seven years the Johannesburg City Council has operated a covert intelligence-gathering division — hidden deep inside the operational network of its huge security department.

It was in 1963 that Mr. F.J. "Frik" Barnard, then the deputy general manager of the city council's security department, gave the orders to create an intelligence wing, ostensibly to be called the "haisdon section." At the time, Mr. Barnard reported to Mr. Hanneke Kasten, a former captain in the SAPD and then head of 'security,' which in turn fell under Mr. John Pearce, the traffic and security chief. Mr. Kasten today is deputy director of administration.

The man chosen to set up the new division was Mr. "Frik" van Jaarsveld, a former naval intelligence officer, who was later succeeded by Mr. Nico Croman and then by Mr. Rudi Heysie, a former colleague of the security police.

Then came Mr. Peter Assenmacher, formerly of the National Intelligence Service, who took over in 1986. He was followed by Mr. Riek Roestorf and then by Mr. Hennie Gouws. The present head of the section is Mr. Martin Henning.

All heads of the intelligence division reported ultimately to Mr. Barnard, who was later appointed chief professional officer (administration) in the security department. He later became acting deputy director of operations in the department.

Today, as far as is known, Mr. Henning, whose official title is head of the investigations section — under which falls intelligence — also controls divisions involving training and criminal and security awareness.

What is not clear is whether the intelligence operations are continuing. Mr. Henning succeeded Mr. Gouws, who resigned in October last year, as head of the section, it is not known if Mr. Henning is still in charge of the division.

The confusion is a result of attempts to close the intelligence wing by a senior security department official.

Part of this move involved the transfer of Mr. Barnard to his present position.

How payments were made

A Johannesburg City Council spy handler has told The Star how ratemyers' money was allocated secretly by senior officials to pay agents to infiltrate and report on public meetings involved in clearing the bash-hand payment were Johannesburg town clerk Mr. Manie Venter, the council's former director of security, Brigadier J.F. Visser, and at least four other top officials.

One was Mr. J.F. "Frik" Barnard — known to inside sources as "Mr. Intelligence." Mr. Barnard is a Citizen Force major with close links to Military Intelligence at Witwatersrand Command.

He is acting deputy director of operations in the council's security department, after being transferred last month. He was formerly chief professional officer (administration) of the department, which controlled the criminal investigations bureau and intelligence section.

Brigadier Visser and Mr. Barnard, as well as Mr. Milton Lee, said to be in the operations section, recommended payment of secret funds to officials.

APPROVAL PIPELINE

This is how the spy payments were made:

On a security department document titled "Handler's Source" (berigewesfersfoos brm), a recommendation is made — presumably by the handler — for payment to a "source" (spy).

Invariably, the source would be described as being of "inestimable value" to the council, and a fee of, say R50, would be recommended.

The application would be supported by three senior council officials, one the section head of the intelligence division.

Mr. Venter would have to sanction the application. One of the signatories is then informed of the approval.

The handler who submitted the application was, in turn, notified of the approval, and instructed to collect a letter written by Mr. Venter.

The letter, marked "secret," was addressed to the City Treasurer instructing him to make provision for the relevant payment on the grounds that the town clerk had sanctioned the payment.

INVOKES AUTHORISED

The handler took delivery of the letter from Mr. Venter's daughter-in-law, Mrs. R. Venter, an accountant in the council who dealt with the secret fund.

The handler would then go to the City Hall where he would sign an invoice that authorized him to be paid. He would sign for the money and hand over the letter written by the town clerk. He would then report to a municipal cashier, presumably in the City Treasurer's department, present an invoice he had signed, and be paid.

He would then return to his office and arrange for payment to the sources, who would have to sign for the cash.

Investigations by The Star show that each of the sources would have to sign for the money on a separate document, which also reflected his secret code number.

Because the spy fees were paid in cash, and since the town clerk, in terms of his own instructions for payment, did not publicly disclose the transactions, it is understood that no taxes were paid.

Secret reports

One of the city council's spy handlers has told The Star of how he was instructed by his bosses to deliver photocopies of the council's intelligence documents to the military authorities every week.

City council spy reports on individuals and legal organizations were handed directly to military intelligence officers at Witwatersrand Command and the Security Police at John Vorster Square.

The reports dealt with public meetings held by movements such as the Five Freedoms Forum, the End Conscientism Campaign and trade unions.

The reports included details of public political movements, sources, spy handlers, and agents that they were sure or could not lose their trust in.

Said one informant, the military "told them what they had to do."

To protect the handlers moved to go to the police, and their names were taken.

Further information was not gathered.
How hard do spies work, and how valuable is their information?

A Johannesburg Council employee had the enviable task of doing an analysis which has often baffled Spymasters, real and fictional — to measure the value of information.

These three charts show the results of his endeavours:
1. "PRODUCTIVITY OF SOURCES for June 1989" (top left). The bars measure the performance of sources JHB 1, 2 etc and, in the last column, unregistered sources.
2. "VALUE OF REPORTS from January to June 1989" (top right). Total reports received are assessed for their value, then rated in percentage terms. May was clearly a good month.

A pie chart showing the relative contributions by three informers. Mr H Gouws did better than Mr A Bennett and Mr J Egon combined.

Quit, ratepayers tell town clerk

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

Outraged and shocked Johannesburg ratepayers and city councillors this week called for the resignation of the town clerk of Johannesburg and for an urgent investigation into the operation and funding of a spy ring within the municipality.

"These shocking allegations of skullduggery and misappropriation of funds are a complete indictment of a National Party management committee who must take full responsibility for these clandestine operations. An urgent inquiry is obviously necessary as well as a cessation of these activities immediately."

Democratic Party MP for Houghton and former DP leader in the city council, Mr Tony Leon said secret funds were always open to abuse.

"I constantly warned in the three years I was opposition leader that the unspecified security budget was always open to abuse and shrouded in a cloud of secrecy and confidentiality behind which actual or potential abuses could flourish.

"The creation of a super department of public safety was always unquantified by the facts given. Quite obviously this is a monster which has spun out of control."

The immediate resignation of the town clerk, Mr Manie Venter has been called for by the chairman of Northciti Ratepayer's Association, Mr Carlos de Nobrega.

I think Manie Venter should be dismissed immediately. This is the most disquieting thing I've heard since the CCB, regarding the misappropriation of funds. This kind of corruption must be wiped out."

The chairman of the Federation of Western Johannesburg Ratepayers, Mr Frank Stimson said he was shocked.

"If the allegations are true, this must be stopped immediately. We want to know more."

Mrs Alana Beuthin, chairman of the Consumer InterAction group said in the light of CCB revelations the latest scandal did not really surprise her.

APPELLING

"But it is appalling, especially since they have got away with it for so long. This is another example of where the consumer is taken for a ride."

The leader of the Conservative Party, Mr Jacques Theron said the allegations called for an urgent motion to discuss the issue at the monthly city council meeting next week.

"It is immoral for ratepayers' money to be involved, it becomes an indirect tax almost intelligence gathering belongs to the defence force and the police."

He said it was management on the part of the management committee if they did not know about the spy ring.

"It looks rather clear, that after the city I think members of the management committee should really have ascertained to their own satisfaction what the money they voted is being spent on."
Unions ‘bitter’ over council spy disclosures

Political Staff

The disclosure of a spy network operating from Johannesburg City Council had seriously jeopardised council relations with 13 trade unions representing more than 20,000 workers. Manpower Director Mr Jaap Kitshoff said last night.

The Johannesburg Municipal Trade Unions Joint Committee held an urgent meeting yesterday to discuss the allegations that its activities had been monitored.

"We are bitter and disillusioned with the despicable treatment afforded us. The relationship of mutual trust and understanding which existed between us and the city council has been shattered," the unions said later.

Chairman Dr Lorraine Lotter said the committee had always been under the impression that the responsibility for ensuring sound industrial relations with the trade unions rested with Mr Kitshoff, and not the security department.

Over the past decade the Johannesburg City Council had experienced unprecedented labour peace, she said.

The Minister of the Budget and Local Government, Mr Amos Venter, said yesterday that the Transvaal Provincial Administration was giving urgent attention to the council’s spy rumpus.

Mr Tony Leon (DP Yeoville) raised the issue again yesterday saying the acknowledgment that R17,000 had been spent on the spy ring was a gross underestimate of the real expenditure. The security department had a budget of over R160 million over the past five years, he said.
Apartheid councils under fire

THE president of the United Municipalities of SA, Mr Tom Boya, yesterday called for the reconstitution of local government into single local authorities, dismantling structures which were based on colour.

Speaking in the East Rand township of Daveyton, Boya questioned the maintenance of dual towns/cities according to colour, irrespective of the socio-economic consequences brought about by this practice.

Apartheid

"The fact that a black person was called to administer dormitory towns, which provided labour to the so-called white cities, had led to people questioning of the role of these black towns and their councillors," he said.

Local authorities could not render effective and efficient services while clinging to the apartheid structures, which duplicated and triplicated the costs of services, Boya said.

Violence in the townships had its roots in the frustrations of people living there, brought about by the poor infrastructure, lack of serviced land and proximity of the poor to the places of their work, he said. - Sapa.
State promises probe into Jo'burg spy ring

By PETER FABRICIUS
Political Staff

THE government has promised to give "urgent and priority attention" to the controversial Johannesburg City Council spy network.

Mr Arne Venter, Minster of the Budget and Local Government in the House of Assembly, told parliament this yesterday.

This followed a demand on Wednesday from Yeoville MP Mr Harry Schwarz and Houghton MP Mr Tony Leon for a public inquiry.

The spy ring, uncovered during an investigation by The Argus's sister newspaper, The Star, gathered information to give, not to the council, but to Military Intelligence, the security police and the police at John Vorster Square.

Its existence was so secret that not even council members knew of it.

Serious light

The Argus Correspondent in Johannesburg reports that Mr Arne Venter has asked Transvaal member of the executive committee Mr Olus van Zyl to urgently investigate the spy rumpus.

Mr Venter said in parliament yesterday that he regarded the matter in a serious light.

"Mr Olus van Zyl (the MEC for local government) has undertaken to give this matter urgent attention and high priority."

Mr Venter was speaking in the debate on his vote when Mr Leon, former DP leader in the Johannesburg Council, again went on the attack.

Mr Leon said Johannesburg Town Clerk Mr Manie Venter's admission that the spy ring existed was a "damning indictment of abuse of power and invasion of privacy" by the City Council.

His statement that R7 000 had been spent on spying was a "gross understatement of the real expenditure." Mr Leon said questions arose about precisely what hardware, capital equipment and full-time members of staff had been used for these activities.

Nothing short of an objective independent audit of the security department's budget for the last five years would suffice.

By defending Mr Venter and his spying, the National Party management committee was "perpetrating a cover-up."
Unions back judicial 'council spies' probe

THE disclosure that a spy network had operated from the Johannesburg city council had seriously jeopardised council relations with the 13 trade unions representing more than 20,000 council workers, manpower director Jaap Kitshoff said last night.

He added that he had never received a report on union activities from the security department.

Town clerk Manie Venter has admitted that R17 million from the security budget was paid to spies for information on political and trade union organisations to safeguard the city's interests.

The Johannesburg Municipal Trade Unions' Joint Committee held an urgent meeting yesterday to discuss the allegations that its activities had been monitored. It supported calls by other organisations for a judicial inquiry.

"The relationship of mutual trust and understanding which existed between us and the city council has been shattered."

Judicial probe

the representative unions said in a statement yesterday.

Chairman Lorraine Lotter said the Johannesburg city council had experienced unprecedented labour peace over the past decade.

She said the committee abhorred the fact that it was considered to be within the investigation framework and objectives of the security department.

Meanwhile, city treasurer Wilhe Siebert said allegations that the security budget was R50 million was rubbish.

He said R23 million was allocated annually to the security department and his books were open to Business Day's scrutiny.

In the House of Assembly yesterday, Budget and Local Government Minister Amos Venter said he had discussed the matter with the responsible MEC in the Transvaal, Olaus van Zyl.

Van Zyl had undertaken to give it urgent attention.

"We both regard this in a serious light and will treat it as a very urgent matter," he said in reply to debate on the Local Government vote.

Comment: Page 6
Transvaal gives townships a pay rise

The Transvaal Provincial Administration will increase its spending to aid black local authorities by 21 per cent to R1.2-billion this year, even though last year it had said it would have to cut back on assistance to the township councils.

The figures are provided in the Budget Review, released with last week’s budget, which shows the TPA bailed out black local authorities to the tune of R254-million in the year up to December. It expects the total for the full financial year, ending February, to amount to R335-million.

This accounts for the TPA’s overspending on the Community Development budget last year — the budget was R796-million but the revised estimate is shown as R1-billion, almost 30 per cent higher.

The deficits run up by the local authorities — particularly in Soweto and in the Vaal Triangle townships — are largely a result of residents’ refusal to pay rent and service charges. The TPA has been trying to rent in the councils’ spending and force them to collect revenue.

In the Budget Review, it says it is “committed to more effective and economic rendering of services and to clean administration”. It adds good progress has been made with “establishing a sense of responsibility by local authorities” — of which there are 80 in the Transvaal — and that there has been sustained improvement in the collecting of levies and rates.

The TPA notes as the background to this “the backlog existing within black communities and the weak economic basis of black local authorities as a result of historic factors, low income, unemployment and inadequate infrastructure”.

The TPA’s increase in spending on black local authorities is in contrast to other provinces’ budgets for this, which have fallen in real terms, taking inflation into account.

The Orange Free State Provincial Administration is to increase spending on Community Development by only six per cent to R260-million. The Natal Provincial Administration’s spending in this area will rise by only 1.6 per cent to R268-million, and that of the Cape Provincial Administration, 6.9 per cent to R602-million.

This is in a context in which the government has cut grants to all the provinces in real terms: the statutory transfer to the Cape province and Natal have dropped by 1.5 per cent and 3.3 per cent, respectively, while the grants from central government to the Orange Free State and Transvaal have increased by only 6.3 and 6.6 per cent, respectively.

The grants to the provinces, via the Department of Planning and Provincial Affairs, are to total R8.8-billion this year, down 4.9 per cent on last year. The provinces do, however, also collect their own revenue, so that their budgets do not simply reflect central government grants.

To finance its increased in funds for Community Development, the TPA appears to be cutting almost all its other budgets in real terms. Its spending on health services will go up by only 0.8 per cent to R1.9-billion, although this is partly because three Transvaal hospitals, including JG Strijdom, have been transferred from provincial to “Own Affairs” administration.

The reshuffling of hospital spending was reflected this week in a 23 per cent hike in the House of Assembly budget tabled in Parliament.

The Transvaal plans to cut spending on Works by 0.7 per cent, and to raise its budgets for Roads and Bridges by only 1.7 per cent. The only substantial increase is in its Library and Museum service, which goes up 30 per cent to R20-million.

In its contribution to the Budget Review, the Department of Planning and Provincial Affairs reports:

Through the granting of loans for material, 5,140 houses for blacks, have been erected during the 1989/90 financial year. Some 8,000 new serviced stands were provided and a further 8,000 stands upgraded.

In informal town establishment with basic services in which individuals will be permitted to erect their own structures within their means, is envisaged, according to the TPA.

More than 25,000 hectares of land outside the “self-governing territories” has been identified for black townships and an additional 7,500ha has been approved.

R16.7-million has been applied to provide infrastructure at industrial development points.

18 applications for free settlement areas have been finalised.

The TPA aims to finalise its policy on squatting and continue its research on urbanisation strategies.
We demand a full judicial inquiry, say Jo'burg unions

By Louise Burgers,
Municipal Reporter

Seven trade unions representing 20,000 Johannesburg City Council employees yesterday slammed official surveillance of their organisations as "despicable" and called for a full judicial inquiry into the spy network.

In a strongly-worded statement, the Johannesburg Municipal Trade Unions Joint Committee said the relationship of mutual trust and understanding which had existed between themselves and the city council had been "shattered."

The unions represented by the Joint Committee are Amalgamated Engineering Trade Union of SA, Johannesburg Municipal Combined Employees' Union, Johannesburg Municipal Employees' Association, Johannesburg Transport and Municipal Employees' Union, SA Electrical Workers' Association, Union of Johannesburg Municipal Workers, and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

"It was with abhorrence that we learnt that we were considered to be within the investigative framework and objectives of the security department and that we have been under surveillance since the inception of the information network."

"We are bitter and disillusioned with the despicable treatment afforded us. The relationship of mutual trust and understanding which existed between us and the city council has been shattered."

"We support calls from other organisations for the institution of a judicial inquiry and that the terms of reference include the alleged investigations by the security department into our unions and officials."

The unions said the Johannesburg City Council had enjoyed unprecedented labour peace in the past decade. They were under the impression that the responsibility for ensuring sound industrial relations with the unions lay with the chief director of manpower and personnel department, not with the security department."
van Zyl to investigate the Johannesburg City Council spy rumpus urgently.

Replying in the House of Assembly in a debate on his budget vote, he said the Government had promised to give "urgent and priority attention" to the network.

Asked to comment on the latest development, council management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger said he was unaware of the appointment of Mr van Zyl to investigate the scandal.

He added that he wanted to reiterate he knew nothing about a spy ring in the council.

Johannesburg town clerk Mr Manie Venter said last night he was also unaware of Mr Venter's statement.

Mr (Manie) Venter also said he would "in due course" reply to differences between his statement on the network to the media on Wednesday, and revelations by The Star.

Mr Amie Venter's comments followed the demand on Wednesday by Mr Harry Schwarz, the Democratic Party MP for Yeoville, and Mr Tony Leon, MP for Houghton, for a public inquiry into the spy ring.

This call was echoed yesterday by seven trade unions representing 20,000 Johannesburg municipal employees.

Minister Venter told Parliament he regarded the matter as serious, and the proper authority to deal with it was the Transvaal Administration's executive committee.

When Johannesburg North MP Mr Peter Soal asked him if he intended opening up or covering up the controversy, he said "It is not in my nature to cover things up."

**DAMNING INDICTMENT**

Mr Leon said the town clerk's admission about the spy ring was a damning indictment of abuse of power and invasion of privacy by the council. He said Mr Manie Venter's response was "incomplete and unsatisfactory." The statement that R17,000 had been spent on spying was a "gross understatement of the real expenditure."

Mr Leon said questions arose about precisely what hardware, capital equipment and fulltime members of staff had been used for these activities. Nothing short of an objective, independent audit of the security department's budget for the last five years would suffice.

"I find it difficult to believe that he can defend his activities as standard practice." No Act of Parliament or other law could have justified the activities. By defending Mr Venter and his spying, the National Party management committee was "perpetrating a cover-up." Mr Leon said several questions remained.

- What was the involvement of the Joint Management Centre system of the State Security Council in the spy ring?
- What were the limits, if any, on council spying, and who determined them?
- Was the "unmotivated" promotion of Mr John Pearce to the post of Chief Director, Public Safety, connected with his overseeing of the council spy ring?
- What financial controls were exercised and what information was given to the council's auditors?

*See Page 2*
No spy rings here, say city councils

Municipal Reporter and Own Correspondents

Representatives of major city and town councils across South Africa have said a spy ring similar to that in operation in Johannesburg City Council could never operate in their municipalities.

The Sandton management committee has made prudent inquiries and is satisfied that nothing is out of order in the council Democratic Party leader in Sandton, Mr Peter Jardine, said he would vouch for the town council officials.

Randburg's town clerk, Mr Bart van der Vyver, emphatically stated that nothing similar could ever happen in his town.

Cape Town's town clerk, Dr Stanley Evans, dismissed the possibility of the Cape Town City Council having a "spy ring" similar to Johannesburg's.

TINY BUDGET

Cape Town's senior deputy city administrator, Dr Donald Graythorne, said the city's security budget was tiny compared with that of Johannesburg. "We simply do not have money for that sort of thing."

The city councils of both Durban and Maritzburg have no plans to launch probes into the possibility of municipal spy rings such as that exposed in the Johannesburg council this week.

No covert spying network could exist in Durban's municipal service, town clerk Mr Wilf Stone said yesterday.

"Our security section is just another department of the city council and all of its accounts go through the city treasurer and our auditors," he said.

And Maritzburg's town clerk, Mr Keith Nicol, said the municipality had a security section which was there to protect municipal assets, but its budget was audited in the same way as all other departments.
I knew nothing, says Burger

LOUISE BURGERS and MICHAEL SHAFTO

IN spite of having been “fingered” as one who knew about the Johannesburg City Council spy ring, the present chairman of the management committee, Mr Jan Burger, has strenuously denied any knowledge of the information network.

Confusion over what the present management committee knows about the network has arisen as a result of news of the spy scandal, broken by The Star earlier this week.

As a result of the revelations, town clerk Mr Manie Venter told a hastily called press conference in midweek that the previous management committee had known about the network, but that the present committee had not been told because “it was such a little thing”.

Two members of the current committee were members of the previous committee, however, and as such must have known about the existence of the spy ring. They are Mr Burger, chairman of the present management committee, and Mr Cecil Long. They both served on the committee which was dissolved before the October 1988 municipal elections.

Mr Burger categorically denied yesterday that he knew of the existence of a fund to pay informers. He was sticking by his statement of last month.

Spy denial

Wednesday, he said Mr Long said he was aware of the existence of the network, but not that money was used to pay informers.

“I did not know about rewards paid for information. But when we look at the paltry amount spent, how much information can one get for that?”

“I knew about certain actions which were taken I cannot give details because they are in relation to security and staff matters and too sensitive to give details about.”

Mr Long said if “millions of rands were involved in the payment of informers there would be cause for concern.”

“But it was only R17 000.”

(Saturday Star believes the amount for 1986 to have cost ratepayers R96 000 for that year alone)

But Mr Long added that if council officials were found during investigations to have exceeded the bounds of their authority, action would be taken.

The security portfolio was Mr Danie van Zyl’s responsibility as deputy chairman of the previous management committee and later as chairman before his death last year.

The then chairman, Mr Francois “Obie” Oberholzer, is away and not available for comment.

A member of the previous management committee, Mr Hennie Schoeman, has refused to comment. Mr Danie Malan who also served on the committee, stated that he was aware of the network.

Transvaal MEC Mr Olaus van Zyl said yesterday that allegations of an intelligence spy network in the Johannesburg City Council would receive high priority.

TO PAGE 2.
City security chief Pearce emerges as spy master

MICHAEL SHAFII

Controversial Mr John Pearce, Johannesburg's chief director of public safety, has emerged as a key player in City Hall's spy network.

Documents in possession of the Saturday Star show clearly that Mr Pearce's was the final authorising signature when it came to paying spies and informants.

Responding to this disclosure last night, the Democratic Party called for Mr Pearce's resignation.

All efforts yesterday to track down Mr Pearce failed. He could not be contacted by telephone at either his office or home. The Saturday Star left messages for him. They were not returned by publication time. His secretary said he would be returning to work on Monday.

Mr Pearce is known as a colourful and sometimes provocative city official. Some of his "private" enterprises have raised eyebrows.

The Saturday Star documents relate to a batch of payments for November 1988. Each is headed "Johannesburg City Council -- Security Department."

Two signatures precede Mr Pearce's. They were the signatures of Mr F.J. "Frik" Barnard as "section head" of the security department and Brigadier Jan Visscher as "general manager."

The amounts he gave approval to ranged from between R100 and R350.

Under a heading "Remarks," all the spies are said to have "carried out this task at the risk of his life and the lives of his family."

None of the agents is named.

In a document (without the usual crest) numbered "Informant's fee/JHB 6, payment of R100 -- approved for a "respectable" Soviet businessman with first-hand knowledge of political and trade union activities inside Soviet." A similar requisition for payment of R250 for a fulltime student, is numbered "Informant's fee/JHB 7. He is identified as a member of an organisation which is perfectly legal. It says of him that he "provided regular reports of in valuable worth" to the council.

Another agent -- all are referred to as "sources" -- is identified as a "professional person (lawyer by profession)."

The requisition for payment says he "moves in high social circles with radical leftists and intellectuals." He is a member of a semi-political organisation with contacts with Lawyers for Human Rights. "He moves easily in academic circles without exciting comment."

Payment for his services was R250.

Two of the informants are members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, one with good connections with Cosatu. To this second informant goes the highest fee in the batch of approved payments -- R350.

A third unnamed spy for the council is identified as a member of the Municipal Workers' Union of South Africa.

The confirmation of Mr Pearce's direct role in managing the spy network prompted the leader of the Democratic Party in the council, Mr Ian Davidson, to call last night for his immediate suspension.

MR JOHN PEARCE: Authorised payments for informants. Photograph: Elinne Rothbart

Both Pearce and (town clerk) Venter have outlived their usefulness," he said.

Mr Pearce's involvement in the spy scandal is the latest in a series of on-going controversies, and was first revealed at a press conference on Wednesday, given by the Town Clerk, Mr G. M. Venter, after the initial uncovering of the spy ring by the Star.

Mr Pearce and controversy have been constant bed-fellows since his appointment as Johannesburg's traffic chief in 1978 at the age of 35.

In mid-1986 Mr Pearce was accused of sending traffic officers to protect close friend Premier Arno Fourie Affairs Minister Pik Botha, from Africander Weerstandsbewegening opponents in Pitsburg.

In 1987 Mr Pearce, a public official, negotiated to organise the Rand Show parking. He was paid R137 000 for his work.

In January 1988 he provided an escort for the Bavarian Premier Joseph Strauss's junket to Mahala Game Lodge.

The next month came the news that his wife, Joan, had won a three-year contract to organise Rand Show parking for her company Sweetpea Park, a closed corporation.

In April last year, PPC council leader Mr Tony Leon drew attention to trips abroad (at taxpayers' expense) for the past few years of Mr Pearce to the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Oregon, US.

TO PAGE 2.
City security chief Pearce emerges as spy master

CONTROVERSIAL Mr John Pearce, Johannesburg’s chief director of public safety, has emerged as a key player in City Hall’s spy network.

Document in possession of the Saturday Star show clearly that Mr Pearce’s was the final authorising signature when it came to paying spies and informants.

Responding to this disclosure last night, the Democratic Party called for Mr Pearce’s resignation.

All efforts yesterday to track down Mr Pearce failed. He could not be contacted by telephone at either his office or home. The Saturday Star left messages for him. They were not returned by publication time. His secretary said he would be returning to work on Monday.

Mr Pearce is known as a colourful and sometimes provocative city official. Some of his “private” enterprises have raised eyebrows.

The Saturday Star documents relate to a batch of payments for November 1989. Each is headed “Johannesburg City Council — Security Department.”

Two signatures precede Mr Pearce’s. They were the signatures of Mr F.J. “Frik” Barnard as “section head” of the security department and Brigadier Jan Visser as “general manager.”

The amounts he gave approval to ranged from between R100 and R350.

Under a heading “Remarks”, all the spies are said to have “carried out this task at the risk of his and the lives of his family.” None of the agents is named.

In a document (without the usual crest) numbered “Informant’s fee 1/1/89” payment of R150 is approved for a “respected Soweto businessman with first-hand knowledge of political and trade union activities inside Soweto.”

A similar requisition for payment of R200 for a

TO PAGE 2.

MR JOHN PEARCE: Authorised payments for informants. Photograph: Etienne Rothbart.

Spy master

FROM PAGE 1

… full-time student, is numbered Informant’s file 1/10/92. He is identified as a member of an organisation which is perfectly legal. It says of him that he produced regular reports of invaluable worth” to the council.

Another agent — all are referred to as “sources” — is identified as a “professional person (lawyer by profession)” The requisition for payment says he “moves in high social circles with radical leftist elements.” He is a member of a semi-political organisation with contacts with Lawyers for Human Rights. “He moves easily in academic circles without exciting comment.” Payment for his services was R150.

Two of the informants are members of the Transport General Workers’ Union, one with good connections with Cosatu. To this second informant goes the highest fee in the batch of approved payments — R350.

A third unionist spying for the council is identified as a member of the Municipal Workers’ Union of South Africa.

The confirmation of Mr Pearce’s direct role in managing the spy network prompted the leader of the Democratic Party in the council, Mr Ian Davidson, to call last night for his immediate suspension.

“Both Pearce and (town clerk) Venter have outlived their usefulness,” he said.

Mr Pearce’s involvement in the spy scandal is the latest in a series of on-going controversies and was first revealed at a press conference on Wednesday, given by the Town Clerk, Mr Marno Venter, after the initial uncovering of the spy ring by The Star.

Mr Pearce and controversy have been constant bedfellows since his appointment as Johannesburg’s traffic chief in 1978 at the age of 34.

In mid-1986 Mr Pearce was accused of sending traffic officers to “pick up” information for a Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha, from Afrikaner Weerstands beweging opponents in Pretoria.

In 1987 Mr Pearce, a public official, negotiated to organise Rand Show parking. He was paid R137 000 for his work.

In January 1988 he provided an escort for the Bavarian’s Franz Joseph Strauss’s junket to Mabula Game Lodge.

The next month came the news that his wife, Joan, had won a three-year contract to organise Rand Show parking for her company Sweepea Park, a cloaked corporation.

In April last year, FFP council leader Mr Tony Leon drew attention to trips abroad (at ratepayers’ expense) for the past few years of Mr Pearce to the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Oregon, US.
Spying ring furore puts 'sheriff' out in the cold

JOHANNESBURG'S controversial chief director of public safety, Mr. John Pearce, will receive a frosty reception this week when he returns to the city shaken by revelations of a spy ring in the municipal service.

The racy 'Sheriff of Johannesburg' has been in Windhoek with a contingent of traffic officers who provided a motorcade escort during Namibian independence celebrations.

Disclosures of a clandestine spy network inside the Johannesburg city council, funded by ratepayers' money, have blown up into a national controversy.

Operating from headquarters in the Post, the former Hillbrow prison, the ring gathered information on individuals and organisations which it shared with police and state security services.

The operation was known to only a handful of municipal officials, among them recently retired director of security, Brigadier Jan Visser, town clerk Mane Venter and Mr. Pearce.

Mr. Pearce has not yet been available for comment.

Council Democratic Party leader Ian Davidson claimed Mr. Pearce authorized payment for the spies and informers, saying he possessed signed documents to prove it.

Alienated

The DP will demand the suspension of both Mr. Pearce and Mr. Venter at Tuesday's monthly council meeting pending investigations into their involvement.

Said Mr. Davidson: "These documents indicate where the spies are operating, what organisations they belong to, whom they have infiltrated and what form of payment is required for information.

"He must have been aware the security department was exceeding its authority. Its duty is to protect council property, and organisations like the Black Sash, the PPC Youth and other minority movements, so they are not present a threat.

"Mr. Davidson said Mr. Venter and Mr. Pearce had alienated other councillors, the council's workforce and official trade unions. Every councillor must wonder whether, in or out."
Daveytown calls on Boya to quit

The Daveyton Civic Association yesterday challenged the local mayor and president of the United Municipalities of South Africa, Mr Tom Boya, to resign immediately.

The civic association was responding to a statement made by Boya last week that black local authorities should be disbanded as they were financially not viable and that single non-racial councils be formed to replace them.

"In the light of the coming negotiations between the recently unbanned ANC, the entire apartheid system will have to be dismantled and so will be its structures like the Black Local Authorities," he said.

Motswege said Boya should heed the historical march on February 28 which called for all councillors to resign and join the oppressed masses against apartheid.

"In response Boya said yesterday he had no problem with resigning. But what will it help if only one man resigns. The problem with the people of Daveyton is that no one is prepared to talk to another."
Flat-rate billing for Soweto starts soon

THE Soweto City Council is to implement promulgated flat-rate electricity and service charges and to start billing residents from the end of April. 5/10a, 26/3/90

But the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) says the move is unacceptable to the people of Soweto.

Soweto town clerk Piet Geers said at the weekend that the flat rates, averaging R50 for electricity and R22.50 for services, were promulgated in January.

Soweto has been in the grip of a rent and rate boycott since 1986 and is said to be owing the Transvaal Provincial Administration R464,6m in bridging finance.

"The flat rate is only a temporary measure to phase in payment, and is lower than the normal usage rate. New tariffs are coming," Geers said.

An SPD spokesman said the organisation would be holding discussions with the TPA soon. He said people could not be called on to pay charges without meters being read.

Geers said the Development Bank of Southern Africa was serving as a facilitator between the council and the SPD.
Pearce has nothing to say

Johannesburg's chief of security, Mr John Pearce, yesterday, refused to comment on the city council's spy scandal.

"No comment," is all Mr Pearce would say to any questions about the matter.

Mr Pearce, who is in charge of the council's Public Safety Department, returned to South Africa at the weekend after a trip overseas. He referred inquiries to town clerk Mr Malie Venter — Crime Reporter.
Council snipers ‘sent to stop Stander raid’

By Steve McQuillan

and Kitt Katzin

The first tell-tale signs that Johannesburg City Council’s intelligence unit had links with the police came during the dramatic 1984 escapades of bank robber Andre Stander, the former SAP captain shot dead in Fort Lauderdale, US.

While Stander and his gang were on the rampage in Johannesburg, the newly created intelligence section was tipped off by police that Stander was expected to hold up the municipal vehicle licensing office in the city.

SHARPSHOOTERS

A police SOS went out to the council’s security department to help stop the raid.

The council had just established a task force unit, and associated with it was a team of sharpshooters.

The police did not have a sniper team of the same high standard and apparently asked for the council unit to be made available.

“That was the first time I realised that the new intelligence unit had links with the police,” a member of the sniper team at the time told The Star.

Equipped with Remington 700 bolt-action rifles and night scopes, the sniper group was deployed on rooftops around the licensing office. It was called Operation Lafrass.

“I remember clearly that these guys were not interested in an arrest,” said the sniper group member. “We waited with our sniper rifles to take him out.”

Each member of the team carried a blow-up picture of Stander. But Stander never made his move.

The sniper group, whose members included a former member of the French Foreign Legion, had been trained by the council for high-level guard duties, including the protection of VIPs.
Earlier this year, Brigadier Mostert said he believed the military’s Civil Co-operation Bureau was responsible for Dr Webster’s killing.

**Pearce has nothing to say**

Johannesburg’s chief of security, Mr John Pearce, yesterday refused to comment on the city council’s spy scandal.

“No comment,” is all Mr Pearce would say to any questions about the matter.

Mr Pearce, who is in charge of the council’s Public Safety Department, returned to South Africa at the weekend after a trip overseas. He referred inquiries to town clerk Mr Manie Venter. — Crime Reporter.
Leandra councillors quit

THE Leandra town council in the eastern Transvaal has collapsed after five of the six councillors resigned this week, writes ALI MFIABI.

A Transvaal Provincial Administration official in Witbank, Mr Wessel van As, confirmed this.

Van As added that an administrator might soon be appointed to run the predominantly shanty town.

The five who resigned are mayor Mr Johannes Tugwana, Mr Zakhele Mahayisa, Mr Johannes Mthembu, Mr DP Mahlangu and Mr Job Vilaazi.

Leandra Civic Association secretary Mr Mtsewana Nkabinde said the people of Leandra no longer wanted a council in the area and insisted that the councillors resign.

Nkabinde said a residents' delegation had asked to meet the TPA to discuss residents' demands.

The demands include:
- The appointment of an administrator in Leandra;
- Building of low-cost houses; and
- A breakdown of the R6.8 million which the Development Board gave the Leandra Council in 1983.
DP in bid to take over Joburg council

JOHANNESBURG — The Democratic Party is to hand in a motion of no-confidence in the NP-controlled management committee today.

DP leader Mr Ian Davidson said the council under the NP had staggered from scandal to scandal and it was time for the NP to go.

The town clerk, Mr Manie Venter, will have three weeks in which to convene a special meeting where the vote will be cast.

The DP is confident it will have the support of the four independent councillors. In the light of the spy scandal which has rocked the council the past week, it would be unlikely the CP councillors will support the NP, sources said.

With this support, the DP has the power to overthrow the NP-controlled management committee and replace it with a DP-led coalition containing some independent councillors, Mr Davidson said.

The DP will also submit an urgent motion today asking for the suspension of Mr Venter and the public safety director, Mr John Pearce, who are alleged to be key players in the scandal.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration's executive committee is to consider a request by the management committee for a judicial inquiry into alleged council spy activities.

The committee has asked the auditor-general to examine the security budget which financed the alleged activities.

The committee chairman, Mr Jan Burger, said Mr Venter would not be suspended and the reports on organisations could be made public as soon as the inquiry was over.
Council asks for judicial inquiry into spy network

By Louise Burgers, Municipal Reporter

The Johannesburg City Council management committee has decided to ask the Administrator of the Transvaal to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry into the controversial spy network.

At an urgent meeting yesterday, a proposal by the only independent on the National Party-controlled management committee, Mr Eddy Magid, that a judicial commission be appointed was accepted unanimously by the committee.

The meeting was also attended by security chief Mr John Pearce, town clerk Mr Nostin Venter, the leader of the Democratic Party in the council, Mr Jan Davidson, the leader of the Conservative Party in the council, Mr Jacques Theron, independent councillor Professor Harold Rudolph, and department heads.

Mr Pearce, identified as one of the spy masters, refused to comment on his involvement in the so-called council information network. "I have absolutely no comment whatsoever," he said.

Earlier, the three opposition councillors invited to listen to Mr Venter's report on the whole affair were asked to leave while the management committee debated the issue further.

They all expressed surprise at having been invited to attend as "nothing new" had been brought to their attention.

"INTERESTING INFORMATION"

Mr Davidson said: "Very little new information came to light. We're not sure why we were invited in the first place. All it was was a regurgitation of what he (Mr Venter) had said to the newspapers last week.

"I did ask the director of traffic and security, now director of public safety (Mr John Pearce), whether spying on the End Conscription Campaign and the Five Freedoms Forum was legitimate. His reply to me was that they had 'got some interesting information' from the two organisations."

Mr Davidson said he would reserve further comments for the council meeting tomorrow.

"I'm still waiting for a tour of The Fort," Mr Theron said, referring to the headquarters of the spy ring.

The chairman of the management committee, Mr Jan Burger, said once the commission of inquiry was completed, a decision would be made on what to do with the dossiers collected on various political organisations and prominent people.

Mr Burger said there was no question of suspending Mr Venter. "At the moment we just want to get the inquiry over as soon as possible."

The Minister of Local Government, Mr Amie Venter, last week asked Transvaal MEC Mr Olaus van Zyl to investigate the spy scandal.
DP seeks vote of no confidence in leaders

The Democratic Party will table a motion of no confidence in the Johannesburg City Council management committee at today's council meeting. The DP caucus decided last night to petition the town clerk today to call a special meeting to discuss a motion of no confidence in the National Party-controlled committee.

The DP leader in the council, Mr Ian Davidson, said the party had had enough of the present city administration's management.

The Star's revelations of a spy network operating within the council had brought matters to a head.

Heated debate is expected at today's meeting as the DP will also call for the suspension of three senior officials involved in the city hall spy scandal: the director of public safety, Mr John Pearce, the town clerk Mr Mauve Venter, and the operations manager, Mr Frikkie Barnard.
R194m owed for electricity arrears

MIKE ROBERTSON

CAPE TOWN — Electricity arrears totalling R194m were owed by Soweto and Mamelodi residents at the beginning of the year, Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel said yesterday.

Kriel said in reply to a question from Louis Stofberg (CP Sasolburg) that the arrears in Mamelodi amounted to R3,4m. In Soweto the arrears amounted to R190,7m.

The minister said Mamelodi residents had been given 30 days notice to pay their overdue accounts. Those who remained in default were handed over to the council’s attorneys.

The Soweto City Council had been ordered to take steps, within three months, to discontinue electricity supplies and then to take legal steps if consumers failed to pay.

In the case of Mamelodi, there was no intention of writing off the amount owing.

The Soweto Council had been instructed to read all electricity and water meters by February 28 and submit proposals, with full reasons, for the writing off of arrears before the end of September.

It had also been instructed to reconcile the amounts owing before the end of August. The amounts are in respect of arrears consumption for each consumer up to the date of applicability of its new tariff by-laws.
THE Johannesburg Civic Centre became a hive of conflict yesterday as councillors threw insults at each other and picketers protested against the recently exposed city council spy ring.

About 30 members of the Black Sash gathered outside the building at 1pm to greet councillors arriving for the council meeting with placards reading: "We didn't elect you to spy on us," "Rates are for roads, not for spying!" and "Venter must resign."

Some councillors drove past expressionless, while others shouted out their support for the picket.

Inside the council chamber, two members of Idasa unfurled posters reading "What are you afraid of?"

They were immediately ushered out of the chamber by security officials, but an argument ensued outside over whether they could remain in the chamber without the posters. The two were let back in.

Minutes later, another argument arose between a Black Sash member and security officials over whether the group of women could come into the chamber. They were also allowed in after giving assurance they would behave in an "orderly" manner.

Representatives of the Five Freedoms Forum distributed an open letter among the media in the chamber, reading: "We, the Five Freedoms Forum express our strongest disapproval and anger at the City Council's secret investigations into our affairs."

"We demand a full explanation of why ratepayers' money was misused in this way and why we were singled out for investigation," the letter read.
Judicial probe as spy storm erupts

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — Amid a storm of insults and protests, a judicial commission of inquiry has been appointed into the Johannesburg City Council spy scandal, while the State President has been called on to appoint a second, more intensive, probe.

And at a heated monthly council meeting last night the ruling National Party beat off a Democratic Party motion to have leading officials in the spy drama suspended.

The NP, which opposed the motion on the grounds that it would pre-judge the officials concerned, won the vote with the help of two Conservative Party councillors and independent Mr Eddy Magid.

Before the final voting, councillors traded insults and enraged ratepayers in the public gallery joined in the row. Councillors arriving at council chambers were greeted by picketers.

"Rates are for clinics, not for spying," was among the banners paraded outside the chambers yesterday following the revelations by The Star, sister newspaper of The Argus, of a municipal spy ring funded by ratepayers.

Individuals and organisations, including slain Wits academic Dr David Webster, were spied on by the municipality.

As the stormy council meeting went ahead, with two protesters being escorted out of the chamber's public gallery for holding aloft posters decrying the City Hall spies, an announcement was made in Pretoria appointing a judge to head a commission of inquiry into the spy ring.

Three probes

The Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Dane Hough, appointed Mr Justice V G Hiemstra to look into The Star's revelations.

Mr Hough said Mr Justice Hiemstra, 75, had been appointed to head the commission to conduct comprehensive investigations into and report to him on, "alleged irregularities by the City Council of Johannesburg, its departments and officials as reported recently in the media."

His decision follows a request to the Transvaal Provincial Administration, made in parliament by the Minister of Local Government, Mr Amie Venter, that "urgent and priority attention" be given to the matter.

But last night the council voted to ask President F W de Klerk to appoint another judicial commission of inquiry.

Councillors said such a probe would have wider powers than the Hiemstra Commission appointed by the TPA.

And today a senior official from the Auditor-General's office was due to start investigating the financial affairs of the city council's spy-ring.

This means there could soon be three separate commissions of inquiry investigating the scandal.

In the firing line at last night's meeting were Town Clerk Manie Venter, public safety director Mr John Pearce and security officer Mr Frikkie Barnard.

The Democratic Party tabled a motion of no-confidence in the management committee.

The Town Clerk has 21 days in which to call a special council meeting for the issue to be debated. The political parties in the council are expected to begin frantic lobbying for support in the days leading up to the meeting.
Police ask accused official to leave

'I have nothing to hide' - suspended town clerk

by Monica Nicolson

"I am not a criminal and have nothing to hide," says suspended Midrand Town clerk Mr Philip Botha

Mr Botha is presently facing a commission of inquiry into alleged irregular activities during his service with the council. He was suspended without pay at the end of last year until the commission made its recommendations, but had his pay reinstated last week when he began industrial court action against the municipality.

In an interview with The Star, he said: "I will participate fully with the inquiry into alleged illegal actions by myself and other officials as I have done nothing wrong.'

Mr Botha has been accused of:
- Allegedly receiving half the profits from a developer, Mr Anton Lourens, who did work for the council. Mr Lourens, a close friend of Mr Botha's, was contracted to build a taxi rank and gave Mr Botha R43 000. Mr Botha said the money had been a loan.
- Allegedly buying a house in Port Alfred using his housing subsidy and living in his Midrand home rent free.
- Making investments of more than R1 million using council funds and sharing the profits with a friend.
- Offering management of the municipality's canteen to council official Mr Henry Hughes and his wife, Roleen, but demanding 50 percent of the profits.
- Over-spending on his department's budget without the council's permission or approval.
- Arranging for the council to pay R12 780 for car repairs.
- Allegedly writing two controversial reports recommending to the management committee he be exempt from paying rent for his house, and that the council stand collateral security for his house in Port Alfred.

In his interview with The Star, Mr Botha claimed that such an inquiry was unfair and one-sided as anyone could give evidence, true or false, and that he had no way of defending himself.

"It's a case of being found guilty until I manage to prove myself innocent, but I am not even given that chance," Mr Botha said.

"Someone is going to have to be the scapegoat to justify all the expense and upheaval, and it looks like they want it to be me," he said.
City Spy Scandal

Judge Will Probe

Councilman Under Fire in Insurs scandal
Dr David Webster, were spied on by the municipality.

**Escorted out**

As the stormy council meeting went ahead, with two protesters being escorted out of the chamber’s public gallery for holding aloft posters decrying the city hall, an announcement was made in Pretoria appointing a judge to head a commission of inquiry into the spy ring.

The Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Danie Hough, appointed Mr Justice YG Hienstra to look into the Star’s revelations.

Mr Hough and Mr Justice Hienstra (76) had been appointed to head the commission to conduct comprehensive investigations into, and report to him on, “alleged irregularities by the City Council of Johannesburg, its departments and officials as reported recently in the media.”

His decision follows a request to the Transvaal Provincial Administration, made in Parliament by the Minister of Local Government, Mr Amie Venter, that “urgent and priority attention” be given to the matter.

Mr Hough said the terms of reference had been formulated in such a way that the commission would be able to investigate all aspects of the alleged irregularities within or outside of the council and, if any irregularities occurred, in order to make a finding.

But last night the council voted to ask President de Klerk, to appoint another judicial commission of inquiry.

And today a senior official from the Auditor-General’s office was due to start investigating the financial affairs of the City Council’s spy ring.

The Auditor-General, Mr Peter Wronsley, said in Pretoria yesterday that Mr Chris Oosthuizen, the chief auditor in Johannesburg, had been briefed to investigate charges of improper payments relating to the financial affairs of the council’s security department.

**Firing line**

Details of payments for spies were made in The Star’s expose.

The council’s ruling National Party yesterday beat off a Democratic Party bid to have leading officials in the spy ring suspended.

The council’s debate on the spy ring was heated and the mayor had to call for order on several occasions.

In the firing line were town clerk Mr Amie Venter, public safety director Mr John Pearce and security officer Mr Frikke Barnard.

The National Party, which opposed the motion, on the grounds that it would pre-judge the officials concerned, won the vote with the help of two Conservative Party councillors and independent Mr Eddy Magid.

The NP was accused of telling lies when several speakers in the party, according to the DP, failed to address the allegations in the motion.

“Cover-up, cover-up,” was the cry directed at the Nat benches.

Following the press conference, The Star revealed where town clerk Mr Venter had been wrong in a number of his statements on the spy ring.

At yesterday’s council meeting the DP tabled a motion of noconfidence in the management committee.

The town clerk has 21 days in which to call a special council meeting for the issue to be debated. The political parties in the council are expected to begin frantic lobbying for support in the days leading up to the meeting.
Insults and pickets for councillors

By Helen Granger

The Johannesburg Civic Centre became a hive of conflict yesterday as councillors insulted each other, and pickets protested against the recently exposed city council spy ring.

About 30 members of the Black Sash gathered outside the building at 1 pm to greet councillors arriving for the council meeting with placards reading, "We didn't elect you to spy on us!", "Rates are for roads, not for spying!", and "Venter must resign."

Inside the council chamber, two members of Idasa unfurled posters reading, "What are you afraid of?"

They were immediately ushered out of the chamber by security officials, but an argument ensued outside over whether they could remain in the chamber without the posters. The two were let back in.

Another argument arose between a Black Sash member and security officials over whether the women could come into the chamber. They were allowed in after giving an assurance that they would behave in an orderly manner.

Representatives of the Five Freedoms Forum distributed an open letter which read, "We, the Five Freedoms Forum, express our strongest disapproval and anger at the City Council's secret investigations into our affairs. We demand a full explanation of why ratepayers' money was misused in this way, and why we were singled out for investigation."

The atmosphere in the council was tense as the debate over the possible suspension of council officials turned into an exchange of insults between councillors. The mayor, Mr. Willie van Rensburg called in order, several times.
THE Johannesburg City Council's controversial overseas guest programme, which costs ratepayers more than R1.2m a year, will no longer foot the bill for guest's trips outside Johannesburg, which cost more than R300 000 last year. (266)

In a written reply to questions by DP councillor Claire Quall on Tuesday night, management committee chairman Jan Burger said the benefit of the programme to Johannesburg was its promotion as the major mining, commercial, banking and industrial city in southern Africa.

However, the 45 foreign guests that visited SA from March 1989 to March 1990 spent half of their stays outside the city. From January 1989 to January 1990, the council spent R760 000 on international airfares, R88 000 on internal airfares and helicopters, R37 000 on car hire, R130 000 on hotel accommodation in Johannesburg and R199 000 on accommodation outside Johannesburg.

Quall said yesterday some of the guests could not possibly benefit the city.
Insults and pickets for councillors

By Helen Granger

The Johannesburg Civic Centre became a hive of conflict yesterday as councillors insulted each other and pickets protested against the recently exposed city council spying.

About 30 members of the Black Sash gathered outside the building at 1 pm to greet councillors arriving for the council meeting with placards reading "We didn't elect you to spy on us," "Rates are for roads, not for spying," and "Councillors must resign!"

Inside the council chamber, two members of the Civic Centre unfurled posters reading "What are you afraid of?" They were immediately ushered out of the chamber by security officials, but an argument ensued outside over whether they could remain in the chamber without the posters. The two were let back in.

Another argument arose between a Black Sash member and security officials over whether the woman could come into the chamber. They were allowed in after giving an assurance that they would behave in an orderly manner.

Representatives of the Five Freedoms Forum distributed an open letter which read:

"We, the Five Freedoms Forum express our strongest disapproval and anger at the City Council's secret investigations into our affairs. We demand a full explanation of why ratepayers' money was misspent in this way and why we were singled out for investigation!"

The atmosphere in the council was tense as the debate over the possible suspension of council officials turned into a exchange of insults between councillors. The mayor, Mr. White, called for order several times.
The Black Sash is an organisation born 35 years ago out of protest against the Government’s destructive and retrogressive constitutional engineering — the removal of the coloured people from the common voters’ roll.

Those Black Sash pioneers were well aware of how this de-democratising process would pave the way for the Nationalist regime to enforce an ideology repugnant to more than 90 percent of its citizens.

The Nationalists’ reign of racial oppression has continued almost unabated for more than 40 years and, while recognising and commending the important changes President F W de Klerk has introduced and the process of negotiation upon which he has embarked, South Africans perhaps need to be reminded of his party’s dismal track record.

Spying allegations

We welcome the decision to investigate the Johannesburg City Council spy allegations and though obviously pleased with it and other investigations which are exposing the manner in which South African citizens’ lives were being monitored by secret bureaux and the like, we are amazed at the manner in which all those in Government and many of its supporters are feigning surprise and disbelief at the existence of such organisations and activities.

It was not surprising for the Black Sash to discover that it was being monitored by the Johannesburg City Council. It, and many other organisations, were well aware of the State Security System which ran parallel to all forms of Government for many years. This system, which Mr de Klerk last year ordered to be dismantled, was structured to ensure spying could be done on all levels.

Consisting of about 20 tiers, there was one tier which defined its area of operation as that of the local municipality. Apart from paid informers, we have no doubt there were others who were encouraged to spy in “the interests of State security”.

Close examination of the method of operation of the State Security System reveals it would seem to have relied on co-opting civilians into structures such as Joint Management Centres, Local Management Centres and Community Liaison Forums.

Sowing seeds of hatred and distrust through propaganda at all levels, wives of Johannesburg City Councillors were invited to a security briefing at which a policewoman lectured and videos of township violence were screened, for example) the then militarised State encouraged and possibly we suspect applauded the actions of individuals who would do their dirty work for them.

In fact, the whole State Security System smacked of McCarthyism at its worst.

In November 1987 the then PFP Councillor Mr Tony Leon attempted to get the National Security Management System debated in the Johannesburg council. The debate was refused on grounds that security was a highly secretive issue.

Mr Leon, however, did not accept this and sought legal opinion on the matter.

Race superiority

Finally, after a long battle, a debate did take place in April 1988. Not much more was revealed and the council’s answer to Mr Leon’s protestations to the system were counteracted with the argument that it was an alternative to Marxism.

Mr Leon says the opposition knew the budget for security was huge, but could not get access to the breakdown.

A minority regime intent on preserving the superiority of one race above all others could not and cannot contribute to an open and free society. The reporting of contraventions of the Group Areas Act is an excellent example of how this State is not only encouraging the spying on and reporting of neighbours but actually endorsing it.

Once again we in the Black Sash applaud different moves President de Klerk’s Government are initiating in the interests of a demilitarised and open society.

However, if we sound a little cynical, it is because we remember it is these very same people who are wringing their hands in horror right now and calling for inquiries left right and centre, who implemented National Party policy for 40 years and collaborated on every level to maintain the status quo.

Their supporters generally must also carry some of this collective responsibility.
Suspended town clerk insists he has ‘nothing to hide’

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A suspended town clerk says he has nothing to hide in connection with alleged irregular activities during his service with the Midrand council.

Mr Philip Botha faces a commission of inquiry into alleged irregular activities during his service with the council of the rapidly growing town between Pretoria and Johannesburg.

He was suspended without pay at the end of last year until the commission made its recommendations, but had his pay restored last week when he began industrial court action against the municipality.

**Half the profits**

I will co-operate fully with the inquiry into alleged illegal actions by myself and other officials I have done nothing wrong, he said.

Mr Botha allegedly received half the profits from a developer, Mr Anton Lourens, who did work for the council.

Mr Lourens, a close friend of Mr Botha, was contracted to build a taxi rank and gave Mr Botha R45 000. Mr Botha said the money had been a loan.

Mr Botha also allegedly bought a house in Port Alfred using his hooning subsidy and lived in his Midrand home rent-free.

He also allegedly invested more than R1-million using council funds and shared the profits with a friend.

I offered management of the municipality’s canals to council official Mr Henry Hughes and his wife, Roleen, but demanded 50 percent of the profits.

Overspent on his department’s budget without the council’s permission or approval and had office equipment installed in his home at ratepayers’ expense.

Arranged for the council to pay R12 780 for car repairs, and

Wrote two controversial reports recommending the management committee be exempt from paying rent for his house, and that the council stand collateral security for his house in Port Alfred.

**“Unfair”**

Mr Botha claimed that the inquiry was unfair and one-sided as anyone could give evidence, true or false, and that he had no way of defending himself.

It’s a case of being found guilty until I manage to prove myself innocent, but I am not even given that chance, he said.

Mr Botha joined the Midrand Town Council in September 1981 and was appointed town clerk six years ago.

When I started here, Midrand was a rural village and there were only 12 officials. Now it’s a burgeoning industrial area with over 600 officials.

Building Midrand up was a major task and I am proud of the work I have done here.

I am going to resign as soon as possible from my position, but I will continue living here.

Mr Botha said the whole ordeal had been a terrible, terrible nightmare.

Mr Botha denied all allegations against him, saying he had been set-up and victimised by his enemies who had plotted my downfall and ruined my career.

I served this council to the best of my ability for nearly a decade, so why is all this only coming up now? asked Mr Botha.
Unpopular black town councillors in townships throughout the country are on the run again. As marches and attacks on community council premises continued this week, many councillors, mindful of the turbulence of 1985 and 1986 when several of their colleagues were killed and most had to leave the townships, resigned.

So far 30 have quit in the Transvaal, leaving five councils unable to function. In several of smaller towns in the Transvaal and Free State sources report that councillors are openly shifting their loyalty from the government structure to the ANC. The protests started in January when more than 50,000 residents of Alexandra township marched to the offices of the town council and demanded that the councillors resign.

Waiting list
Housing is a serious problem in Alexandra where more than 60,000 people are on the waiting list. In recent weeks similar marches have taken place at Flora near Durban, Vosloorus (where 50,000 residents called for the resignation of councillors) and 10,000 at Soweto yesterday.

The protests followed by marches in Tembisa and a march by 10,000 people in Soweto last Saturday.

The Soweto march ended in chaos when the police blocked the march. At least 16 people were treated at Baragwanath Hospital.

The protesters demanded the scrapping of the Group Areas Act, the creation of a single tax base, a local authority for Johannesburg and Soweto and a solution to the housing crisis.

Residents accused community councillors of "failing to deliver what they had promised".

A delegation handed a petition to Soweto's "mayor", Mr Sam Mhikwamu.
PO tariffs going up

Tariffs for certain Post Office services will go up from Sunday, the Department of Posts and Telecommunications said in Pretoria yesterday.

The postage on a standardised letter will rise from 18c to 21c. Postage on a surface mail parcel of 1 kg will rise from R1.50 to R2.10 and on a 1 kg surface mail parcel from R2.50 to R2.75.

The handling fee for a telegram will go up from R3.50 to R4 and the per-word tariff from 13c to 15c. Phone rentals for automatic exchange connections will rise to R21. — Sapa
Vlok, councillors' indaba on security

THE Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adrian Vlok, met black community councillors in Pretoria last night to discuss the rapidly worsening predicament of black local authorities.

Pope's milk is popular

ROME - The Pope has scored another "first" - this time as a top milk-producer.

Hundreds of housewives are queuing up every morning to buy the delicious and creamy milk from John Paul's estate just outside Rome.

United Municipalities of SA, felt they had been elected democratically by the people and had to be helped to fulfill their functions as councillors, Van Zyl added.

Pressure

He said councillors were under tremendous pressure, and cited the examples of the KwaBukwa mayor's car and house which were burnt out, and the gutting of another councillor's house near Orkney.

Van Zyl asked the Press to leave so that councillors did not "feel inhibited" when they talked to Vlok about their problems.

Vlok told the councillors he understood their fears about the security situation and promised he would listen to them.

The councillors were his colleagues at a different level of government.

The importance of local government members lay in them being the representatives of "thousands of millions of people".

While people were experiencing difficult, even dangerous, times, he admired the councillors for withstanding tremendous pressure for several years.

"You were prepared to stand up against these radicals, you withstood the pressure against you," he said.

Break for workers

WORKERS at Transvaal provincial hospitals will from Sunday have their work week cut from 44 to 40 hours, Mr F van Niekerk, chairman of the Transvaal Executive Committee of the Hospital Personnel Association of SA said in a statement yesterday.

He said the decision followed a meeting with the Minister for Administration and Co-ordination, Mr WJ de Villiers. - Sapa
Ragepayers paid for officials' home security

EARLY WARNINGS
Council paid for officials' security

JOHANNESBURG – Ratepayers have paid hundreds of thousands of rand to keep a few select city council officials secure in their homes. Confidential security minutes obtained by Business Day this week show that certain officials and councillors were given shotguns, pistols, closed-circuit television and remote-control garages to safeguard their properties.

"This is just another example of the senior management of the city having their snouts in the trough," said DP leader Mr Jan Davidson.

Expenditure on home security for six management-committee members, Mr Dave Malan, Mr Cecil Long, Mr Henne Schoeman, Mr François Oberholzer, Mr Jan Burger and Mr Dave van Zyl, was estimated at more than R$4 000.
City Council votes to go 'trilingual with' Xhosa

By DON HOLLIDAY
Municipal Reporter 30/3/90

CAPE Town City Council has voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion to consider producing documents, inscriptions and publications intended for public communication in Xhosa as well as in English and Afrikaans.

Mr Arthur Wiembros, who proposed the motion yesterday, said there was a growing need to communicate effectively with all the language groups and that Xhosa was the predominant black language in the Cape Town area.

He said it was not necessary to go to the lengths of translating documents such as council meeting agendas into Xhosa, but that public notices and signboards, for example, should be in Xhosa as well as the two official languages.

Mrs Isobel Edelsten made a speech in Xhosa in support of the motion.

Dick Friedlander said several departments of the council, such as the health, electricity and city treasurer's departments, already translated notices into Xhosa when necessary. A full-time translator was employed for this purpose.

It was wrong to suggest the council was insensitive to the need for effective communication to all language groups, he said.

More City Council reports, page 5
Beyond city hall

The Johannesburg City Council spy scandal is being taken seriously. A commission of inquiry, chaired by Justice V G Hiemstra, has been appointed by Transvaal Administrator Dame Hough to investigate alleged spying by the city's security department.

Trade unions, students, black businessmen and at least one white lawyer have been implicated as informers. The Star's investigators allege that hundreds of thousands of rands were spent over seven years on covert activities authorized by high-ranking officials, including town clerk Male Venter and chief director of public safety John Pearce.

DP councillors smell blood. At Tuesday's council meeting, taking place as the FM went to press, the DP planned to table a motion of no confidence in the NP-controlled management committee. The DP was also attempting to get Venter and Pearce suspended.

Major questions: Who in the military and police had access to the spets' information, what did they do with it?

Ratepayers also want to know why city officials were spending their money on espionage.

Opening up

☐ At least half the 22 NP councillors are in favour of desegregating Johannesburg completely, according to a Radio 702 poll. A survey found that 11 support an open city, four are against it, six refuse to comment and one could not be contacted. Also on the council are 20 DP, four CP and four Independent members.

The implication is that a clear majority favours a nonracial Johannesburg.
Urban councils want stiffer penalties for corruption

PRETORIA — The Urban Councils Association of the Transvaal (UCAT) has asked the provincial executive committee to persuade government to amend the black Local Authorities Act to provide stiffer penalties for councillors or officials convicted of corruption.

UCAT chairman A P Khumalo said the penalties asked for were a maximum of five years' imprisonment or fines of up to R10 000.

The association has also asked for staff penalties, including disqualification, for councillors who exceed their authority and interfere with the work of the officials, leading to maladministration.

The large majority of officials and councillors, he stressed, were honest and should not be allowed to be detrimentally affected by a few dishonest people.
Provincial rule over townships scrapped

By VUSI GŪNEŠ

DEVELOPMENT Aid Minister Stoffel van der Merwe has backtracked on the decision to place the townships of Soshanguve near Pretoria and Lehlabole near Brits under the control of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

His department said that the move, which had been due to take effect on February 15, had been postponed indefinitely, pending consultation with the communities.

It was previously decided, in 1988, that these areas would be incorporated into Bophuthatswana, but this decision was also shelved after prolonged protests.

Since the formation of the United Democratic Front's campaign against the Black Local Authorities Act in 1983, Soshanguve residents have refused to allow community councils to be established in the township.

A march by more than 40 000 Soshanguve residents planned for Wednesday was cancelled after the eleventh-hour decision.

Residents had also resolved to march to the magistrate's office on Wednesday after they had called for a stayaway.

On Tuesday afternoon, the minister informed the leadership of the Soshanguve Residents Association (Sorea) of the reversal of the decision.

A mass meeting, which would have been the starting-point of the march, was still held on Wednesday.

The publicity secretary of Sorea, Dan Marule, described the decision of the minister as a victory for the residents of Soshanguve.

"Our victory is in line with the mood of all-communities across the country to get rid of community councils and the whole structure of the Black Local Authorities.

"It is also as a result of pressure that the minister realised that forcing the incorporation of the township under TPA would not be in line with FW de Klerk's much-talked-of question of negotiations.

"We are calling for one administration for one city. Let the taxes we pay in Pretoria also serve the interest of the people in the townships.

"We also demand a democratically elected, one city municipal administration chosen by the people and for the people," said Marule.

On the morning of the planned march several marshals gathered at the local Roman Catholic Church were arrested by white riot policemen, who allegedly assaulted them.

Community leaders intervened and after protracted talks with senior police officers, the marshals were released without being charged.

Bophuthatswana security forces fired teargases at residents of Mabopane and Winterveldt after they had attended the meeting at the Shoshanguve stadium.

A confrontation nearly broke out as hundreds of residents returning to the homeland toys-toyied on a bridge serving as a border between the homeland and Soshanguve, which is not part of the homeland.

No taxis, buses or businesses operated in the township for most of the day, as thousands of residents heeded the call for a stayaway.

Opening the meeting at the local stadium, Dr Abe Nkomo, who spoke on behalf of the African National Congress, told the crowd to exercise "maximum discipline and vigilance".
Boksburg loses its case

A SUPREME COURT decision yesterday signalled what could be the end of the road for the Separate Amenities Act.

The Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday set aside the decision of the Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg town council to reserve the town's lake and tennis courts for whites only.

Mr Justice SW McCreadth said the council decision was grossly unreasonable and the only conclusion that could be drawn was the decision to reintroduce petty apartheid had been taken mainly for political reasons.

He said the majority of the town council members supported an existing political philosophy and wanted to express it without considering whether it would be in the interests of all the residents.

The judge said the council had clearly not considered other measures to relieve congestion at the lake and the existing rights of a large number of people, including whites, had been affected.

A local authority had to exercise its powers in the interests of its residents of the municipal area as a whole and should not act unreasonably that its decision proved to be in bad faith, he said.

He added that the council should have foreseen that members of races excluded from the facilities would feel offended.

The application was brought by former chairman of the Reiger Party management committee, Buchanan.

Boksburg appeal over-ruled

Jantjes, the Boksburg-based Colgate Palmolive company, and Boksburg businessman Roy Mountjoy. The decision was hailed by Brian Currin, national director of Lawyers for Human Rights.

He said it signalled, for all practical purposes, the end of the road for the reservation of Separate Amenities Act.
Spy network probe starts on April 11

By Louise Burger

The commission of inquiry investigating the spy network in the Johannesburg City Council will begin hearing evidence on April 11 at the civic centre.

This week the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Danie Hough, appointed Mr Justice V G Hiestra (75) to look into The Star’s revelations of the clandestine organisation within the city’s security department.

Advocates Mr D M Fine, SC, and Mr W I Weener will be leading evidence before Mr Justice Hiestra. The judge will act as chairman and will be assisted by Mr Willem van den Berg, a former Brakpan town council treasurer.

The secretary of the commission, Mr Francois Malherbe, said yesterday that a “handful” of people had already come forward to give evidence. Lists were also being compiled of people who would be subpoenaed to testify before the commission.

“The terms of reference of the commission are to inquire into the validity and justification of alleged irregularities in connection with certain security matters in the security department of the city council, as exposed in the press, and to further investigate the question whether any violation of any ordinance, regulation or other Act in regard to the safeguarding of the council’s information in connection with security matters have occurred,” Mr Malherbe said.

Several city council officials implicated in the affair are expected to be called. The director of public safety, Mr John Pearce, and town clerk Mr Marie Venter have indicated they are prepared to give evidence.

The chairman of the management committee, Mr Jan Burger, said the council would “co-operate fully” with the commission. Mr Burger has denied any knowledge of the spy ring.

The Auditor-General is conducting a separate investigation into the funding of the spy network within the council security department.

Those wishing to testify before the Hiestra Commission have been asked to contact Mr Malherbe at (011) 472-1400 extension 323, or by writing to Private Bag X30, Roodepoort 1725.

Mr Hough’s decision follows a request, made in Parliament, by the Minister of Local Government, Mr Amie Venter, to the TPA.
NP loses another city councillor

By Louise Burgers, Municipal Reporter

Deep divisions within the Johannesburg National Party have resulted in the resignation of yet another of its city councillors, giving the Democratic Party the edge in the fight for control of the city.

Mrs Desiree Simpson, councillor for Joubert Park, will go it alone as an independent, joining Mr Howard Bloomberg and Mr Mike Levin who left the NP three weeks ago.

The DP tabled a motion of no-confidence in the management committee this week following The Star's revelations of a spy scandal involving council staff.

The motion will be debated and voted on at a special council meeting in the next two weeks.

"Mrs Simpson said "The Johannesburg City Council in my view spending too much time on matters of a political nature instead of issues directly affecting the lives of the residents."

"It is my express view that the city should be administered on non-party lines, and I will not form an alliance with any group which would restrict or influence my freedom to vote as I may deem fit."

The Star also learnt that Mr Hein Kruger, NP chief whip in the city council, resigned his position because of tension over certain decisions made by more conservative members of the party.

Mr Kruger, who remains in the NP, is known to favour an open city.

The NP are now down to 21 seats to the DP's 20. The next few weeks will see frantic behind-the-scenes negotiations as both parties lobby the six independents and four CP members. Twenty-four votes are needed to carry the motion of no-confidence in the 51-seat council.
Covalent, spiking targets
Laughter, contempt from
Breathing
Bara debts: 'poor can't pay'

SUE OLSWANG

Pragwanath Hospital and sister health care centres in Soweto He said most of this debt was incurred by indigent people. "Tariffs at provincial hospitals and centres are grossly disproportionate to what they should be," he said. "Indigent people are expected to pay medical fees they could never meet, while others more fortunate pay well below what they can really afford."

The TPA needed to look at its fee structures to avoid heavy unpaid debts, he added.

So says Mr Mike Ellis, the Democratic Party’s parliamentary spokes-
man on health. He was responding to the revelation last week that the TPA had written off R4.1 million owed to...
Council spy inquiry is ready to roll

The commission investigating the spy network in the Johannesburg City Council begins hearing evidence on April 11.

Mr Justice V G Hemenstra has been appointed to look into The Star's revelations of the clandestine organisation.

Any of the public wishing to give evidence should contact commission secretary Mr P Malherbe at (011) 472-1400, Ext 323, or write to Private Bag X30