

PUBLIC SECTOR → REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCILS

1993



SUN WORSHIPPERS: If the bikinis and tangas of Clifton make you feel overdressed, then Sandy Bay is the place to be, in nowt much more than skin, glorious skin! But beware of voyeurs.

BAY OF PLENTY: The Cape is beautiful and Sandy Bay is a part of it, famed for its nudists as much as the beach, the waters and the mountain backdrop.

Rezoning planned but Sandy Bay unaffected

CAPE TOWN — The pristine land above the Sandy Bay nudist beach that belongs to Absa is safe for the present.

But a large piece of land on the Hout Bay side will be subdivided and rezoned for housing if an application by Absa to the regional services council (RSC) is successful

THE beautiful nature area above Sandy Bay will not be affected by a residential development, a spokesman for the developers told WILLEM STEENKAMP.

stretches of indigenous flora can be preserved among the houses

"The housing units will not be visible or encroach in any way on the Sandy Bay side," he emphasised

Once the proposal is advertised, the public and other interested groups will have 21 days to comment and lodge objections

Thereafter the application and the comments on the proposed development will go before the council for approval

Magnate

Hotel magnate Sol Kerzner also owns a section of land between Llandudno and Sandy Bay, but the spokesman for the RSC said that at this stage no application for rezoning or development had been received from Kerzner

ture of the area.

"That is why we have applied for rezoning of the Hout Bay portion of the land only," he said.

"The Hout Bay side is already surrounded by residential property and all essential services are already available in the portion proposed for development

"However, to preserve the ecological integrity of the area, our development plan includes a green fringe or buffer zone for the site where

Surrounded

An RSC spokesman said the proposal would be advertised for comment and objections within three weeks

Pierre Augustyn, managing director of Absa's Property arm, Bankorp Properties, said he was fully aware of the ecologically sensitive na-

Jo'burg set to provide services in Soweto

By Louise Marsland
Local Government Reporter

STON 14/1/93

The Johannesburg City Council will be providing services in Soweto before the end of the month if consensus is reached this week on the structure of the municipality's involvement.

The Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber meets tomorrow to hammer out the final agreement between Johannesburg, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (CWRSC) regarding the administration of Soweto and the provision of and payment for services.

If all went well, the Johannesburg City Council would call a special council meeting early next week to ratify its involvement in Soweto, management committee chairman Ian Davidson said last night.

Last year, Johannesburg agreed in principle to provide administrative advice, technical expertise and provide services and upgrade infrastructure — such as roads, sewerage services and recreational facilities — on an agency basis for the CWRSC.

The CWRSC would pick up the bill.

Priority

Outstanding issues to be negotiated include the rent boycott, Soweto and Diepmeadow's huge debt and the financial responsibility for the two townships.

Davidson said Johannesburg's priority would be to upgrade infrastructure.

"We have always acknowledged that Johannesburg has a historical responsibility to Soweto.

"The structure (of our involvement) was important, and the Soweto and Diepmeadow councillors were a stumbling block."

Davidson emphasised that his council's involvement in Soweto would not cost his ratepayers a cent and would not result in a joint administration or merger with either Soweto or Diepmeadow, as the structures stood now.

Soweto Civic Association general secretary Pat Lephunya last night congratulated the Transvaal Provincial Administration at the monthly chamber meeting for its decision on Soweto, and said it should be a lesson to national negotiators.

"For Soweto residents, it brings us closer to the reality of a single tax base.

"And I hope it will make people, black or white, believe that the negotiation process is working."

NWC plan
legal action
against rates
boycotters

26/11 By JESSICA
BEZUIDENHOUT

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council says it plans legal action against members of the Lotus River, Grassy Park, Ottery ratepayers association (Logra) after the organisation decided this week to continue its five-month-old rates boycott.

Homeowners have withheld payment of rates since an increase was announced in August last year. Since then all rates payable have been deposited into a Logra trust fund which now stands at R300 000. *ST Times*

In a statement this week the RSC said final notices would be sent to defaulters soon. If there was no response, summons would follow. *(Case memo)*

The "normal legal system will then recover the outstanding rates," the statement said. *17/11/93.*

The RSC said it was required by law to collect the rates. Action will be taken in terms of The Divisional Councils Ordinance against homeowners withholding their rates.

The boycott is aimed at forcing the RSC to extend services to the area, to scrap an 8,9 percent rates increase and to recognise Logra as representative of the people instead of the local Management Committee.

At a historic, but "inconclusive" meeting with the RSC last month, Logra also demanded that no legal action be taken against homeowners and that no interest be levied on rates arrears. Logra spokesman Mr Phip Bam said this week.

The due date for the annual payment of rates was September 30 last year.

Mr Bam said rates would be withheld until Logra's demands had been met and any action against boycotters would be resisted.

During the meeting the RSC said the disbandment of the Management Committee and recognition of Logra was a constitutional matter over which it had no jurisdiction.

Logra's demand that all roads and services be upgraded by the end of this year, were "unreasonable and unattainable," it said.

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Vol. 331

PRETORIA, 22 JANUARY 1993
JANUARIE 1993

No. 14533

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

No. 82 **26/1A** **(67)** 22 January 1993

KWAZULU AND NATAL JOINT SERVICES ACT, 1990
(ACT No. 84 OF 1990)

AMENDMENT OF THE MANNER OF PAYMENT OF
REGIONAL SERVICES AND REGIONAL ESTABLISHMENT LEVIES TO JOINT SERVICES BOARDS

I, Derek Lyle Keys, Minister of Finance and of Trade and Industry, under the powers vested in me in section 16 (2) (g) of the KwaZulu and Natal Joint Services Act, 1990 (Act No. 84 of 1990), as amended by the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill, 1992 (Act No. 136 of 1992), approve that the joint services boards in Natal may upon written application by an employer or person and subject to such conditions as the board may determine, allow the employer or person to pay the total amount of levies for which he is liable, within 20 days after the end of every period of a year or such shorter period as the board may determine.

D. L. KEYS,
Minister of Finance and of Trade and Industry.

No. 89 22 January 1993

The Department of Finance announces hereby that transfer documents for registration in respect of the undermentioned Republic of South Africa Internal Registered Stocks must be lodged with the Office of this Department at 301 Abattoir House, 50 Hamilton Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, **not later than 29 January 1993** to qualify for the interest payment on 28 February 1993.

84436—1

GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTEMENT VAN FINANSIES

No. 82 22 Januarie 1993

WET OP GESAMENTLIKE DIENSTE VIR KWAZULU
EN NATAL, 1990 (Wet No. 84 VAN 1990)

WYSIGING VAN WYSE VAN BETALING VAN
STREEKSDIENSTE- EN STREEKVESTIGINGS-
HEFFINGS AAN GESAMENTLIKE DIENSTERADE

Ek, Derek Lyle Keys, Minister van Finansies en van Handel en Nywerheid, kragtens die bevoegdheid aan my verleen in artikel 16 (2) (g) van die Wet op Gesamentlike Dienste vir KwaZulu en Natal, 1990 (Wet No 84 van 1990), soos gewysig deur die Wysigingswetsontwerp op Belastingwette, 1992 (Wet No. 136 van 1992), keur goed dat die gesamentlike diensterade in Natal by skriftelike aansoek deur 'n werkgewer of persoon en onderworpe aan sodanige voorwaardes wat die raad bepaal, die werkgewer of persoon mag toelaat om die totale bedrag van die heffings waarvoor hy aanspreeklik is, binne 20 dae na die einde van elke tydperk van 'n jaar of sodanige korter tydperk wat die raad bepaal, mag betaal

D. L. KEYS,
Minister van Finansies en van Handel en Nywerheid

No. 89 22 Januarie 1993

Die Departement van Finansies maak hiermee bekend dat oordragdokumente vir registrasie ten opsigte van die ondergemelde Republiek van Suid-Afrika Binnelandse Geregistreerde Effekte **nie later nie as 29 Januarie 1993** by die Departement se kantoor te Abattoirhuis 301 Hamiltonstraat 50, Arcadia, Pretoria, ingelewer moet word ten einde vir die rentebetaling op 28 Februarie 1993 te kwalifiseer.

14533—1

Plan to give buses to RSC

Municipal Reporter

THE government has given notice it plans to hand over responsibility for bus commuter services to Regional Services Councils by the end of March this year — and taxi and train services later.

This could cost the Western Cape RSC more than R10m

A CPA memo to structures under the Western Cape RSC, which came to light yesterday, notes

that the weakened economy has resulted in the government experiencing a shortage of funds to finance subsidies on bus services

Yet in terms of an agreement between the government and the RSCs Association, "for the time being, the Department of Transport remains responsible for the subsidy it thus far has paid for this function (bus services)"

Cape Town's acting mayor, Mr Clive Keegan, said yesterday that

his council had not been told what the new source of funds would be "Perhaps a tax on motor car licences, or an increase in the petrol price?" he asked

CT 27/1/93
The Department of Finance was unable to provide further details yesterday (25) (26/1A)

Mr Keegan said the council was opposed to the entrustment of any further functions to the RSC, on which he also serves

Chamber 'digs in' over buses

261A

ARC 29/11/93

Municipal Reporter

REGIONAL services councils were in unseemly haste to take on extra powers and further entrustments, Mr Neil Ross said.

The city council yesterday reiterated its opposition to the entrustment of passenger transport services to the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

A motion adopted by the council said it "reserved the right to take such steps to oppose the entrustment as it may deem expedient."

Mr Ross said RSCs were inappropriate vehicles for new metropolitan government.

"This sort of political behaviour, with the connivance of central government, is unacceptable," he said.

Mr Dick Friedlander said the council's fundamental objection was it meant unilateral restructuring.

Mrs Eulalie Stott said the people of Cape Town no longer had an adequate bus service.

Refusal to pay subsidies or form a public utility company had led to this.

"Now there is a dog-in-the-manger attitude that if we will not do it, no one else should do it," Mrs Stott said.

● The council is to ask the help of the Major Cities Association to snuff attempts by the Association of RSCs to entrench and enhance the role of the controversial bodies.

(261A)
**RSC voice
on dispute
body urged**

Staff Reporter
MAY 12/93

REGIONAL services councils should be represented on the Western Cape Regional Dispute Resolution Committee, its executive committee decided at a meeting in Bellville

It was agreed that the nature of this representation would be determined by the committee and steps to implement it would follow.

Raid drives TB family into toilet

261A

804714
13/2 - 17/2/93.

By Rehana Rossouw

A MOTHER and her two children were forced to sleep in a toilet in Uitsig this week when Regional Services Council (RSC) officials confiscated a tent that gave them temporary shelter

Mrs Joan Pienaar is among a group of about 40 families the RSC has hounded out of the backyards of the filthy northern suburbs township and left in the open

Infected with tuberculosis, the group lost their homes, food, clothing and bedding when council officials confiscated their belongings

Their plight has outraged a social worker employed by the RSC who said she was prepared to break council regulations and speak to the press about her "frustration" at their lack of sympathy for people in the area

"I keep writing letters to the housing department, begging them

to give these people, especially those with tuberculosis, a home," she said.

"I feel so frustrated; these people come to me for help, but I know they will find little sympathy with the housing officials"

The social worker said the community had among the highest tuberculosis statistics in the Cape and she was convinced the causes were socio-economic

The families lived in shacks in the backyards of Aster Avenue until last month. The tenants evicted them when they allegedly received letters from the RSC.

The letters apparently threatened to replace the legal tenants with the squatter. However, the squatters deny they have informed the RSC they are prepared to pay the rent

The families moved onto a litter-filled field, where they re-erected shacks. RSC officials demolished

the shacks and confiscated the building materials

The Uitsig United Residents Front civic organisation intervened and hired tents for the destitute families. Last Friday morning, the field was raided at dawn and the tents and the families' possessions confiscated

"All I have left are two blankets and a foam mattress," said Pienaar, who was given shelter in a stinking outside toilet about three metres long and a metre wide.

She is sleeping in the toilet with two children aged seven and one year. Her 11-year-old son sleeps on the floor of a shack nearby

"I have tuberculosis, my sons have tuberculosis and I am waiting for the results of my baby's X-ray," said Pienaar.

"The council wants us to live like animals. I am sure their white officials won't even let their dogs sleep

CASE

Miss Charmaine Davids lost her clothing, blankets and food in the council raid. She slept in the open on the field on Monday night with her six-month-old baby with two blankets donated by the Red Cross for shelter

"I had to borrow clothes from friends for myself and my children," said Davids

"I could hardly sleep on Monday night. The gangsters are terrible in this area and I was in the field with no protection but one blanket.

"The police are quick to protect the council officials when they attack us, but they are never here to protect us from the gangsters"

in a filthy toilet."

Uitsig United Residents Front spokesperson Mrs Anne Jacobs said the RSC broke an agreement it had with her organisation to provide shelter for the families

"We met the RSC on January 27 and they agreed the people could live on the field temporarily," Jacobs said. Jacobs said she was concerned about the families as winter was approaching and they needed shelter before then

"The RSC is heartless. They have

absolutely no shame. But we will stop them, even if we have to go to the highest court in the land," she vowed.

A spokesperson for the RSC, Mr Norman Carpenter, denied that they gave the Uitsig United Residents Front permission to erect structures on land for the shack dwellers

"The minutes of the meeting will show that it was agreed that tenants in Uitsig will be requested not to allow the erection of additional shacks," he said

"No agreement was made with the squatters to pay rent as they are regarded as unauthorised sub-tenants. It is not known why the legal tenants evicted the sub-tenants as no threats or letters were sent."

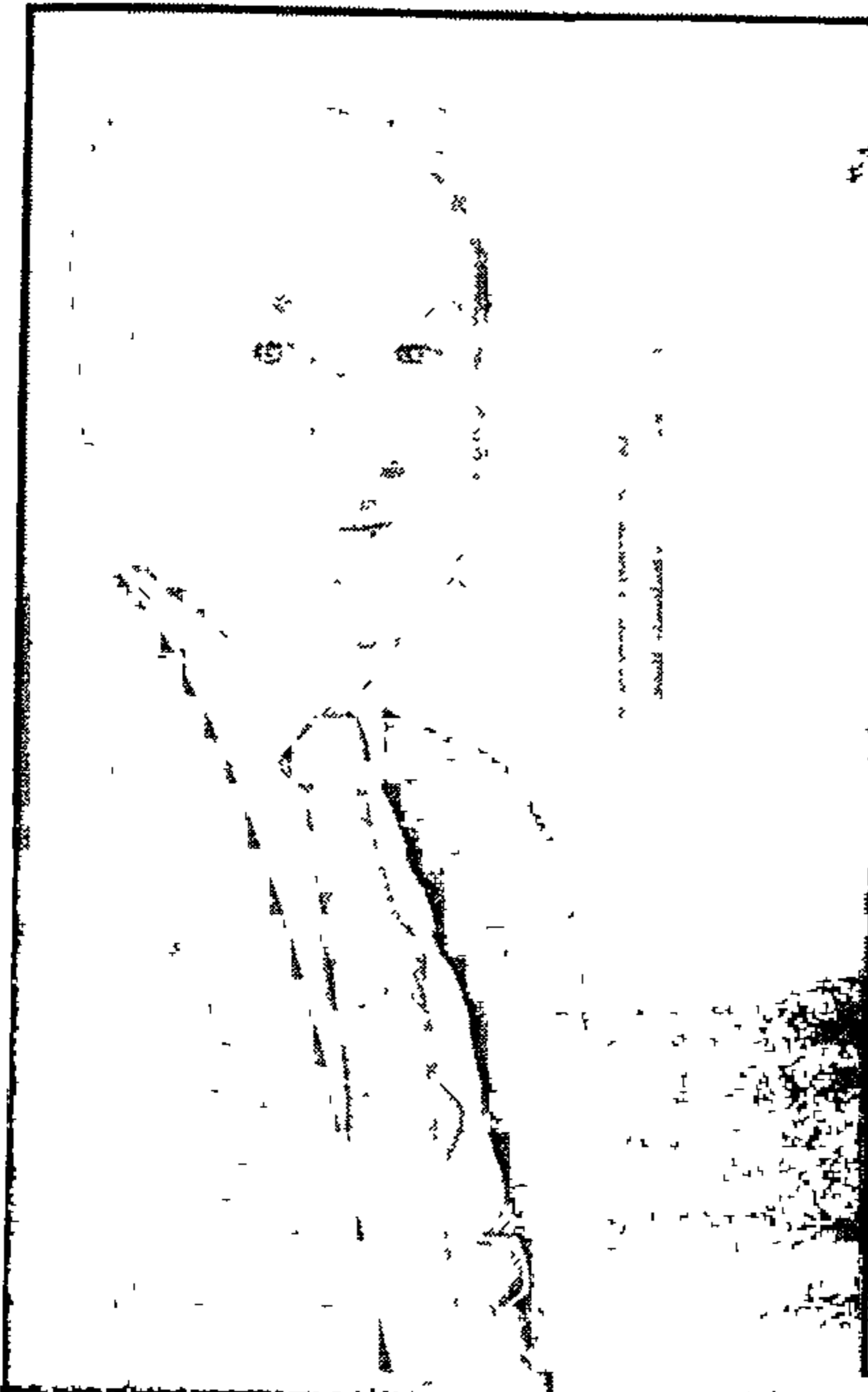
Carpenter said in spite of what was agreed to at the meeting, the United Front "wilfully" allowed two families to erect illegal structures in Aster Avenue.

He confirmed the structures were demolished on February 2 and the tents subsequently erected removed last Friday at the request of the House of Representatives

Carpenter said the council had established a working group to identify land to establish an informal housing project where families could be rehoused, but did not say when housing would be available



JOHANNESBURG CBD



A Business Times SURVEY

CBD statistics

S/Times (BUS) 21/2/93 (26119)

THE GDP generated in the Inner city is R13,2-billion a year. This amount accounts for 37% of the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (CWRSC) area, 14% of the PWV and 6% of national GDP. The rateable property value is R10,1-billion. The rates collected in the Johannesburg inner city are R180-million a year (42% of total rates income).

Formal sector employment opportunities number 280 000, which represents 34% of the CWRSC area and 6% of the national total. This is higher than the combined opportunities offered by the Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban CBDs.

Southern Africa's only stock exchange and the headquarters of all major SA banks, many of which have interests in neighbouring states, are in the CBD. Of the 771 shares listed on the JSE, 205 had head offices in the CBD. Their combined market capitalisation is about R244-billion, 44% of total market capitalisation.

Last year, 108 plans for CBD buildings were submitted and 95 approved with a value of R269,3-million. The major projects are: Southern Life revamp, R35-million; BankCity, R105,5-million; Ryclok Investments parking garage; Sanlam Centre, R15-million; Liberty Life revamp, R50-million; bridge over railway between King George and Wanderers Streets, R36-million; Braampark (new offices), R12,4-million; new Standard Bank, Selby, R30,1-million; United Towers revamp, R19-million; SA Reserve Bank, Newtown, R75-million

□ Source Johannesburg City Planning Department

IAN DAVIDSON Potential investors make their first calls in Johannesburg and...

A Business Times SURVEY

CBD statistics

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□ Source: Johannesburg City Planning Department

Local govt faces cash crisis bank

Blom 23/2/93

26/1A

GRETA STEYN

SA's local government faces a financial crisis which will cause "severe and rapid" deterioration in urban services, the World Bank's Urban Economic Mission to SA says in its latest report.

The mission, which visited SA in late January and early February, has handed the report to the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber as policy input. It is the latest in a series of in-depth studies undertaken by the Bank on urban development in SA. It called for a reform of the structure and functions of SA's public sector.

The bank noted serious attention would have to be paid to developing a "significant and buoyant" tax base at the local government level. The present (RSC) turnover and payroll taxes did not fit the bill. At their present low rates, they did not raise enough revenue, but raising RSC levies was not a viable option. The turnover tax "competed" with VAT and would hit consumers, while the payroll tax could be "rolled backward" into lower wages.

Measures would also have to be taken to enhance local borrowing capacity, including writing off local authorities' debts. The report said the significant borrowing by black local authorities in the '80s and early '90s — primarily bridging finance from the provinces — should be written off as "sunk costs" of apartheid.

Revenue at the lower levels of government could be augmented through the introduction of a new personal income tax. Local governments could introduce a personal tax surcharge (or "piggy-back") at a rate in line

with their financing needs.

Other taxes that could be applied at lower levels of government were fuel and vehicle taxes, and a levy on agricultural land.

There was also significant potential for expanding the property tax base, with all urban properties potentially part of the base.

But development of the regional tax base and writing off of debts might not be sufficient to enable local authorities to borrow enough on the capital market to finance infrastructure spending.

Central government would have to assume responsibility for financing investment backlogs.

The proposed surcharge on personal income tax could be used for this. The surcharge could be time-bound to represent a one-time transfer of wealth to finance the urban infrastructure backlog. It could also be leveraged so the public investment programme could be undertaken in a relatively short time.

The bank criticised the present structure of the public sector, saying the system of higher levels of government subsidising lower levels created economic distortions and had the potential to destabilise the macro-economy.

"Just as the apartheid structure could not survive the dynamics of urbanisation and demands of a productive urban economy, the public sector organisation and financing based on that system cannot survive if SA is to achieve sustainable and equitable economic growth."

— ± 34% of the cases had never previously been found guilty of an offence. These particulars have only been obtained from available data and are not the result of empirical research.

The Department has already established contact with the Criminology Institute of the University of South Africa with a view to co-operation in respect of empirical research into the phenomenon of recidivism.

As the Department's computerization programme progresses and data which is presently still only available at certain prisons countrywide is centralized, more exact facts will be more readily available.

Train violence: deaths

*24 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Law and Order

How many deaths resulted from violence on trains and stations on the Witwatersrand in 1992?

B181E

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

216 deaths

Home Affairs criminal actions against officials

*25 Miss M SMUTS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

Whether, with reference to a statement made by the Director-General of his Department on or about 22 September 1992, investigations have been completed in respect of and/or steps have been taken against (a) two officials against whom departmental disciplinary action and possible criminal proceedings were being considered, and (b) three officials against whom allegations of misconduct in terms of the Public Service Act, 1984 (Act No 111 of 1984), were being investigated, and possible criminal action in terms of the Aliens Control Act, 1991 (Act No 96 of 1991), was being considered, as at the above-mentioned date, if so, (i) when were these investigations completed and (ii) what steps have been taken to date?

B185E

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) and (b)

(i) The last of the investigations was completed in January 1993

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(ii) Two officials have been charged with corruption. The case was partially heard in the Regional Court, Jeppe on 16 February 1993 and postponed to 17 March 1993 for further hearing. In the meantime both officials have been suspended from duty.

Misconduct proceedings were brought against one official during October 1992. During the Departmental investigation which led to the misconduct proceedings other aspects came to the fore which compelled my Department to consult the Attorney-General of Transvaal in the matter. The matter is presently being investigated incisively, but because of the sensitive nature of the investigation, further particulars cannot be made public at this stage.

The second official was formally charged with misconduct on 10 February 1993. The official's plea in response to the charge is being awaited.

The third official was not formally charged due to a lack of sufficient evidence. The official has, however, been severely reprimanded and now works under strict supervision.

Discrimination against women: conventions

*26 Miss M SMUTS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

(1) Whether, with regard to (a) the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and (b) any other UN conventions concerning women, the Government has (i) (aa) signed and (bb) ratified, and (ii) registered any reservations to any articles of, any of these conventions, if not, why not, if so,

(2) (a) which conventions were signed and/or ratified and (b) what reservations were registered?

B186E

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) (a) (i) (aa) Yes

(bb) No

(ii) No

(b) (i) (aa) Yes

(bb) No

(ii) No

The conventions were signed on 29 January 1993. Their ratification will be considered at a later date. Reservations can only be registered at the time of ratification.

(2) (a) — the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979,
 — the UN Convention on the Nationality of Married Women of 1957,
 — the UN Convention on the Political Rights of Women of 1952,
 In addition, South Africa acceded to
 — the UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages of 1962,

(b) None

Parsons Commission: further reports

*27 Mr D S PIENAAR asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs

Whether the Commission of Inquiry into the 1986 Unrest and Alleged Maladministration in KwaNdebele (Parsons Commission) has submitted any further reports to the State President in addition to those already published, if not, why not, if so, when (a) were these reports so submitted and (b) will they be released for publication?

B188E

THE MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS

The Commission of Inquiry into the 1986 Unrest and Alleged Mismanagement in KwaNdebele (Parsons Commission) submitted a third report to the State President on (a) 18 September 1992 and (b) the said report will be made public as soon as the Government and the Government of KwaNdebele have jointly decided on a date for the release of the report as in the case of the previous reports.

Southern Cape RSC Site KD No 185

*28 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Local Government

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 321 on 19 June 1992, the Southern Cape Regional Services Council has instructed its attorneys to restore the title deed conditions of Portion 2 of Site KD No 185, if not, why not, if so, on what date were they so instructed,
 - (2) whether the matter has been disposed of, if not, when is it anticipated that it will be disposed of,
 - (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?
- B191E

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(1) During December 1992 the Southern Cape Regional Services Council instructed its attorneys to arrange for the registration of the reinstatement of the deleted conditions of title in accordance with the relevant order of the Cape of Good Hope Provincial Division of the Supreme Court in Case No 13359/85

(2) The rectifying registration was done by endorsement by the Registrar of Deeds on 29 January 1993 thus disposing of the matter (Registrar of Deeds microfilm reference No 93-0107-5061)

(3) No

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs

Disaster drought and scheme

*1 Mr D S PIENAAR asked the Minister of Agricultural Development

Whether any special disaster drought aid scheme is applicable to self-supporting economic farming enterprises adjacent to agricultural schools, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

B79E INT
 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

New RSC chief officer named

Municipal Reporter

THE new chief executive officer of the Western Cape Regional Services Council will be Mr D J van den Berg, now the RSC's chief director of administrative services.

The present CEO, Mr Chris Mocke, announced in December that he would retire at the end of March. ET 25/2/92

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church faces test

World Alliance of Reformed Churches president Dr Jane Dempsey Douglas is in SA with other alliance executive committee members to see if they should reinstate the Dutch Reformed Church as a member

Douglas told reporters in Johannesburg yesterday they would determine if the NGK had met readmission conditions set in 1982. A decision will be taken in July

R100 000 surf revamp

NEARLY R100 000 is to be spent on a "surf amphitheatre" at Durban's North Beach, upgrading what has already become a world surfing venue. This year's Gunston 500 in July will be extended to 10 days and will include lifesaving, boogie-boarding and jet-ski events

Workers bury hatchet

LANGEBERG Foods, the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) and the United Workers' Union of SA (Uwusa) have signed a code of conduct aimed at ensuring a climate of tolerance and fair play at Langeberg's East Rand factory in the future following eight violent deaths in union rivalry

RSC gets new boss

LEONARDUS de Wet was appointed chairman of the Witwatersrand Regional Services Council by Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough yesterday

R520m Post Office

Labour-intensive projects favoured

BIDAY 4/3/93

GRETA STEYN

THE construction industry has made a strong plea for labour-intensive-building as a means to create jobs

Submissions to the National Economic Forum will be used by the forum's short-term working group to draw up a consensus document on employment which could form the basis of government policy

The document is expected to be finalised by the end of April

The working group this week heard verbal submissions from 16 organisations chosen from more than 60 responses to requests for written suggestions

Government, labour and business delegations would study the tabled submissions and oral testimony, the forum said yesterday

Each would draw up a report which would then be considered by the working group with a view to reaching consensus

Submissions chosen by the working group included those from the National Committee for Labour-Intensive Construction and consulting engineering firms Soderland & Schutte and B S Bergman & Partners.

The committee said the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors was "completely" in favour of labour intensive construction projects and would do "everything possible" to ensure their success and viability. The construction method uses as much labour as technically possi-

ble without compromising standards

The Small Business Development Corporation and the Sunnyside Group submissions focused on small business development.

The Sunnyside Group argued that elements of entrepreneurial and small business development had to be built into programmes such as housing projects.

Other submissions focused on small-scale farming

AgriLink argued small-scale agricultural development created jobs at less than the cost of job creation in formal industry

Common themes in submissions were housing projects, electrification, road building and provision of infrastructure in labour-intensive ways

The Standing Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation noted job creation opportunities in rural and urban areas

Improvement of rural sanitation could create an initial 2 000 jobs

On financing, Nedcor/Old Mutual's Professional Economic Panel suggested the creation of an independent public works trust which received annual state grants

The trust should absorb or co-ordinate job creation activities currently undertaken by institutions such as the IDT, DBSA and the Urban Foundation

BIDAY 4/3/93

BIDAY 4/3/93

BIDAY 4/3/93 (26/1)

BIDAY 4/3/93

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Spending over 261A budget queried

CT 4/3/93
SCRUTINY of spending over budget by the Western Cape Regional Services Council took up a major portion of debating time at a recent meeting of the Local Council of Constantia Valley.

The local council's chairman of finance, Mr Ron Gaylard, combed the budgetary control report, picking out items where budget allocations were being exceeded.

Chief focus was on building survey and drawing office expenses, which fall under "general services", rendered in Constantia and Tokai by the WCRSC.

In the year to December 1992, the building survey branch, which in past years has paid for itself, has cost Constantia nearly R39 000.

Complained

Mr Bill Carter, who heads the branch, explained that not only were fewer plans going through the department because of the economic climate but there was also a shift in the nature of building operations, away from new structures and towards alterations and additions.

The value of this work is low, but the complicated inspection work required was high. The return in fees paid was far smaller than for new buildings. Council was warned that the situation would worsen in the months ahead.

Land survey costs for the period were R177 000 over the R360 000 allocated. This resulted from unforeseen costs incurred in the general survey of properties for the revised rates assessment, which is nearing completion.

Mr Gaylard also pointed out an item listed as "general improvements" for which R90 000 had been budgeted, and R111 867 spent — leaving a shortfall of R21 867. He repeated a request, made at last month's meeting, for more detail of what these improvements were.

Income

He understood that the income and expenditure of many departments was determined by demand for services, which could not always be predicted when budgets were set. But he appealed for any trend in overspending to be reported as soon as it was identified to allow budgetary control.

He also pointed out that there were several regional services council departments which derive income from their activities — including the building survey branch — but that income was not reflected separately. He appealed to the WCRSC to do their accounts for Constantia and Tokai so that, where possible, income and expenditure could be compared.

He also rapped the chairmen of his own local council's committees over the knuckles.

At last month's meeting, he had appealed for reports on each committee's finances, so that he could assess what had been allocated and spent.

To date, he had only received one such report, from the engineering committee.

Your RSC

Star 6/3/93

can fine

(261A)

you R5 000

IS YOUR business liable for a fine of up to R5 000 for failing to register with your local regional services council (RSC)? Many a new entrepreneur is unaware that his business is, in most cases, liable for the two levies imposed by the Regional Services Councils Act 1985.

The scope of the Act is wide enough to include the dressmaker who works from home to the sole proprietor who runs the local art gallery, to the larger retailing company

As soon as the entrepreneur or his business entity employs someone (other than a domestic worker) or starts trading, he is legally liable for the levies

Home hobbyist

An exemption excludes the home hobbyist who sells wares on a very small scale

In other words, most business operations that trade on a continuous basis fall into the RSC net

The Act empowers a fine of up to R5 000 on businesses which fail to register. Nigel Mandy, public relations consultant for the Central Witwatersrand RSC, says that in practice the RSC refers to induce busin-

MANY new entrepreneurs are unaware that their businesses are liable for regional services council levies. Only the smallest of home businesses escape this net, reports LEIGH HASSALL.

Two levies imposed on most businesses

esses to register rather than to prosecute them. However, he adds that large offenders could be fined up to the maximum for blatant evasion

The Act also empowers interest (currently 18 percent) to be charged on the outstanding levies. Whether or not the interest and levies are backdated to the start of trade appears to be at the RSC's discretion

There are two levies imposed by the Act which are administered by and payable to one of the 43 geographically delineated RSCs

The services levy or payroll levy is imposed on the monthly remuneration, and the establishment or turnover levy is imposed on the monthly sales of the business

The Central Witwatersrand RSC currently charges 35c per R100 for the services levy and 14c per R100 for the establishment levy

The services levy is calculated on the employees' payroll — including drawings taken by the sole proprietor or partner — as well as directors' remuneration. Lump-sum payments, voluntary awards and the taxable value of fringe benefits should also be included

Drawings of non-cash items, such as stock or the private use of a business asset, are considered to be remuneration and must be included in the calculation

The establishment levy is payable on the turnover of the business. The Act defines leviable transactions as the selling of goods and fixed property, the letting of goods or fixed property, and the rendering of services

Combinations

The exemption for the home hobbyist applies only if the total of the services and establishment levies for the year are less than R50

For example, a dressmaker who has monthly drawings of less than R600 and a turnover of less than R1 500 would not need to register

As the R50 limit applies to the total of the two levies, a number of combinations of drawings and sales are possible and the small home operator should make his/her own calculations

The entrepreneur can elect to pay the levies on an annual basis, which obviates the need for the small business to write out a monthly cheque for a nominal amount

Mandy says the income is used for infrastructural services in areas where the greatest need exists

(cont)

STAR 6-3-93

(261A)



RSCs to gain from fuel levy

CT 18/3/93
Political Staff

ONE cent per litre of the fuel levy on petrol and diesel would be channelled directly to Regional Services Councils (RSCs) as from July 1 this year, a system which is expected to generate R140m annually for RSCs, Finance Minister Mr Derek Keys announced yesterday. ~~261A~~ (261A)

The funds raised in this manner would supplement the R666m RSCs would receive in the 1993/94

fiscal year in the main appropriation for bus commuter transport. This represented an increase of only 3,7% over the 1992/93 main appropriation and Mr Keys said RSCs would have to make a greater contribution to meeting the costs of bus commuter transport.

Mr Keys said the present subsidies on commuter transport services were insufficient for RSCs to finance them from their existing revenue sources.

Until alternative sources of

revenue were available to RSCs, the state would continue to finance the bulk of the costs via budget allocations.

The approximately R140m raised by fuel levy deduction could also be accessed for financing other services such as subsidiary roads where they were not required for bus transport.

The decision was based on the government's longstanding policy to devolve responsibility for all commuter transport onto RSCs.

Now civic groups

have say in budget

STAR 23/3/93
Staff Reporter

Civic associations in the Johannesburg metropolitan region have a say in the Regional Service Council budget for the first time this year due to a decision taken last night by the Central Wits Metropolitan Chamber.

The Chamber decided to put forward to the RSC budget proposals formulated by a working group comprising the civic associations of Greater Johannesburg, the RSC and a range of local authorities.

The principles include

- A recommendation that the RSC make use of loan funding to "gear up" its ability to initiate development projects in areas of greatest need

- At least R144 million should be contributed by the RSC to black townships during 1993/94.

- That all parties should commit themselves to securing increased levels of payments for services, and the RSC's policy of preparing five-year programmes be continued in conjunction with the Metropolitan Chamber.

DBSA to fund Rand water treatment

STAR 25/3/93
Finance Staff

The Development Bank of SA has extended a R380 million loan to the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council for the upgrading of a waste water treatment facilities in the Klip River basin south of Johannesburg

The agreement, signed yesterday, paves the way for the start of the project, whose total value is estimated at R625 million at current prices. It will be completed over five years

The DBSA said in a statement that the project would establish the infrastructure to sustain long-term urban development in the region and to cope with the impact of urbanisation.

It would also optimise waste water treatment for a sub-region serving an estimated four million residents in 16 local authorities and protect the water resources of more than seven million people in the lower Vaal River catchment area

The Johannesburg City Council would be the implementing agent of the project and would also deal with the institutional, developmental and constitutional arrangements, the DBSA said.

STAR 11/4/92
**New job leads
to resignation**

Krugersdorp town councillor Dr Benoni van Graan resigned at last night's monthly council meeting.

He was recently appointed chairman of West Rand Regional Services Council, after the resignation of Neels de Bruyn, who has become town clerk of Worcester in the Cape.

By-elections in the town's two vacant wards will be held at a date still to be set — West Rand Bureau

metro

R7-m from RSC to buy flats

By Jo-Anne Collinge

In a bid to reverse inner-city decay, the Central Wits Regional Services Council (RSC) has made an unprecedented grant of R7 million to the Johannesburg City Council to assist groups of tenants in Hillbrow-Joubert Park to buy the flats they occupy.

STAN 22/4/93

The money will go to the Inner City Housing and Upgrading Trust — controlled by council, business and community representatives — to provide loans or loan guarantees for tenants. An RSC spokesman said it was estimated that the guarantees could mobilise up to R28 million. The grant is a crucial boost to the Seven Buildings

Project, in which tenants have been working for almost two years to find the means to buy, restore and manage the blocks of flats where they reside.

Financial institutions, which have a general policy of refusing mortgage bonds in Hillbrow and Joubert Park — a practice known as "red lining" — have agreed to make loans to the Seven Buildings Project.

26/07

In a press release, the RSC stated that the grant to the council had been made in the light of its argument that "the state of Johannesburg's inner city — and in particular the central business district — is of prime importance to the economy of the whole region". However, the money would be released only once the RSC had been supplied with further details of the terms and condi-

tions of its use. RSC members regarded Johannesburg's application as incomplete in terms of information given.

The Seven Buildings Project has the support of the Central Johannesburg Partnership and is being assisted by a range of organisations, including the Legal Resources Centre, the New Housing Company and Actstop.

STAN 22/4/93



(261A)
Grants coming

A R3 million grant for housing and a further R7 million for inner-city development is to be granted to the Johannesburg City Council, the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council announced yesterday.

The Golden Housing Development Project is east of Eldorado Park on the West Rand, the RSC said in a statement.

The R7 million was for refurbishing buildings and providing financial assistance to groups of tenants, as Johannesburg's inner city was of economic importance and a decline in the central business district would undermine the city council's and CWRSC's tax base.

The decision to make the grants available came at a council meeting on Tuesday.

Lawyer 22/4/93

R235 million budget for East Rand

THE East Rand Regional Services Council has approved a budget of R235 million to be spent on upgrading "the quality of life for all in the region."

The biggest chunk of the money, R82 million, will be spent on construction projects and more than R40 million will be spent on treatment and disposal of waste water

Presentation

Community projects have been allocated R19,9 million and development aid R41,5 million

In his presentation of the 1993-94 budget to

■ Bulk to be spent on construction:

Soweto 26/4/93

the recent full sitting of the East Rand Regional Services Council in Germiston, the chairman, Mr Leon Ferreira, announced that the council will not increase its levies in the coming year

●Meanwhile, Eskom will be repairing the electricity network in Diepkloof and Meadowlands in Soweto today. If you experience any power cuts, call Eskom's toll-free number 0800-11433

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Star 29/6/93

Sandton's R3-m won't go to RSC

By Anna Cox

The Sandton town council last night decided not to hand over to the regional services council the R3 million it had recently budgeted for its poorer neighbours.

Councillor Rick Ehlers said the RSC was not a "properly constituted body" and the money should be kept in a suspense account until a credible, representative metropolitan body was in place to receive it.

If the money was handed to the RSC, it would be put into a kitty and used for communities outside the Sandton area, he said.

Management committee

chairman Peter Gardiner said the money was a provision for contingencies and agreed it should be paid to a "legitimate body".

● The council last night opposed an application for the construction of a public garage, offices and shops on William Nicol Drive.

In a report handed to the council, the town planning department said most residents objected to the proposal because it was within the residential area of Glendrienne. The garage would generate non-residential traffic which would cause high noise levels after hours, the report said.

Regional Services levy goes up today

CT # 1/7/93 (261A)

By PETER DENNEHY.

ONE of the Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC) levies goes up today by 17,6%, from 17 cents in each rand of a business's turnover to 20 cents in the rand, which amounts to R1 per R500.

The other levy, on the total remuneration packages paid out by businesses, remains the same at 25 cents in the rand, or R1 for each R400.

A new feature in yesterday's RSC annual budget was the inclusion of an expected income of R13,4 million from a "cent per litre" regional levy on fuel sold.

This levy, announced by Minister of Finance Mr Derek Keys in his national budget speech in March, comes into effect from today.

But an RSC spokesman said there would be no rise in petrol prices as

the move was merely a shift of funds from the government, which collects the levy, to the RSC. Almost R11m of the extra money for the RSC will subsidise bus transport — is a new function assigned to RSCs since March.

The total operating expenditure on the 1993/4 RSC budget is just short of a billion rand (R995m), about half of which goes on activities that the council undertakes on behalf of the Provincial Administration.

Total budgeted RSC capital expenditure is R323m, of which R45m will be spent on the council's own activities. Some R46m will go to non-viable local authorities, so that services can be maintained.

● Areas within RSC boundaries that have local councils, like Constantia Valley and Ottery, announce their own property rates increases.

Milnerton bid to take over RSC areas

26114
14/7/93

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

MILNERTON Town Council proposes huge extensions to its municipal boundaries, to include Atlantis, Melkbosstrand and Philadelpha.

The proposal has the support of the Minister of Local Government, Dr Tertius Delpoit.

The proposals are included in a report entitled "Constitutional Changes The Way Forward Milnerton Municipality Contemplates The Future".

The document says an urgent priority is the incorporation of the Bloubergsvele structure plan area north of Milnerton, where

Bloubergsstrand, Atlantis on 'shopping list'

the town council and the Regional Services Council envisage a future population of 375 000

Areas to be included in the expanded municipality would stretch as far as the northern boundary of the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the local council areas of Bloubergsstrand, Melkbosstrand, Atlantis and Philadelpha.

The report says Milnerton hopes all parties agree to amalgamation, to form a consolidated local authority structure of the north.

If parties do not agree, the council would offer to render services on an agency basis. This function will be taken over from the RSC.

Talks with the Melkbosstrand Local Council for Milnerton to take over from the RSC are at an advanced stage and a similar proposal for Bloubergsstrand is under discussion.

"A type of federation of local authorities of the north may develop, with a single administration to serve the various communities, a concept which will

promote efficiency and good management," the report says.

Careful investigation of staff and financial implications is needed.

Incorporation of the Bloubergsvele structure plan area is "vitaly important" to prepare for the future growth of the area, the report says.

The report says it is obvious the entire Peninsula metropolitan area is facing a huge reshuffle.

Established local authorities should make plans to ensure fu-

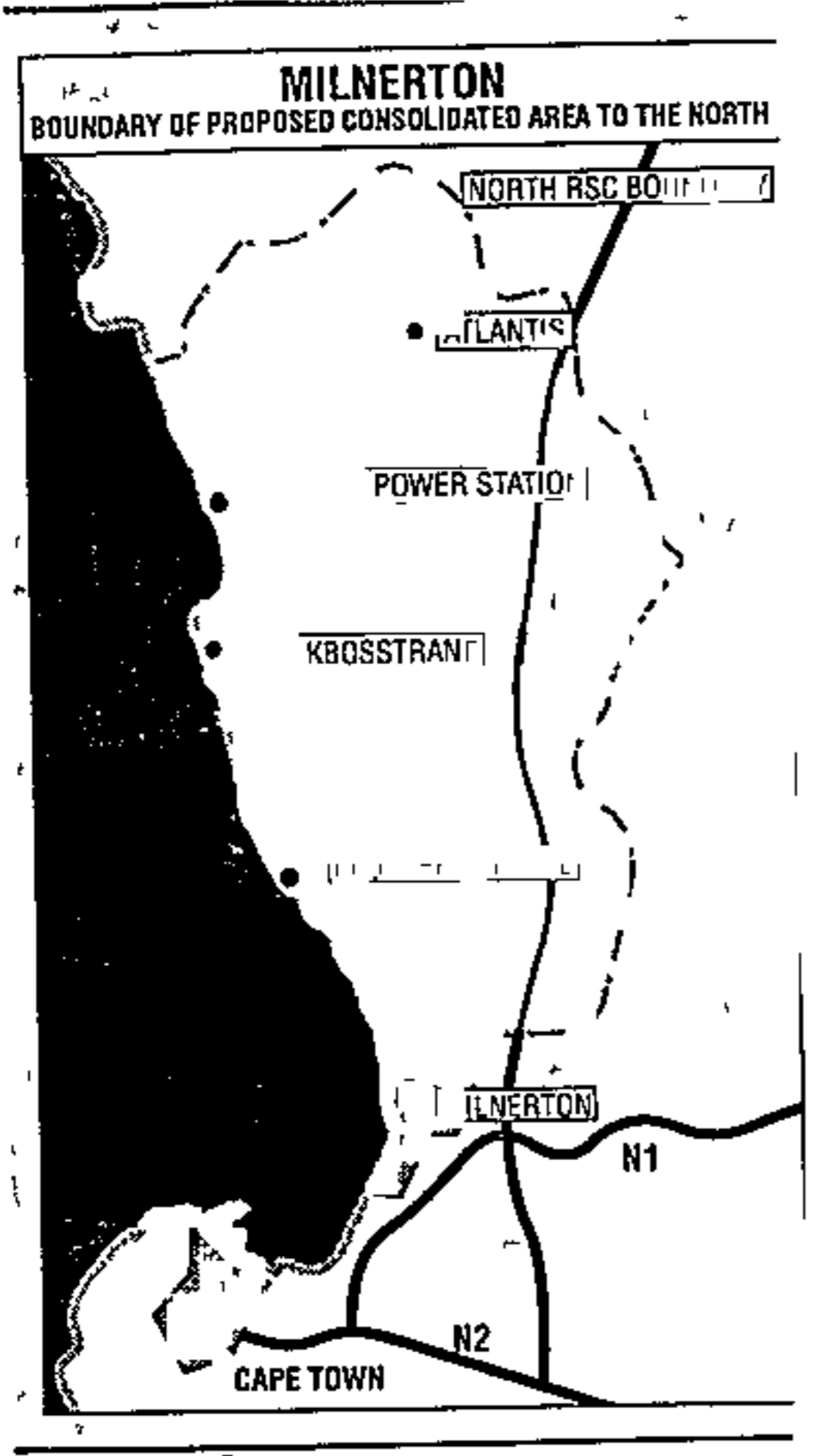
ture structures are practical, promote safety and welfare, and best take into account financial viability and geography.

In a letter to the town council, Dr Delpoit said he "fully supported" their initiative.

The option of a single administration should take preference to rendering services on an agency basis, he said.

If an agency system was chosen, it should be a foundation for future amalgamation.

Dr Delpoit said an effort should be made to "accommodate" all staff rather than re-trench anyone.



Black members of Regional Services Council dwindling

Municipal Reporter
26/1A
29/7/72

REGIONAL Services Council chairman, Mr. Pietie Loubser is to meet Administrator Mr. Kobus Meiring to discuss solutions to the dwindling of black representation on the RSC.

The resignation and suspension of members of black local authorities like Lungelethu West and Ikapa has meant a shrinking number of black faces in the regional chamber.

Yesterday, the RSC scored a first with a father-and-son team at the

same meeting — Parow councillor Mr. Attie Adriaanse was joined by his son, Mr J.G. Adriaanse, who had been appointed by Mr Meiring to represent Ikapa.

Cape Town councillor Mrs. Eula Lie Stott said it was "sad" the RSC

had fewer representatives from black townships.

"One of the reasons I agreed to associate myself with RSCs was because black areas were to get representation," she said.

RSC head denies DP statement

261A
CF 618193
MR. P. J. Loubser, chairman of the Regional Services Council, has denied a claim by Mr. Jeff Leonard, chairman of the Atlantis branch of the Democratic Party, that he asked him not to speak to the press about the situation of 4,000 Atlantis residents in arrears with rates, electricity and water payments.

Mr. Loubser also denied that he had threatened the DP branch in any way, as was also claimed by Mr. Leonard in a recent Cape Times report that legal action against the defaulters had been stayed because the government was giving special attention to the hard-hit area.

He said the decision to stay legal action had had nothing to do with pressure from the DP branch, and had been taken before a meeting he had held with Mr. Leonard on July 23.

Mr. Loubser said his meeting with Mr. Leonard had been amicable, and he had handed a copy of his press statement about the council's decision to him at the outset of the meeting.

RSCs 'may vanish'

(2617) Municipal Reporter

REGIONAL services councils (RSCs) as we know them could disappear next year, Administrator of the Cape Mr Kobus Meiring told the Association of Cape RSCs at their annual congress in Somerset West.

Mr Meiring said there was no clarity on how the new constitutional dispensation would affect various institutional authorities.

"The whole RSC system as we know it could disappear by next year"

CT 4/9/93

He urged RSC members not to panic about the future, as there would be various opportunities for them.

"You already have expertise and abilities. It would be foolish for any government not to use this expertise to its full potential."

The main complaint against the present authority structures, and thus also against the RSCs, related to their legitimacy. This complaint could be addressed, changed and transformed in such a way as to ensure survival, Mr Meiring said.

□ Mass action begins today with sit-ins at RSC offices

Write off R70 m — civics

261A

AG 8/9/93

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE Joint Civic Forum, made up of civics and residents' associations in Regional Services Council controlled areas, begins a programme of mass action today with the occupation of RSC offices across the Peninsula.

The forum is demanding that R70 million in rent and services arrears be written off

Last night the forum claimed negotiations with the Cape Provincial Administration, the Western Cape RSC and the House of Representatives had deadlocked

Motivating the forum's demands, chairman Charles Basson said

- Few could afford rent and service charges
- Services were poor or non-existent
- Many people were unemployed or under-employed
- Local government structures were illegitimate

Mr Basson said the forum had initiated negotiations with the CPA, the HoR and the RSC in May and a joint working group had been set up

"It was agreed that a moratorium on all rent and service charge arrears be set up

"A technical committee was

established on June 14 to hammer out a proposal acceptable to all parties and on June 22 the technical committee chairman in the House of Representatives reported back to the working group"

The proposal was

- That rent and service charge arrears be waived for all unemployed, and for homes where breadwinners earned less than R1 000 a month
- That the definition of unemployed be broadened
- That for residents earning more than R1 000 and for eligible buyers in terms of the Housing Sales Campaign, arrears be added to bring the price of the house up to a max-

imum of R7 500
But after "numerous" meetings during July the RSC could not agree to the joint proposal and at the end of July lifted the moratorium on arrears "in contravention of earlier agreements", Mr Basson said

The Joint Civics Forum thus planned to "pursue all forms of community protest to force local government to accede to our reasonable demands"

It called for the restructuring of local government "to facilitate responses to the needs of the poor"

It appealed to all affected owners and tenants to pay their current accounts but not arrears

Stand-off as RSC staff locked in

Staff Reporter

PROTESTERS and police were locked in a tense stand-off at the Delft Civic Centre yesterday when three Regional Services Council employees locked themselves in an office during a community protest.

Delft Civic Association chairman Mr Wayne Koen said the two men and a woman had locked themselves in when he and his supporters occupied the offices to hand over a petition.

"Now they are saying we are holding them against their wishes."

The sit-in was part of a campaign by the Joint Civics Forum to scrap R70 million arrears in rent and service charges.

Another sit-in took place in Eerste River yesterday.

A police spokesman said the sit-in ended when the protesters handed their memo to police to be passed on to RSC officials.

RSC offices occupied in rent arrears action

ARG 9/9/93 (261A)

Staff Reporters

SUPPORTERS of the Joint Civics Forum have occupied Regional Services Council offices across the Cape Flats to demand the scrapping of rent and services arrears and the immediate restructuring of local government.

Yesterday, petitions were handed to RSC officials at their Belhar, Elsies River, Delft, Uitsig, Ravensmead and Eerste River offices

The Joint Civics Forum, established at the beginning of the year, consists of civic associations — some affiliated to the South African National Civic Organisation, — in RSC-run areas.

Affiliates include civic associations from Atlantis to Strandfontein.

Chairman Charles Basson said the forum had been established around specific issues.

He said few residents could afford rent and service charges, the services were sub-standard, there was large-scale unemployment and local government structures were "illegitimate".

Talks involving the forum, the RSC, Cape Provincial Administration and the House of Representatives broke down last month.

Mr Basson said yesterday's action was meant to stimulate a return to the negotiating table.

He warned that should the local authorities not reinstitute "serious negotiations" immediately, Cape Town should brace itself for intensified "mass action"

Only once a commitment was made on the scrapping of the R70 million rent and services arrears could the future of local government and the provision of "meaningful services" be placed on the table, Mr Basson said.

The Sanco-affiliated Eerste River Residents' Association, backed by the Eerste River branch of the African National Congress, remained at the Melton Rose RSC office today

Eerste River Sanco spokesman Basil Nefdt said the occupation was being continued because the RSC had failed to comply with a 24-hour ultimatum to commit itself to negotiations and to supply water to the Antoniesbos, Happy Valley and Welgemoed informal settlements in their area.

A meeting would be held tonight to decide on further action.

Delft Sanco chairman Wayne Koen said that apart from the broader demands of the forum, the water supply of 35 residents had been disconnected in the past few weeks and he warned of "rolling mass action" in that suburb

Sit-in by squatters turns into a lock-in

ARG 11/9/93
JOHAN SCHRONEN
Weekend Argus Reporter

A SIT-IN at the Regional Services Council offices in Meltonrose, Eerste River, turned into a "lock-in" for about 40 men, women and children when RSC officers padlocked the doors last night.

Residents of the Welgemoed, Happy Valley and Anthony's Bush squatter camps in the area had staged the protest since Wednesday to demand a basic supply of running water to their areas.

An executive member of the Western Cape Peace Committee, Barend Hendricks, who was also locked in, said the residents were being supported by the ANC, the SACP, Sanco and the Joint Civic Forum but a "communication breakdown" between the RSC and the group ended with negotiations in a deadlock.

Mr Hendricks said he went into the building last night to suggest that the people go home while he continued negotiations on their behalf, but when the group got up to leave the guards slammed the doors, locked them and "cocked their guns".

"The guards threatened to shoot us if we touched the padlocks," said Mr Hendricks.

Police confirmed the incident and said no one had been arrested or hurt.

Sit-in protesters locked in

(212) (261A) (15) Staff-Reporter CT 11/9/93

THIRTEEN squatter toddlers, their mothers and ANC and peace committee members were locked in at the Melton Rose RSC offices in Kleinvlei, Kuils River, late last night after a sit-in that started on Wednesday

The sit-in was against an agreement written up by the RSC on the water supply to squatters, said ANC spokesman Mr Chris Nissen. He said he and two peace committee members had gone to the offices to mediate, but were locked in by RSC officials

RSC evicts protesters

Staff Reporters

WESTERN Cape Regional Services Council security officials today broke down a door and fired teargas at Joint Civics Forum protesters sitting in at the RSC's Melton Rose office, forum spokesman Charles Basson said

About 20 protesters were in the offices about 11.45am when the security officials broke in, he said

The incident took place while forum leaders were in talks with senior RSC officials at the peace committee offices in Bellville

An umbrella of civic and resident organisations in RSC-controlled areas, the forum is demanding that R70 million rent and services arrear payments for the unemployed and breadwinners earning less than R1 000 a month, be written off

Peace officials get locked in

Staff Reporter

TWO Peace Secretariat officials and a senior ANC delegate were locked into a Regional Services Council building in Eerste River with about 30 protesters by RSC security guards on Friday night.

Mr Chris Nissen, a regional executive member of the ANC, said last night he and the peace workers, Mr Barend Hendricks and Mr Aubrey Baardman, were locked in for over seven hours and that guards hurled verbal abuse and cocked a firearm in their presence when they demanded to be let out.

The RSC could not be reached for comment yesterday.

CT13/9/93

RSC building, car damaged

STONES were thrown at the Regional Services Council building in Kleinville causing at least R10 000 worth of damage and, in another incident in the suburb, a council car worth R95 000 was set alight, police said

The incidents followed a protest sit-in at the RSC's Melton Rose, Kleinville, office on Monday which ended abruptly when security officials fired teargas into the building

CT 15/1/93 (152) (261A)
Joint Civics Forum members were demanding that R70 million of rent and services arrear payments be written off for the unemployed and breadwinners earning less than R1 000

Police said that late on Monday groups of people pelted stones at the RSC building, shattering all the windows. A petrol bomb lobbed into the building did not explode.

And RSC employee Mr J van

Rooyen was forced to stop the council car he was driving by two men who blocked his path in Keerom Street, police said

Mr Van Rooyen was ordered out of the RSC vehicle, which was then set alight, the spokesman said

● More than R20 000 worth of damage was caused to a stationary truck in Mbekweni, Paarl, when petrol was sprinkled in the cab and ignited yesterday.

By Quentin Wilson

AN EXECUTIVE member of the Western Cape Peace Committee, Mr Barend Hendricks, has called for the "complete disbanding" of the law enforcement unit of the regional services council (RSC).

His call comes after law enforcement officers broke up an occupation of the RSC offices in Eerste River with teargas and rubber bullets two weeks ago.

A group of 40 residents from three squatter camps in the Eerste

'Disband RSC police'

SOUTH AFRICA 28/9/93

River area occupied the Melton Rose offices to demand water facilities in their areas (26/9/93)

Despite police satisfaction that the sit-in was conducted in an orderly fashion and that a negotiated settlement seemed possible, RSC law enforcement officers violently dispersed the protestors.

Hendricks, who was mediating between the squatter representa-

tives and the RSC at the time, strongly condemned the actions of the RSC law enforcement officers.

"It is not the first time that these law enforcement officers have acted in an arrogant and utterly insensitive manner. Their conduct was a disgrace and seriously undermined the intensive efforts that were under way to settle the dispute peacefully," Hendricks said.

He added that the RSC should discipline the officials involved and immediately disband their law enforcement unit.

"They have no clue about the sensitivity of their work," Hendricks said. "They show contempt for the work of the peace committee and undermine us at every turn — the time has come for them to disband, they are a threat to peace in this region," Hendricks said.

The RSC had not responded to SOUTH's request for comment at the time of going to press.

Commissions for councils?

661111
ARC 28/10/92

Municipal Reporter

THE Western-Cape Regional Services Council is seeking backing from other local authorities for councils to be allowed to appoint commissions of inquiry.

At present only provincial administrators may appoint commissions to probe the affairs of city and town councils. RSC chief executive officer

Daan van der Berg said the time had come for councils to be given effective powers to investigate alleged irregularities.

Amendments to the Committees of Inquiry Ordinance proposed by the RSC include allowing the administrator to delegate powers of inquiry to a local authority.

Each council would have to pay for its own costs.

Public Sector - Regional Services
Councils

1994

Council wants RSC areas to fall under new metropolitan control

Municipal Reporter

THE city council has widened its boundaries for the future metropolitan council to include the whole regional services council area

Earlier, the executive committee recommended excluding a large area surrounding Paarl and Wellington, but this was rejected

At a special meeting yesterday the council approved a much larger metropole by 22 votes to three

Exco recommended the new borders after a presentation on the economy of the region

by Wesgro executive director David Bridgeman

The deadline for proposals on outer boundaries for the metropolitan negotiating forum, and the transitional metropolitan council, is Monday

Opposing the recommended larger metropole, Neil Ross said there was a danger of a "collision course" between the metropole and the region

He said exco's recommendation was based on "muddled thinking" about the definitions of regions and metropolitan areas

The proposal would "cas-

trate" the future regional government's ability to provide services, especially to the rural hinterland beyond the metropole

If regional functions were carried out by the metropolitan government, the rest of the Western Cape would not be able to function properly

"You are creating a mini-region," Mr Ross told colleagues

Proposals by local government bodies for outer and internal boundaries will be discussed by the Cape Metropolitan Negotiating Forum

(261A)

ARL 4/2/94

RSC demo — peace monitors move in

ARC 24/2/94

Political Staff

PEACE monitors have moved into the Atlantis offices of the Western Cape Regional Services Council after 30 people were ordered to end their occupation of an administration building in Westfleur (2b1A)

Police were expected to act against African National Con-

gress, Atlantis Residents' Association and Congress of South African Trade Unions members after RSC lawyers ordered them to leave.

Police liaison officer Raymond Dowd did not rule out the possibility of action

Western Cape Peace Committee monitor Sakkie Pot-

gieter said peace monitors were inside the RSC administration building and keeping an eye on the situation.

Residents' association spokesman Carl Cloete said RSC buildings in Westfleur, Avondale and Saxon Sea were occupied because "we want rent, water and electricity arrears to be scrapped"

Tariffs ^(261A) for RSC services: No change

SHARON SOROUR
Municipal Reporter

TARIFF levies for services rendered by the Regional Services Council will not increase in terms of a R993 million budget for the new financial year.

These tariffs affect mainly businesses.

The existing rebate of 25 per cent for bona fide farming activities in the region also remains unchanged.

Other highlights of the budget include:

- The allocation of R50 million to help local authorities lacking infrastructure or the ability to render services

- Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens will get R500 000 to improve tourist facilities

- R6,7 million has been budgeted for grants — including R4,9 million to communities not represented on the council, and R1,5 million to Wesgro to continue marketing the Western Cape overseas

- Provision has been made for R687 000 in grants to local authorities managing nature reserves

Delivering probably the council's last budget today, chairman Piet Loubser said it was a "transitional" budget.

Other aspects of the budget include:

- The total operating expenditure for council activities for 1994/1995 amounts to R993 million, of which R547 million represents functions and departmental activities financed from rates, transfers and service income

- Operating expenditure regarding "entrusted functions" amounts to R88 million — 3,77 percent less than the 1993/1994 financial year

- R21 million will be spent on regional stormwater projects, while R20 million and R22 million respectively will be spent on public resorts and services in rural areas

- Financing capital infrastructure in the region will amount to R272 million, of which R172 million and R100 million will be made available to local authorities as grants and loans respectively

- Expenditure for bus passenger transport will amount to R23 million. Income received from the fuel levy could amount to R11 million for the last financial year and R13 million for the new year

- The total operating income amounts to R993 million, of which R252 million will be obtained from levy income.

- The total budgeted capital expenditure amounts to R250 million of which R43 million will be spent on the council's own activities. Of this, R40 million, R600 000 and R1,8 million will be financed from income, internal loans and grants respectively.

and grants respectively.

No change to RSC levies

261A
ET 30/6/94

By PETER DENNEHY

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council's two levies on businesses would not increase in percentage this year, RSC chairman Mr Piet Loubser said yesterday

This means businesses will still have to pay R1 per R500 of their turnover, and R1 per R400 of their total remuneration packages as a levy to the RSC

Yesterday's "transitional" RSC budget would form the basis of the first Metropolitan Council budget, Mr Loubser said

And an additional R50m has been set aside for allocation in the forthcoming year to local authorities on the basis of recommendations by the priorities committee. These funds are traditionally used for capital projects to upgrade infrastructure such as drainage and sewerage in needy areas

Yesterday's total RSC budget amounted to R993,5m — just under last year's R995m budget. Most income and expenditure is accounted for by agency func-

Transition budget is released

tions the RSC undertakes for other bodies such as the government or CPA

Budgeted RSC expenditure for its own activities amounts to R396m. Its own capital budget for 1994/5 — apart from the R50m for upgrading — amounts to R43m

Of this, R15m is to be spent on stormwater drainage and canalisation in Kuils River, R1,8m on a bus and taxi terminus in Khayelitsha which will serve 60 000 people, another one in Nyanga costing R6,4m which will serve 50 000 commuters daily, and R3,5m on resorts and beaches including Monwabisi

Operating expenditure on functions which have been entrusted to the RSC, such as cemeteries,

resorts and stormwater drainage, declines by nearly 4% to R88m

Levy income amounts to R252m, of which R200m comes from the "establishment" or turnover levy. Costs of collecting it will be R4,3m, or 1,7% of expected income

The cent-a-litre fuel levy that the RSC gets from the government is expected to bring in over R13m in the forthcoming year. This, rather than levy income, will be used to pay bus passenger transport subsidies

Mr Loubser thanked all the business contributors to the levies. He said he could not help wondering, "with all this rain", what the Cape Flats would have looked like had the RSC not spent millions over the years for the improvement of stormwater drainage

Mr N M Isaacs of Matroosfontein said the RSC's concept of assisting the disadvantaged areas had "definitely made an indelible mark on our community".

"From all our areas, we want to express our sincere gratitude," he said

W Cape RSC in dispute over future status

Municipal Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council was fighting for its political life at a meeting of local government negotiators as a row broke out over its future once a transitional metropolitan council is in place.

At a plenary session of the Cape metropolitan negotiating forum last night, RSC negotiator Louwtjie Rothman said agreement could not be reached by statutory caucus members on the position of the RSC in the run-up to local government elections.

The parties could not agree on proposals in a draft document and sent it back to the forum's steering committee for reworking.

Cape Town city council negotiator John Muir said one suggestion was that the RSC continue as an "arm" of the TMC — "a small, tight body of about 50 people with administration tasks". But consensus was not reached.

When the TMC is established, the RSC will effectively cease to exist as a political body with the following implications:

- political control of the RSC will disappear;
- the RSC will no longer be a legal employer and
- RSC funding and all assets and liabilities will revert to the TMC.

"We are not in the same position as other municipalities and local authorities — when the RSC is replaced by the TMC, all other local authorities will stay intact."

Mr Rothman said the RSC had a right to ask that its staff be treated "in a fair and equal way".

However, ANC negotiator Hanief Tiseker said people felt the RSC had not rendered an adequate service, and it was an illegitimate structure.

"We can't deny the RSC fair treatment, we can't go against its workers, but we cannot allow the RSC to become the TMC. The RSC must not speak for the workers, but for politicians . . . they must not use the workers as scapegoats for their own interests."

West Cape RSC gets a reprieve

By PETER DENNEHY
and YAZEED FAKIER

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council survived a death-blow to its continued existence last night when a decision on its dissolution was postponed at a crucial Metropolitan Negotiating Forum meeting

The RSC is faced with the prospect of dissolution when a new Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC) for the whole of Greater Cape Town is established later this year

A proposal yesterday that RSC levies, its assets, and liabilities revert to the TMC — effectively emasculating the RSC — was referred back to the forum's steering committee for further discussion

(The forum was established to negotiate a non-racial dispensation for local government)

City Council delegate Mr John Muir said the RSC should not be given any more protection than any other local authority

It had been suggested that if the RSC was dissolved, 40 to 50 RSC staff

would be appointed on contract to the TMC "doing administrative tasks in the beginning, like taking and delivering minutes"

Others would have to be absorbed by local authorities

ANC delegate Mr Hanief Tiseker said the RSC now fighting for its life was the same one whose structures "we rejected from the start"

Staff must be dealt with fairly, he conceded, "but we can't allow the RSC to become the TMC. The TMC, once elected, must have the right to appoint people to senior posts"

Restructuring would occur, whether people liked it or not, with the RSC, the City Council and others, Mr Tiseker said. Some people would have to change jobs

But RSC deputy chairman Mr Louwtjie Rothman asked who would leave a job for a two-year contract

"What kind of applications can you expect?" he asked

Mr Rothman said the RSC had spent R700 million in underprivileged areas in the seven years of its existence, so its staff must be treated fairly

CT 26/7/94

261A

3 RSCs^(261A) accounts criticised

THE accounts of three Western Cape Regional Services Councils (RSCs) were criticised yesterday by auditor-general Mr Henri Kluever.

He said both the West Coast and the Breerivier RSCs incurred unauthorised expenditure, and in the case of the Western Cape RSC R25,7 million in trade creditors could not be verified and a discrepancy in sundry debtors of R12,6 million had not been cleared up.

However, Mr Kluever said that for all three RSCs the audit procedures were "appropriate in the circumstances" to present his audit opinion.

RSC writes off R280m loans

Municipal Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC) decided yesterday to write off R280 million in loans it granted to local authorities by converting them to grants

Some of the authorities to benefit from the write-offs are. Cape Town (R47m, much of it for pavements, roads and street lights), Macassar (R8m), Hout Bay (R11 for sewage works), Mamre (R8m), Lingeletu West (R28m) and Crossroads (R15m)

The RSC said that by writing off the loans it and those who paid its levies were contributing to the creation of viable new local authorities

Due to be dissolved, probably later this year, the RSC will be replaced by a Transitional Metropolitan Council.

New local authorities will have to accept responsibility for the loan debt of any areas in their boundaries

According to a report before the RSC yesterday, it has an accumulated revenue surplus of about R400m, so "sufficient funds are available for the conversion (of loans) to grants"

'Strict control'

for RSC cars

27 22/11/94
Municipal Reporter

STRICTER control is to be instituted in the allocation of petrol and use of cars belonging to the Western Cape Regional Services Council's fire department following allegations that these were being abused

"Certain shortcomings within the department's management structures have been highlighted and these will be addressed," said Dr C J van Tonder, RSC chief director of administrative services (261A)

A recent investigation into fraud and corruption found such claims to be groundless

ledges to ducation

He told pupils and teachers at Verderburg's Fleur primary school near Pretoria that Afrikaans was an important language and would not be abolished as long as he was President.

He warned pupils against taking drugs and urged them to study hard. "This old man loves you," he told the pupils "If you pass I will love you even more."

Mandela told the children not to despair if they worked hard and failed. He failed seven times while studying for his LLB.

Mandela also visited Greyville Primary School in Lenasia and Willow Crescent Secondary School at Eldorado Park.

Meanwhile, in Cape Town, Azapo said it threatened strikes and disruption of Model schools by the SA Democratic Teachers' Union and Congress of SA Students held the greatest threat to black education.

Although Azapo supported teachers' fight to press for more pay, it believed there were several options involving community backing which could be adopted by grieved teachers, such as selective consumer boycotts and demonstrations.

Five principals appointed this week were turned away by teachers at schools in Mopane, near Pretoria. Teachers said they opposed the appointment of staff from other schools while they were not considered for promotions. — Sapa

Council retrenchment deal must be probed, says ANC

NOMAVENDA MATHIANE

THE ANC in Pretoria has called for an independent commission of inquiry into the retrenchment packages offered to some members of the former regional services council (RSC) (26/1/95) (26/1/95) Spokesman Peter Maluleka claimed yesterday that last November the former RSC offered lucrative retrenchment packages to staff members who did not want to work for the transitional metropolitan council (TMC) when it took over.

"It is our view that this was done to undermine the functioning of the TMC, as the decision was taken just prior to the proclamation of the TMC.

"As the RSC was a member of the statutory delegation which negotiated the agreement establishing the TMC, such a decision can be seen to be in bad faith, as the negotiators were never informed of this move," Maluleka said. (26/1/95)

"In fact this resolution contradicts the agreement, which was that all RSC staff would be employed by the newly formed TMC and that their jobs were guaranteed."

ANC investigations disclosed that R3m was budgeted for the retrenchment packages under the budget item of separation benefits, he said.

According to figures in the possession of the ANC, one individual package amounted to more than R500 000 while others were more than R100 000.

"In the interests of accountability and transparency, the ANC is calling for an independent commission of inquiry," he said.

"We are also calling for the residents of the greater Pretoria area to support this move towards eradicating corruption."

The Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council refused to comment when asked about the packages yesterday.

'Doctors support a national health insurance scheme'

KATHRYN STRACHAN

A RECENT survey of doctors has found considerable support for a national health insurance scheme.

The most common reason given by the doctors for a national health insurance scheme was that it would lead to a more equitable form of health care delivery, said Marc Blecher of UCT's health economics unit, who conducted the survey among general practitioners in the Western Cape.

Blecher emphasised that all three options put forward so far by the Health Ministry's finance committee were varying forms of national health insurance.

Their approval depended on details of the various schemes, such as payment mechanisms, workload and income.

Doctors' acceptance was crucial in the light of the fact that powerful lobby groups could affect the workability of the final plan, said Blecher.

In his study, Blecher found the most important consideration for doctors was that they should retain professional

autonomy, for example in their choice of medication and investigations.

Nearly all doctors believed additional, private "top-up" insurance should remain available to those who wished to use it.

Meanwhile, the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network said yesterday the question of setting up a national health fund was the single most important issue on which the entire health system rested.

"It is important that we get this right," said network director Judi Fortuin.

She said it was crucial that people should be empowered with the skills to enable them to participate in debates on the proposed new health fund.

The network supported the ANC health plan, released before the elections, and any proposal for a national health insurance scheme would be evaluated against the policy put forward in the ANC blueprint.

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

RSC imperfect but did much good

CT 5/12/94

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC), which has allocated R776 million to upgrading projects in the 7½ years since it was formed, is due to pass away at the end of this year.

Its chairman, Mr Piet Loubser, will stay on to preside over the small part of it that remains. Just the section that falls outside the boundaries of the Cape Town metropolitan area.

The death may be postponed slightly. The RSC has indicated that unless its interpretation of the draft Negotiating Forum agreement prevails, and its senior officials accordingly get the top jobs in the Metropolitan Council, it will declare a dispute with the forum.

Whatever the outcome of this, the RSC is due to die in the short-term future, so now is an appropriate time to look back at its achievements.

That is a major task. This body that was born in controversy and which was never liked by people and politi-



CIVIC DIARY
By PETER DELANEY

26 1A

cians of the left, has put in services on the ground in the poorest areas in projects far too numerous to list here.

The total number of projects it has undertaken is 742, according to RSC public relations consultant Ms Mariette Greyling. Anyone who drives around in Cape Town's poorest areas will soon come across something the RSC has built.

It is not only in RSC-administered areas that these projects — water reticulation, stormwater drainage and retention dams, roads, pave-

ments, street lighting, refuse depots, taxi ranks and others — are to be found.

Millions have been passed on to authorities such as Cape Town City Council and the other 25 town and city councils which, together with 26 management committees and 13 other local bodies, sit on the RSC.

The RSC has been able to put in all this infrastructure in the poorest areas only because it imposed turnover and payroll taxes on businesses.

This is hardly the sort of thing that left-inclined politicians would complain about. Indeed, the redistributive levies are being retained, and will be imposed instead by the Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC).

Reasons for the RSC's apparent lack of respectability on the left of the political spectrum include that it is made up of racially-exclusive local authority bodies, and is seen as a stopgap body which alleviates the

worst effects of an unfair dispensation without addressing the root of the problem.

Boundaries have been drawn in such a way that white municipalities have the lion's share of commercial and industrial areas, which contribute massively towards local authority finances.

Meanwhile, black local authorities and coloured management committee areas are financially non-viable. The RSC was thus formed with the aim of improving poor areas. Within its parameters, it did this successfully.

We are lucky that the opposition to the RSC was never so vehement as to destroy its projects. They will remain in place for many years — living memorials, perhaps, to an imperfect body which nonetheless did plenty of good.

The TMC will set out to achieve even more, but that will not be easy.

RSC LEVIES (261A)
FM 26/5/95
Big business

The two attorneys who have been doing the legal work for the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council (RSC) are also the sole shareholders in a company which collects levies on behalf of the RSC

Since its inception in 1985 the RSC has, by using levy collection inspectors, raked in R135m in unpaid levies which it might otherwise have lost. Of this it has paid R3m in collection fees to the two companies appointed as inspectors in September 1993.

According to acting CE of the RSC Nantes Botha, the companies — Senwits and Optima Bestuursdienste — were appointed after the RSC had authorised then CE Len de Wet to call for inspection service tenders from the private sector.

Last month (*Current Affairs* April 28) we quoted a private financial adviser saying he had two clients who had been sued by the RSC despite documentary proof that these companies had either been dormant or not in arrears with their levies. (Introduced 10 years ago, a levy is a development tax based on company turnover and payroll.)

Out of four tenders received to collect

levies for the RSC, the council accepted that of Lex Terra and Optima Bestuursdienste, a tracing firm Lex Terra later changed its name to Senwits.

Documents at the Registrar of Companies show that Lex Terra was originally registered as Landpro on October 21 1983 "to deal in the property industry".

Its sole director at the time was Ignatius Alfred (Alfie) Kok, an attorney. On September 29 1993 Lex Terra changed its name to Senwits and Kok was joined by Willem Petrus (Pierre) Hendrikse, also an attorney, as director.

While the *FM* was unable to obtain any documents pertaining to Optima Bestuursdienste at the Registrar's office, Botha says the directors of that company were Frederick Steyn and Andre Muller, both of whom had previously been involved with RSCs. But he says it is not known what happened to that company since its contract with the Central Wits RSC expired on February 11 1994, leaving Senwits as its sole levy collector.

Kok and Hendrikse, partners in a law firm of the same name, were in November 1989 appointed by the RSC as its attorneys. According to Botha, between then and March 1995 the firm had issued 32 885 summonses on behalf of the RSC and according to audited statements had billed the council for R2,4m in legal fees.

Botha says that since their appointment the two companies have been paid R3m for the collection of levies.

"The inspectors are not collectors of levies in the true sense of the word," says Botha. "They do not have a specific number of businesses from which they collect. Their major task is to trace levypayers who are not yet registered to pay, and also to assist (in seeing) that registered levypayers are paying the correct amount."

The inspectors are also responsible, among other duties, for the collection of arrears levies, interest and Vat from levypayers and those who have not been summonsed by the council.

In terms of the agreement the inspectors are compensated for the first levy payments only, says Botha. This is calculated as 20% on collections up to R150 000, thereafter 15% on amounts up to R500 000 and 10% on levies over R500 000.

Botha says the RSC was advised by Senwits that two of its employees, Schalk Coetzee and Abrie Coetzee (no relation) were involved in a Supreme Court action. Both Coetzees face charges relating to an alleged R32m fraud and forex contraventions. The two are represented by Kok & Hendrikse, who have briefed two advocates in the trial which has been heard since 1992 in the Rand Supreme Court. The case will proceed in January 1996.

Botha says the RSC retains the right to set criteria for the inspectors, whose appointments are subject to council approval. The Coetzees, however, are not listed nor do they act as inspectors. *Eddie Botha*