

SOCIAL SECURITY - CHILD CARE

1994

Home, sweet Homestead

ANDREA WEISS Health Reporter

If you work or shop in the city, if you've seen them countless times — the street children who have migrated to town to escape unknown miseries at home.

But what future lies ahead for those who find themselves in this unenviable situation?

Fortunately, it's not all bad news thanks to the hard work of the staff of The Homestead and its projects whose aim is to get children off the streets and back into society.

Homestead social worker Arche Frieslaar says about 300 children have made the streets of the Cape Town city bowl their home — usually fleeing poverty, violence and possibly sexual abuse at home. About half may be in city shelters at any time. In the Western Cape, the figure could be as high as 1 500.

A child as young as three has been found on the streets with a sibling — but usually they're aged seven upwards. The average age is early adolescence. The vast majority are boys.

Often, their move to the city is a gradual one after hearing through the grapevine that a living can be made on the streets.

They may come into town on exploratory outings, taking free train rides and returning home. A few more outings, the odd sleep over, and they take the plunge.

Or perhaps, having worked the streets as day-time strollers, but returning home at night, they decide to leave home because of a violent incident.

If they're small, they may be taken under the wing of older boys because they are a marketable asset and evoke sympathy when begging at robots. The older boys will feed and "clothe" them and supply the solvents the children sniff.

Solvents are widely abused by street children because, they say, they take away the cold and the fear. Fortunately, it's not highly addictive, and children who are rehabilitated are usually able to drop the habit immediately.

It's a phenomenon that Mr Frieslaar believes is here to stay.

"I don't think street children are ever going to go away because our economy is such that people are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet.

"Poor home circumstances make people feel depressed, alienated and maybe under those circumstances they lash out at the children. Or maybe there is physical abuse or alcohol and drug abuse by the parents.

"More and more children who find the situation untenable come on to the streets." The objective of The Homestead and other shelters around the city is to reach as many children as possible and to try to get them off the streets.

Usually the children arrive at The Homestead after a few weeks or more.



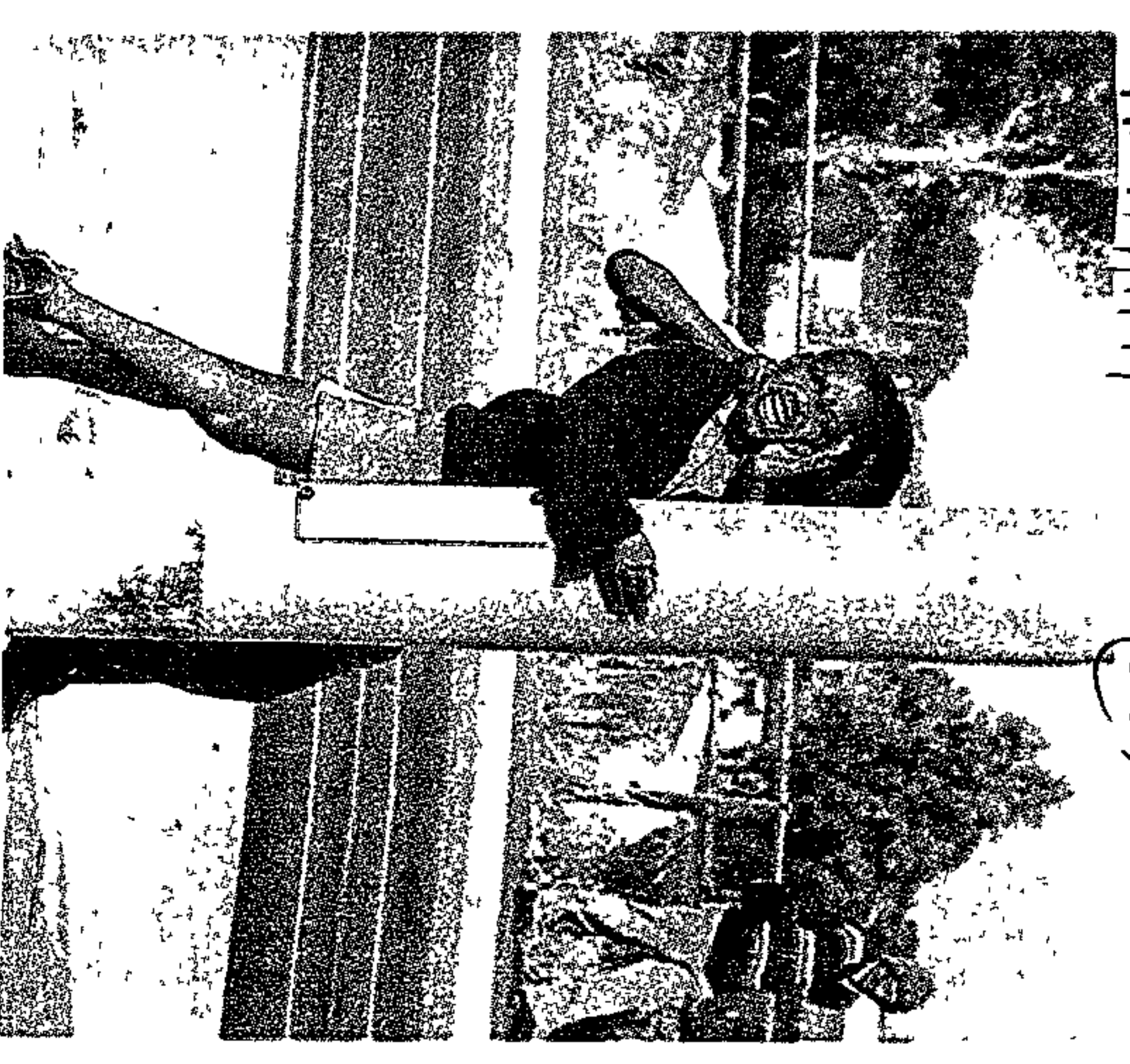
BODY BLANKETS: Relying on one another for warmth, teenage street children sleep in a doorway in the city.

THIS IN BOX PLEASE

Pictures
OBED ZILWA,
The Argus



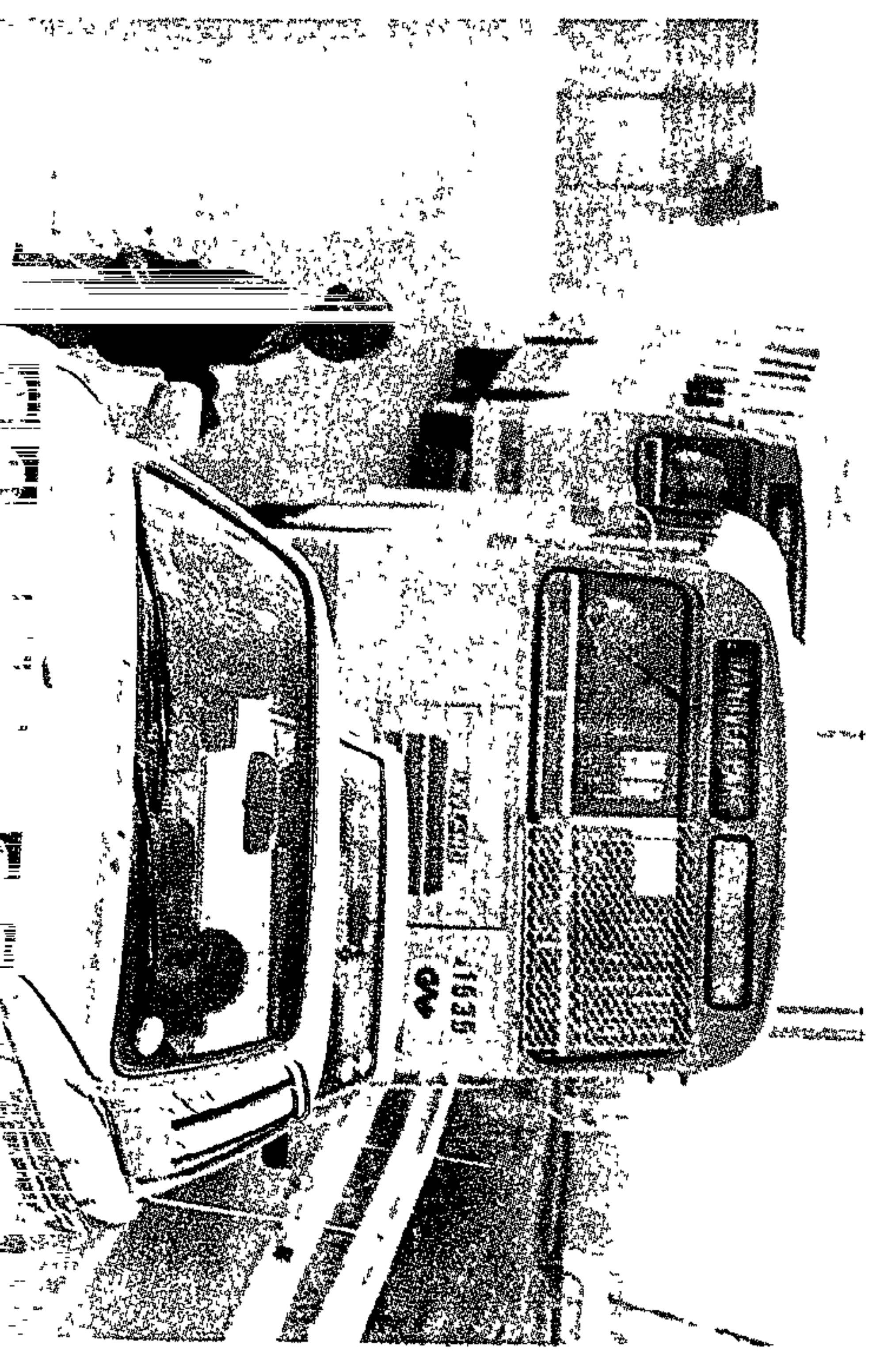
BIN SEARCH: Left — scavenging for odds and ends in the bins is a common activity.



PEEK-A-BOO: Children peek at the photographer from behind a telephone pole.

AKG17/11/94

(298)



ter is the busiest time when admissions peak because of the bad weather.

Those who go voluntarily have the best prognosis but there are others who are brought by the police or citizens or are placed there by the courts.

First children are given showers, meals and any medical attention they may need. On admission, they are interviewed and staff meet to decide their future.

Mr Frieslaar and other social workers will make an effort to find the parents — something they manage to achieve 95 per cent of the time.

The rules are simple: no solvents, no fighting and cut down on swearing. The children are expected to be home by 4.30pm for showers and supper and back by 8pm if they go out again.

If they are sent to school, and many are, they are expected to attend. They should be back for lunch at 12.30.

The rules are enforced through a simple system of providing Friday pocket money from which amounts will be deducted if they don't comply. There is no corporal punishment because the staff know they have had more than their share of physical abuse.

Pocket money is an important and effective incentive.

Children unable to attend school because they are too old or their education has lapsed too far, are put in the Learn to Live programme which teaches basic numeracy, literacy and arts and crafts. They go on to learn vocational skills and some have found work in hotels and restaurants.

Often the parents do not want their children back and Mr Frieslaar's does the legal work to make them wards of the state. Once this has been achieved, the children will be placed elsewhere.

Even if the parents are not in a position to look after their children, they are encouraged to keep contact and many children go home for weekends.

"They may not be able to cope with home at 13, but they could handle it by the time they are 16. In the meanwhile they have kept contact so they can return home," Mr Frieslaar explains.

For The Homestead, a natural next step up is Patrick's House where 40 boys are housed. There are many success stories here — with one boy in matric this year, another doing an art course and others who have found jobs.

Sometimes a bewildered child arrives at The Homestead after landing on the streets by an accident of fate. In these instances, Mr Frieslaar moves quickly because he feels that a child who is not a street child may rapidly become one.

This year, The Homestead tackles a new project called The Bridge which will hopefully provide a city night shelter for 55 children and a first port-of-call.

And what about the prickly question of handing out money to begging children?

"If you have the time, speak to the child and go with him to the nearest shop to buy some bread and milk. I believe you should steer clear of giving money because you don't know what it is going to be used for."

Better still, perhaps you should think of giving your money to an organisation which is directing its efforts at changing the lives of these children for the better.

WORKING THE ROBOTS:
A man in a luxury car, right, gives money to a begging child



SNIFFING GLUE: A street child sniffs glue in Long Street. The children say they abuse solvents because they take away the cold and the fear of being on the streets



HOMELESS: A ragged shirt and bare feet match the look of despair on this boy's face.

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1994 (FIRST QUARTER)

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BASIC BOOKKEEPING	10 weeks 10 weeks 10 weeks	Wednesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 26 January Saturdays 9.30-12.00 noon 29 January Wednesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 20 April
ADVANCED BOOKKEEPING	10 weeks 10 weeks	Wednesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 20 April Mondays 6.30-9.00 pm 24 January
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING & FINANCE	18 weeks 15 weeks	Saturdays 9.00-12.00 noon 16 April Wednesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 9 February
CREDIT CONTROL & CREDIT MANAGEMENT (intermediate)	14 weeks	Wednesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 9 February
MARKETING MANAGEMENT	20 weeks 20 weeks 20 weeks	Tues & Thurs 6.30-8.30 pm 27 January Saturdays 8.30-12.30 pm 29 January Mon & Wed 6.30-8.30 pm 25 April
PUBLIC RELATIONS	18 weeks 14 weeks 14 weeks	Wednesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 26 January Saturdays 8.30-12.30 pm 29 January Saturdays 8.30-12.30 pm 23 April
PROFESSIONAL SALESMANSHIP	10 weeks 10 weeks	Saturdays 9.00-12.00 noon 19 February Wednesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 16 February
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HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	17 weeks	Tuesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 8 February
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	17 weeks	Mondays 6.30-9.00 pm 7 February
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	24 weeks 28 weeks 24 weeks	Mon & Wed 6.30-9.00 pm 26 January Saturdays 8.30-12.30 pm 29 January Tues & Thurs 6.30-9.00 pm 19 April
SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	18 weeks 17 weeks	Tuesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 1 February Saturdays 9.00-12.00 noon 19 March
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT	20 weeks 17 weeks	Tuesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 22 March Saturdays 9.00-12.00 noon 5 March
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	14 weeks 17 weeks	Saturdays 9.00-12.00 noon 26 February Mondays 6.30-9.00 pm 7 March
PURCHASING MANAGEMENT	14 weeks 17 weeks	Saturdays 9.00-12.00 noon 26 February Mondays 6.30-9.00 pm 28 February
SECURITY MANAGEMENT	14 weeks 14 weeks	Saturdays 9.30-12.00 noon 23 April Tuesdays 6.30-9.00 pm 26 April
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Child Welfare body may cut staff

Labour Reporter

THE SA National Council for Child and Family Welfare, which is facing its worst financial crisis, will consider retrenching staff at the end of January.

According to national chairman Daan Eloff, the welfare organisation had been experiencing "serious financial difficulties" and a special finance committee had sought "every possible avenue to resolve

these difficulties".

Professor Eloff said: "The recommendation of the finance committee of the welfare organisation to retrench staff will be considered at a meeting to be held on January 31."

He said the present economic climate was not conducive to financial rehabilitation and the finance committee's only option was to recommend that staff be retrenched.

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ARG 20/1/94

Danger lurks for street children

The gruesome killings on the Cape Flats have highlighted the vulnerability of children to danger and death — especially Cape Town's "strollers". Staff Reporter SHARON SOR-OUR reports.

A protective shield has closed around the city's children as the Station Strangler horror deepens.

Yet, hundreds of children have no parents to look out for them.

Street children, known as "strollers" in Cape Town, have been warned to be exceptionally careful, according to Claremont Children's Shelter unit manager Heather Lewis.

She said: "This is obviously an exceptional and frightening situation, and we warn the children at our shelter to be very careful. But the public does not concern itself with missing children until something terrible happens to children."

"People see children on the street every day and accept it."

Mrs Lewis said she did not know if any of the Strangler's victims had been street children.

"I have no record of the victims being identified as strollers, who are often very street-wise."

Street children faced several dangers and were often injured in car and train accidents.

There were also hundreds of missing children.

"We have hundreds of children coming to our shelter every year and our first priority is to find homes for them. We are very concerned about their safety."

"Our researcher checks up on children who leave the shelter to see if they really do go home."

Mrs Lewis said the public did not realise "how parents look for their runaway children".

She said: "Parents often search for their children for a very long time before giving up hope. Very few parents do nothing when their children go missing."

"The shelters provide a very good service for runaways. We pick them up quite quickly ... there are a lot of terrible dangers on the streets for children who don't get back to adult supervision speedily."

She said there was a continual need for more shelters and safehouses for children, and the organisations struggled financially to survive as it was difficult to get government subsidies for children who drifted in and out of shelters.

The Claremont Children's Shelter, a Child Welfare project, was supposed to cater for about 16 children a day, but now had 25.

"The number of street children grows daily: I see 200 boys a year in this shelter, and I am not even counting the ones I see on the streets."

"In the three years I've been here, I have worked with between 500 and 600 boys who go home for periods of time and move around a lot — it's very difficult to put a figure on how many strollers there are in Cape Town."

The shelter had recently launched a research project in an attempt to find out what happened to children when they left the shelter.

"Where do 18 and 19-year-olds go when they leave here? We can't keep them."

It is estimated there are about 8 000 street children in South Africa.

They have no access to basic services such as medical care and literacy training.

Human Sciences Research Council researcher Willem Schurink told a recent conference on street children that they had to contend with insufficient food, clothing and shelter, were usually between seven and 16 years old, and often came from poor, overcrowded homes where they had been ill-treated.

Most street children were boys, who survived by doing odd jobs, begging, prostituting themselves, abusing or selling drugs and committing minor and serious crimes.

YOUTH

Some surprises

Young blacks are not nearly as radical as often perceived, according to an opinion poll conducted in main metropolitan areas in August by Markinor for *Reader's Digest*, which publishes the results in its latest edition.

They not only support the ANC, rather than the PAC or other more militant groups, but their expectation of what a new government will be able to deliver in the short term is realistic.

However, they and their white counterparts are extremely worried about SA's short-term future. More than two-thirds — 68% of blacks and 72% of whites — believe the factional conflict will develop into full-scale civil war during the electioneering period before April 27.

Nearly all white respondents (94%) and most blacks (87%) predict an increase in violence — not necessarily to civil war level — in the short term.

The poll was conducted among 300 blacks and 300 whites aged 16-25. Though, predictably, the level of mistrust between the races is high and views on some key issues differ widely along racial lines, there is remarkable consensus on other matters.

For example, 89% of blacks and 73% of

whites believe schools provide inadequate education. Also, 90% of blacks and 93% of whites believe the use of hard drugs is morally wrong.

Aids educators will be concerned about the finding that only 41% of blacks and 57% of whites believe there is a moral obligation to use protection with a new sexual partner. Only 1% believe the fight against Aids should be an aim of the new government over the next five years

Police distrusted

Equally worrying is that 80% of young blacks and 22% of whites distrust the police.

Blacks display remarkable moderation on economic issues. Though they expect standards of living to improve under a new government, they know it won't happen overnight. About 60% of blacks and 75% of whites are looking to business leaders rather than government to resuscitate the economy. The majorities of both groups believe prosperity can best be secured through a growing market economy.

Party political support among blacks of voting age mirrors recent polls with 67% backing the ANC and 8% the PAC. But a bloc of 20% remains uncommitted.

Support among whites is more evenly spread, with 31% for the NP, 20% for the CP, 11% for Inkatha, 9% for the DP and 26% uncommitted.

There is virtually no support among blacks for traditional white parties and vice versa (except for some whites favouring Inkatha).

A significant finding, especially against the background of the large uncommitted voting blocs, is that young people have more faith in the leadership ability of the church than in politicians. More than half attend church regularly.

Reader's Digest managing editor Murray McNally, who conducted post-poll interviews with some respondents and other people involved in the survey, doubts the faith shown in the church means religious leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu will make a political comeback. They see their role as being on the social rather than political level.

Silent majority

McNally agrees that the level of support for the ANC is surprising. He believes the perception of young blacks as radicals is due mainly to publicity given to high-profile leaders. The poll shows there's a large, silent majority that does not agree with them.

Meanwhile, Stellenbosch University professor Jan Sadie has questioned the latest polls that give the ANC around 67% of votes in April (*Current Affairs* January 21). In an article in *Die Burger*, Sadie estimates the ANC will win no more than 58%. ■

Oudtshoorn mother sells young daughter for R20 'Slavegirl' kept in Rylands

South

412-812194

By Shannon Neill

A TRAGIC story of abuse and exploitation ended this week when a girl escaped from virtual imprisonment at a house in Rylands Estate and, with the aid of the South African Domestic Workers Union (Sadwu), arranged to be sent home to Oudtshoorn.

After two months of alleged physical and mental abuse Katy (she does not want her full name used) scaled a wall of the Murton Road house and escaped to a friend's home.

Katy's age is believed to be between 11 and 13. Her ordeal began when she was "bought" from her family in September last year and brought to Cape Town to be a domestic worker.

"The people came to my farm looking for workers. They said they wanted me to work in their house. My mother said no. Then they gave her and my granny R10 each. And so my mother said I must go with the people.

"My mother asked the people for their address and phone number before we left and they told her they had no phone and they wouldn't tell her their address," said the still distraught child.

On arriving in Cape Town she was reduced to a position of near slavery. During the day she had to

clean the house, do the washing and ironing and wash the cars.

In the evening she waited for the family to eat and cleaned up after them before she was allowed her meal of "rice or a little slice of bread and tea".

When the family went out she was locked in the house. In the two months she worked for them she was not once allowed out on her own.

She claims the family abused her physically. "At night if the baby cried I had to get up and push the pram. If I didn't get up they hit me.

"Sometimes they hit me with a belt or a rolling-pin. Sometimes the children would slap me in my face and kick me."

She wrote to her mother to tell her what was happening.

"She phoned me on the public phone. She didn't speak to me though — all she did was cry," the distressed girl said.

She ran away shortly before Christmas. "I was up with the baby all night. When I wanted to go to sleep the man said I must wash the car because he was going to his cafe.

"When I was finished he took the hose and sprayed me in my face. I changed my clothing and then I climbed over the wall and ran away," she said.



Her friend took her to Sadwu. Union officials approached Katy's employers and managed to negotiate a salary of R400 for her for the two months she was employed.

Sadwu Rural Regional Organiser, Michael Sedgwick, said: "Unfortunately we cannot prosecute these people for contravening the child labour laws because they claim the mother said she thought Katy was 17."

"Anyone who looks at Katy can see she is not 17, but legally we can do nothing."

He said there were hundreds of cases similar to this one in Cape Town but it was difficult to get in touch with victims. "If anyone knows of child labour they should not hesitate to contact us.

"And I'm putting a warning out to all those who employ children under 15 — if we find you we will prosecute you," was Sedgwick's stern message.

Lack of schools for black disabled children

BY JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT



HELPERS at the Makukhanye Day Care Centre for disabled children prepare lunch outside as there is no room for a kitchen
Picture: JACK LESTRADE

THE severe lack of accessible educational institutions for black disabled children means many are not attending school.

The national co-ordinator of the Disabled Children Action Group, Vuyo Mahlati, said this week that the Disabled People of SA organisation hoped this would change under a new government.

"The only solution is equal representation of disabled people in government," she said.

There are only three special schools for disabled blacks in the Western Cape, so most of these children do not have the opportunity to go to school. Although several schools are open to all races, black children often are at a disadvantage as they do not speak English or Afrikaans.

Legislation guaranteed grants only for parents of severely handicapped children, Mrs Mahlati said.

Language barrier (298)

The Western Cape does not have a school for blind, Xhosa-speaking children.

Although the Pioneer School for the Blind in Worcester was open to all races, black children were unable to attend because of the language barrier, Mrs Mahlati said.

There is only one primary school for black physically disabled children. The school, in Guguletu, Cape Town, accommodates fewer than 100 children. The country's only senior secondary school for disabled black children is in Pretoria.

Parents of black disabled children had found ways to alleviate the problems, Mrs Mahlati said.

Informal educare centres were mushrooming in the townships, but as they did not meet government standards they did not qualify for subsidies

SHAME OF FORGO THE CAPE'S OTTEN KIDS

EXCLUSIVE



Picture OBED ZILWA, Weekend Argus

SILENT SUFFERING: This child shares a room with 62 other retarded children up to the age of 14. The mattresses behind her are the only ones they have. There is no water, and they use bushes for toilets

ARG 19/2/94 (

■ Thousands of retarded children are living without hope in appalling conditions in the Western Cape.

DI CAELERS, Weekend Argus Reporter

THOUSANDS of retarded children in Cape Town's black townships have been forgotten as they "wait to die", starving and neglected, in horrific conditions.

Desperate poverty-stricken parents, grappling with the absence of appropriate facilities, lock up these handicapped youngsters, with no water or toilets and often no food, for the entire day so they can go to work.

And township women who have tried to step into the breach with informal "educare centres" are having doors slammed in their faces all the time as they plead for financial aid to stop the children's suffering.

'Forgotten children'

■ From page 1 (298)

can't because there is no money. They are working for no pay. How can they go out and get certificates?"

The teachers said government grants were available to the children only when they turned 16 and, since their parents were poverty-stricken, there was no chance of receiving therapy.

This meant physically handicapped children with no brain damage were being left completely uneducated and that the mentally handicapped would never even begin to reach their full potential. ARG 19/2/94

The children were simply being "fed when possible and loved" ... "but the bottom line is that they're waiting to die".

Physiotherapy and occupational and speech therapy were non-existent. Lack of security often led to the theft of the little the centres did have. And transport remained a concern.

Nosipho Bongco, of Emthandazweni Centre for Disabled Children in Old Crossroads, said: "We are crying for transport. Some of these children are very heavy and the mothers have to carry them long distances to get here. We're stranded here, which also means we can't take any of the children to get medical care."

Medical care for these handicapped youngsters is so low on the list of priorities that it is seldom even mentioned. But one teacher did question how anyone thought a parent living in an unhygienic shack could cope with a child who needed a permanent catheter.

■ Anyone who can help with funds, equipment, food or skills should contact Ikamva Labantu at ☎ 461-8270 or ☎ 434-2879 after hours.

These are just some of the tragic facts that emerged from a Weekend Argus investigation into conditions for black physically disabled, blind and mentally retarded children in Khayelitsha, Langa, Nyanga, Guguletu and Old Crossroads.

Only two formal care facilities exist for these children in the entire Western Cape — with waiting lists of three to five years.

Children are therefore taken to informal "educare centres", which are often no more than shacks.

Yet these informal centres provide the only alternative to the children spending their days alone, often locked in badly ventilated, dark shacks with no ablution facilities.

To add to this horrifying picture, the teachers report that these youngsters are often sexually abused because they are easy targets.

Doreen Msengana, principal of Golden Girls Educare Centre for Disabled Children in Langa, told Weekend Argus that the women who ran this and other such care groups often worked for nothing because parents could not afford to pay.

"I have to feed 62 children breakfast, tea, lunch and afternoon tea out of R800 a month. It's not enough but the Cape Provincial Administration says they will only talk to us about a grant when we classify the children according to their age and their disability.

"That's impossible ... look around, there's no space."

Golden Girls is run from a dilapidated church. The 62 children are crammed into an area little bigger than an average bedroom. There is no water and their toilets are the bushes across the road.

A community-based organisation called Ikamva Labantu provides money for food for Golden Girls and about six similar groups.

"Before they began helping us we used to go door to door to get food for these children," Ms Msengana said.

Theodora Mamputa of the Siyazama Educare Centre for Disabled Children in Guguletu voiced concerns common to all the groups: "We go to the CPA and they tell us they can't help unless we are affiliated to a welfare organisation. We don't want to do that because these organisations do nothing for the children in the townships.

"They also tell us our teachers must have certificates. The teachers want to study but they

■ To page 3

Early this week Mr Shill announced a 10-year plan to spend R90 billion on housing subsidies for the poor. He was immediately accused by the 19-member National Housing Forum of jeopardising months of negotiations by making a premature announcement.

Mr Ramaphosa gave Mr Shill a roasting in the TEC, calling him the most "arrogant" minister he had ever

rum issued yet another statement stating it would continue to finalise a national housing accord to include State subsidies as well as an initiative to make mortgage finance available to lower-income families.

Both Mr Shill and the NHF are to appear before the TEC next week to state their cases.

(News by D Breier, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town)

Task group to help disabled children

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

A TASK group comprising Cape Town residents and organisations concerned with immediate relief for the city's disabled black children, was set up this week.

The group was formed in response to a Weekend Argus article which revealed that thousands of physically and mentally handicapped children in Cape Town's black townships were suffering appalling hardship, including many of them being locked alone in shacks all day while their parents worked, because of hopelessly inadequate facilities.

Offers of assistance flooded in from church groups, medical doctors, concerned residents, disabled fundraisers and even a motorcycle club. This resulted in the initial meeting where a future strategy was planned.

A spokeswoman for Ikamva Labantu, a community-based project that feeds several hundred of these children, told Weekend Argus the response had been phenomenal: "Although our need still remains great it is heartening to know so many people want to help."

"The articles appear to have set off a ripple effect and, besides local groups, we've also had big companies and people with overseas contacts offering their assistance."

The most heart-rendering response, she said, was when a man whose baby had just died walked into the offices and handed over its clothing. "He said we should have the clothes for our children because it would help him and his wife cope with their own future."

Another man donated three packets

of mealie meal, saying his family's need was not as great as that of the disabled children.

At a meeting last week, particular needs were identified with the help of teachers at informal Educare centres for these children in the townships who told of their own particular hardships and of the situation in their community.

A fundraising committee, people to write up proposals and a team to do surveys to ascertain specific numbers and conditions of children involved were among the short-term solutions put forward to alleviate immediate problems like transport, security and food.

A grants committee would assess children, write up case histories, get in touch with social workers and confront the authorities to ensure children eligible for state grants received them.

Two medical doctors at the meeting, who may not be named for professional reasons, offered to help with assessing children and getting their mothers and carers involved in some basic training: "We have a disabled child and have been working with a specialised Welsh programme for five years."

"We don't have to teach the whole programme, but with disabled children it is vital to know such simple things as how to position them so they are comfortable. We can teach them that at least."

The meeting agreed they would address the children in the informal Educare centres as a "pilot group".

■ Anyone who wants to join the task group, donate funds, equipment, food or skills can contact Ikamva Labantu at 461 8270 or 434 2879 (a/h).

No relief for dying children

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

ORGANISATIONS fighting to uplift Cape Town's disabled black children have given the Cape Provincial Administration a tongue-lashing over its "hard-line" attitude to releasing funds for immediate relief.

The children's rights advocates accused the Administration of:

- Wanting to "take over" efforts initiated by parents instead of empowering the parents who were desperate for assistance,

- Enforcing stringent requirements for grants resulting in "most" of the Western Cape's disabled children not qualifying,

- Insisting teachers had formal course certificates when most had neither money nor time to spare for study, and were working for no pay,

- Employing social workers who lacked awareness, were unsupportive and unhelpful, and

- Paying grants to day-care centres "on attendance only", ignoring the fact that overhead costs remain the same whether or not a child is absent.

Weekend Argus revealed last weekend that thousands of physically and mentally handicapped children in the city's black townships were suffering appalling hardship as they "wait to die".

In its defence, the CPA said in a statement yesterday that the requirements for grants for disabled children were entrenched in the Mental Health Act of 1973 and that all state welfare departments had to adhere to this.

Shahaaz Majiet, national advocacy manager of the Disabled Children's Action Group (Dicag) which has its headquarters in Cape Town, told Weekend Argus parents of handicapped children were angry and frustrated after years of rejection and alienation from both the authorities and their communities.

■ The Cape Provincial Administration has a lot to answer for, say the experts, when it comes to the appalling conditions in which disabled children in Cape Town's black townships live.

ARG 26/2/94 (298)

The problems were not confined to the Western Cape and the organisation's branches attracted plenty of parents in the Transvaal, Free State, Border area, Natal, KwaZulu, and particularly the Eastern Transvaal.

"The situation here is bad enough when these children are within reach of modern facilities. But we have vast rural areas where the situation is really, really bad — where the children are experiencing terrible suffering."

"Most children are not getting grants and these are vital for their immediate survival. And what we're talking here is pure survival, food to keep them alive. We haven't even started on prevention and rehabilitation," she said.

Toni Tickton, director of Cape Mental Health which has about 100 doubly handicapped (physically and mentally) children in its formal care facilities, said the CPA's "pay on attendance" was "a particularly bitter pill".

"Because of the severity of the handicaps we're dealing with, our teacher-pupil ratio is very high — seven or eight to one — and we're getting the lowest subsidy with only 20 percent of costs covered by the CPA."

The CPA replied that its subsidised day-care centres received the maximum of R134,94 per child each month, calculated on "days of attendance at the centre". The Administration knew "about the problems as pointed out".

"We have initiated improvements in the subsidy scheme for special day-care centres and are addressing the problems."

'Forgotten' kids still languishing in SA prisons

Sowetan 28/2/94

By Mathatha Tsedu

Political Editor

298

THE Department of Correctional Services has approached the African National Congress for assistance in dealing with more than 1 000 children who were "dumped and forgotten" in prisons by police, the ANC said last night.

Speaking to the media after three days of a whirlwind tour of the Western Cape, ANC chairman Mr Thabo Mbeki said in Cape Town that 1 079 children under the age of 18 were being held as awaiting trial prisoners in South African jails.

He said almost all were black and prisons authorities had now approached the ANC for assistance in dealing with the problem. Many of the children were seven-years-old.

A letter from the Department of Correctional Services to the ANC gives this breakdown of children being held in prisons: Natal (523), Central Transvaal (180), Western Cape (138), Northern Transvaal (101), Eastern Cape (79), Northern Cape (38) and Southern Cape (20).

"Any assistance or action on your part to remedy the situation will be highly appreciated," the letter says.

Mbeki said the ANC approached the prison authorities last year and expressed concern at the number of black children in prisons. It asked for the monitoring of the situation, and the figures were the result of that request.

Research done

He said children aged between seven and 14 years were of particular concern and that research done in Natal last December found that all the children in this category were black.

"The police are just dumping these children and this is unacceptable. The ANC has to devise a plan within the reconstruction programme to deal with this matter," Mbeki said.

Other senior officials directly involved with this issue told Sowetan that a shortage of probation officers to interview the children before they are sent to prison, the virtual absence of the social structures to handle the children and overworked policemen were some of the reasons why black children were in jail.

Upliftment of youth and women a major priority

Star 26/5/94

■ POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The Government is considering the establishment of a National Commission on Youth Development as a governmental structure.

The commission is to be formed in association with youth organisations, President Mandela told Parliament yesterday.

"The Government and the commission will then work together to ensure

that the nurturing of our youth stands at the centre of our reconstruction and development," Mandela said. (298)

Similar considerations would be given to the emancipation of women.

"All of us must take this on board that the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme will not have been realised unless we see, in visible and practical terms, that the

condition of the women of our country has radically changed for the better and that they have been empowered to intervene in all aspects of life as equals with any other member of society," he said.

The statutory Gender Commission, the Government and representatives of women's organisation would ensure that emancipation of women was part of the public sector's programmes.

Meeting on Youth affairs

Sowetan

26/5/94

THE Inkatha Youth Brigade and the African National Congress Youth League meet in Durban today to decide on the implementation of Governmental structures to explore youth issues.

(298)
The ANCYL will propose a minister without portfolio who will fall under the office of the regional Premier.

The minister will be responsible for implementing the Reconstruction and Development Programme, youth development and women's issues, ANCYL Southern KwaZulu-Natal secretary-general Mr Lucky Gabela said.

A youth commission is also mooted to make proposals to the premier on youth affairs and development and to co-ordinate workshops and other

youth-related activities.

The commission will also play a watchdog role, monitoring the activities of government departments such as education and health and welfare, which impact on young people.

The commission will report to the provincial legislature on its monitoring of legislation affecting youth and will convene inter-departmental committees on issues facing youth.

IFPYB national organiser Mr Otto Kunene said the meeting would attempt to promote development in the region and would deal with reconciliation.

"We will deal with what we as youth can do to heal the wounds of the past and ensure we are recognised in society," Kunene said the youth organisations planned to hold joint seminars and workshops. — Sapa.

Ways of releasing detained children being worked out

Star 27/5/94

■ POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Guidelines are being worked out to free children from prisons and detention.

This follows President Mandela's statement to Parliament on Tuesday that he had given instruction for the drafting of such guidelines to "empty our prisons of children and to place them in suitable alternative care".

Ministry of Correctional Services spokesman Bert Slabbert yesterday confirmed that such guidelines were being compiled.

It is understood that Correctional Services would be consulting with various other ministries, including Welfare, before finalising the guidelines.

Centre will give Mitchell's Plain oldies and kids new deal in 1995

DALE KNEEN (298) (300)

Weekend Argus Reporter

ARG 28/5/94

THE initial phase of Mitchell's Plain's first old age home and childcare centre will be completed in four months.

The entire R10-million centre, being built by Stocks & Stocks in Beacon Valley's A Z Berman Drive, will be ready for occupation by mid-1995.

The centre is a project of the Mitchell's Plain Foundation, a welfare organisation launched in 1986 by the clergy, retired educators and representatives from various Mitchell's Plain senior clubs.

Foundation secretary Isaac Japtha said the centre will accommodate 135 senior citizens and also house a hospice and educare centre.

The R791 136 first phase will house the "matron's quarters" and workshop.

The centre, funded primarily by a R9.5 million loan from the Department of Community Services, will provide a comprehensive service for the elderly.

There will be rooms for couples as well as larger units shared by up to four people.

People to be housed in the centre will be identified among the needy by the district surgeon and community nurses.

Part of their pensions will be retained by the centre for payment and additional funding will be provided by donors.

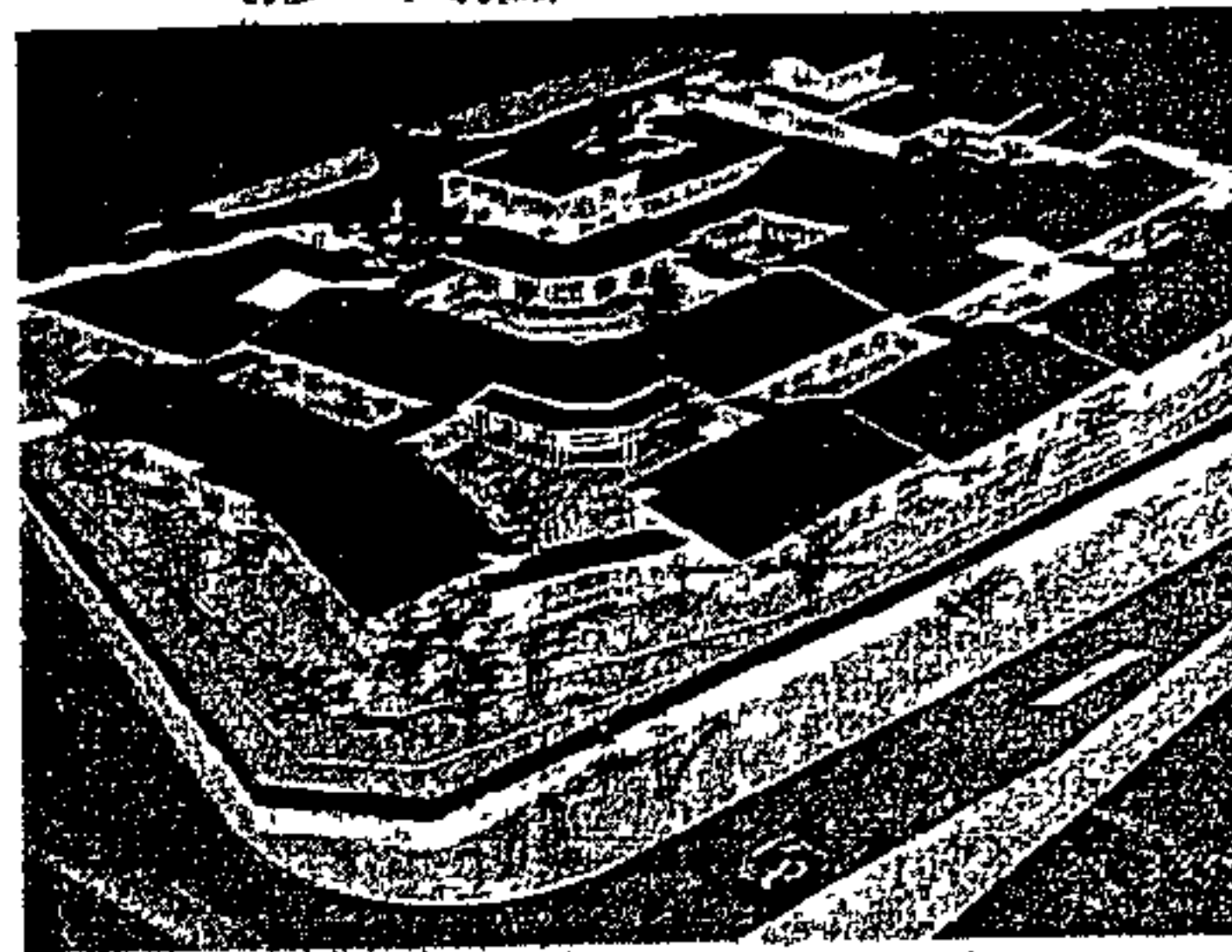
A hospice managed by St Luke's Hospice will form part of the centre.

"We'll also have a service centre which can be used by people who are still mobile and living at home," said Mr Japtha.

"Golden Arrow has offered to provide them

with free transport to the centre, where they will be able to have meals and make use of the facilities, which will include an occupational therapy centre, hobby rooms and a television lounge."

A "meals on wheels" operation will also be launched to feed frail people in Mitchell's Plain who cannot get to the centre.



MODEL HOME: A model of Mitchell's Plain's first old-age home shows what it will look like when completed next year.

The educare centre will accommodate 60 children and will have three playrooms which will also be used for computer training.

The foundation still requires funding to furnish the centre and is appealing to the public to assist. Anyone wishing to help can call Mr Japtha at 761 7594.

A token to symbolise child relief

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

SHOW the children on the streets of Cape Town that you care about their future!

That's the desperate appeal from city councillor Isobel Edelstein, who is also the founder of The Token Trust set up to raise funds for streetchildren, and who says there's no better time than now to pledge your support.

Next Wednesday, June 1, is International Children's Day and service providers involved in the rehabilitation and care of "strollers" want the plight of these children highlighted on this special day.

Ms Edelstein is using the occasion to relaunch her Token Trust which gives the public the opportunity to financially support a central fund meeting the children's needs.

"We stand by the fact that people should not give these children money at the traffic lights because the sad reality is that it's more likely to be spent on thinners than on food. Most of them use thinners for false 'highs' and this can be extremely dangerous. "If you buy the sticker (token), stick it on your windscreen and point it out to children who beg for money, you'll not only be supporting a central fund to finance

■ Celebrate International Children's Day on Wednesday by buying a token to symbolise your support for the streetchildren of Cape Town, city councillor Isobel Edelstein has urged.

also help raise awareness among the children themselves," Ms Edelstein said.

It was vital, she said, that the children became familiar with the token and what it symbolised, and with what facilities were already available to them.

Present estimates are that between 600 and 800 children live on the streets of greater Cape Town although the specialists stress that any figures are "extremely fluid".

The city has 11 shelters with an approximate 246 beds, the newest and biggest of which is The Bridge, built at cost of R340 000 by Murray and Roberts. Major donors included the British Consulate, the Independent Development Trust, Cape Town City Council and the Graduate School of Business.

The Token Trust was first conceived several years ago but the original concept has been adapted to the present token, that resembles a car licence disc, and sends out the clear message that the motorist has already made a donation to the streetchildren.

Tokens are R5 each and the money raised from sales is divided

ed between existing shelters and street organisations, and some retained for future plans for facilities.

"We'd like to see the funds going into planned streetchildren villages and into training.

"And I know it can work because it's worked in Kenya. There the streetchildren have the monopoly on building furniture for the country's hotel industry," Ms Edelstein said.

She urged people to extend the spirit of goodwill surrounding the election to encompass the children living on the streets.

"Street children won't help tourism and we all know that eight tourists create one job. And with our bid for the Olympics coming up we need to provide viable alternatives for these children.

"Let's show how much we care. Let Cape Town take the lead in offering a new beginning for the children on its streets."

■ Tokens are presently available from 3 Largo Road, Newlands, 7700, and negotiations are underway to soon have them on sale at branches of First National Bank.



Picture BRENTON GEACH Weekend Argus
□ KIDDING AROUND: Craig Matthews, Western Province cricket captain and patron of The Token Trust, joins forces with "strollers" Andile, 17, left, and Derek, 19, of the Don Bosco Hostel, to urge people to buy the sticker and show they care for the future of the children who live on the streets of Cape Town

Waterfront holds children's festival

Weekend Argus Reporter

TO commemorate International Children's Day on June 1, the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC) for Street Children has collaborated with the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront in presenting a festival for and about children.

The festival will run at the Waterfront from June 1 to June 5.

The aim is to raise public awareness of issues and problems affecting children in South Africa and to generally enhance their wellbeing.

Festival activities will include information stalls about the NCRC, mural-painting workshops and performances of drama, dance, poetry and music.

Other highlights will be a display of children's art and a debate between parents and their children about the child/parent relationship and the challenges it presents.

For further information please contact Sara Matchett on 418 2350 or Rory Robertshaw on 47 9191.

Abuse victims will tell story on TV

CCV's *Top Level* programme will feature a panel discussion on child abuse, as well as interviews with adults who were abused as children, tomorrow at 10.30pm.

The producers point out that in 1992 more than 15 000 cases of child abuse were reported to the police's Child Protection Unit, and this represents "only the tip of the iceberg".

The programme will also discuss the different kinds of child abuse and whether the cycle of abuse can be broken.

A distinguished panel includes Tami Borwa, district surgeon of Soweto, Judy Hyslop of the Transvaal Memorial Institute's child abuse clinic, Helen Stark of Child Welfare's National Council, Chief Family Advocate Frances Bosman and Solly Ratemane from the Baragwanath Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Unit.

Simon weeps alone in a cell — at age of 14

By JOCELYN MAKER

WITH his prison card firmly in his hand, 14-year-old Simon stands to attention behind the bars in his single cell.

Behind him the mid-morning sun filters through the small windows onto the blue blankets on his neatly made bed.

"I only came to jail this week," he said before lowering his eyes.

On the card was his new prison number, his name and the type of crime he had committed.

"He will never be referred to as only a number in this prison," said Colonel Henrie Henrico, head of the juvenile section at Leeuwkop Prison, near Johannesburg.

"In many ways he is still a child. In other ways he is a streetwise criminal and somewhere between this we have to find the real Simon. Then it is up to us to make sure that once he has served his time and goes back into society, he will not return."

Prison is a new experience for the teenager who was sentenced to a year in jail for attempted housebreaking. But the courts and crime are not.

He still has to appear before a magistrate on at least four other charges of housebreaking in the Witwatersrand area and before he was escorted into Leeuwkop he had a suspended sentence for shoplifting hanging over his head.

For now it is certain he will be spending a few more years in jail.

But there is much hope for him. He will be involved in regular programmes with social workers and psychologists.

"He is a child who should not be in jail, but the problem is that he committed a serious crime and there is nowhere else to put him," said Colonel Henrico.

For the next six weeks the youngster will remain alone in his cell.

"We have 850 prisoners under the age of 24 in my section, 186 of them are teenagers who are 17 and younger. Simon is the youngest. He has a small build and is good-looking. I cannot just put him into one of the communal cells as he would be raped," said Colonel Henrico.

"I will slowly integrate him and then I might put him to work in the kitchen or my office, where he will be safe," he said.

For Simon the sudden change in his life has been traumatic.

Sitting in a prison office this week, dressed in green trousers, matching shirt a brown jersey and takkies his eyes filled with tears when he spoke of his parents.

"I want to go home and back to school. I will never steal again," were the first words which tumbled out of his mouth.

His parents are a middle-class family who own a home in a Johannesburg suburb and he is the eldest of three children.

"I began shoplifting when I was three years old. It was just toys and sweets. Then I got older and I used to steal nice food from neighbours' fridges.

"Last year I began breaking into houses for money, then I wanted more and a friend and I began stealing TV sets and video machines.

"I stole because it gave me a lekker feeling and lots of money. We sold our goods to drug dealers. They paid us R500 for a TV and R600 for a video machine.

"I miss my mother. All the time she shouted at me and she begged me stop but I would not listen to her. I did not need the money.

"I was also naughty at school but I promise that when I get out I will stop. On the first day I got here I cried in my cell, but not a lot because I am a man.

"If you steal you are supposed to be a big man — now that I am in jail I know that I am not," he said.

1 637 TEENAGERS IN JAIL

THERE are 1 637 children under the age of 18 who are being held in prisons countrywide, according to Correctional Services spokesman Brigadier Chris Olckers.

Of these, 881 are serving sentences while 756 are awaiting trial.

Of those convicted, 314 have been jailed for armed robbery, and 77 for sexual offences such as rape.

A further 463 have been found guilty of "economic crimes" which include housebreaking.

Broken down into age groups, the numbers already serving a sentence are: 17 years (610); 16 years (212); 15 years (55); 14 years (4).

Awaiting trial are: 17 years (333); 16 years (227); 15 years (107); 14 years (57); 13 years (32).

Uncertainty over prisons children

JACQUIE GOLDING *B. Day*

WHILE directives are being worked out by the Cabinet to free children from prisons and place them in alternative care, Correctional Services is concerned about where the children will be accommodated. *30/5/94*

Correctional Services spokesman Captain Koos Gerber said on Friday a total of 1 637 children under the age of 18 were in SA's prisons, with the youngest only 13 years old.

Gerber said directives from the government were expected as part of the guidelines being worked out, but until then nothing could be done to move the children. *(298)*

Following President Nelson Mandela's statement in Parliament last week that he had given instructions for the drafting of guidelines to "empty our prisons of children and to place them in suitable alternative care", Gerber said he was "concerned" as to where these children would be placed.

With reform schools and other "suitable alternatives" overcrowded, leading to the present prisons situation, he said, it was up to the Cabinet to direct Correctional Services on the replacement programme.

Currently 756 children are awaiting trial while 881 are serving sentences, he said.

It is understood Correctional Services and various other departments — including Welfare — will be consulted before the guidelines on placement are finalised.

Grade street children by age, says police chief

CT 2/6/94 (298)

By JILYAN PITMAN

RONDEBOSCH police chief Captain Henry Hubbard would like social workers to grade street children according to age so that those over 18 who commit offences can be charged.

Captain Hubbard says he would like social workers to take photos of all street children so a record can be kept of those children who are arrested so they can be released into their parents' supervision before appearing in court.

He said: "The number of street children in Rondebosch is increasing and many of them are over 18. It is difficult to estimate the ages of most of them. When we ask them their age many of them always say they are under 18. We would like social workers to grade street children

into age groups so all of us know who is under or over 18.

"It would be easier for us to take steps to solve some of the crimes that have been committed in the Rondebosch area," Captain Hubbard said. "Several residents have reported thefts and robberies by street children, many of whom appeared to be older than 18."

Captain Hubbard said in the last 30 days 44 bicycles had been stolen and four violent robberies had taken place in Rondebosch.

Ms Annette Cockburn, director of The Homestead, an organisation in the city which takes in street children from Rondebosch and other areas, said: "Social workers' intervention in principle is certainly a good idea.

"There are many social workers around but

who would employ them for the task of grading children's ages? More importantly, it is not enough that social workers merely assess ages. More useful would an intervention aimed at reconstruction."

Miss Helène Badenhorst, an employee of Molo Songololo, an organisation which helps street children, said she would prefer not to comment until she had discussed the issue with her committee.

□ Today at 4pm there will be a community forum at St Paul's Church in Rondebosch. Captain Hubbard has invited four local schools, the superintendents of two old-age homes and the Rondebosch stationmaster to attend.

He will discuss recent assaults and other matters of interest to the community.

Govt 'committed to children'

PRETORIA. — President Nelson Mandela said yesterday — International Children's Day — that the government was committed to a comprehensive programme that would ensure security, rights and privileges for children in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

He said in a statement the government had already begun

implementing various programmes, first announced in Parliament, to realise these objectives.

(298) CT2/6/94
They include:

- Free medical care in state hospitals and clinics for children under six;

- A nutritional feeding scheme in primary schools;

- A detailed programme to empty the country's jails of children and to provide alternative care centres;

- Urgent attention being given to the plight of street children, and

- Legislation on the eradication of child abuse and child labour. — Sapa

Children retake Soweto 21/6/94 Khumalo Street

By Glenn McKenzie

AMID continuing violence in Tokoza on the East Rand, hundreds of children marched down the notorious Khumalo Street to celebrate International Day of the Child yesterday.

Less than half a kilometre from Tokoza Hostel, cheerful youngsters from crèches and primary schools sang, danced and played musical instruments as they walked through the former "no-go" area.

Despite seven violence-related deaths reported in the area since Saturday, many of the children appeared oblivious to their dangerous surroundings.

Twelve-year-old pupil Refiloe Tsolo said she was accustomed to violence and would not let anything deter her from joining the festivities.

"Would you like me to be afraid?" she asked with a laugh.

■ SEVEN DEATHS Tokoza children march down notorious no-go area:

Mrs Sannah Msali, a local teacher, said Tokoza was finally becoming a decent place in which to live.

"These are new times. We want to show the world that Tokoza is not so bad," said Msali. (298)

Another teacher, Mrs Molly Sekonyela, felt her pupils were safer since the South African National Defence Force began confiscating weapons in the townships.

"We have protection now. We are free to move," said Sekonyela.

March organiser Dr Margaret Mojapelo hoped the new Government would begin funding psychological treatment for children who had been affected by the violence.

Meanwhile, International Day of the Child celebrations in Soweto attracted

hundreds of teachers and toddlers to Meadowlands Stadium yesterday.

Vukani Early Learning Centre owner Mrs Peggy Sathekge said she hoped yesterday's celebrations would highlight the plight of day-care centres and crèches in Soweto.

Many parents had difficulty paying the R60 fee to place their children in crèches, Sathekge said. Government and private sector funding was urgently needed.

"Caring for children at such a crucial age is important. We should be making it a priority," she said.

Many crèches operated in shacks and did not offer nutritious meals or safe playgrounds for children, Sathekge said.

■ *International Children's Day*

Making children seen — and heard

Southester (Suppl to South)
316 - 716194

BY VICKY STARK

Molo Songololo is at it again. This year the children's project has big plans to increase awareness of young people's needs on International Children's Day, June 1.

"We started dishing out banners and paint to over 14 schools. We want kids to creatively identify the issues which adversely affect them," said Molo's administrator,

Ms Zurayah Abass.

The banners will be put up in places where the public will have a chance to view them.

"We've identified Adderley Street and Claremont Main Road as two of the places where banners will be placed," Ms Abass said.

"This is a way to remind people of the problems children face. We hope that these banners will make people want to go out and address children's issues," she said.

Molo's second project is to help

the children of Cape Town build a monument opposite the police station in Klipfontein Road, Athlone.

The structure will stand for three months and children will be free to add to it. (298)

"This monument will be built to remind the new government of its obligation to the children of this country," Ms Abass said.

"Like the Children's Summit and the Children's Film Festival which we hosted, this is going to be a celebration the kids will love."

CHILDREN IN PRISON WILL SOON BE FREE

Southeaster (suppl. to South)
BY VICKY STARK **In future,**

CHILDREN in prisons will join the rest of South Africa soon to celebrate the country's freedom.

In his speech at the opening of parliament recently state president Mr Nelson Mandela vowed to empty South African jails of children

The Department of Correctional Services reported in May more than 1 600 children under the age of 18 were being held in South African prisons

The cabinet has to meet with the Department of Social Welfare and Department of Correctional Services to finalise the release programme before children behind bars are freed

One mother patiently waiting for the release of her child is Mrs Valma Abrahams of Netreg

"I haven't seen my son for three weeks and his friend came here last Saturday and said he was in Pollsmoor. I will be so happy if they release my child," Mrs Abrahams said

The 39-year-old mother has spent countless hours searching for her 17-year-old son

"Although he spends most of his time in Woodstock at a place called Streets which sees to the needs of boys who live on the street, he would come home every night or he would visit me at work," she said.

sentences will be aimed at reforming young offenders

316-716194

Social workers at Streets told her the clothes her son had brought to be washed were still there but he had not been seen since dropping them off (298)

Mrs Abrahams describes her only son as a quiet child who was always willing to help at home.

"If he did a bad thing, then he should be sent to a reformatory or something, not Pollsmoor. That is a bad place full of murderers and rapists," she said

"I'm scared that something terrible will happen to him there. I hope he will come home soon."

Mrs Abrahams's husband, who is currently unemployed, said he wanted his step-son to find a good job but circumstances in the old South Africa made it very difficult.

"Now with Mr Mandela maybe things will be different. When he gets out I'd like him to find a job," Mr Abrahams said.

Mrs Gadija Khan, director of the University of the Western Cape's



THE RIGHTS STUFF: These standard three pupils at Schotschekloof Primary show off the banners they made to commemorate International Children's Day on June 1.
Focus on Children's Day — See pages 6 and 7
Photo: Roger Sedres

Legal Aid Juvenile Justice Court which opened on Wednesday, said she was overjoyed by Mr Mandela's announcement.

"I feel very good about it because our objective is to ensure that juveniles will not be sent to adult prisons," Mrs Khan said.

Instead, the children will have

pre-trial community service at old age homes or homes for disabled people. Here they will be monitored by psychologists and social workers who will draw up reports which will be used to decide what sentence the children receive.

"The state has to provide alternatives. Multi-disciplinary teams

which consist of experts in psychology, social workers and probation officers are looking at methods which constitute the child's best interests.

"We look to rehabilitate the juvenile as opposed to sending him to Pollsmoor where gangsterism is rife."

New rules for jailed youths

JACQUIE GOLDING AND TIM COHEN

THOUSANDS of jailed youths and children are set to have the terms of their imprisonment adapted under new regulations drawn up by a variety of government departments.

The departments of Public Safety and Security (responsible for arrests), Justice (responsible for sentencing), Correctional Services (custody) and Welfare (child care), have jointly drawn up regulations following President Nelson Mandela's statement in his opening of Parliament speech.

Mandela said he had issued instructions that guidelines be drawn up which would "empty our prisons of children and ... place them in suitable alternative care".

The four directors-general and responsible Ministers met on Friday to "fine-tune" the guidelines and alternative care arrangements, a Correctional Services source said at the weekend.

"The guidelines are in place and the directives will be sent out to the various prison departments once the Cabinet has given its stamp of approval," he said, adding that it was a "mammoth" undertaking and quite costly.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar said yesterday the guidelines had been completed and the President was to be briefed. Mandela was likely to announce the details of how the new system would work soon.

Currently, 756 children are awaiting trial while 881 are serving sentences, according to the Correctional Services Department.

Community bank plan for housing

GRETA STEYN

THE PWV government was considering setting up a community bank to help finance the building of 150 000 houses, the province's co-ordinator of reconstruction and development, Ben Turok, said yesterday.

Speaking after an RDP conference in Soweto, Turok said the financing of the ambitious housing programme proposed by PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale would not depend solely on government funds.

"We are entitled to finance from the national housing budget but the proposal we are looking at is a self-contained scheme. A presentation has been made to the PWV cabinet on using a community bank to finance the housing scheme," Turok said.

Further detail would be available at a later stage, but the banking move had nothing to do with existing community banking initiatives.

At the weekend conference Sexwale was defiant about the 150 000 target, which had met with resistance from central government and scepticism from industry. Acknowledging that he had "treaded on some toes", Sexwale told the conference if the target was not reached in the first year, the same target would be set for the second year.

Turok said the scheme would be for durable houses, rather than site and service. He said some rigorous technical assessment would be done,

especially on acceptable standards, as the proposal "transgressed the boundaries of narrow professionals".

The conference was also told of an agreement with the Small Business Development Corporation to train people in every PWV township.

Turok said 50 vocational training centres would be set up in the region, each training 100 people a year in skills needed to set up small businesses. The project would be financed by a R1m SBDC grant, and the corporation would make a further R5m available in loans to people who had completed the course and wanted to set up businesses.

The Johannesburg City Council also supported the project, and discussions were under way with other funders to secure more finance.

A proposal was also discussed at the conference to set up local planning forums on the regional RDP. The main issues discussed related to the importance of the civics in setting up these forums and the possibility of their being granted statutory powers. It was decided that community development officers would have to be trained as a matter of urgency.

Sapa reports that ANC MP Moses Mayekiso told the conference that financial institutions and banks should pay a levy or tax to help finance housing.

There are 880 children in SA jails

298
10/6/94

Sowetan

Sowetan & RadioMetro By Bongani Mavuso

Talkback



with Tim Modise

MORE than 880 children were serving jail sentences while 756 others were awaiting trial for various offences, listeners to the Sowetan-Radio Metro Talkback Show heard on Wednesday night.

Minister of Correctional Services Dr Siphiso Mzimela said it was the Government's aim to release the children to places of safety. Mzimela slammed as "sheer propaganda" the allegation that children were kept in cells with adults.

He said about 116 000 adults were serving sentences in South Africa's prisons. He said it cost the Government R40 a day to keep a prisoner in jail.

A number of educational and nutritional programmes were held for children

serving sentences. These programmes, he said, were designed to rehabilitate them and ensure they are "resocialised" after serving their sentences.

Referring to Aids in SA's prisons, Mzimela said the public had been "misinformed" that the disease's percentage was high in jails.

A child welfare worker from Durban, Ms Priscilla McKay, said the country's prison system was not geared to cope with children. McKay said a majority of child prisoners were serving sentences for "trivial offences".

"The new Government needs to address this matter urgently. In the past, children had been abused and sodomised by adults in prisons. Social workers and other professionals should be allowed access to visit children in prisons for rehabilitation," she said.

The prison system was transparent, upsurge in crime is the result of this Mzimela said. "Anybody is free to visit any prison in South Africa. There is nothing to hide. Our duty is to rehabilitate prisoners and make them ready to return to society."

An anonymous caller from Durban complained about overcrowding in prisons. She said in some jails, about 40 prisoners shared a cell. "Overcrowding in prisons is a very serious issue facing the Government," Mzimela said. "The

"The public should note that imprisonment is not a form of punishment. It is intended to reform criminals."

Solly, Pietersburg

'CHILDREN SHOULD BE UNFETTERED'

298

BY VICKY STARK

CHILDREN will be more secure because of the government's health programmes, regional Minister of Health and Welfare Mr Ebrahim Rasool said last week.

Mr Rasool was the guest of honour at the Shawco Retreat Place of Safety which celebrated its 10th anniversary last week.

"Institutions like these meant the difference between survival and the quality of life for our children who were victims of a system we didn't understand," said Mr Rasool.

"The reconstruction and development plan recognises that we have to start at a level to redress the problems of education, unemployment and housing.

"The government cannot do it



EBRAHIM RASOOL

alone so we need to encourage institutions like Shawco."

The minister said the state president's commitment to providing free health care to children under

the age of six has already been implemented.

"Mothers and fathers bring their children to hospital for a good reason. Free health care for children under the age of six will be available for the next five years at least," Mr Rasool said.

Pregnant women are also getting free medical attention.

"After the June holidays, a school feeding scheme will also be implemented so that children will have one meal a day. This will enable them to concentrate," the minister said.

He hopes these efforts will produce more secure children.

"Children should be unfettered by the things which kept us back. The political situation we are busy building is a commitment to the upliftment of all our children," Mr Rasool said.

Kids 'threat to minders'

By YVETTE VAN BREDA

HUNDREDS of childcare workers, angered by having to work with hardened criminals without any sort of protection, protested yesterday to demand better working conditions.

Spokesman for the childcare workers at the Bonnytown Place of Safety and Detention for boys in Wynberg, Mr Dennis Baker, said they were frequently threatened by residents wielding weapons made from mugs,

toothbrushes and forks. CT 10/6/94

The workers are demanding danger pay, an allowance for weekend shifts and overtime pay. (298)

Mr Baker said children who had been transferred from prisons posed a great danger to the workers' safety.

Another demand was that youths over 18 and children who threatened the lives of others, be removed.

A spokesman for the CPA said they were looking into the matter.

Girls rampage in reformatory

By CELEAN JACOBSON

POLICE used teargas to subdue rioting students at a Wellington reformatory early yesterday after teenage girls went on the rampage in protest against the headmaster.

The building was wrecked and six teenagers — two of them pregnant — were injured when the hostel of the Val du Charron Industrial school erupted in chaos late on Saturday night.

Girls broke windows, smashed mirrors and destroyed furniture, causing damage of about R250 000, said the principal, Mr Kevin Klaasen. They also smashed his car and threatened to burn down the school if he was not gone when they returned.

The school was closed and the girls sent on holiday a week earlier to avoid any further problems, teacher Mrs Maureen Cavernelis said yesterday.

She said the outburst had been "coming for a long time", as the girls were unhappy with Mr Klaa-

Protest aimed at principal

sen and wanted him to leave.

Mrs Cavernelis said extra staff had to be called in to help control the girls.

One pregnant pupil was admitted to Paarl Hospital, where she is in a stable condition.

Mr Klaasen called the police when chaos erupted after he visited the hostel on Saturday night. He said he had gone to the hostel to investigate reports of trouble and when the situation got out of control he had consulted a local magistrate and called the police.

Mr Klaasen said the girls had thrown water on him, switched off the lights, sprayed fire extin-

guishers and threatened the caretakers.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Ben Theron said yesterday the girls had refused to allow police into the hostel.

Police had been forced to use teargas to get them under control before negotiating with them.

Some teachers claimed the problems stem from the principal's poor relationship with the girls and his disruption of a rehabilitation programme.

Mrs Cavernelis said he scolded them and swore at them.

Mr Klaasen admitted he was "a bit strict" but said that "with these girls you need discipline".

He also alleged that a group of teachers had been conducting an extensive smear campaign against him, but "there is no question of my leaving".

Mr Klaasen said he would issue a statement today through the Department of Education.

In hand-written accounts, the students said they were scared of him and could not talk to him about personal matters.

CT 13/6/94 (298)

Urgent call for laws to change local authorities

BIDAY 15/6/94

CAPE TOWN — Legislation governing the transformation of local authorities needed to be urgently rewritten if rapid progress was to be made towards sustainable and efficient third-tier government, Cape Town City Council executive committee chairman Clive Keegan said last night.

In his budget speech Keegan said that while central and provincial governments had been democratised and purged of ethnic traces, local governments were still relics of the past.

The cumbersome and complex processes of local government reform had caused the third tier of government to lag behind other political institutions.

Keegan said he could see no reason why the election of nonracial authorities could not take place within months, so that the council could set about the "complex business of negotiating metropolitan structures and allocating powers between the metropolis and primary local authorities".

The speed at which changes had been made — such as the carving up of the Cape Town municipality — was remarkable, but understandable in view of the transitional government's wish to push through its solution within one term of office.

If government was wrong about the

EDWARD WEST

needs of metropolitan government, "as appeared likely given the speed of the decision-making process", further institutional change would be inevitable and costly and could affect development opportunities, Keegan said.

He said the 1994/5 increase in rates and general services expenditure had been estimated at R851,8m, while the housing service would require expenditure of R50,8m, a 17,9% increase.

Electricity tariffs would rise 9% from August 1. The policy of installing pre-payment meters would continue. Water tariffs would increase 5% from July 1, but no increase would be applied to the first 30kl of quarterly domestic water consumption.

Demand for the upgrading of sewers and roads implied that reserves of about R8m would be used to repay debt prematurely.

The targeted average rates increase of 9,5% had been achieved, but the increase would be dependent on any changes that might be made to the system of granting rebates to residential property owners.

Total expenditure by the council was budgeted at R2,48bn, compared with R2,18bn in the last financial year.

Unicef to formalise relations with SA

TUNIS — UN Children's Fund (Unicef) executive director James Grant travels to SA today to formalise relations between the humanitarian body and SA.

Grant said yesterday he had also been invited by President Nelson Mandela to attend celebrations in Soweto tomorrow.

Unicef had been involved in SA for the past two years but needed to formalise relations with the new government, Grant said.

While SA had a strong economy and developed infrastructure, it lagged behind other countries such as Namibia and Zimbabwe in such respects as the level of immunisation among children.

He noted that great progress had been

LINDA ENSOR

made in combating the traditional enemies of African children, namely polio, measles, iodine deficiency and illiteracy. By the end of 1995, the lives of more than 1-million of the nearly 5-million children who died each year in Africa could be saved.

He welcomed steps to iodise salt in Africa, noting that 50-million children each year suffered a loss of intelligence because of an iodine deficiency.

Whereas 1-million children a year had died from measles, this figure had been cut by half and hundreds of thousands of children had been saved from death by diarrhoea.

(298)



HEALTH CENTRE . . . Miss Thandeka Gotyana (left) and Mrs Mbuyi Jwambi, co-ordinator of the Zibonele Health Care Centre in Khayelitsha, marked its official opening by tending to young Zintle. Picture: ANNE LAING

Khayelitsha health care clinic opens

Staff Reporter

PRIMARY health care in Khayelitsha has been given a boost with the official opening yesterday of the Zibonele Health Care Centre.

The clinic, which had operated out of a converted truck, has been doubled in size thanks to the efforts of the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (Shawco), UCT's department of community health and Parke-Davis pharmaceutical company.

The multi-purpose building, in the Griffiths Mxenge area, will also serve as a community centre and the base for a community radio station capable of broadcasting over a radius of 5km.

The clinic is staffed by two nurses and nearly 20 health care workers, chosen by the community, who treat minor ailments like worms and skin infections during daily house calls.

An adult clinic is also held weekly. Sewing classes and community workshops will be held in the new wing and a soup kitchen and pharmacy have been added.

Probe into punishment for youths

Staff Reporter

IN an effort to ensure that young offenders are removed from prison cells as "a matter of urgency", a ministerial committee has been established to examine places of safety.

The announcement was made today by Western Cape Health and Welfare minister Ebrahim Rasool.

He has recommended that the broad brief of the ministerial committee would be to create appropriate alternatives for young offenders.

The committee comprises experts from organisations such as Nicro, Child Welfare, Lawyers for Human Rights, universities and officials from the State Welfare Department.

The committee will start working immediately and report back regularly.

Care centres to keep kids out of jails?

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

ARG 18/6/94

RECEPTION centres may be established to keep children out of prisons and police cells and placed in the care of parents or guardians or in places of safety.

The National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) is to investigate the concept.

This follows a workshop in Port Elizabeth which examined juvenile justice and diversions. It was attended by prosecutors, magistrates, probation officers, the Correctional Services, the SAPS, non-government organisations, legal practitioners and educators, as well as street-children organisations.

The workshop, facilitated by Rosemary Shapiro, Nicro's national consultant on restorative justice, is part of a networking process of moving towards a comprehensive juvenile justice system.

It followed President Nelson Mandela's state of the nation address to parliament in which he said he would "empty our prisons of children" and place them in suitable alternative care.

More recently Mr Mandela launched a fund for street children and child detainees with a personal donation of R150 000, and the Western Cape cabinet announced the appointment of an inquiry into the detention of youths.

The Port Elizabeth workshop also recommended that, through an assessment process, young people in conflict with the law be channelled through one of the following options:

- Children's court inquiry;
- Cautioning;
- Diversion programmes or a
- Criminal court.

\$20-m boost for ^{Sowetan} SA children

UNITED NATIONS Children's Fund yesterday said it planned to spend \$20 million in South Africa this year.

UNICEF executive director Mr James Grant said that while no other African country could match South Africa's professional knowledge, 90 per cent of all South African children who die could be saved if they had access to a paediatrician. 2016/144

UNICEF's main goal for South Africa over the next three years will be to guarantee that children have access to universal health care and education.

Its second priority is maintaining programmes to combat health and nutrition problems such as dehydration — the leading killer of African children.

South Africa has yet to sign the Convention of Rights for the Child which enshrines a doctrine of rights for all children. (298)

UNICEF officially resumed operations in South Africa this month, following the lifting of the last UN sanctions imposed against the country to fight apartheid. — Sapa.

Unicef to spend R72m in SA

JOHANNESBURG. — Unicef said yesterday it plans to spend \$20 million (about R72m) in South Africa this year, noting Africa's richest country lags far behind in health and living standards for its children.

Sixteen other African countries achieve better living conditions for youths, Unicef

executive director Mr James Grant said.

"We have seen excitement in universal franchise in this country... but South Africa is coming into the children's front a bit late," he said

"Today, professional knowledge can't be matched, but yet 90% of all South African children who die could have been

saved if they had had access to a pediatrician "

One of Unicef's main targets in the next three years will be to try and guarantee children have access to universal health care and education

Its second priority is maintaining programmes that combat health and nutrition problems such as dehydration —

the leading killer of African children

President Nelson Mandela has already promised the government will introduce free health care for children under six. It has yet to sign the Convention of Rights for the Child which established a doctrine of rights for all children — Sapa-AP

(298) CT 20/6/94

Community worker comes to aid of Ocean View's abused children

Feb 21/6/94

(298)

□ Victims include 'housewife' who's just nine

LIBBY PEACOCK
Staff Reporter

SARAH (not her real name) of Ocean View is only nine years old, but she is already a "housewife", looking after her six-year-old sister and doing chores.

Her parents are alcoholics.

She is one of a large group of neglected, abused and street children in the Ocean View area in desperate need of care.

Community worker Wilma Jantjies recognised the plight of these children, some sleeping in car wrecks, others coming from very poor families, and launched a campaign to care for them out of her own pocket.

The Open Door Project, which provides daily lunches and counselling for abused children and strives to make the community aware of sexual and other abuse, is now under the wings of Catholic Welfare and Development.

On a visit to the Catholic Centre in Ocean View, The Argus found a large group of children.

Some of them were dressed in tatters, singing with gusto in their "children's group" before crowding to get their daily soup and bread hand-outs.

Miss Jantjies, who is trained to deal with child sexual abuse, said: "The children know I'm here for them, so they arrive at my house any time of the day."

"At my children's group I teach them to make their own toys — most of them don't have any. We play games and we talk. Many of them open up about sexual abuse. "Sometimes they are very difficult, especially when they've been physically abused. It's as if they want to take it out on me."

"I sometimes refer children to Sateline and make sure they actually get there."

She said "Sarah" was "quite open" about the fact that she was the "housewife" in her home and looking after her little sister.

On Thursday mornings there is a session specially for street children. Many joined the group through word of mouth.

Miss Jantjies has also begun a programme to make Ocean View residents aware of abuse. "In this community it's nothing," she said.

But not all the children are abused — some are victims of other circumstances. Their parents may be unemployed and caught in a desperate spiral of poverty.

She said a group of the children were taken on an excursion to Strandfontein last year.

Most did not have their own blankets. "In most cases five children share one blanket at home."

"Out of the group of 35 who went with last year only two had their own tooth-brushes and face cloths."

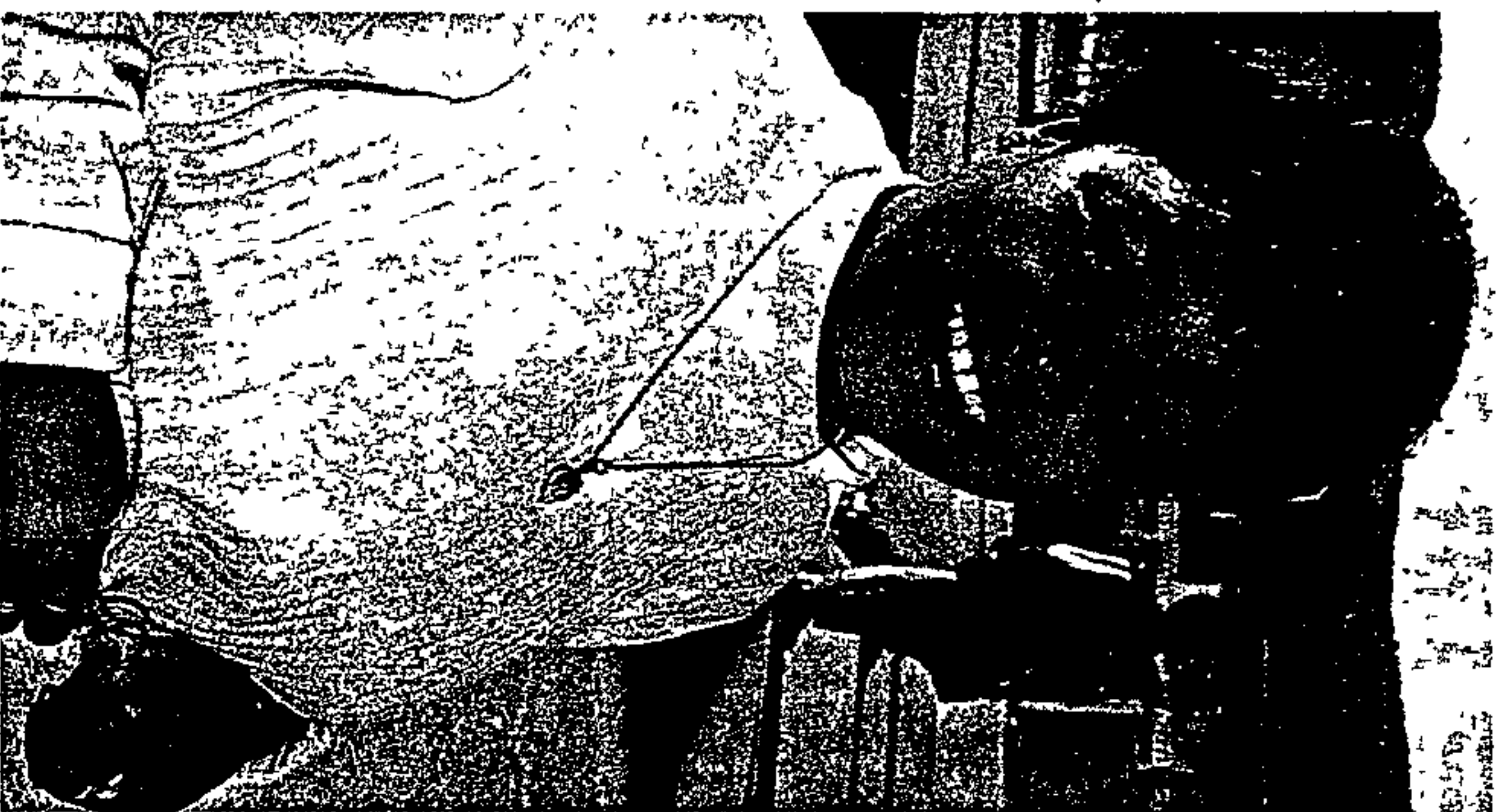
Local Catholic Welfare and Development co-ordinator Sandy Dowling said: "The idea is to build people's self-esteem."

"By intervening at this stage, we're giving them something to live for."

The aim was to get funds for a resources centre, which could also function as a consultation room and where workshops and training sessions for the community could be held.

● The Open Door project is planning to take a group of children on a country trip in August, but the children do not all have blankets or warm clothes.

Anybody wanting to help can contact Miss Jantjies at 783 4114 (o/h).



Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Argus

CARING FOR THE CHILDREN: Wilma Jantjies launched the Open Door project.

Diploma in
Advanced



DAILY BREAD: The Open Door project provides soup and bread — and, on Wednesdays, cake too.

COURTS

Holding children in jail opposed

ARL 21/6/94

PATRICK FARRELL
Supreme Court Reporter

JAILS were not created for children and if the Department of Correctional Services could have its way, there would be no children in prisons.

This was said by Correctional Services spokesman Mike Green in response to a Supreme Court judge's criticism yesterday of the detention of children in jails.

Sentencing the killers of a 13-year-old Robertson jail detainee, Mr Justice Van Deventer said there was no excuse for keeping children in jail for months before they were put on trial.

Lieutenant Green said: "We have come out strongly against holding children in prison before their trials. However, it is up to the Department of Justice and the police to stop the issuing of detention warrants. If a child is brought to a jail and there is a warrant to hold them, we cannot refuse to take them. We have to make the most of a bad situation."

Lieutenant Green said some of the bigger jails had special wings for youthful offenders, but at smaller jails overcrowding and lack of facilities made it impossible to separate children completely.

"At Pollsmoor, we have put

aside part of the women's wing where youths can be held, but still we don't want them in jail."

In smaller jails, youths had separate ablution facilities and warders tried to keep them away from other criminals as much as possible.

"Prisons were not created for children," he said. "It must have a psychological impact on them to be locked up in the same prison as murderers and rapists, even if there are not in the same cell together."

He said some form of detention facility must be created, perhaps on the lines of reform school, but with strict security, to hold youthful offenders.

"You must remember that some of these 15- or 16-year-olds are awaiting trial for serious crimes like murder and rape. You cannot just release them on to the streets."

Lieutenant Green noted that President Mandela had urged in his address to parliament that children be released from jails as soon as possible.

This had presented authorities with a mammoth task that would cost millions, but a start had been made, said Lieutenant Green.

The project would be spearheaded by Welfare and Popula-

tion Development Minister Abe Williams.

Lieutenant Green said this change would not be a case of "just opening prison doors — it is still early days and a number of issues have not been worked out but we have started on the road".

The conviction and jailing of four youths in the Supreme Court for a *Lord Of The Flies*-type murder of a young cellmate in Robertson jail has once again highlighted the plight of children in prisons.

Neville Snyman was only 12 years old and in jail awaiting trial on a charge of house-breaking when he was sodomised, forced to drink disinfectant and was held under a boiling hot shower until his skin started to peel off.

He was assaulted so badly that seven of his ribs were broken.

His murderers were youths, too, most awaiting trial for housebreaking and theft.

The reasons for the murder were not adequately explained by the accused, but their evidence suggested Neville was blamed by some of his cellmates for incurring a beating they were given by an older prisoner.

Sentencing the killers yesterday, Mr Justice van Deventer

said they had killed Neville out of "boredom and frustration".

The case reminded him of the *Lord Of The Flies* novel where "youths became animals".

Neville shared cell 10 with nine other youths, some of them as young as 12, but some also were strapping boys of 17.

Seven of those youths stood trial for his murder, but three minors were acquitted after the State said it would not argue for their conviction.

Mark Reynard, 18, Isak Jacobs, 18, Marius Samuels, 18, and a minor were found guilty.

The State alleged the accused all took part in the fatal beating. Two of them were alleged to have strangled the boy eventually with a sock after the torture.

An autopsy revealed between 80 and 100 bruises on Neville's body and the eventual cause of death was put down to the boy suffocating on food he had vomited up from shock.

There was also evidence of a gang among the youths called the "Four Stars" to which some admitted they belonged. The judge made reference to this gang and said it might have influenced some of the youths "out of loyalty" to take part in the killing.

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LABOUR DISPUTE . . . Angry members of the Health Workers' Union yesterday marched, on the Cape Provincial Administration building in Wale Street to protest about their poor wage increases. A spokesman for the protesters claimed they were owed 13% in back pay, and they demanded a minimum wage of R1 500.

Picture: STEWART COLMAN



Health union protests in city

ET21/6/94

Staff Reporter

ANGRY members of the Health Workers' Union marched to the Cape Provincial Administration building in Wale Street yesterday and blocked the entrance to protest against "inadequate pay increases".

About 250 clerks and general assistants waved banners proclaiming "Down with unfair labour practices", "Away with the old regime" and "Down with the merit system" as police stood by.

Dr Norman Maharage, general secretary of the Health Workers' Union, said the government owed health workers 13% in back pay.

"We were only given a 3,5% increase last year and the same amount this year which is totally inadequate and has not nearly matched the inflation rate of 10% — workers are poverty stricken," he said.

He said workers were demanding a minimum wage of R1 500 which was "not unreasonable".

Top officials at the CPA, he said, awarded themselves an 18 to 20% increase last year as well as luxury cars on their so-called "merit system".

The director-general of the CPA, Mr Herbert Beukes, and the director of labour relations, Mr Pierre Oosthuizen, yesterday met with representatives to discuss their grievances.

They were not available for comment.

Child deaths preventable

BRUSSELS. — More than twice as many South African children die from preventable causes under the age of five than expected, the United Nations Children's Fund said yesterday.

(298)
In its annual Progress of Nations report, Unicef said SA had 70 deaths per 1000 live births — double the number expected for its average income level. CT 22/6/94

But with high-level political com-

mitment, rapid progress in improving the healthy development of children was possible, Unicef representative Ms Scholastica Kimaryo said.

She said many of the human and material resources needed were already available, along with information and low cost technology such as vaccines.

"It is now a matter of mobilising all possible partners to help spread health care messages and promote literacy." — Sapa

Task force to tackle street kid problem

A TASK FORCE has been set up to tackle the street children problem in Rondebosch.

The task force will discuss finance, public relations, the co-ordination of resources and ways and means of implementing plans.

Mr Steve Broekmann, a member of the task force, said. "This task force was set at the suggestion of Mr Arthur Wienburg, councillor for Rondebosch. The task force already includes representatives of rate-payers' associations, the police, and other groups."

Mr Broekmann said that "eight years of frustration and indecision have brought people to this decision about a task force."

Mr Wienburg said: "We need a task force or small committee which can discuss the desirability of a shelter. Once that has been done we could liaise with the Cape Town City Council to find out whether there are actually any sites available. If a shelter was the option then it would have to be sited in a place which would not impact negatively on any residents."

The meeting was facilitated by Ms Shireen Said of the Community Law Centre of the Western Cape.

CT 23/6/94 (298)

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23/6/94

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Children's cancer ward extended

Staff Reporter

MORE than half the children diagnosed as having cancer can be cured if the disease is detected early and specialist treatment given.

These curable children should be given the chance of leading full lives, said Professor Cyril Karabus, Head of the Paediatric Cancer Ward, at the opening of the extensions to the cancer wards at the Red Cross Childrens' Hospital yesterday.

Prof Karabus thanked the public for their generous donations to the project and gave special thanks to Mrs Marike de Klerk.

Prof Karabus said Mrs De Klerk, wife of Deputy President Mr FW de Klerk, had taken a personal interest in the hospital and given generously, as had entertainer Taliep Petersen, Mrs Wendy Ackerman and other personalities.

Also present at the opening was the Western Cape Minister of Health Mr Ebrahim Rasool.



FRIENDS ... Mrs Marike De Klerk with five-year-old cancer patient Nozoza Sopam in one of the extended oncology wards opened at the Red Cross Childrens' Memorial Hospital yesterday.

Picture. ANNE LAING

Minister visits awaiting-trial children in prison

(298) ~~253~~ Political Staff CT 24/6/94

AWAITING-TRIAL children, held in a special section at Pollsmoor, were visited yesterday by the Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Siphosiso Mzimela, and his deputy, Mr Abe Williams.

The ministers inspected the facilities and the conditions under which the children were kept.

There are 82 children between the ages of 15 and 17, who have not been sentenced, in the prison.

Dr Mzimela and Mr Williams vowed to do everything possible to clear prisons of awaiting-trial children.

Penniless dad mad at threat of losing children

Welfare denies saying poor applicants unfit to keep children

ARL 25/6/94

(298)

■ If you keep trying to draw welfare payments, you'll be declared an unfit parent and lose your children, an elderly father was told

DI CAELERS, Weekend Argus Reporter

AN elderly father of three has hit out at South Africa's welfare system after he was told his children would be made wards of the court if he continued to seek assistance from the state.

But, the department of health and population development has vehemently denied the existence of any such stumbling block to financial assistance. It said it went "against all principles of the social work profession to remove children for financial reasons".

The man, who did not wish to be named because he said it would embarrass his family, is 62 and his wife is 30. He worked as a contractor prior to becoming unemployed. He says he's either told he's over-qualified or too old to work.

"I went to the department of health and we were given food vouchers three or four times. We even looked at the possibility of a disability grant. I'm willing to paint or work as a carpenter, but nobody wants to give me a job.

"My wife also has tried to find employment, but has been unsuccessful."

He says he was told by an official of the department of welfare that if he continued asking for aid, his three children, aged between four and 12, would be taken away and he and his wife would be declared unfit parents.

"We're not unfit parents. We are a very happy family and there is no way I'm going back if it means losing my children. The other people I met in the queues told me that once your children were gone, it took about a year to get them back when you were on your feet again.

"I'm horrified. It's a cruel method to force people to find some other way of surviving rather than drawing welfare."

In reply to a query from Weekend Argus, the Department of National Health and Population Development said it was "definitely not true that children must be declared wards of the court or be found to be 'in need of care' or that their parents must be found to be unfit parents before financial assistance" was considered.

Describing the existing welfare options in South Africa, the spokesman said old-age pensions were available to men over 65 and to women over 60. Disability grants were available to disabled people over 16.

Food vouchers were made available for up to six months, but those who applied were given a form on which they were required to detail their attempts to find work.

"It is possible that a wife also may have to prove that she has attempted to obtain employment by means of the specified form."

■ Any queries regarding the family should be directed to Mrs Robertson, head of the Cape Town office of the Department of Welfare, on 24 6020

powers are on the "Ma which helped South Africa

Businessmen, academics named as fund trustees

JOHANNESBURG. — Businessmen, politicians and academics are among the 29 President's Trust Fund trustees which President Nelson Mandela set up on June 16 to help street children and marginalised youth, a statement from his office said on Saturday.

Trustees include Mr Sam Motsuenyane, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Dr Ben Ngubane, Mr Dikgang Mosenke, Mr Nick Oppenheimer, Mr Jan Rupert and Mr Mandela's daughter, Mrs Zinzi Mandela-Hlongwane.

Mr Mandela has pledged R150 000 from his salary for the next five years to the fund. — Sapa

'Little miracle' in Philippi

ART 29/6/94 (298)

Just 18 months ago, two Rondebosch women, both in their 70s, started a rescue operation to help the pre-school children of farm labourers in Philippi. It's been called a 'Little Miracle'.

RETIRED professional Marjorie Maartens has a friend in England who refers to retired people as the "crumblies". It's a label that certainly doesn't apply to Marjorie or her friend, Avery Head.

"Retired people," says Marjorie, "are the only ones who really have time to spare, and their help is needed by everyone in the New South Africa — especially the children who will grow up to become the citizens of the future."

Two years ago, the two women, inspired by Trudy Thomas, community health specialist physician and now Minister of Health for the Eastern Cape, started a rescue operation to save the pre-school children of vegetable farm labourers in Philippi from a life of squalor and misery.

The women had discovered that many of the children were left unsupervised while their parents worked long hours in the fields. Many were malnourished and severely deprived, becoming stunted in growth and having many ailments, including gastro-enteritis and tuberculosis.

Babies were often carried on the backs of their mothers or left under bushes during the working day — which sometimes lasted from sunrise to sunset.

A place of care was urgently needed for these children and on January 16, 1992, the Trudy Thomas Children's Centre opened to 18 children.

Today, the centre cares for 153 pre-school farm children aged from three months to six years. They are given three meals a day and medical care by a voluntary physician and by matron Sharon Lewin, a nursing sister.

The children are taught life skills by trained personnel and prepared for primary school.

The Children's Centre, which has been called a "little miracle", and "an oasis", was built on faith — with the generous support of its sponsors.

The Rosebank Methodist Church congregation opened their hearts and their cupboards to give much of the equipment needed to start the project. Trust funds sent cheques and companies provide continuing financial support.

Community Chest helped and the government, after a great deal of persuasion, gave the small, empty Weltrevreden Primary School as a venue for the Centre.

As the number of children increased, extra space was needed and the Lutheran Church sponsored the building of a prefabricated classroom. More children arrived and Ithuba donated a classroom. Other charity funds and major companies fitted out a kitchen and nursery, donated combis to transport the children to and from the farms, and many other organisations, churches and individuals gave clothing and equipment.

The majority of the preschool children from the Philippi farms are now receiving food, medication and education from 8am to 5pm for five days a week, twelve months of the year at the Trudy Thomas Children's Centre.

The centre is organised and administered by volunteers, with Marjorie as chairman and Avery as treasurer assisted by vice-chairman, Rowland Rumbelow, who is a local health inspector.

But the two women are deeply concerned because the centre is in need of regular funding for food and for salaries for the staff of 15.

The parents are desperately poor and battle to pay the fee of R1 a day for each child. Food prices are escalating and the children must be fed.

"But," says Marjories, "the centre was built on faith — and we have no doubt that sponsors will come forward and donate regular monthly amounts, however small, to help feed the children and pay a living wage to those who care for them"

Anyone who is willing to help (regardless of age) should phone Avery at 689 8688.



The majority of pre-school Philippi farm children are now enjoying a better start to life: But food has to be bought and staff paid...



Don't let the aid dry up

As the full extent of the storm damage to Peninsula homes and settlements is revealed, it's clear that thousands of families need help. While the aid agencies are very grateful for the prompt response received whenever a crisis situation occurs, they also emphasise that their projects are ongoing — support is needed, whatever the weather.

The women of Cape Town have a wonderful record of rallying round to help needy causes — and in record time too. Yesterday, for instance, a Sea Point woman whipped around the neighbourhood and

came up with 400 blankets: a shining example of service enterprise.

In the longer term, perhaps friends and neighbours could club together to raise funds or collect items for one of our relief organisations on a weekly or monthly basis — as you have done, so successfully, in recent years.

July — with its record for the worst of our winter weather — is about to start — a propitious time to set the ball rolling.

THE S A Red Cross Society has appealed for blankets, or for cash donations. Spokesperson Deline van Boom said.

"We also need non-perishable foodstuff, tinned foods, baby clothes, any warm clothing and disposable nappies.

"Even the distributors are running out of blankets, and we are phoning retail stores to see what they have. When dealing with a disaster of this magnitude, 500 blankets do not go very far.

"Today's happenings fast become yesterday's news, and when the sun comes out people tend to forget. Please keep us in mind next week and next month, assisting people in the society's daily work, an ongoing event."

Blankets, clothing, food and cash can be delivered to the society's offices in Broad Road, Wynberg, or to the St John Ambulance depot in Darling Street. They can also be left at any branch of Woolworths Stores.

The Cape branch of Save the Children's Fund's main project is a feeding scheme for malnourished babies and pre-schoolers in the squatter areas, which is run in conjunction with Shawco.

Donations of blankets, clothing and tinned food — all of which are desperately needed during the winter months — can be dropped off at Highlands, De Villiers Road, Kenil-

worth (☎761-6954) and at 4 Mariendahl Avenue, Newlands (☎61-5270).

Chairman Rose Anne Wilson said: "We will channel these donations via the Red Cross Society and via Shawco."

She emphasised that the feeding project, in operation for several years, deals with 2 000 babies and toddlers suffering from kwashiorkor. These are referred by clinics, nutrition workers and centres and by day hospitals — they don't accept just anyone. And, says Wilson: "The numbers are on the increase.

"We have venues in Site C, K1 and Harare — all in Khayelitsha — the Albertina Sisulu creche at Browns Farm

and the Nyanga Shawco-CNEP Centre.

"When distributing clothes, we don't just hand out, the recipients' names are noted on cards so the same people don't get twice."

Items such as milk and mealie meal are delivered on a regular basis and the children's health is monitored.

All the fund's staff are voluntary workers, use their own cars and spend very little on administration.

The Salvation Army operates soup kitchens and they are always in need of large pots and ingredients, according to a report on Radio Today.



Photograph by ROY WIGLEY

Flooded out of their homes, their possessions destroyed by the weather, these children and their families wait patiently for a helping hand from the rest of Cape Town.

'Children in jail' ruling scrapped

Political Staff

298

PROVISIONS allowing for children awaiting trial to be kept in prisons are to be scrapped from the statute books.

The cabinet has accepted Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela's recommendation that section 29 of the Correctional Services Act be amended.

AR 30/6/94

The Act allows for awaiting trial juveniles to be detained in prisons. It will now be amended so that unsentenced children will be kept in places of safety provided that such places are available.

In his opening address to parliament last month, President Mandela pledged that prisons would be "emptied" of children.

Mr Mzimela has subsequently distinguished between sentenced and awaiting trial juveniles.

The Department of Correctional Services has committed itself to establishing nine juvenile prisons in each of the provinces. Three such prisons have already been established — in Rustenburg and at Pollsmoor and Leeuwkop Prisons.

After a visit last week with Welfare Minister Abe Williams to Pollsmoor Prison, Mr Mzimela said 82 unsentenced children between the ages of 15 and 17 were being kept in the women's section of the prison.

Child detention to end

JOHANNES NGCOCO

SECTION 29 of the Correctional Services Act, which allowed juveniles to be detained before their conviction, would be abolished, Correctional Services spokesman Capt Bert Slabbert said yesterday.

"Correctional Services Minister Siphosizwe Mzimela is drafting legislation to remove 800 detained juveniles from prison and put them in places of safety."

The proposal had been approved by Cabinet on Wednesday.

"The proposed amendment will be drafted in such a way that juveniles will be safeguarded against detention in prison," Slabbert said.

Mzimela said: "This should serve as a clear signal about government's intention to solve the serious and sensitive matter of unsentenced children in prison."

President Nelson Mandela said heads of departments involved with the detention of children would draw up guidelines to remove children from prison and place them in suitable care.

Meanwhile, Slabbert said two advocates, Pius Langa and Ronnie Pillay, had been appointed to join IEC chairman Judge Johann Kriegler's commission into the recent prison violence.

SA Prisoners' Organisation for Human Rights spokesman Golden Miles Bhudu welcomed the appointment of the commission.

He hoped prison warders who had shot and killed prisoners would be called to explain the circumstances that led to the killings. If sufficient evidence was found, warders would be tried and convicted.

Report alleges illegal KwaZulu Police camp

JOHANNES NGCOCO
and TIM COHEN

A TEC report on KwaZulu Police hit squads has alleged that as many as 5 000 Zulus were illegally trained at a camp at Mlaba to become "soldiers for Inkatha".

The report, which has not yet been officially released, forms part of a more extensive TEC investigation.

It stated that the training was unlawful in terms of the Self-Governing Territories Constitution Act which prohibited the establishment of military units.

Home Affairs Minister and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he had not seen the report but added that the existence of the camp was not a secret.

He denied that the camp was illegal, saying he had discussed the creation of self-protection units with Police Commissioner Johann van der Merwe.

Arms from the camp were removed just prior to the arrival of an inspection team, which reached the camp on April 26, shortly before voting began.

The KwaZulu Police Department declined to convert the trained persons into KwaZulu Police special constables had to

be "closely scrutinised", the report said.

The KwaZulu government may have spent more than R500 000 on paying trainees who were not deployed as special constables, the report added.

The report implicated Inkatha's Senator Philip Powell as having been involved in training at the camp, and said a homemade shotgun had been found hidden under the seat of his car.

The ANC, Cosatu, the SACP and the PAC called for the findings of the task group, headed by lawyer Howard Varney, to be made public.

SACP general secretary Charles Ngqakula and Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman said their organisations were still receiving reports of third force activities in KwaZulu/Natal despite the TEC investigations.

PAC NEC member Maxwell Nemaadivhanani said his organisation wanted the report to be made known so that political criminals could be identified.

ANC spokesman Lindi Zulu also called for the report to be made public.

End to jail for children awaiting trial

Star 17/194

■ BY ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Provisions allowing for children awaiting trial to be kept in jails are to be scrapped from the statute books.

The Cabinet accepted Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela's recommendation on Wednesday that section 29 of the Correctional Services Act be amended. The amendment will mean that unsentenced children will be kept in places of safety and not in jails.

In his opening address to Parliament in May, President Mandela pledged that jails would be "emptied" of children.

Mzimela has subsequently distinguished between sentenced and awaiting-trial juveniles.

Insufficient (298)

The Department of Correctional Services has committed itself to establishing nine juvenile jails — one in each of the provinces. Three such jails have already been established in Rustenburg and at Pollsmoor and Leeuwkop prisons.

Mzimela said yesterday that about 800 unsentenced youths were held in jails at the end of May. He acknowledged that there were insufficient places of safety for awaiting-trial children.

He said it was planned to promulgate the proposed amendment of the Act in those areas which have sufficient alternative accommodation for the affected children.

Cabinet 'no' to prison for children

(298) (298)
CT 1/7/94

Political Staff

THE cabinet had decided that no person under 18 should be detained in prison before being convicted, Correctional Services minister Dr Sipho Mzimela announced yesterday.

Referring to a lack of suitable alternative facilities in the country, Dr Mzimela said the problem would be solved through the creation and identification of new facilities.

On May 26 this year, about 800 unsentenced children under 18 were in detention.

There is a major gap in facilities in rural areas.

Dr Mzimela's statement is the first concrete step towards removing unsentenced children from prison since President Nelson Mandela issued instructions to this effect in his May 24 parliamentary speech.

Dr Mzimela said he had "proposed to the cabinet that section 29 of the Correctional Services Act be amended so as to stipulate that no person under the age of 18 years shall, before his conviction, be detained in prison".

Dr Mzimela said the cabinet approved this proposal on June 29 and legislation would be promulgated as soon as possible.

Streetkids: Finding a solution

(298) 05/3/79

Staff Reporter

CONCERNED police will meet officials from the Cape Town City Council to try to find a solution to the hundreds of streetchildren — some as young as four — who are growing in numbers in the city.

Police public relations officer Sergeant Marlene Engelbrecht said that the police would like to take action to help the children,

but had limited resources.

She said that it had been estimated that up to 500 children roam the city streets on some days.

A new overnight shelter under the auspices of the Homestead organisation was opened in the city yesterday to accommodate streetchildren.

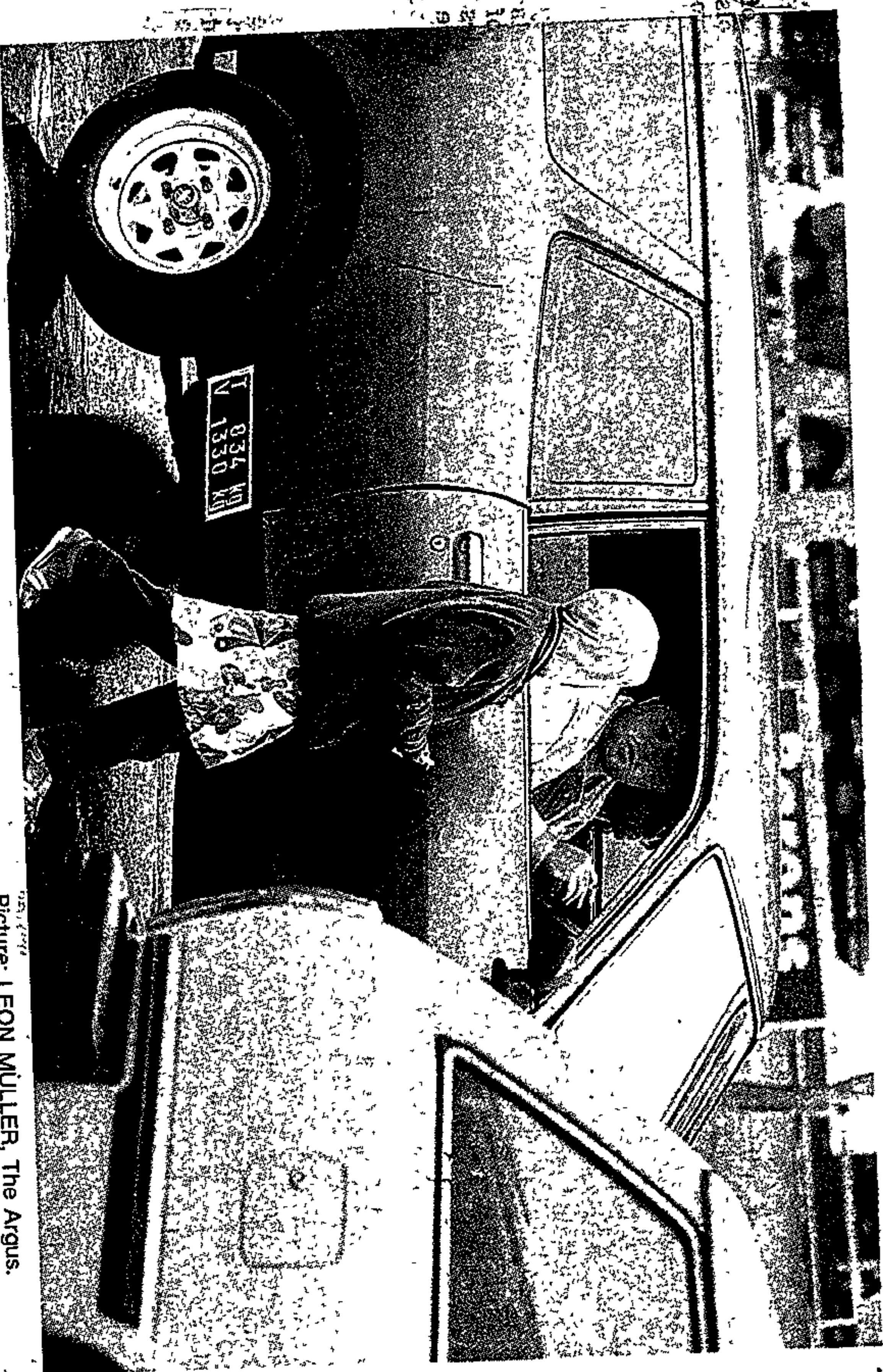
Homestead director Mrs An-

nette Cockburn said that some of the children chose not to enter the educational programmes run by the organisation.

"They want somewhere to sleep but they don't want to be part of our programme."

Mrs Cockburn said that she believed that many of the streetchildren were "day-time strollers" who went home at night.

The street children



THE PROBLEM ... a begging street child bugs a Cape Town motorist.

Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.



THE POSSIBILITIES ... at Ons Plek there are heart-warming success stories.

THERE are heartening success stories. Take Ons Plek in Cape Town, which, under the auspices of Child Welfare Society, is the only shelter for girls, taking in from seven to 18 year olds. Pam Jackson, unit manager and social worker proudly claims a 50 to 70 percent success rate.

"Some 75 percent of our girls go back to school, or start school for the first time, and more than half can return to the community to live normal lives with their families, or other families."

"I'd say that since we started in 1988 we've helped 950 girls who might well have gone back on the streets were we not here. Some of these girls have babies with them, so we have a creche as well."

The story of Pauline

PAULINE is a case in point. She arrived at Ons Plek when she was 15, she'd been on the streets since she was 12, as a prostitute. She arrived, Pam says, as soon as Ons Plek opened in 1988, which is why it's called Ons Plek, "The girls said we have our place at last!"

Pauline was the oldest of three children, the one who had to go when her father died and her alcoholic mother couldn't cope.

"She was a completely scared victim and the boy-

The Argus INVESTIGATES

friend who protected her on the streets was also scared of everyone. She wet her bed every night, shook violently, wouldn't answer questions, in fact she wouldn't even talk. She'd gobble down her food, even if she scalded her mouth, so that no-one could take it from her.

"We didn't force her back to school — she would have been 15 in Standard 1, we simply let her be around the house mother until she learnt confidence. When she was angry, she was angry with men. Our male volunteers allowed her to hit them, and she had the hardest hits of anyone I know! They gave her understanding by not retaliating, they contained her but didn't allow her to destroy them."

"As she grew in confidence so she took on responsibilities here at Ons Plek. She took over locking up the house at night, she made it her job to put out the bin and she learnt to answer the telephone — which for someone who wouldn't talk is quite an achievement!"

"Now she's a real street person, she knows all the traders on the street, which means they allow her to help them on an ad hoc basis, and pay her. She earns enough to hire a room with

They are pathetic — and a problem. The street children of Cape Town evoke sympathy. On the Day of the African Child, President Mandela handed over R150 000 from his private purse for a Presidential Trust Fund to help street children. Can they be helped? Who are they? Today The Argus publishes the first in a two-part series on the problems and possibilities of these miserable young lives.



TOKEN TRUST tokens from Engen service stations for R5 each, or send a crossed cheque to Token Trust, 8 Largo Road, Newlands 7700 — 61 1616.

three other girls."

● Ons Plek, 4 Albertus Street, Cape Town 45 4829

The case of Daniel

LUANN Scott, social worker, tells Daniel Adams's story.

"He had a lot of anxiety over his family whom he hadn't seen for a number of years. He feared they were in trouble and that he had to help them. His behaviour was inappropriate, he would spend all his time on the street looking for them."

"He had no sense of recollection, no memories of past events. We found he had lower functioning mental ability, which is a mental handicap, not mental illness."

"We connected with organisations that he knew — Bonnytown, which is a place of safety, which meant he had to have been arrested, and Pollsmoor. He'd been arrested for slenter, a vagrancy law, and for the theft of a bike. He had an obsession with bikes!"

"Groote Schuur Hospital psychiatric outpatients and the Cape Mental Health Society investigated him psychologically, he was put on anti-depressants and we went about getting him a disability grant. The anti-depressants calmed him, he became a lot less anxious and remembered more, including his family."

"He started telling me things — he remembered being in a big fire at home, that's when he left, and putting two and two together. I realised he'd arrived at Don

Bosco when Crossroads burnt down. The Argus ran a Missing Persons story and the next day his aunt and mother came."

"He went home with them but we didn't want him to go permanently straight away, we preferred him to go in stages. After all, his mother now lives in KTC squatter camp, it's flooded, there's no food — what's changed?"

● Don Bosco Hostel, 2 Somerset Road, Cape Town 25 1452.

What it takes

PATRICK Solomon, community worker: "We take boys from six to 16, we're currently working with 21 boys in our temporary shelter in Bonteheuvel, but we're negotiating with the city council to get the premises on a long-term lease. Apart from the shelter we also do intervention work on the streets — addressing the children's health, personal and legal problems, and family issues."

"Last year the city council gave us a neglected building to temporarily house a group of boys. We've been able to move eight of them back with their families, five are at

school at the moment, and most of the rest are going to our school readiness programme so that they'll go to school next year."

"The five in school now are doing quite well, the rest are in our life skills training and educational programme. This includes language development, and evaluation of their academic standard, so that we can process them back into formal schooling."

"At the same time we do a lot of work in counselling in drug abuse for instance and we can safely say that the group in our care is drug-free. Individual and group counselling also take place on family relocation and the boy's future. We hope that the city council will be forthcoming in allocating the premises to the programme so that we can go into full swing."

● Molo Songololo, Community House, 41 Salt River Road, Salt River 47 8820/1.

TOMORROW

What is done, and what can be done for the tattered children.

298 April 4/1994

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Suzuki staff in Springs get a happy young woman going*

A gesture of love for Prudence

By Pearl Majola

A SHY Prudence Batyisi sat comfortably in her brand new chair fidgeting with the controls and rocking herself back and forth on the sophisticated machine. As everyone cheered, she began to sob.

The 25-year-old quadriplegic from Wattville, Benoni, was moved by the gesture of the Suzuki staff in Springs who presented her with a motorised wheelchair last week.

The staff organised a special lunch to give themselves a well-deserved pat on the back and celebrate with Prudence.

In less than three years they have bought two imported wheelchairs worth R20 000 with money they have been donating to the Wheelchair Fund for quadriplegics in the area.

The fund was started in 1991 by invoice clerk, Ms Eileen Gibb, and keeps

WHEELCHAIR GIFT Batyisi

sobbed when she tested her present.

growing as more staff contribute and take an interest.

Crippled by the Guillain-Barre Syndrome, an unusual disease which affects the peripheral nervous system and causes paralysis, Prudence lost her ability to use her arms and legs in 1987 and has been wheelchair-bound since.

Strange headache

"One day I was an active teenager and the next I was in hospital with a strange headache. Within a month I was completely paralysed and I have never walked since," she recalls. Brave Prudence has never given up hope that one day she will do things for herself again.

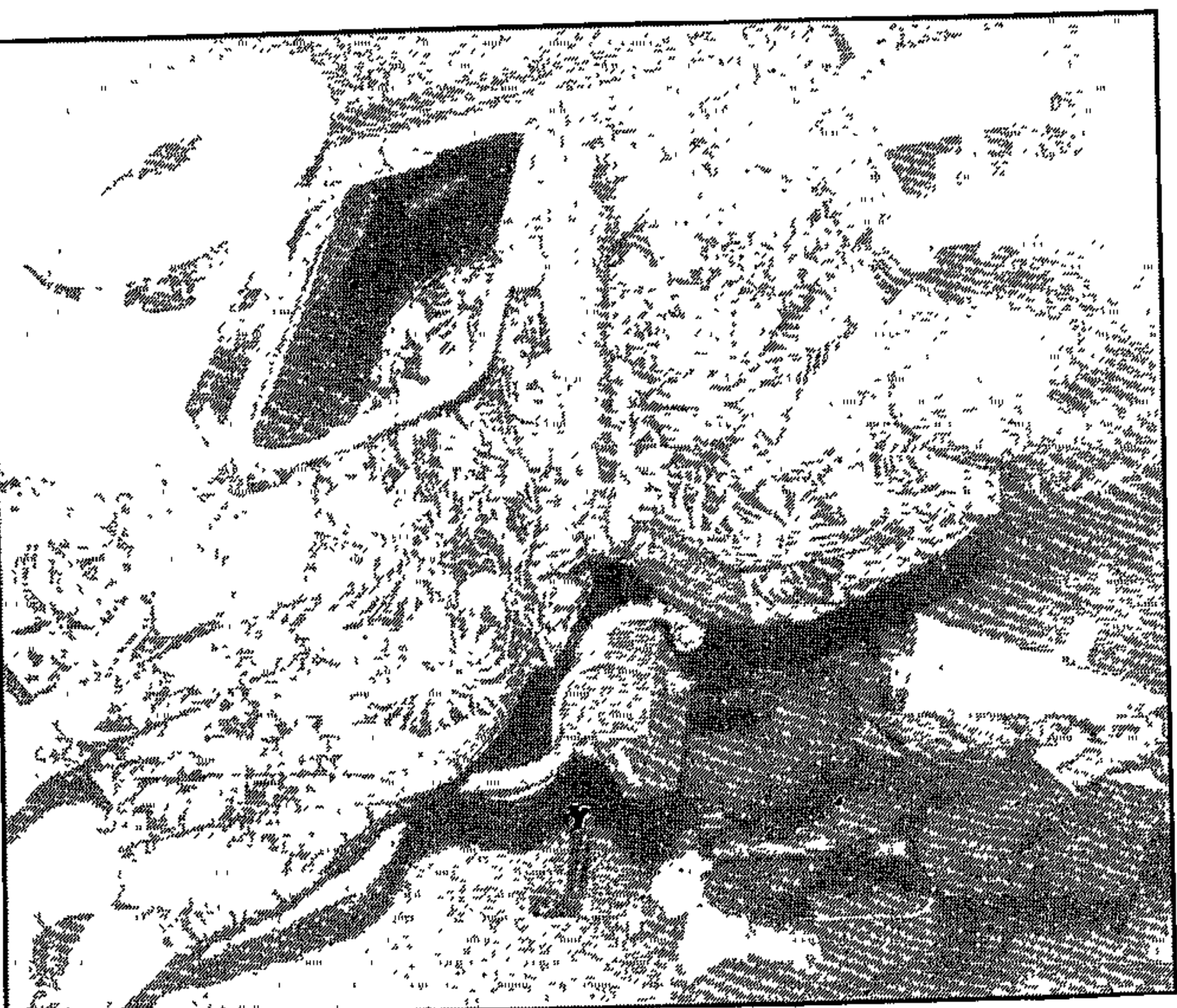
It is that inner strength that saw her return to school to complete matric, do

a secretarial course and start job-hunting despite the difficulties of having to be wheeled around by someone else

The doctors have told her she might be able to walk again but until then, she remains in the wheelchair and the motorised one she has now will enable her to drive herself to job interviews and run other personal errands.

"I want to go out there and find a job and prove myself. I am confident that now that I can move on my own I will find work and earn a living like my counterparts," she said.

"I'm very grateful to Suzuki staff because even though I know one day I will walk, they have speeded up the process for me. While I wait to recover I can live normally."



Prudence Batyisi can get going again.

Children first victims, *Star* 21/5/14 perpetrators – report

Turning kids into demons

(298)

IF SOUTH Africa does nothing to rehabilitate the child victims of violence, the cycle of bloodshed and trauma will continue, says an alarming report released by the Goldstone Commission this week. **NEWTON KANHHEMA** reports.

The more frequently children are exposed to violence, the more likely it becomes for them to begin perpetrating acts of violence, according to a report released by the Goldstone Commission this week.

The report, drawn up for the commission by Dr Norman Duncan, says the price children have paid, and continue to pay, as a result of the high levels of public violence in South Africa — which rates as one of the most violent countries in the world — is “substantial”.

“Any efforts to ameliorate the effects of children’s exposure to political violence will therefore only be effective if they are accompanied by socio-political transformation and economic reform,” says the report.

Duncan says it is almost impossible to find out how many thousands of children are, and continue to be, affected by public violence.

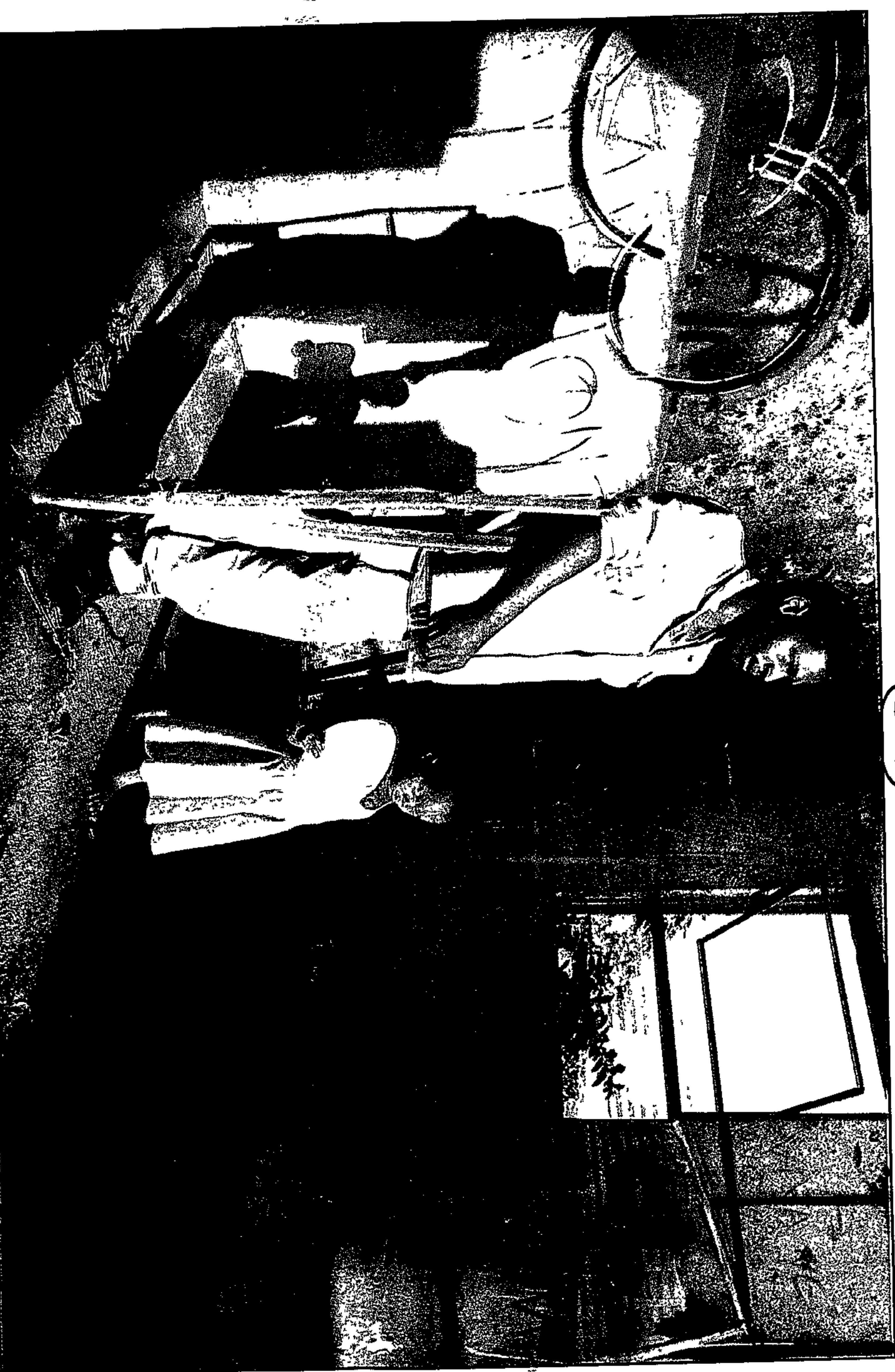
SAP and SADF violence

The estimated number of children killed or injured in acts of political violence last year is 874 out of a total of 8 737, while the number of children displaced due to conflict in 36 areas in Natal during the past three years totals 26 790

Of these, no fewer than 11 845 were younger than five.”

The report also cites the cases of children who fell victim to SAP and SADF violence during the period 1984-1986. During this time, some 300 children were killed, 1 000 wounded, 11 000 detained, 18 000 arrested on protest charges and 173 000 were awaiting trial.

“Several studies conducted in South Africa indicate that children traumatised by public violence typically exhibit symptoms ranging from extreme anger, fear and shock to debilitating helplessness and despon-



CARNAGE: Victims of violence inside the remains of the Mahatma Gandhi Printing House in Bambayi, KwaZulu. “If it is true that a nation’s future is

conduct disorder to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Many of the children presented symptoms only several years after exposure to incidents of public violence.

Most studies dealing with the effects of public violence highlight the fact that the more frequently children are exposed to acts of violence, the more likely it becomes for them to begin perpetrating acts of violence.

Whites too

Thus, a very thin line exists between being a victim of violence and beginning to commit violent acts oneself.

Indeed, several studies have detected an increasing trend highlighting the involvement of children and young adolescents as primary perpetrators in acts of public violence.

The large number of children implicated in the necklacing and murder of political opponents in re-

TV brought obsession with death

CHILDREN do not have to see their parents or brothers gunned down in order to suffer the trauma of violence — the television news is bad enough to affect children.

The following case study recently submitted to Goldstone Commission researchers by a prominent Pretoria-based clinical psychologist is revealing

A six-year-old boy, John (a pseudonym), was brought to the Human Sciences Research Council's Child Guidance Clinic by his parents because they were extremely concerned that he had suddenly become obsessed with death and dying and had started refusing to attend school.

His big fear was that his parents might be killed during his absence

Here it should perhaps be pointed out that this morbid obsession is frequently encountered among young children who have been exposed to traumatic events such as the death or injury of a relative or pet.

In John's case, however, no such traumatic event among his family or close friends could be identified.

Moreover, according to John's parents, their family enjoyed very supportive and caring relationships

During the course of psychotherapy it transpired that John's family normally watched the evening news on television together

When the spate of political violence which has been plaguing this country was

shown in the news programme, John's parents would often discuss their distressful feelings with each other

Based on her discussions with John, the psychotherapist gathered that John had assimilated his parents' fears and concerns regarding the political situation in the country and formed the perception that no one was secure any more — everyone was going to die

John ultimately had to undergo intensive psychotherapy to solve his phobia

The fact that even those children who are relatively removed from the so-called battlegrounds are affected adversely by political violence is borne out by several empirical studies conducted both in South Africa and the Israeli-occupied territories

traumatized on 0 11 11, J members, neighbours, friends and teachers, the report says.

The disruption or loss of emotional attachments which normally accompany these traumatic events have debilitating consequences not only for the child's immediate psychological well-being but also for his or her later development.

These children are consequently at risk of developing a range of behavioural and psychological problems, predisposing them to a pattern of defiant behaviour.

Potential

“Seventy-percent of the South African population consists of youths and children.

“They might be precluded from reaching their potential if we do not urgently address the problems brought about by public violence,” concludes Duncan

cent years is a case in point, says Duncan.

He says this phenomenon is not limited to black children and adolescents, as many believe.

“In this regard, consid-

er the much-reported case of the young white adolescent who last year se-

riously injured a baby in a stoning incident, simply because she and her mother were black.

“The real tragedy of this situation, of course, is that South African children, like all other children, were not born to be violent

“Rather, they have sys-

tematically been socialised by our society to perceive violence as the only

viable means of asserting themselves or resolving conflict,” he says.

Children need not be

directly involved in public violence to be affected by it.

Over the past decade alone, tens of thousands of children have suffered through the death and

Founder of homes for children 'retires'

□ Duncan 'on leave' after abuse allegations

ARG 18/5/94 (298)

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE services of Bruce Duncan, founder and director of Cape Town City Mission Homes for children, have been terminated.

Mr Duncan left the country in August, the day he was warned that police were investigating allegations against him of indecent acts.

Acting director Lorenzo Davids yesterday announced Mr Duncan's "retirement".

He said Mr Duncan — who was on "extended leave" in England — raised no objections to his services being terminated. In fact, he had "welcomed" it.

Mr Davids becomes director on June 1.

Allegations against Mr Duncan surfaced during the indecent assault trial of a former childcare worker at Bruce Duncan House in Hanover Park.

The 27-year-old man was

convicted of indecently assaulting an 18-year-old in his care and sentenced to an effective three months' imprisonment.

During the trial, he alleged that Mr Duncan had committed indecent acts with him for two years.

He said he was "furious" with Mr Duncan, but had not protested because "if I had said no, I would have lost my job".

"At first I was scared. But later I didn't care any more what happened to me. My self-image was destroyed. Who would believe me?"

Yesterday Mr Davids said: "All our children are now safe, protected and well beyond the trauma of 1993."

"The Board of Trustees felt it was in the best interests of the organisation that Mr Duncan's services be terminated."

"The four staff members implicated in the allegations of abuse are no longer part of our organisation."

"We have gone beyond just dealing with the horrible alle-

gations ... We have updated our staff-screening process, pulling in the help of outside organisations."

Mr Davids thanked the Red Cross Children's Hospital and Lentegur Hospital for helping.

He said a "child abuse protocol" had been put in place "so in the event of a recurrence we will be able to deal with it swiftly".

Affected children had been subjected to "extensive therapy" and Mr Davids said City Mission Homes was "positively moving ahead".

● Mr Duncan's attorney Chris Niland said yesterday his client's "severance" had been "mutually agreed upon" and Mr Duncan had been granted a severance package.

Mr Niland said Mr Duncan was sick and "unable to continue functioning in that job". This had been certified by doctors in Britain.

"At all times Mr Duncan has denied any allegations of abuse," Mr Niland added.

'Govt, and business must help disabled kids'

Source asked SUPP to cover
13/5/94 - 17/5/94

BY SHANNON NEILL

DISABLED children, particularly blacks, have been grossly neglected in South Africa, said Disabled Children Action Group coordinator (DICAG), Ms Vuyo Mahlati.

She said efforts to help disabled children couldn't continue without government and business support.

A number of problems faced disabled children and their families.

According to Ms Mahlati, disabled children couldn't get to hospitals and clinics, especially in rural areas, without financial assistance.

She mentioned one woman who

sent her mentally handicapped 14-year-old daughter to a hospital 60km away on her own because she could not afford the taxi fare to go with the child.

The taxi-driver lost the child, who was found wandering around days later. She had not eaten, her clothing was gone and she had been raped. (2918)

Ms Mahlati said parents of disabled children were often forced to stay home because there were few special schools for their children. Or they would lock the children up alone while they went to work.

"Last year three children were burnt to death when the shacks they were locked in burnt down," she



HELP US PLEASE: Parents of disabled children protest in Cape Town last year

said.

Some handicapped children receive single care grants. These, however, are only available to children who have been certified severely mentally handicapped by two doctors and a social worker.

The grants are not available to children with less severe mental handicaps or to physically handicapped children.

In the past there has been lots of confusion surrounding the grant

Ms Mahlati said all black children who got the grant were supposed to receive R150 a month. She said the amount parents actually got ranged between R80 and R150 a month.

DICAG is fighting to sort out the problems of grants and also to make them more easily available — at present only 261 children in South Africa get them.

One DICAG initiative is the creation of day-care centres for handicapped children.

There are already a number of these in the townships. Parents can leave their children here during the day, knowing they'll be fed, cared for and will have other children to play with.

Ms Mahlati said: "The facilities at the centres are inadequate because we desperately need funding.

"But it is still better for the children to be at a centre rather than at home alone"

New law gives power to mothers

CT 17/5/94
(298)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICAN mothers now have joint guardianship over their children — a significant new empowerment that will help end conflict between estranged parents.

Until recently, guardianship was exercised exclusively by fathers except in rare cases where the courts decided otherwise, which meant that in most divorces mothers were granted custody, but fathers retained guardianship.

This often provoked conflict between estranged parents.

Now mothers, including thousands of divorced women, will have guardianship over their children and can exercise exclusive guardianship powers except in five defined circumstances.

The significance of the reform — contained in the Guardianship Act passed by parliament last year as part of a trilogy of laws extending women's rights — was buried amid the welter of constitutional legislation adopted last year.

But the Black Sash's legislation

watch group, which consulted lawyers about the new law, said yesterday they had confirmed the new law applied to civil law marriages, but not traditional marriages or customary unions.

"The act extends the powers of guardianship to wives who are now competent to exercise independently and without their husband's consent any guardianship right or power except in defined circumstances where the consent of both parents is necessary," the Black Sash's Ms Marg Brown said.

The consent of both parents is necessary for.

- The contracting of marriage by the minor child;
- The adoption of the child;
- The removal of the child from South Africa;
- The application for a passport by one of the parents in which the minor child is to be specified as a child of the prospective passport holder, and
- Any dealings with the immovable property or rights to immovable property of a child.

Ms Brown said the act was "a step in the right direction... however, the act does not refer to guardianship in terms of children born of a customary union, where the father has sole guardianship rights".

IDT Thrown into deep end of the struggle, then written off

Rescuing 'lost' youth

■ **WRONG END** Stifled by a (298)

severe lack of opportunities:

By Joe Mdhlela

IT IS easy for commentators, even the media, to describe the youths they see as not conforming to what they perceive to be social norms as either marginalised or lost.

Mrs Sheila Sisulu thinks this is too simplistic a view. She argues that such thinking is very dangerous and negative, as it neglects the rational cause-and-effect approach to issues.

Indeed, the South African youth, especially black youth, have been thrown into the deep end of the struggle for freedom and justice.

They have been politicised, research indicates, more than any other racial group. This is understandable as the political oppression has often translated into blacks being on the wrong end of the economic stratum in all spheres of life.

That the youths are rebellious, and often become part of the initiatives to redress the injustices, does not always entitle people to label them marginalised or "lost".

Even the church and the Joint Enrichment Project object to the term "lost generation" being used.

In her annual report Sisulu says: "The term lost generation had become a catchword to describe them, a description that the church and Joint Enrichment Project felt compelled to challenge. The teachings of Christ tells us that no person can ever be irretrievably



Mrs Sheila Sisulu

lost, and that by describing young people as such, you are effectively writing them off. And if a nation writes off a whole generation, it is writing itself off."

With the formation of the National Youth Development Forum last September, Sisulu says, the "youth is now at the forefront of the nation's conscience".

Sisulu says her assertion about the usefulness of the youth is backed by the research her organisation commissioned recently.

"The research we commissioned has



Youth, wanting a place under the sun.

debunked the facile stereotypes about youth, and presents them as they are: really ambitious people, desirous of education and jobs, but stifled by a severe lack of structural opportunities," she says.

Also to dispel the often 'old notion that youth are self-destructive, are facts that youth are self-destructive, are facts JEP have researched

These include the following:

- Some 3.5 million young South Africans have been marginalised by our society. They are excluded from the social, political and economic fabric of South African life. They grow up in an environment that is hostile to their full development;
- Four million young Africans have no electricity;
- Three million youths of all races are unemployed, with 79 percent of them currently looking for jobs;
- More than five million have no running water;

● More than 100 000 young Africans have no education at all, with more than one million young people having only primary education. At least 69 percent of these want to continue their education, but cannot because of a lack of funds, and

● Some one million African youths have been victims of political violence.

The lack of sensitivity in grappling with the problems experienced by youth have often led to the community throwing up their hands in frustration and describing them as really "lost".

Writer Hein Marais notes: "Black youth have long been quasi-criminalised. Whether in Soweto, Brixton or South-Central Los Angeles, a black youth's innocence is regarded by the authorities as a momentary respite from guilt, he is about to break the law or has already done it."

Marais goes on to suggest that in the South African "paranoid imagination"

each black youth embodies the potential of sliding into criminal category. Journalists, writers, high-ranking politicians and commentators of various shades, often use negative clichés to describe the youth.

In his book *Heroes and Villains* Jeremy Seekings says: "Youth are not only associated with violent behaviour; violence is largely understood in terms of youth."

Tonight at 9pm the NNTV programme *People* will deal with these stereotypes, try to place them in their proper perspective and trace their origin.

Sisulu's proactive approach to the myriad problems experienced by youth includes skills training, job creation and creative skills.

She is convinced that the youth can be helped to realise their full potential by engaging them in self-fulfilling projects.

Employers ignore Act and exploit child labour

PRETORIA — The exploitation of child labour had become a widespread problem in SA and it was estimated up to 800 000 children under the age of 15 were being put to work every day, Johannesburg Child Welfare Society officer Jackie Loffell said at the weekend.

The Health and Population Development Department said last week it was "seriously concerned" about the employment of children in contravention of the Child Care Act.

Employers, particularly in the agricultural, entertainment, advertising, modelling, film, retail and newspaper sales sectors, had largely ignored the Act, a Health Department spokesman said.

While the Act clearly stated that no person could employ or provide work to any child under 15 unless an exemption was obtained, only one application for an exemption had been received since the Act was amended in 1991.

SA's serious child labour problem involved abuse in many forms, Loffell said.

Rooted in poverty and illiteracy, it was exacerbated by the willingness of employers to exploit the survival needs of impoverished children and families.

The best documented and possibly most widespread use of child labour in SA occurred on farms, she said.

ADRIAN HADLAND

An investigation by the Anti-Slavery Society in 1980 uncovered details of children as young as nine working on farms producing wine, fruit, maize and vegetables.

More recent investigations had shown "ample evidence" existed that many of the abuses discovered by the Anti-Slavery Society were still occurring. (298)

While it was likely most farmers did not employ children illegally, it was clear that "exploitation and severe abuses are alarmingly widespread in this sector", Loffell said.

A Unicef survey in 1993 suggested that if comparable research from the African continent was applied to SA, it could be estimated that 781 268 children were working as unprotected labour.

Other sectors which were prone to child labour abuse included domestic work, street trading, small retail businesses, newspaper vending and acting and modelling, Loffell said.

While fines of up to R4 000 and a year's imprisonment could be imposed for contraventions of the Act, not one prosecution had been completed, the Health spokesman said.

Efforts were being made to inform the public and employers about the issues involved.

Home comforts for street kids

Sowetan 28/3/94

By Pearl Majola

AS WINTER approaches, the number of children who will spend cold nights on the streets in and around Johannesburg continues to increase.

So does the demand on Streetwise to upgrade the facilities they offer those children who want rehabilitation.

Streetwise, the non-governmental organisation which cares for street children, is to upgrade the shelter in Hillbrow into a drop-in centre where the children can come in for remedial schooling and leave in the afternoon.

Plans to establish a shelter and move the children from Hillbrow to another area are in the pipeline pending the outcome of negotiations between Streetwise and community representatives.

"The changes we are planning at the shelter and at the remedial school are basically to make both facilities more comfortable and the shelter to provide a more homely

■ DROP IN Shelter in Hillbrow will be upgraded

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environment for the children," says Mr Knox Mogashoa of Streetwise.

Like all NGOs, Streetwise depends on private funding.

"We need funds for the general running of the project. We also need donations both in cash and in kind for this new project. We will also need stationery, furniture and other things for the new and improved school."

The changes we are making at the shelter are to provide a more homely environment for the street children

Presently, Streetwise in Johannesburg houses about 34 children who have been separated from their families for different reasons. Fourteen of these are already in formal education and the rest are at the organisation's remedial school.

In addition to the children under Streetwise, the remedial school also takes those who are still on the streets as well as others from the neighbouring Twilight street children's project.

"One of our objectives is to encourage interaction between the community and the children. The unfortunate attitudes the community have against street children should be corrected," Mogashoa said.

"We hope the public will help us get these children off the streets and into a homely environment, formal schools and later employment," he said.

THE END OF YEAR?

starting in April

e you have planned!

ON

ng :

TECHNICAL MATRIC

Choose 4 of the following :

Children in SA listed among 'most deprived'

A UN "Misery Index" survey has found that SA children are among the most deprived on the continent.

Based on the criteria of life expectancy, education and purchasing power, the Unicef research rates SA eighth of 23 surveyed. SA rates worse than Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Unicef director for east and southern Africa Cole Dodge said on Friday that SA's low rating was tragic when compared with its resources and wealth.

The new index is regarded as more reliable than the infant mortality rate.

To address the situation Unicef and the national children's rights committee are holding a conference in Johannesburg this week to plan a national programme for children.

More than 90% of countries worldwide have estab-

lished the programme which sets out plans for achieving important goals by 2000, including reducing the infant mortality rate by half.

Cole said SA and Ethiopia lagged far behind in immunisation. Other African countries had shown it was possible to achieve high immunisation rates in a very short period. **1443194**

Health officials from other African states were already in SA to begin a major immunisation drive.

Cole said the vitamin A programme, costing less than R1m, which provided each child with a capsule once every six months would decrease infant mortality 23% **(234)**

The programme would press SA business to include iodine in salt. **(298)**



Brigette Mabandla, from the University of the Western Cape's community law centre, unveils the plan to establish a national programme of action for children.

Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

Parents of disabled children go it alone

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ARC 19/3/14

Cape townships sick of empty government promises

■ Parents of disabled children in Guguletu, tired of being fobbed off by authorities, have set up their own initiative to gather statistics, gauge attitudes and, they hope, come up with solutions.

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

A UNIQUE research initiative by parents of disabled children, in association with the University of Cape Town's psychology department, is expected to turn up some of the first "real" data in the crisis of South Africa's "forgotten kids".

Experts have hailed the programme as an important step forward for embattled parents and a move away from traditional research around disabled children registered with formal institutions only.

Shanaaz Majiet, national advocacy manager of the Disabled Children's Action Group (Dicag), said: "This project has the potential of bringing out those children that are still locked away and of compiling a true reflection, via data and statistics, of what's really out there."

Weekend Argus revealed last month that thousands of physically and mentally handicapped children in Cape Town's black townships were experiencing appalling hardship. Many were locked alone in shacks all day while their parents worked, because of hopelessly inadequate facilities.

Discussing details of the Guguletu-based parents' initiative, research co-ordinator Thozzi Mciki told Weekend Argus this week that frustrated and angry parents in Guguletu and Brown's Farm had formed the Siyazama Parents' Society for Disabled Children about two years ago.

Funded by the Department of National Health, the aim was to scientifically identify problems, needs and attitudes of affected parents.

UCT psychology department lecturer Ken Roper described the project as a fully participative one run by the parents for the parents. Workshops had been conducted, interviews done and some skills passed on and the first data is to be analysed within the next few months.

"We have avoided trying to count numbers at this early stage and rather have gone along with international figures that suggest about four severely mentally handicapped children per 1 000 — although in areas of severe deprivation that figure could be as high as five.

"We've instead gone into a limited number of homes to conduct in-depth interviews with parents to find out how they cope with existing resources, their needs and their thoughts around the issue generally."

The next step, he said, was to take a "survey approach", broadening the original project and going into as many homes as possible to achieve a "meaningful data base".

"Then, we go into implementation and whatever action we take would be in line with the broader objectives of Siyazama which include counselling, training of parents and teachers, establishment of day-care centres as well as the question of children's rights."

Abigail Sibali, one of the parents who conducted interviews for Siyazama, said parents finally had decided to "go it alone" after becoming extremely bitter at promises from the authorities which never came to anything.

"We have been three times to the Cape Provincial Administration and were involved in a steering committee for parents of disabled children. The parents are promised all sorts of things — but, it ends there, there's never any follow-up."

"At the end of last year on International Day of the Disabled we marched through the city and handed over a petition for health minister Rina Venter. We've heard nothing."

■ Anyone wanting to help Siyazama can leave a message at 638-7291.

'90% of child offenders unrepresented' in court

DAVID YUTAR
Staff Reporter

THE vast majority of children appearing in South African courts are unrepresented.

According to the drafters of a new juvenile justice system, more than 90 percent of South African children appearing in court on criminal charges do so without any legal representation and are to all intents and purposes treated as adult offenders.

The independent legislative drafting group was convened by the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape in October last year with the task of overhauling the South African system of juvenile justice.

The group includes representatives of Child Welfare, the Community Law Centre, Lawyers for Human Rights, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and Nicro.

Its chief task is to draft comprehensive legislation which is rehabilitative rather than merely retributive, and which is appropriate to the needs of the child offender.

The project — initiated after a conference on Children in Trouble with The Law held late last year — is a response to the shortcomings of the current system of juvenile justice, which is seen as fragmented, out of date and unable to address the psychological and social needs of young offenders.

Too many children arrested, long awaiting-trial periods, insufficient differentiation between adult and child offenders, and an incorrect understanding of the social causes of juvenile crime are just some of the problems being addressed by the drafters.

Others are the detrimental effects of the detention of children in police custody, indefinite trial postponements and the failure to secure the presence of parents or guardians during the trial process.

"We badly need a comprehensive system with a strong rehabilitative component and one which puts right what has happened and teaches the child offender responsibility rather than merely wreaking retribution," said a spokesman for the group.

The group hopes to present draft legislation early in 1995, which will then be the subject of extensive debate before its finalisation.

It's hoped that members of the public and concerned groups, including state departments and non-governmental organisations, will contribute in this regard.

The drafters stress the undesirability of any attempt at "unilateral restructuring" and will also be looking at international models of juvenile justice systems, like that used in New Zealand.

They also intend consulting other Southern African countries like Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

Envisaged is a system which will:

- Aim to keep children out of prison and other institutions;
- Differentiate between first-time offenders and recidivists;
- Distinguish between petty offenders and those charged with serious crimes;
- Provide courts with flexible pre-trial and sentencing alternatives.

A conference on juvenile justice is to be held towards the end of this month.

Youths 'must be taught self-esteem'

BLACK youths, who had been marginalised through missing out on education and development, needed to regain their self-esteem, management consultant David Molapo said yesterday. **15/5/94**

Speaking on Developing Black Youth for SA's Future Economy, Molapo said the young had to be taught to believe in themselves "so that they can contribute and benefit in the growth of our economy". **(293)**

Once this had been achieved, training and development could be fostered to improve and develop entrepreneurship in communities and educational institutions.

"To empower means to mobilise all energies, resources and commitments, to produce strength, ability and self-sufficiency.

Further, it calls for creativity, tapping reserves and networking," he said.

"As we (business and educational institutions) plant the seeds of empowerment, we will give birth to the spirit of entrepreneurship — a spirit of confidence and pride in doing for oneself, the community and the broader community."

Molapo said the youth should be taught to see opportunities where others saw only problems, to accept responsibility when others made excuses,

to become people of thought, action and courage, to constantly study, learn and work hard and to "overcome the darkness and despair of our townships with a vision and hope of excellence".

He said "disempowered" youths feared failure, were unwilling to share information and to collaborate with others, would try to get by with as little as possible, would not share credit and would resist change. "Black youths must feel that you believe in them, are anxious for them to succeed and prosper and will do anything in your power to help them obtain their work and personal goals," Molapo said.

Empowerment is the process of releasing the expression of personal power. It is the opposite of enslavement. Because personal power is already present within the individual, empowerment is not a gift one gives to another individual. Therefore, power is released by removing the barriers that prevent its expression."



● MOLAPO



PICTURE POWER: Streets chairman David Fortune thanks British vice-consul Ian Morrison for donating a new television set, video recorder and "ghetto-blaster", while Eric, 14, and Bradley, 15, try the controls. Picture HANNES THIART, The Argus

Streets celebrates first year of child rescue

Staff Reporter

STREETS, the Woodstock community-based organisation which aims to "eradicate the phenomenon" of children living on the streets, celebrates its first birthday this month.

The first year saw 700 children pass through Streets's Victoria Road door, five percent of whom were "resettled"

Not a particularly impressive record, but one that satisfies manager David Fortune.

"Streets is not primarily a service-orientated programme as it believes it is the duty of the state to provide services and funds for those living on the streets.

"Ultimately it is the role of Streets to advise the government on the steps necessary for the effective implementation of policy that would eradicate the phenomenon of children living on the streets"

The number of street children was increasing due to continued urbanisation

and the breakdown of family units caused by poverty, unemployment, overcrowding, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and physical and sexual abuse, Mr Fortune said.

● Presenting a television set, video recorder and "ghetto-blaster" to Streets this week, British vice-consul Ian Morrison said his government was committed to a "long-standing programme of community development projects" and had been following Streets's progress since its inception.

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ARG 11/3/94
**Fund cuts
may close
children's
sanctuary**

Staff Reporter (298)

THE Woodside Sanctuary, a haven in Rondebosch East for 80 severely brain-damaged children, will have to close if funding is not obtained says patron Betty Meiring, wife of the Administrator of the Cape.

She said the annual state subsidy had been cut by about R200 000.

General manager Sally Russell said 22 children's subsidies were withdrawn by the government in June last year when it decided to reject applications for grants for children whose parents earned more than R20 000 a year.

But 20 children in the sanctuary were over 18 and would receive grants irrespective of their parents' income, she said.

All the children at the centre had IQs below 25, had the mental capacity of three-year-old children and needed 24-hour care, said Ms Russell.

When asked if she believed it was the state's responsibility to provide for brain-damaged children, she said it was "a difficult topic".

"The State says it's responsible for a child's education. The same amount of money it spends on a child's education should be spent on the welfare and care of a severely brain-damaged child who cannot be educated."

● The Woodside Sanctuary, which was established in 1976, will hold an open day at Leeuwenhof in Hof Street tomorrow to raise funds. Gates open at 2pm.

Molo Songololo kids 'are living in filth'

By Edwina Booyen

South 11/3 - 15/3/94

AN ORGANISATION championing the cause of neglected children is under fire over the appalling living conditions in which it has placed a group of former street children in Bonteheuvel.

A youth allegedly died during a fight at Christmas and youths at the shelter were left unsupervised and were seen smoking dagga and sniffing glue.

"The children were brought here by Molo Songololo and are living in a disused, dilapidated council building, unsupervised and in extreme filth. We are concerned about their health," said Mr John Miranda, a Bonteheuvel Health Committee (BHC) member. (293)

"One of the youths was killed during a gambling game over the festive season, when the supervisor went on holiday and left the children on their own. We even heard that the children are smoking dagga and sniffing glue."

A police spokesperson confirmed an occupant of the shelter, Patrick Present, had been stabbed to death with a pen by a 17-year-old youth on Christmas Day 1993.

Miranda said the BHC first learned about the children from residents near the Als Road building.

"I went to investigate and found the children, mostly boys, living in filth. They were being looked after by a guy who appeared to be about 19 years old and introduced himself only as 'Doctor'."

Miranda said he reported his findings to the BHC which contacted the health department.

"The health department knew

nothing about the children. It was later found that the children were brought from Rondebosch by a community worker for Molo Songololo."

A meeting with Molo Songololo, the South African Police and the health department followed and the representatives visited the shelter.

"This time there were about 25 children, two of them were girls. Old food was lying everywhere and the stench was unbearable. The toilets were overflowing and I had to leave the building several times for fear of being overcome with nausea," Miranda said.

"Most of the windows are broken and there is no electricity."

Miranda said the BHC was not against the children being housed in the area, as alleged by Molo Songololo.

"The community approves of turning the cleansing depot into a shelter, but only if it is properly managed," he said.

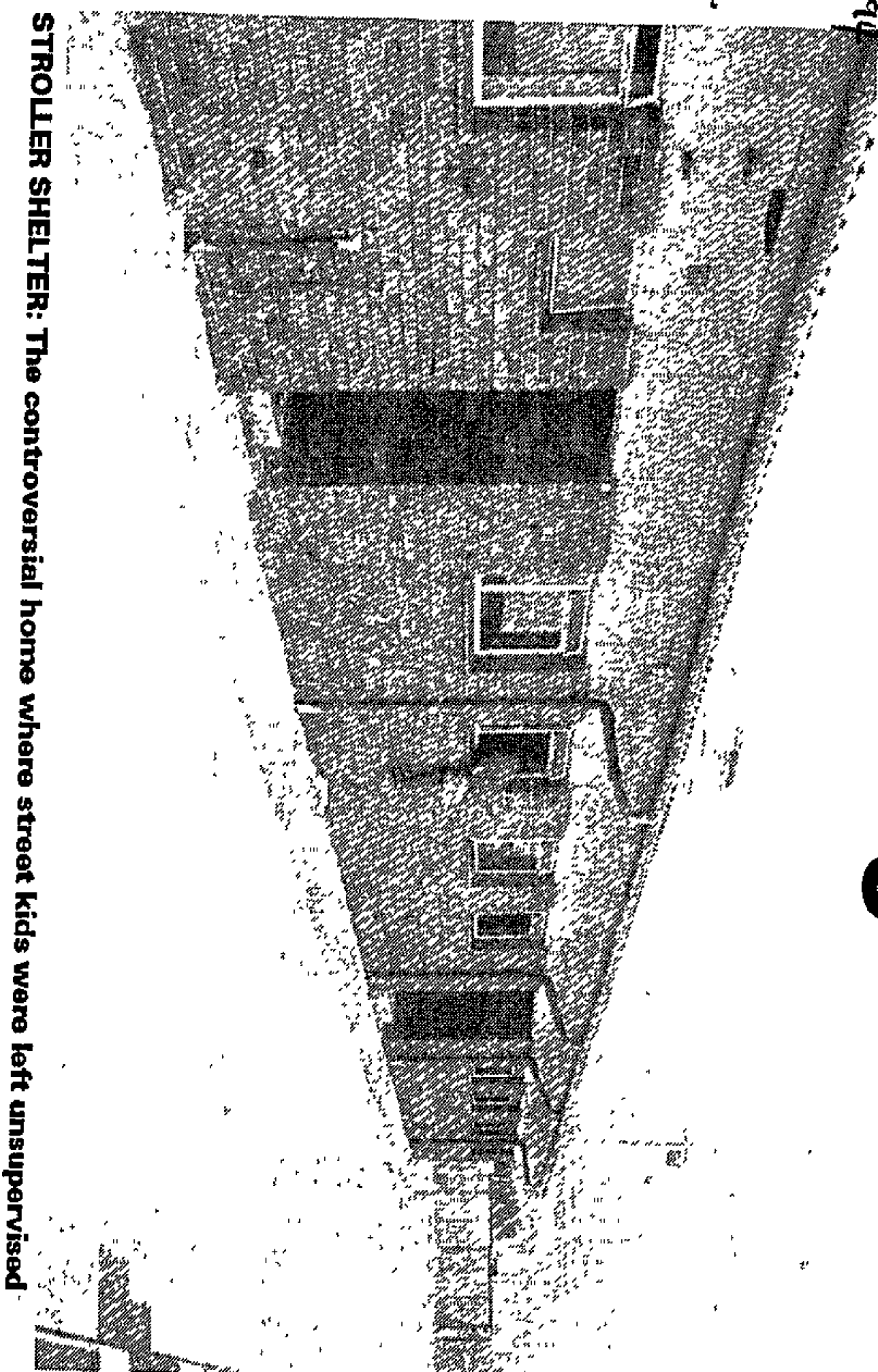
"We don't think the children should be put back on the streets, but they cannot live the way they are now."

Dr Johan van Rensburg, deputy health officer of the City Council's Health Department, said his office had investigated the children's living conditions.

Van Rensburg said Molo Songololo was informed the building was a health hazard and that it should either be repaired or the children removed.

"If they decide to stay they will have to fix it up, apply for licensing and register as a shelter."

A person who answered the telephone at Molo Songololo said the organisation had no comment.



STROLLER SHELTER: The controversial home where street kids were left unsupervised

ANC asked to help children in prison

Political Correspondent

ARG 28/2/94

(298)

THE Department of Correctional Services has turned to the ANC for help in easing the plight of awaiting-trial children behind bars.

This emerged during a briefing by ANC national chairman Thabo Mbeki last night.

He said there were 138 unsentenced children under the age of 14 in South African prisons.

Mr Mbeki disclosed that the Department of Correctional Services had submitted a formal request for assistance to the ANC after realising it was unable to resolve the problem "on its own".

"Part of the problem is that the police pick up young children and just dump them on Correctional Services. Some welfare agencies that are unable to find a solution do the same.

"The call for help to the ANC is an illustration of the size of problem."

The ANC's national welfare policy coordinator Vivienne Taylor said the call to the ANC followed a meeting on children in prison with the department in December.

She said the department, which agreed with the ANC that the situation was "unacceptable", had failed to resolve the issue through the police or the Department of National Health and Welfare.

All stake-holders in the welfare field had been brought together to tackle this and other issues.

"We have already set up joint working groups with the government to tackle the issue of children in jail, and the total restructuring of social services," she said.

(News by M Morris 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town.)

Back on

the right road



Picture OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

HANDS-ON HELP: Father Declan Collins, director of the Don Bosco Salesian Institute in Green Point, with, from left, trainees in the institute workshop Patrick Gentleman, Joseph Musa, Gabriel Lubango and Samson Nkubobano.

Adult shelters that feed and shelter children

- Ark City of Refuge (Westlake) takes in all destitute people. Beds for 60 girls and 60 boys.

- Service Dining Rooms (Cape Town) feeds 570 people a day, many are street children.

- Peninsula School Feeding fills the tummies of the tinies with supplementary meals at primary schools, which would include those young street children at primary schools.

Day Programmes

Day programmes provide schooling, activities and skills training.

Learn To Live (Cape Town) gives alternative education and job preparation for boys and girls; *Streets* (Salt River) provides skills training and enrichment workshops for children and youth; *Yizani Centre* (St George's Cathedral) is skills training and a drop-in centre; *Ons Winkel* (c/o Ons Plek, Cape Town) is an employment project for girls.

Street and Community Programmes

Child Welfare Society (Wynberg) sends community workers into the townships to reintegrate truanting children into their schools, families and community.

In this way, the Child Welfare Society is able to halt the movement of children into the suburbs and city, and to identify needs and initiate projects.

Mobile Outreach Programme (MOP, c/o Margaret's House, Lansdowne) provides food, monitors Cape Flats and other suburban needs; Street Beat (Claremont Children's Shelter) does outreach work and the feeding of suburban youth and children; Street Work is the outreach arm of Patrick's House.

- Child Welfare Society, Child Life House, Electric Road, Wynberg — 761-7130.

CRAIG MATTHEWS, patron, suggests you buy a Token Trust token for R5 to display on your car windscreen or your door at home. Your



money goes towards developing facilities for street children — with the approval of the Child

Welfare Society. Tokens are available from Engen service stations, or send a cheque for as many as you like to: Token Trust, 8 Largo Road, Newlands 7700, or contact them on 61 1616.

Yesterday, you read soul-warming stories of those street children who have been successfully helped by shelters and day programmes. Today, The Argus publishes a survey of what is done, and what can be done, for these pathetic children.

ON JUNE 16, the Day of the African Child, President Nelson Mandela handed over R150 000 from his private purse to African Bank chairman Sam Motsuenyane for a Presidential Trust Fund to help street children and child detainees.

The president has undertaken to pay the same amount into the fund each year for the next five years and a committee of trustees for the fund is being established from a broad spectrum of people.

Last week, the Republic of China Ambassador, Mr I-Cheng Loh, presented R200 000 to President Mandela for the fund, the first of a promised series of annual payments.

STREET CHILDREN



The Argus
Investigates

But, much to be done to keep street children on straight path

GORRY BOWES TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

THERE are some thousands of tattered street children in the Western Cape.

They're on the inimical streets when home is the more hostile option. On the streets they're cold, they're hungry, they're exploited and abused.

"Ja, dis nog beter." Jan speaks for a group.

They're not popular with an unsympathetic public, weary of their begging and thieving, drug-selling and prostitution. Or with vulnerable women, wary of their violence.

The "Stroller" stigma seriously undermines the chances of a constructive solution, according to a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) report recently released.

The research shows there are those in favour of keeping street children off the streets by locking them up. However the reality is that whether street children are locked up for a while or not, they will always be drawn to areas in which they can ask the public for money.

However, there *IS* hope for

there's much to be done.

Concerned people, and there are many, have set up shelters, food schemes and funds; day, street and community programmes. Most function under the excellent auspices of Child Welfare Society, Cape Town.

Annette Cockburn, director, The Homestead, meticulously defines success with street children as being "when they are indistinguishable from their peers."

Children's shelters

Caring Cape Town has eight formal children's shelters, with around 200 beds.

Shelters are sex and age graded and function-focused. First-stage units — The Claremont Children's Shelter (Claremont) and The Homestead (Cape Town) are for boys from six to 10. Highway Home (Maitland) and Molo Songololo (Bontheuvel) are both for boys. Ons Plek (Cape Town) is the only shelter for girls.

Children are referred to second-stage units after they have settled at school or work — boys to Don Bosco Hostel (Cape Town), Patrick's House (Cape Town), girls to Siyiwe (Woodstock), Margaret's House (Lansdowne) is for runaway boys found on the street

Police leave Shell House with 39 firearms

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Police emerged after meeting ANC secretary-general Mr Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday at Shell House with 39 firearms handed over by the organisation.

Wiltwatersrand police commissioner Lieutenant-General Koos Calitz left the meeting confident that gunmen who fired on an IFP

march from Shell House on March 28 would be brought to justice.

Ballistic tests would determine whether the weapons had been used in the shootings, in which 11 people died.

Accusing the ANC of housing an arsenal in its headquarters, NP spokesman Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk said it was shocking that the ANC had handed over the

weapons only after public pressure.

"A party which claims to believe in democratic principles and that it's against the abuse of power, doesn't act as it has done."

The ANC, which police said had permits for 250 licensed firearms, would hand over more weapons later this week, SAPS spokesman Brigadier Zirk Gouws said. A

second meeting between the men had been scheduled for tomorrow.

Mr Ramaphosa denied there had been a "cover-up". "We have been in constant communication with the police," he said. The ANC had honoured its commitment to hand over the weapons, but conceded the election had delayed this.

Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi said last week

the shootings began when shots were fired from inside Shell House (278) 29 61 7194

IFP regional leader Mr Phemba Khoza accused the ANC yesterday of handing over the weapons to divert attention from "the cover-up" that had taken place.

He said the failure of police to search Shell House immediately after the shootings had destroyed public confidence in the probe.

'STICKS & PIPES HALT REFORMATORY ESCAPE'

BY BARBARA-ANN BOSWELL

PUPILS at the Faure School for Boys, a reformatory for juvenile offenders, have raised serious allegations of abuse against certain staff members.

SOUTHEASTER received a letter signed by 26 boys who claim inmates were beaten and assaulted on Sunday, May 29, when they tried to escape from school.

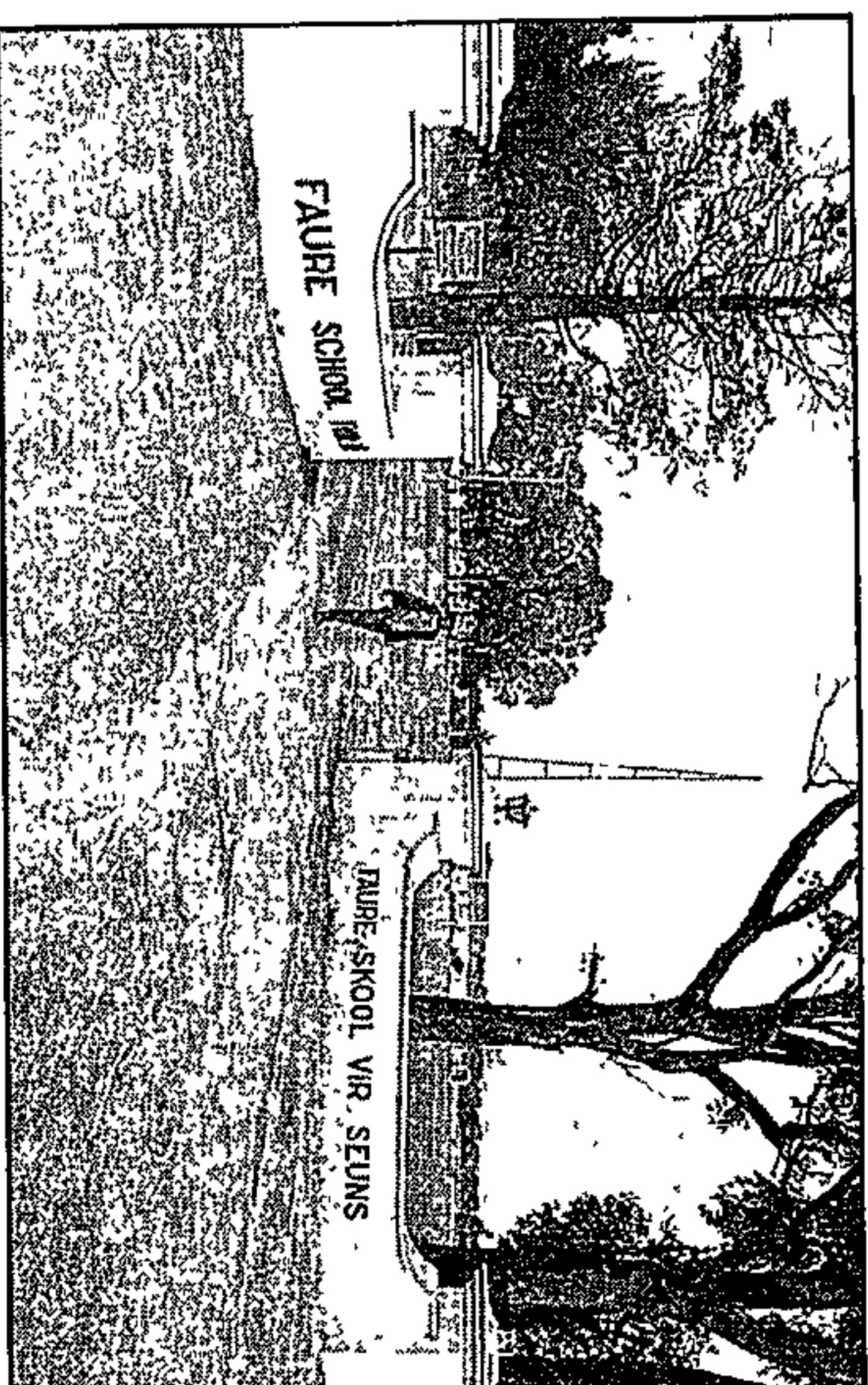
"The boys were assaulted with sticks, pipes and wire. On some boys you can still see the marks on their faces and bodies," the letter

reads.

"Boys wanted to lay charges against the officials and teachers, but we couldn't even do that. They are too scared that all the things will come out," it says.

A staff member, who does not want to be named, confirmed the boys' story. He was on duty the night the boys escaped, and says "cruel methods" were used to punish them when they were found.

"About 70 boys escaped that Sunday night. Most of them were found that night and they were horribly assaulted by some of the staff with sticks and batons."



REFORMATORY: Where youths claim they were assaulted

"They were then crammed into tiny cells, where they were harassed throughout the night," he said

The boys broke out of the school because of a previous dispute earlier this year. (298)

In February they refused to go to their classes. Chaos broke out and about 20 boys were put in the cells, where they started burning blankets.

They were taken to Pollsmoor prison and charged with arson and damaging state property. They were referred back to the school by the court, but the principal dis-

missed them from the school.

The other boys were dissatisfied with this, and to pacify them, the principal gave all the boys six months off their sentences

The boys thought this was unfair, and this led to the second attempt to escape last month.

A spokesperson for the Education and Culture Services, Ms Teresha Hanekom, denied that children were beaten with sticks and batons, but said officials "had to act harshly towards those who did not want to co-operate".

She said the police were called in to stabilise the situation and the

leaders were put into detention cells.

* The Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr Ebrahim Rasool said a commission had been set up to investigate the overall care and facilities at places of safety.

The committee would also look at the training requirements of workers at these places.

Although Mr Rasool did not know about the incident at Faure, he admitted that "violence is often met with violence" at schools such as these.

"Faure doesn't look different to me than any other prison I've seen," he said.

● SOUTHEASTER hopes that the commission investigates the complaints made. Children are sent to reformatories so that their ways can be rectified, and if they are treated as they allege then the reformatory system needs to be reviewed

If the allegations are found to be true, we hope that the authorities act against those persons who have committed the wrongs against the children, more particularly the staff under whose care they were placed to be reformed. — Editor.

Child prisoners to get freedom

Remission for 2 000 more

MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Correspondent
and JOHN VILJOEN, Staff Reporter

AKG 8/7/94

(298)

ABOUT 2 000 children, women with minor children and disabled people in prison for minor offences are to be released.

These are in addition to the 13 000 people already given a six-month special remission of sentence last month.

This special remission, announced by Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela, will apply to people in these categories who were in prison on May 10.

And the Judge President of the Cape, Mr Justice G Friedman, has called for special prisons to be opened for people under 18.

The 2 000 now due for release do not include people convicted of committing or attempting to commit murder, culpable homicide, robbery with aggravating circumstances, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, child abuse, rape, any other crimes of a sexual nature and dealing in drugs.

Dr Mzimela said President Mandela had approved the measure which should be seen "as a further demonstration of the government of national unity's sincerity and commitment towards all the people of our country".

He said the Department of Correctional Services would urgently identify all prisoners in these special categories.

An interdepartmental committee, including the departments of health and welfare and non-governmental organisations such as Nicro, would study each case to make sure that:

- Prisoners fell within the ambit of the special remission.
- Children or disabled prisoners would be placed in the care of a parent, relative, guardian or suitable institution.
- Mothers qualifying for remission were the legal parents of children under 12.

In an interview Judge Friedman said special prisons should be built for children under 18.

Last month's Supreme Court conviction of four youths for murdering a 13-year-old at Robertson jail "out of frustration and boredom" has highlighted conditions in which young offenders are kept.

Trial judge Mr Justice van Deventer said the case reminded him of the William Golding novel *Lord of the Flies*, in which "youths turned into animals".

Judge Friedman said today that maximum security institutions with specially trained staff should be opened to keep under-18s awaiting trial gainfully occupied.

They should have specially trained staff able to accommodate and respond to the needs of the young detainees.

Existing places of safety did not measure up to these requirements. They were not sufficiently secure, nor was the boredom element adequately dealt with.

The problem of how to cope with juveniles convicted of serious crimes was even more acute, he said.

Escapes from reformatories were "legendary" and prisons, where children came into contact with hardened criminals, were not the answer. The solution was to establish juvenile prisons like those in Britain.

SA jails to free 300 children

(298)

CT 9/7/94

By CHRIS BATEMAN
Political Staff

ABOUT 300 child convicts "at the most" will be unconditionally freed in terms of yesterday's remission of sentence for "lesser offenders", which includes mothers of children under 12 and disabled people, it emerged yesterday.

The government gesture benefits all qualifying prisoners serving sentences as at May 10 — President Nelson Mandela's inauguration day.

The releases will exclude people convicted of murder, culpable homicide, robbery with aggravating circumstances, assault, child abuse, rape, sexual crimes and dagga dealing or growing.

Some 2 300 women, 881 children under 18 and 60 disabled people are currently serving

Good care a condition for release

prison sentences — but only a small number of them will be affected by the announcement.

Those who qualify will be identified by a committee which includes non-governmental bodies such as the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders.

Minister of Correctional Services Dr Sipho Mzimela said he expected the first releases to begin within two weeks.

Other qualifying criteria are that children under 18 or disabled people can be placed in

the care of a parent, relative, selected family, guardian or suitable institution; and that the mother is the legal parent of a child under 12.

Dr Mzimela reiterated that section 29 of the Correctional Services Act was to be amended to forbid the admission of unsentenced children to prisons.

Well-placed sources within the department said that "at most" 300 children would be released — the largest percentage of the three categories.

● Manual labour should be reinstated in prison and convicts should be told that a prison term was not a holiday, Free State Minister for Safety and Security Mr Papi Kganare said yesterday.

Addressing about 20 farmers at Ladybrand, Mr Kganare said those killing innocent people were nothing but murderers. — Sapa

CALLERS

ADVOCATES of juvenile justice have reacted cautiously to news that the state will free from prison about 2 000 children, women with minor children and disabled people, expressing concern at the lack of available alternative facilities for youngsters in trouble with the law.

While they unanimously support the principal of moving children out of prisons, they believe that unless alternative resources are in place the children will in all probability simply be back in a few months' time.

Places of safety, the existing alternative to prison for youngsters, are ill-equipped and often overcrowded and, say the advocates, a big question mark over the issue is whether children in trouble with the law should share facilities with those who are there because of abuse or neglect.

The release of the 2 000 prisoners was announced by Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela and applies to people in these categories who were in prison on May 10

His announcement comes nearly two years after Weekend Argus first revealed that as many as 4 000 children who had not been found guilty of crimes were being held in South African prisons in harsh and threatening conditions.

These children often had no mattresses, on which to sleep, no clean clothes, half an hour's exercise a day and limited access to social workers or child-care specialists.

The first releases followed in January last year when 61 youngsters were transferred to alternative facilities, and by July prison conditions for children had been considerably upgraded.

Dr Mzimela also announced that an interdepartmental committee, including the departments of health and welfare and non-government organisations like the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro), would study each case.

Ann Skelton, director of Lawyers for Human Rights' applied criminal justice programme in Maritzburg, yesterday described the planned releases as extremely positive and particularly praised the planned multidisciplinary approach.

"It's high time the five ministries involved in children in detention work together on the issue, otherwise we won't get a proper comprehensive response to the problem."

Although a juvenile justice system provided by legislation was the long-term reform LHR was pushing for, "we welcome any piecemeal efforts towards that so long as they take into account the needs of the child."

Ms Skelton added: "More time would have been helpful. If you let them out with no pre-release work, you'll probably see them back in again in a few months".

She also expressed concern at the state of places of safety which was where children in prison would be transferred if they had no homes.

"Many are under-equipped. Some are overcrowded. And there remains

Thousands of children held in SA prisons

Jail kids scandal

HOW
Weekend
Argus
broke the
story on
October
11 1992

(298) APR 9 17 1944
EVENING

7/9/11
Everything is so shaky ^{the} at the moment. Everyone's rushing to get this done but the rationalisation of places of safety is first essential so the children can be helped so they don't re-commit the crime."

Ms Solomon said Nicro needed to increase its capacity for diversion and could not deal with all the cases at this stage.

Cape Town's Child Welfare Society director, Alan Jackson, described the government announcement as "very balanced" but said he would like the process to go one step further.

"For us it is equally important to do assessments of the children who will not be released to examine the feasibility of their release too."

He supported the notion that many of the children not in the release categories, including those responsible for murder or rape, could be transferred to places of safety at least, or to children's homes.

"As much as all of us have been fighting for this and believe that prison is no place for children, the back on is no place for children, the back up and resources are insufficient to contain these children. Meanwhile, the Criminological Society of South Africa has called for more pre-trial and diversion programs for juvenile minor offenders to keep them out of prison."

"As much as all of us have been fighting for this and believe that prison is no place for children, the pack-up and resources are insufficient to contain these children.



LEBEKO'S KIDS . . . Abandoned children enjoy a moment of warmth in the sun. **INSET:** Constance Lebeko with eight-month-old Meshack, who was left at a stranger's gate.

The children who were thrown away

City Press

10/7/94

By PEARL RANTSEKENG

298

THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD remembers vividly how her mother tried to get rid of her and her two-year-old sister "She took us to a place full of water and threw us in there."

A lump forms in your throat as you talk to these kids and listen to the stories of how they ended up at the Rethabile Children's Home situated at an old disused mine compound in Stilfontein near Klerksdorp. Nombasha Gumbe is the four-year-old who confronts us with the story of how her mother tried to kill her and her sister, Neumisa, by throwing them into a river last October. They were found by police, still alive, with Neumisa bleeding through her ears.

Eight-month-old Meshack Moeketsi was left by his mother overnight at someone's gate. He was found the next morning and taken to a police station. Later he was moved to the Rethabile Home by social workers. His mother's identity has never been established, nor has he found foster parents.

"Baby Funky" - his real name is unknown - about two years of age, was left by his mother in a hospital immediately after birth.

Matron and founder of the children's home, Constance Lebeko, said the number of abandoned children they received these days was appalling.

She said the sight of children loitering in the streets led her to open the school in 1992.

"I couldn't stand to see children running around with nothing to do. It was even worse when I learnt that most of them had no homes and others were chased from school because they had no money for school

fees and uniforms," said Lebeko.

The 46-year-old widow said when she started the home for the children she was based at her hometown in Jouberton. She used the township's hostel as shelter for the children. She said at that time she was also working as a councillor for the Western Transvaal Education Foundation.

"I then left my job and went for training to be able to handle such children. Later in the year we had to move from our premises as the hostel was to be renovated and turned into family units.

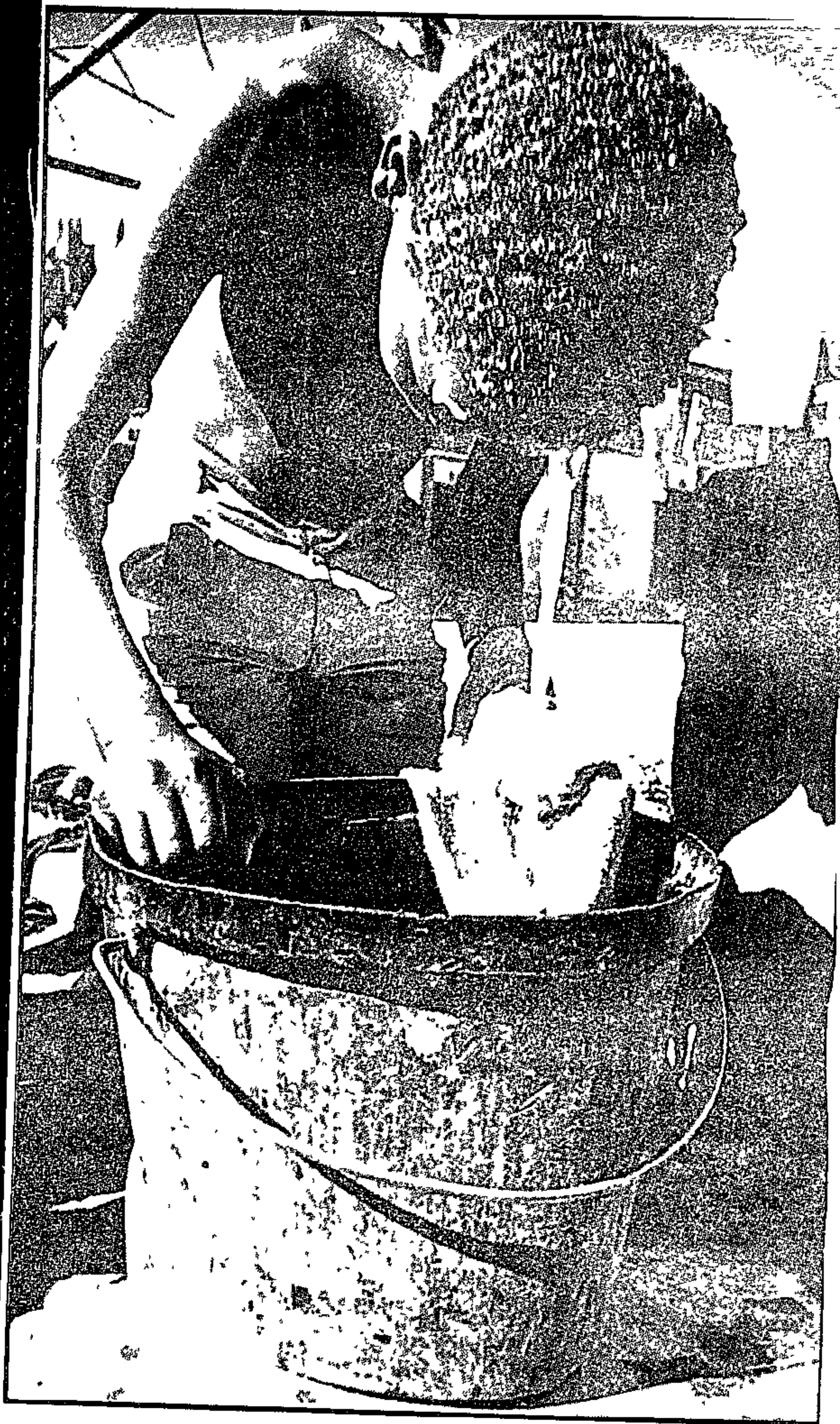
"We moved to where we are now. We have been here two years now and the number of children has grown. Almost every day there is a new kid coming in. I now take care of about 62 children ranging from 8 months to 17 years," Lebeko said.

"The sad thing is that as much as I enjoy this job I can't afford to take care of these children on my own. People, including the social workers, just dump children here with no supplies and expect me to provide for them. They promise to find them foster homes and that is the last I hear from them until they bring in another child," said Lebeko.

She said she had unsuccessfully tried to get assistance from the government.

"We are struggling to raise funds and have to go from door to door begging for food. We don't even have hot water. Only God knows how we survived those cold days. We are short of beds, blankets and the children need more clothes to keep them warm."

If you would like to help, the school's account number is 950 140 380 at Volkskas Bank.



HARD TIMES . . .
Life is a struggle
for the children at
the Rethabile
Children's home,
which is battling to
support an influx of
abandoned
children in the face
of a shortage of
funds and
facilities.

Pics:

TLADI KHUELE

Plea to reduce number of teacher trainee applicants

ART 11/794

More matrics apply than can be accommodated

JOHN VILJOEN
Education Reporter

PRINCIPALS and inspectors have been asked to help reduce the number of matrics applying to teacher-training colleges.

Education and Culture Services ex-House of Representatives executive director Awie Muller said in a circular his department was concerned that so many people applied for teacher training each year while only a limited number could be enrolled at colleges.

It was essential that the number of candidates approved for teacher training be reduced urgently, he said.

The circular was issued just two days before a senior analyst told a teachers' congress in Oudshoorn there was little demand for "coloured" teachers.

Mr Muller said high school principals had to play a greater role in the selection of student teachers.

Principals were supposed to know their matrics and should be able to compile a confidential report on each one's capabilities, Mr Muller said.

They could interview prospective student teachers to ensure the reliability of these reports. The reports should place the pupils' academic accomplishments and personality under the spotlight.

Principals should assess the would-be teacher's self-confidence, positive attitude toward the profession, leadership qualities, willingness to accept responsibility and initiative.

Principals should rank all matrics keen on teaching in order of their abilities. This ranking would be "invaluable" to inspectors meeting prospective student-teachers.

Inspectors would have to be strict when approving student-teachers — special attention should be given to applicants' abilities in English and Afrikaans "so that they will benefit from training".

A negative attitude toward authority was unacceptable, Mr Muller said.

elections mean to me".

Five winning essays will be selected, with R1 000 worth of books from the Mayibuye Centre going to each of the star pupils' schools, with consolation prizes for 50 other essays.

Entries to: The Argus/Mayibuye Centre Competition, Private Bag X17, Bellville, 7535.

Queries? Contact Mouravia at 959 2934, or 959 2935.



open day on July 23 at the Mayibuye Centre's Celebrating Democracy Festival.

To celebrate, The Argus and the Mayibuye Centre want pupils to write essays of about 300 words on "What the 1994

Give us your views about the new SA

Education Reporter

HIGH School pupils get your thinking caps on — we want to hear your views on the new South Africa.

The Argus and the University of the Western Cape's Mayibuye Centre invite Western Cape pupils to write essays describing their feelings about South Africa's new democracy. All schools are invited to an

Schools must report signs of child abuse

Education Reporter

TEACHING and support staff at schools have been reminded that the law compels them to report any sign of child abuse.

An official circular said the physical and sexual abuse of children had escalated and had become "an awesome societal problem".

Education and Culture Services ex-House of Representatives executive director Awie Muller sent the circular to principals, school psychologists, regional heads of education and inspectors.

Last year's Prevention of Family Violence Act compels anyone involved in child care or treatment to immediately report a suspicion that a child has been ill-treated or deliberately injured.

Such a report must be made to a police officer or child welfare or social worker.

Teaching personnel were in daily contact with children and in the best position to identify those exposed to ill-treatment and exploitation.

By mandatory reporting of these cases it was hoped to identify the scope of the problem and to devise effective strategies to combat it, he said.

Child care workers refuse normal shifts

Staff Reporter (298) 

CHILD care workers at Bonnytoun Place of Safety in Wynberg are refusing to work normal shifts and are barricading the institution's gates, letting in only emergency medical personnel and food.

Of approximately 48 child care workers, only seven are working normally.

The protesters are demanding outstanding overtime pay and have called for structural changes to the institution, such as the building of safety exits and the installation of facilities like toilets in the areas where the officers work.

Senior key officer Alfred Harris said yesterday the structural changes had been approved by the Department of Social Welfare in the Western Cape, but "nothing has happened".

Some of the outstanding overtime money had been paid, but not all. *ARC 14/7/94*

Mr Harris said most workers were only working an 8am to 4pm shift, where there were normally three shifts — from 7am to 1pm, from 1pm to 7pm and a night shift from 7pm to 7am.

Bonnycastle's telephones had been disconnected and if the CPA wanted to react, they had to go to Bonnytoun personally, he said.

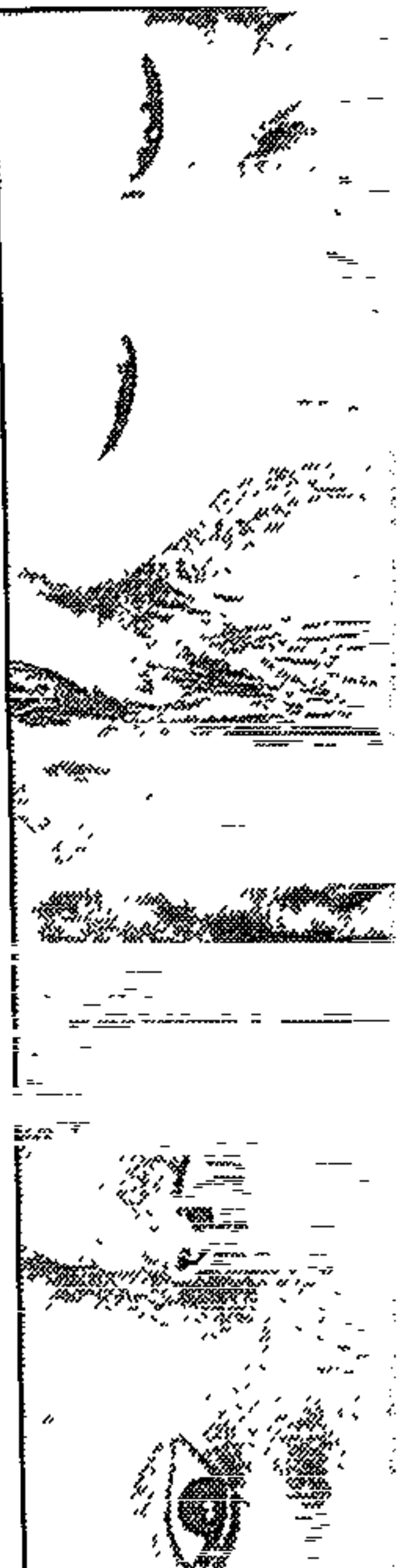
Mr Harris said the boys in the institution were not being harmed by the action, as 96 of them were away on holiday. The remaining 59 were "being cared for".

But the workers were "prepared to intensify" their actions if their demands were not met and the situation could become "chaotic" after the weekend, when most boys would be back.

He said the structural changes, like safety exits, were essential for the safety of care workers, many of whom had been assaulted by boys.

A Department of Social Welfare in the Western Cape spokeswoman said the child care workers received cheques for overtime worked in April and May this year on July 5.

Today they would receive cheques for overtime worked from October 29 to March 1994 and on Tuesday they would get cheques for the overtime from June 1990 to October 1992.



Experts from the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) visited South Africa last week. Health Writer David Robbins reports on this international agency's intentions, and how it hopes to impact on the lives of our children

Star 18/17/94

Unicef will keep our children in focus

The Unicef team jetted in from many parts of the world. There were health and education experts, social development and economic consultants, and there was team leader Dr Richard Jolly, Unicef's deputy executive director who is responsible for the agency's activities in more than 120 countries.

"We're here to follow up on discussions between our executive director, James Grant, and President Mandela which were held in June," Jolly explained before he returned to New York last week.

The follow-up process involved a series of meetings with officials of the new Government, not least of which took the form of a three-day seminar with senior representatives of the Ministry of Health.

Unicef opened an office in Johannesburg 18 months ago, working with various non-governmental organisations, and generally preparing the ground for a more high-profile role in the future.

Jolly defined this role as "ensuring that the issues affecting children are kept on the national agenda. The miracle of democratic transition already achieved in South Africa must now be translated into basic improvements which each child can feel and understand".

By various fundraising endeavours, Unicef hopes to spend about R25 million during the current financial year in pursuance of this role. It will be spent in maintaining its presence here, in sharing its international expertise in various ways, and for importing expertise when deemed necessary.

Unicef's overall aims will be greatly facilitated by statements already made by President Man-



data and by the wording of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) itself. "The needs of children must be paramount 'throughout all programmes aimed at meeting basic human needs and socio-economic upliftment,' the RDP states.

As a general principle, this is unarguable. But what about the detail? What, in other words, was on the agenda when the Unicef experts spent three days in a seminar with senior health

ministry officials?

Jolly replied: "We posed this question: what can be done in the next six to 18 months that will demonstrate to ordinary South Africans that there is a new policy, a new impetus, a new response to the urgent health needs of children and women?"

"What is needed is something sensible, something cost-effective, and also something that is supportive of the new structures

Government has committed itself to work towards in particular, here, I mean increased community involvement in its own health care."

Inevitably up for discussion was the existing policy of providing free health care for children under six and pregnant women who are dependent on the public sector for their health needs

"We told the Ministry of Health people that this was a good start, but that taken alone

there were inadequacies," Jolly said. "For example, it doesn't help those who are too far from facilities to benefit. There's also no specific focus within the free health system. On the other hand, it will present a considerable challenge as the number of patients inevitably increases."

Within the framework of the free health-care system, the Unicef experts attempted to focus attention on the major causes of

mother, measles, malnutrition, acute respiratory disorders and gastro-related diseases.

"We made the point," said Jolly, "that our experience in other parts of the world had persuaded us that to lay too much emphasis on restructuring health budgets and systems is not the best way forward politically. Realisable goals need to be identified on the ground, where ordinary people can feel the results of attempting to achieve

them."

With these principles in mind, the seminar homed in on acute respiratory disorders and gastro-related diseases as two areas of child health care where good results could be obtained without high-cost hi-tech interventions. Even more important, communities can actively participate in rapid and visible im-

The message which Unicef is offering the authorities appears to be plain: make specific and cost-effective interventions in areas where it will count the most. Involve the community and also be sure to set time-bound goals.

PICTURE GARY BERNARD

provements in the health of their own children.

Oral rehydration techniques and new precautions based on the number of breaths per minute in children suffering from respiratory ailments can be widely taught to families and community members. In many parts of the world, this approach has yielded immediate and dramatic results.

Jolly: "It's an area which should be actively exploited by the health authorities. The techniques can be promoted through the clinics and supported by them. Radio should also be used to spread the message, as well as through community action groups."

The message which Unicef is

offering the South African health authorities appears to be plain: make specific cost-effective interventions in areas where it will count the most. Involve the community and also be sure to set time-bound goals.

"We've had a lot of positive experience with goals set to be achieved within a specific time," Jolly said. "And such goals should be coupled to a system of public monitoring. People need to be made aware of how the campaigns are going. Most important of all, senior political leadership must get involved in the monitoring process."

It is not only gastro-related diseases and acute respiratory problems which Unicef would like to see tackled in this way. For example, before he rushed off to catch his plane, Jolly talked of the critical importance of breast-feeding.

"In terms of cost effectiveness, breast-feeding is obviously superior to any other form of nutrition. But mothers need support to offer only this type of food for the first five months. Thereafter, nutritional support needs to be provided to supplement breast-feeding until the age of two.

"It's during this period, of course, that the crucial importance of growth monitoring becomes apparent."

Then there's the whole question of sustainable immunisation programmes and the steady elimination of vitamin and iodine deficiencies.

Jolly leaves one with the impression that Unicef is going to be a valuable presence in South Africa as the struggle begins to improve the health status of all its citizens, in particular its children and their mothers.

Wednesday, July 20 1994

Conference told of the plight of child detainees

BIDCey
2017 194
KATHRYN STRACHAN

THERE was an urgent need for places of detention for children accused of committing crimes, so they did not have to endure abuse in prisons and police cells, a child welfare expert said yesterday.

Priscilla McKay, director of both ANC national welfare and Pinetown Child Welfare, told a Family Institute conference of the appalling conditions that children as young as eight were subjected to in prisons.

An extensive investigation conducted by Child Welfare and Lawyers for Human Rights in the Durban area showed that more than half of child prisoners had been abused by police in cells.

They reported being hit with butts of guns and being kicked. Some alleged they had tyre tubes pulled over their heads until they almost suffocated, others reported shock treatment, rape and being bitten by dogs.

McKay added the children reported being sodomised regularly by older children in prison as there

was no adult supervision from the time the children were locked up at 3pm until 7am.

The study also found that at Westville Prison warders were taking children out of the cells and selling them to adult prisoners for sex. However, this practice was stopped after the ANC national welfare desk met the Correctional Services Department in December, and the children were moved to the female prison.

Convicted juveniles were given no educational or recreation programmes, said McKay.

There were no rehabilitation programmes to prepare these children for their return to society, and although with the current amnesty many of these children were being released, she believed they would not have benefited from their sentence and many would return to prison.

McKay said places of safety

needed intensive training to deal with fears and prejudices, as well as the needs of children in trouble with the law. (298)

"Most of these children are victims of violence, apartheid, breakdown of family life, and they need intensive therapy, life skills training and educational programmes suited to their particular situation," she said.

Their families also needed to be helped as many were not able to support the children.

In addition to changing legislation so children were not detained in police cells and prisons, intensive outreaches, linked to the reconstruction and development programme to improve the quality of life, were essential.

The Durban area investigation showed the bulk of children were in prison for crimes of poverty, with more than 40% charged with theft. About 30% were charged with housebreaking, and an alarming 8% with murder. Possession of dagga was also frequent.

CAPE

'Important beings'



Picture: LEON MULLER, The Argus

DIGGING AWAY: During cheerful digging at Child Welfare Society's food garden project, Wandile Anta is cheered on by Disiki Wandile, street worker, Abgumi Bazekhaya, Richard Dala and interested parent Nomthandazo Bangani.

THE Child Welfare Society has developed early-warning systems to prevent unhappy, disillusioned children from dropping out of their families and classrooms and drifting on to the streets. As a sequel to a two-part Argus series on street children, **GORRY BOWES TAYLOR** has spoken to Child Welfare Society social worker **LINDI MOLEFE**, who heads the organisation's street children prevention project. Last week's series drew a strong response — from a reader who wanted the tag "street children" changed to "marginalised children" to mayor Patricia Kreiner and other caring Capetonians who outlined their objectives and successes.

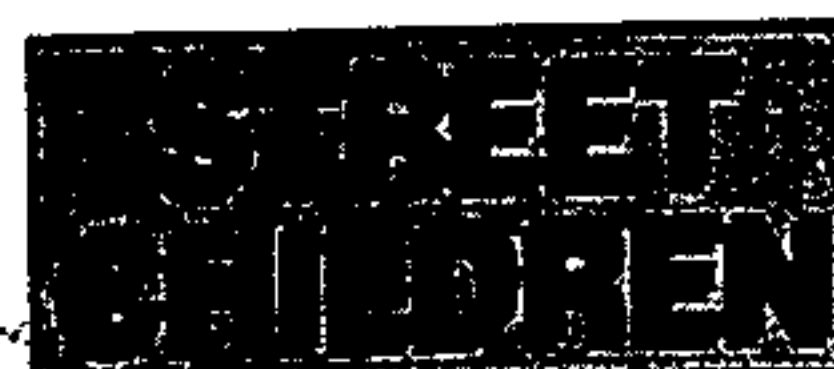
When begging on the streets is better than being at home

(298) ARG 20/7/94

□ Prevention programme aims to identify children with problems

LET'S call him Sipho. He's 15, one of three children of unemployed, unskilled parents.

community in Khayelitsha's Harare area, which has one combined lower and higher primary school (Sub A to Std 5), and in the neighbouring core



and parent will improve, that they will have something in common to talk about."

Ms Molefe also heads Child Welfare services in Vygiesk-

Picture. LEON MÜLLER, The Argus

DIGGING AWAY: During cheerful digging at Child Welfare Society's food garden project, Wandile Anta is cheered on by Disiki Wandile, street worker, Abgumi Bazekhaya, Richard Dala and interested parent Nomthandazo Bangani.

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When begging on the streets is better than being at home

(298) ARG 20/7/94

□ Prevention programme aims to identify children with problems

LET'S call him Siphso. He's 15, one of three children of unemployed, unskilled parents.

His mother chars now and then, and his father does odd jobs.

The family of five live in a two-room core house in Khayelitsha. Hungry, too ashamed to go to school when he has no uniform — and ashamed about being in Standard 2 when he's old enough to be in Standard 6 — Siphso comes into Cape Town to beg on the streets.

On the streets the children can earn up to R60 a day, says Child Welfare Society social worker Lindi Molefe.

Tempting stuff, but how does one get and keep children off the lucrative, addictive streets?

"In Siphso's case," Ms Molefe says, "the teachers either didn't pick up his problem, or didn't know to what resources to refer the problem."

Indications of a potential street child are truancy, slow learning, parents' unemployment, lack of parental involvement in their child's schooling, poor communication between parents and the school, no proper school uniform, and the disadvantages of being a child from the rural areas.

Even a child without a lunch box is now kept under informed observation.

"In March this year we initiated a prevention programme. We go into the schools to make the teachers aware that we're working as street workers to fight the problem, and we help identify those children at risk."

Ms Molefe and her colleagues work in the squatter

community in Khayelitsha's Harare area, which has one combined lower and higher primary school (Sub A to Std 5), and in the neighbouring core houses where there are five primary schools.

"We look after children from six to 12, and older. There are sometimes 14 year olds in Sub A with six year olds."

Keeping Siphso off the streets is a matter of skilful encouragement.

"When you find the child has no self-confidence, a very low self-esteem, you have to start building up that child to make her realise that she as a person, is an important being, and that there are contributions she can make."

"That there is something she can do for herself. She has the mind, she has the hands, she is able-bodied. Given support she should go to school. So you help her to form some vision about where she is now and where she wants to be. Let her set goals on how she'll get there."

The social workers deal with the children both on a one-to-one basis as well as in a group, on the school playground or in a classroom.

"We talk to them in an environment where they are comfortable. We don't want to stigmatise children. They'd be seen as welfare cases and their problems would escalate. So we do it in a child-friendly way."

How did Siphso, our true-life case history, react?

"You find at first there is some tension, he hasn't been spoken to by an adult in such a friendly way before. You find some level of mistrust — 'why

STREET CHILDREN



The Argus Investigates

are you talking to me, what are you going to do after talking to me?"

"But then you establish a relationship where he will relate to you even to the extent of saying that he was away from school because he was scared of going for such and such a reason."

During school holidays Child Welfare has a community-based programme designed to draw the attention of the children away from the streets with art and drama.

"Using the resources that we have, we help them to relate their story through drama. We also have a food garden demonstration — our problem is poverty, we show them they can grow their food, and that there is something they can do together as a family."

"We hope that through projects like the food garden the communication between child

and parent will improve, that they will have something in common to talk about."

Ms Molefe also heads Child Welfare services in Vygieskraal near Rylands, where a feeding scheme for two to six year olds developed into a programme to constructively engage the very young.

"Nothing is being done to prepare them for going to school later on so we started the stimulation programme, where the children come in the morning for about two hours. We started by teaching them the basic routine — to wake up and be at the programme at this time, and to be occupied from now until then, and then they go home."

"We found that we would draw the children from their families and within five minutes some of the parents would come and take them away to do some task or other. So we had to educate the parents to understand the need for their children to be prepared for school."

There are 33 children in the Vygieskraal project, in a container donated by the City Health Department.

Slowly the children are getting a grasp on the basic routine, they're washing their hands before they eat, praying before they eat, and, on the lighter side, learning to recite nursery rhymes.

"Reciting the poems gives them confidence. They've never stood up in front of other children to recite, so you give them that situation in an adult presence."

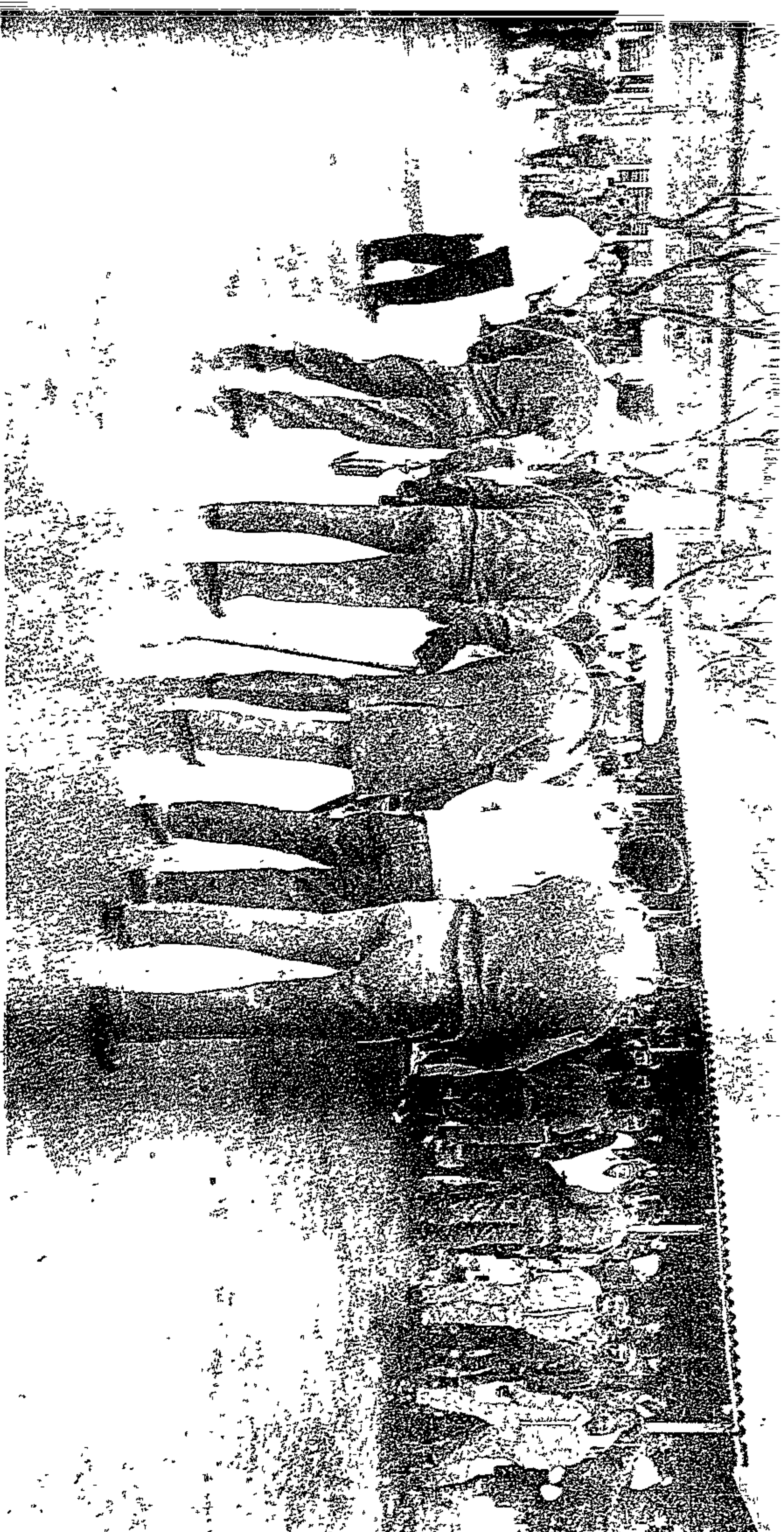
"You teach them that, they too, are important beings."

School

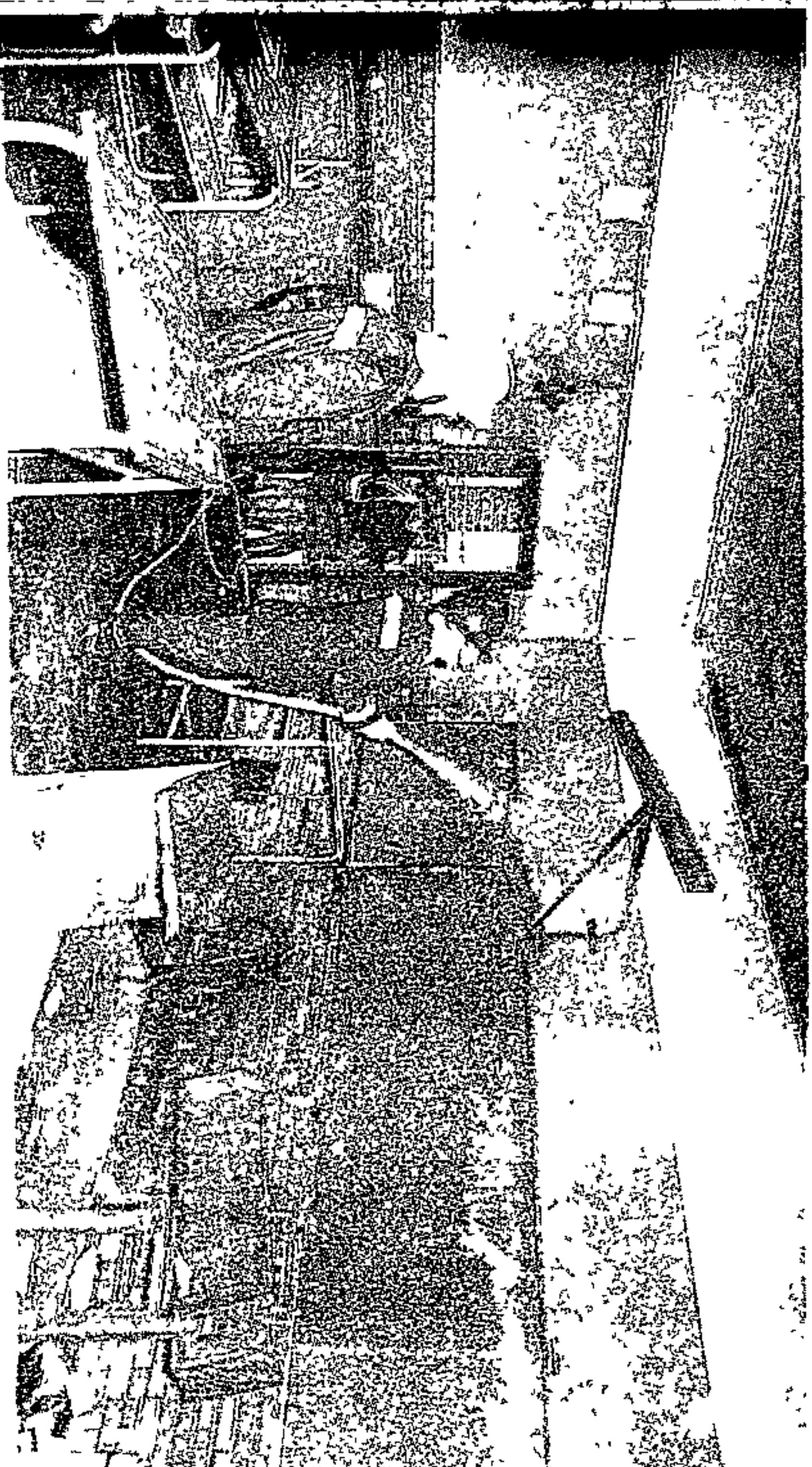
☐ Classrooms torched, dormitories

rbf/12 (852)
rampage

ARG 21/7/94
smashed as industrial pupils run amok (298)



STAND-OFF: Police and pupils of the Ottery Industrial School confront each other in the playground today after pupils ransacked, torching classrooms and destroying equipment. Pictures BRENTON GEACH The Argus



HOSING DOWN: Firemen douse a smouldering ceiling after Ottery Industrial School pupils went on a rampage today



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

BY ABDUL WAGIED BROWN

FOR 35 orphans aged between five and 18, the Habibia Children's Home in Gatesville is the only home they will ever know.

"We appreciate food and clothing, but love and affection is what these children desperately need," says Mr Shafiek Allaway, of the home.

They would love the experience of living with a family.

The home was started by a small group of concerned women in 1961 who were later assisted by businessmen who formed a committee to take care of financial affairs.

It was registered with the government four years ago, and still relies heavily on community support to keep going.

"Commitment from the community is declining. The government gives food for only 35 children. But we need more community support," said Mr Allaway

While most of the children are from poor backgrounds, all were

brought to Habibia from other institutions which do not cater for Muslims.

"It is very heart sore to listen to the stories of the children's lives," said Mr Allaway.

"One girl was abandoned. Her mother could not afford to look after her anymore. She was taken in by a Muslim family that made her work for them. She couldn't read or write when she came to the home."

Mr Allaway said the home could not keep up with all the new cases brought to its attention.

The staff of five struggle to cope with all the children's needs.

"We need students to help them with their homework," Mr Allaway said.

The system of host families taking children home for the weekend did not work because most people don't know how to accommodate them.

"People don't know how to work with the children. This makes the children frustrated," said Mr Allaway.

(298)



CARING FOR ORPHANS: Mr Shafiek Allaway with some of the children living at Habibia

The children's routine starts before sunrise when they perform the early morning Fajr prayer followed by breakfast after which they leave for school.

Mr Allaway said he believed the Muslim community was not doing

enough to support Habibia.

"People just come and drop food and clothing, never to be seen again. The children need money, but they need love more and it hurts them when people don't realise this."

For further information call 633 1892

Welfare urged to help imprisoned children

THE Department of Correctional Services has appealed to welfare organisations to assist in dealing with children accused of committing crimes as it believed prisons would never be acceptable institutions for providing rehabilitation for large numbers of unsentenced children. 2517194

This was in response to claims made last week by Pinetown Child Welfare and the ANC Welfare Desk that there was widespread abuse of children in prisons and police cells. (298)

The department's liaison officer Lt Rudi Potgieter said on Friday SA courts had various options when dealing with children who had been found guilty of an offence. Imposing a prison sentence was only one, and the department believed children should be sentenced to imprisonment only under exceptional circumstances.

The department should also be placed in a position to improve the state's ability to cater for these children.

While there were 881 children serving

Biday
KATHRYN STRACHAN

sentences of imprisonment in SA, the problem was complicated by the large number of children awaiting trial in prisons. This month there were 694 awaiting trial in SA prisons as a result of the lack of adequate alternative places of incarceration. The department made provision for sentenced children to participate in rehabilitation programmes, but did not have the facilities to cater for all imprisoned children.

Community-based welfare organisations and provincial welfare departments had been asked to supply programmes for unsentenced children in prisons.

In the meantime the department was trying to improve conditions by instituting various measures including transferring most of the children to sections in female prisons, allocating children to cells according to their age groups, preventing the overcrowding of cells and instituting 24-hour adult supervision where possible.

Childcare relief sought for shift workers in UK

LONDON. — Parents who work odd hours may have to make as many as eight different arrangements for the care of their children.

A report published yesterday by Daycare Trust says 75% of shift-working parents use more than one type of childcare.

The report calls for a government policy on childcare to boost work during "unsocial" hours — one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. — The Telegraph plc

(298) CT 26/7/94

The children nourished by the milk of human kindness

— Peninsula School Feeding Scheme brings hope to hungry pupils

LIBBY PEACOCK
Staff Reporter

(298)

SUB A pupil Lisa cannot concentrate on her school work — she is thinking about mid-morning when she will get her first meal of the day.

— It may just be a cup of milk or soup and two slices of bread but it keeps away the worst hunger pangs — until tonight, when dinner may consist only of baked beans.

— Lisa (not her real name) is one of 230 000 children from 587 schools in the Peninsula and as far as Beaufort West, Plettenberg Bay and Lutzville, who are fed daily by the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme

— She attends Edward Primary School in Matroosfontein, Elsie's River, where 70 to 80 per cent of the school's 912 pupils benefit from the feeding scheme, which has been operating since 1958.

— Yesterday, Western Cape Health Minister Ebrahim Rasool visited the school to find out how the feeding pro-

gramme operates, so "teething problems" can be eliminated when the new national government nutrition scheme for primary schools kicks off in September

On a tour through the school, accompanied by acting principal Theo Blaauw, Peninsula School Feeding director David Galland and field work co-ordinator Beryl Pinshaw, he watched bread and milk being handed out — and even tried a peanut butter sandwich, pronouncing it fresh and tasty.

He chatted to teachers, who had stories to tell about children not being able to concentrate because of hunger.

Sub A teacher Merle Cupido said the children in her class desperately needed the nourishment, especially in winter when they were not only hungry, but cold too.

Mr Blaauw said the school was in a sub-economic area where some children were "fortunate" enough to be fed at home but others came to school on empty stomachs and

without lunch parcels

Teachers used their discretion to "pick up" which children were needy, as some children had a sense of pride and would not readily admit that they were hungry.

For many children the food handed out at school was their only meal of the day

The food — two slices of bread with peanut butter daily, milk twice a week and soup three times a week — is prepared by a caretaker and cleaner and handed out in the classrooms by the teachers

Mr Rasool said "We're quite fortunate in the Western Cape because we have the Peninsula School Feeding programme."

He said he was gathering a database of schools already being helped so the government feeding scheme would not overlap with existing schemes

From a general assessment it appeared that the greatest need existed in rural areas, squatter areas and urban working class areas

Once the extent of the need

was determined and a budget drawn up, a tender would be put in to the national budget for assistance to run the government nutrition scheme in the Western Cape

Mr Rasool said the scheme had already been launched on July 18 in the Eastern Cape, where there was "absolute need".

Mr Rasool appealed to people to continue to support organisations like Peninsula School Feeding, because a joint effort would mean that a larger group of needy children could be reached.

He told teachers the "third logical step" after providing free health care for pregnant mothers and children under six was to "build up healthy bodies" and give children the ability to learn well

Mrs Pinshaw said Peninsula School Feeding welcomed Mr Rasool's efforts

She had learnt from experience that needy children's productivity went up as soon as they went onto the scheme

ARG 27/7/94



MILK OF KINDNESS: Western Cape Health Minister Ebrahim Rasool, above, helps to hand out milk to pupils on a visit to Edward Primary School in Elsies River while teacher Glenda Engelbrecht looks on. Mr Rasool was finding out more about the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme to help him with the implementation of the new national primary school nutrition scheme.

NOURISHING NOSH: Pupils at Edward Primary School in Elsies River enjoy milk and bread provided by the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme.

Pictures OBED ZILWA, The Argus



The young who live on the streets show their talent for art



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

STREET ART: At Streets in Woodstock, youths display their talents through art, guided by project co-ordinator Nasir Masud.

Refuge for homeless children a ray of hope in all the depression

(298) ART 27/7/94

GORRY BOWES TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

DEPENDING on how you see things, Streets in Victoria Road, Woodstock, is depressing — scuffed this and that, heavy traffic noises here and there.

Or you could see it for what it is — a drop-in empathetic centre where the young (up to the age of 21) who live on the streets can go at any time of day or night for showers, hot food, basic medical care and laundry facilities.

David Fortune, community and child care worker, began Streets two years ago, its stated aim being to "eradicate through community involvement the phenomena of youths and children living on the streets".

"We avoid calling them street children, instead 'youths and children living on the streets' puts it into proper perspective."

Streets plans to involve and mobilise the communities to the point

where they provide basic services like soup kitchens, drop-in centres, even housing. This would go a long way towards resolving the problem on the streets in those communities, and certainly keep the lucrative city streets clear.

Funding is through projects and the Community Chest, and a meals subsidy of 50c a day for those on the National Health and Population Development's food programme.

"Porridge, a hot lunch and something in the afternoon, but the main emphasis of our work is on counselling the youths and children to resettle them. We don't provide residential facilities, we believe that these people should be in the community, in a family.

"If their own family is not viable, we get them to think of every conceivable option like aunts, grannies, sisters, brothers. And we also pursue alternatives — people in the community who are willing to take them.

"Let's take Andrew, a 16-year-old

found by one of our street workers in Claremont. His mother died, he has no idea where his father is and he was living with an aunt who could no longer support him. He had to leave school in Standard 6, he had no skills, no real education, no identity document.

"We put him up here, because we run what we call special projects, whereby we have a group of children from the streets and we work intensively with them for about eight weeks, focusing as always on resettlement.

"Streets liaises with other social and community-based services, one of which, Bethuriel, here in Woodstock, accepted Andrew, and he's now working in a restaurant up the road.

"If we can empower them economically they can take responsibility for their own lives and help their impoverished families."

● Streets, 130 Victoria Road, Woodstock. Tel: 47-9191 Fax: 47-7192.

STREET CHILDREN



The Argus Investigates

REFORM SCHOOLS' APPEAL IGNORED

BY VICKY STARK

AN APPEAL sent to the ANC in April, calling for improvements at reform schools, has still not been answered.

The very same conditions which sparked riots at reform schools in the past two weeks were highlighted in a memorandum given to the ANC by the Cape Teachers Professional Association (CTPA).

Teachers at these institutions are unhappy with the facilities available and are demanding better conditions for children.

The memorandum was sent to the ANC's education desk by 27 representatives of special schools in the Western Cape.

"The existing facilities for specialised education is absolutely appalling," says the memorandum. "Most of the existing schools are in need of upgrading, like classrooms, workshops, school halls, dining

halls, teaching aids, etc."

They also recommended that budgets for these schools be improved, since important services suffered due to insufficient funds.

The convenor of the group which drew up the memo, Mr David Jantjies, said they had had "zero response" from the ANC to their proposals.

"I obviously understand that the political set up is changing and the government has to get settled but we feel this is a matter of urgency," Mr Jantjies said.

"If the government of national unity takes reconstruction of the existing education policy seriously, then this document should be considered.

"The input of people at grass-roots level is important to the process of reconstruction."

Another proposal forwarded by staff at Val du Charron Industrial School for Girls in Wellington has been ignored by education authori-

ties in the region.

Recently, 10 girls at the school were arrested following a protest against the principal.

Another memorandum, sent to the Cape Provincial Administration in March, called for limitations to be placed on the institution's manager.

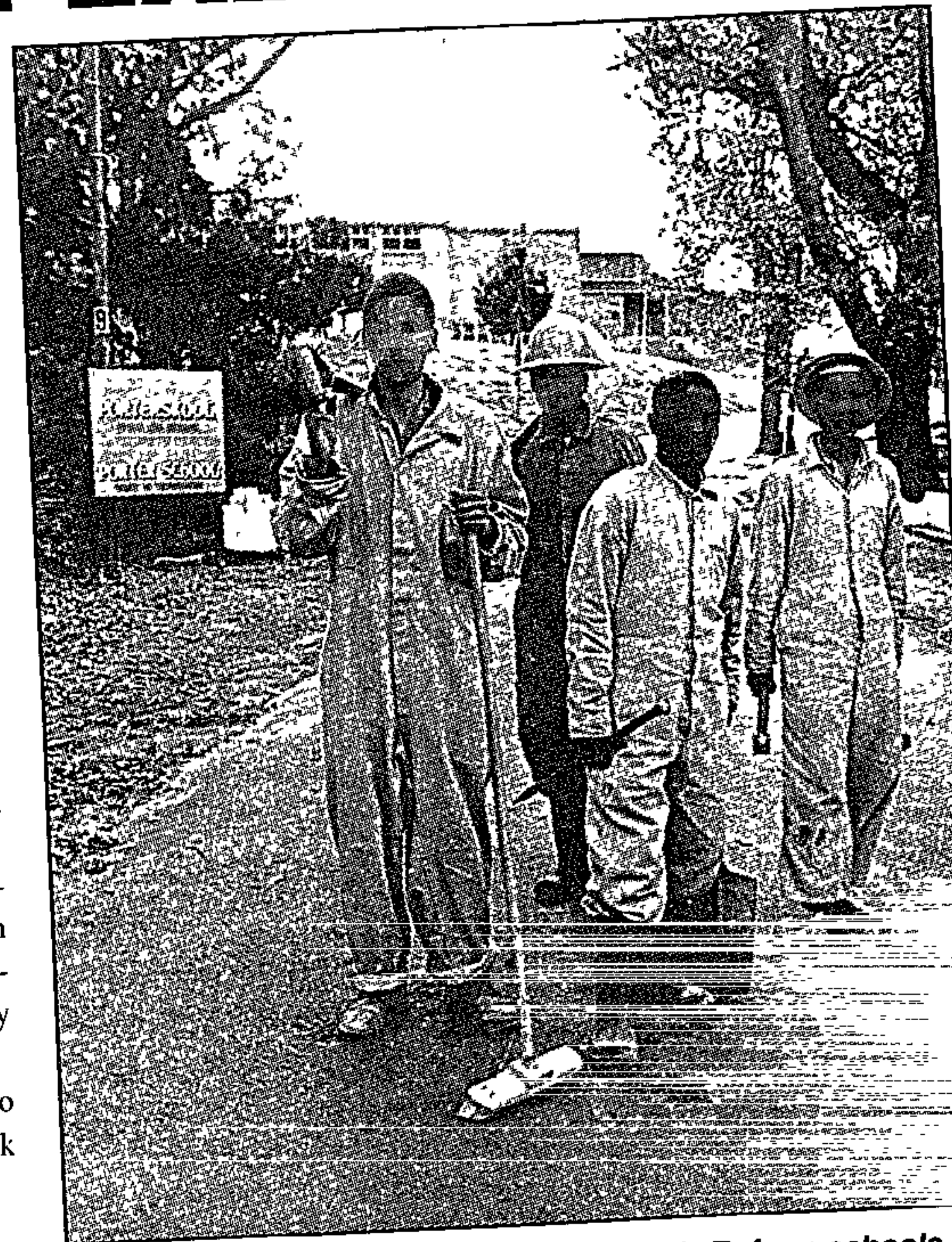
"The manager's one-sided reports to the governing board must be stopped," states the document.

It proposed that clear guidelines on the functions and power of the manager be drawn up.

This is to guard against the principal's alleged abuse of power, a source said.

"The children at these institutions should be treated as human beings not animals. Their education is as important as that of any other child."

The ANC did not respond to questions on what action it took after receiving the memorandum.



REFORM OUR SCHOOLS: Reform schools in the Cape have been wracked with protest against poor conditions recently

Move to get children out of jails

BY VICKY STARK

FOR the past two years, three organisations have been asking the authorities to place imprisoned children in reformatories and industrial schools.

While recent events have raised questions about safety at these institutions, the National Institution for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Criminal Offenders (Nicro), the Juvenile Legal Aid Centre at the University of the Western Cape and Lawyers for Human Rights believe reformatories and industrial schools would be better able to care for the children.

The organisations have formed a task committee to draft a consultative document to present to the regional minister of health and social welfare.

"We have been campaigning for two years to get children released from prison," said Ms Rosemary Shapiro of Nicro.

"So we are all terribly excited about the fact that (president Nelson) Mandela is taking a stand on this issue."

Ms Shapiro has spent months networking with people who deal with juveniles.

"We are trying to get everyone from lawyers, to arresting officers involved in constructive action," she said.

She has spent time empowering all Nicro branches to provide diversion for the children who are released.

The Cape director of Child Welfare, Mr Alan Jackson, said the task committee would make recommendations to the regional Minister of Health and Social Welfare soon.

"We are looking at the lack of space in childrens' homes and places of safety. We need to find out why the system gets so blocked up," Mr Jackson said.

Legislation dealing with the conditions of service for staff of reformatories, industrial schools and other places of safety will be drafted soon.

The task committee dealing with the release of imprisoned juveniles

also hopes to present proposals to people who have been in trouble with the law.

"We need this feedback before we present the draft to the minister at the end of August," Mr Jackson said.

The Owl's hooting for funds



SHELTERED: The Owl Night Shelter will provide a home and education for destitute street children

Southern 29/7 - 218/94

By Edwina Booysen

AN ORGANISATION called the Owl Night Shelter is appealing to businesses and members of the public for donations to help it establish a shelter for vagrants and street children in Lansdowne.

The organisation has obtained land in Lansdowne's Nerissa Industrial Area and hopes to lay ground by the end of the year, said chairperson Mr William Little.

"Many of the vagrants which our organisation hopes to assist live in the industrial area," he said.

"Research has shown that the majority of vagrants are not criminals but people who have fallen on hard times. They are easily rehabilitated once they have been given an opportunity to receive counselling, treatment and training in a con-

structive rehabilitative programme."

Little said it is hoped that the vagrants, after a rehabilitation programme, could be given jobs at businesses in the area.

"The rehabilitated vagrant will eventually have a healthy respect for the property of his neighbours and especially that of the businesses in the area," he said.

He said there had been some opposition to the project by companies in the area, that believe the building of a night shelter would decrease the value of the surrounding properties. (298)

"Building the shelter can only increase the property values," he said.

"The buildings in which the vagrants will be housed will all be new. It will be properly fenced with neatly kept gardens in the front.

"Supervision will be strict and people will not be allowed to loiter in front or around the premises. At present vagrants put up any kind of shelter on fields bordering the industrial area and it is these unsightly shelters of cardboard that affect the industrialists' property values."

Little said the proposed site is ideal because it is not situated in the heart of the industrial or the residential area.

"It is in a sort of buffer zone and is close to churches and schools," he said.

The Owl Night Shelter is appealing to the community for any donations, especially building materials and wood.

For further information, call Mr William Little at 692-1656 or 692-1315.

Grants 'could break budget'

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

(298)

CT 30/7/94

SOUTH AFRICA'S budget would be thrown "totally through the roof" if every mother entitled to a maintenance grant got one, Black Sash national researcher Ms Marj Brown said yesterday.

She told the organisation's annual conference that only four percent of black mothers entitled to maintenance grants actually received them.

Only two out of 1 000 mothers of illegitimate children who were entitled to maintenance grants actually received them.

If only 24% of the people who were entitled to the grants received them, the budget for this would be double state expenditure on housing.

At present, between 85% and 87% of fathers defaulted on the payment of maintenance grants, often because they lacked a sense of responsibility towards their children.

If this issue were confronted, the responsibility of the state would be reduced, Ms Brown said.

NP's pre-election move gives mothers equal guardianship

(298) ARG 9/8/94

THE cynics say that the Guardianship Act 1993 was promulgated on March 1, 1994 to attract more votes for the National Party in the election. No matter how cynical the reasons, the results are praiseworthy.

A mother is now given guardianship of the children of her marriage equal to that of her husband.

The parents of legitimate children are the natural guardians of the children until they turn 21 years. Under our common law the father had preference and his rights were considered superior to those of the mother. It is now provided by the Guardianship Act that the mother's guardianship of her minor children is equal to that of the father and each parent is competent to exercise rights or carry out duties independently and without the consent of the other.

Consent of both parents is still necessary (unless a Court orders otherwise) in respect of the child's marriage, adoption, removal from the Republic by one parent, a passport application by one parent and dealing in immovable property belonging to the child.

Parents have always shared responsibility in regard to the custody of their children which includes decisions regarding the child's daily life such as the secular or religious education of the child, medical treatment and the persons with whom the child may associate.

Guardianship of children is today more concerned with duties than rights. It is a privi-

lege and a responsibility. The guardian administers the property and business affairs of the child and assists the child in entering into contracts or, if necessary, litigating.

On those rare occasions where the parents cannot agree upon what is in the child's best interests, they will be entitled to appeal to the Court for guidance. The Supreme Court is the upper guardian of all children within its jurisdiction.

Obviously the costs of appealing to the courts for assistance are prohibitive and parents are well advised to settle their disputes, if necessary with the help of a suitable mediator.

The Guardianship Act follows hard on the heels of legislation doing away with the marital power of husbands over their wives. Wives are now full partners in all aspects of marriage.

When these legal developments are coupled with the fact that the equality clauses in the Bill of Rights under the Interim Constitution forbid discrimination on the grounds of gender or sex (among other things) significant equality rights have been granted to women. It remains to educate the men that this is the case.

Certain potential obstacles to the equality of women remain, namely the preservation in the Constitution of systems of personal and family law adhered to by people professing a particular religion and the recognition of the role of customary law in the eyes of certain South Africans.

Wes

298

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CT. 19/8/94

732 children now held in SA prisons

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

NATIONALLY 732 children under 18 are being held as awaiting-trial prisoners, Correctional Services Minister Dr Sipho Mzimela said yesterday.

Only five were girls, he said in reply to a question tabled by Ms Priscilla Jana (ANC).

After President Nelson Mandela called for an end to the practice earlier this year, Dr Mzimela ordered an urgent investigation.

However, the department has run into trouble, particularly in rural areas, which lack alternative facilities.

It was the responsibility of magistrates not to issue certi-

ficates to keep children in prison, Dr Mzimela said.

He said that on July 22 one boy was being held in the Northern Cape, 23 in the Northern Transvaal, 315 in kwaZulu/Natal (including two between seven and 11 years, six aged 12 and 12 aged 13), 30 in North-West, one in Eastern Transvaal, 93 in the Eastern

Cape, 17 in the Free State, 180 in PWV, and 67 in the Western Cape.

Three girls were being held in kwaZulu/Natal, one in the Northern Transvaal and one in PWV.

Dr Mzimela said one boy under 11 in kwaZulu/Natal was being held for theft and the other for "other economic

crimes", six 12-year-olds for theft, one 13-year-old for robbery, three for burglary, six for theft and two for other economic crimes.

In the Western Cape three 14-year-old boys were being held — one for theft and two for other economic crimes — as were 11 15-year-olds, 17 16-year-olds and 36 17-year-olds.

Equal treatment for handicapped children pays off

BY COLIN APPOLIS

HANDICAPPED children learn more effectively if they are placed in the same environment as normal children, a Mitchells Plain mother has found after starting a creche catering for both groups.

The Gerard's Educare and Down's Syndrome Centre in Strandfontein was founded in June 1989 by Mrs Colleen Horswell, whose son Gerard has Down's Syndrome.

The creche is the only one of its kind serving Mitchells Plain, Strandfontein and Grassy Park. It cares for 40 children with four having special needs.

The teaching methods are similar to those in normal creches, but emphasis is placed on the mental and physical growth of the handicapped child. (298)

Before the creche was opened, these children were cared for at home. They received no formal teaching or training to help them function normally.

This led to inactivity and they became a burden to their parents, as they needed to be constantly supervised.

"At first parents were reluctant to send their children to the creche because they feared normal children would pick up the mannerisms of the handicapped child," said Mrs Horswell.

This all changed when parents started seeing the results of attending to the educational needs of both types of children

The other children at the creche easily accept, protect and assist handicapped children.

"We realised that the handi-

capped children were copying the responses and actions of normal child when we taught them," Mrs Horswell said.

"The current system where creches like ours are not highlighted, needs to be addressed. There is a dire need for more creches to be built, not only in the Mitchells Plain area but throughout the Western Cape."

The creche is not subsidised and relies totally on school fees and donations from parents.

"We are able to accommodate more children and this would bring in much needed cash. But parents in the outlying areas of Mitchells Plain and Grassy Park find it difficult to transport their children to our creche," said Mrs Horswell.

"If we could find someone to sponsor us it would definitely solve our transport problem."

Anyone wishing to assist Gerard's Educare and Down's Syndrome Centre should contact Mrs Colleen Horswell at: 33-4993.



LEARNING TOGETHER: At a special creche in Mitchells Plain, normal children assist handicapped children with their work
Photo: Yunus Mohamed

School for offenders: Message to spread

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE pioneering school for youth offenders in the city — 1 581 youths had graduated in 18 months without one reverting to crime — is to be extended to other areas, Cape attorney-general Mr. Frank Kahn said yesterday.

The school was initiated in 1991 to prevent young offenders from gaining criminal records for first offences. The main thrust of the programme was

to bypass the normal court proceedings when youths were involved, Mr Kahn said.

The youths were selected for rehabilitation.

The chairperson of the project's committee, Mr P Botha, said statistics showed 75% of all youth offenders in the Peninsula were Afrikaans-speaking males between 14 and 17 years old who had fixed addresses with parents who supported them and were first offenders.

(298)

ET 23/8/94

Bill aims to get pre-trial children out of jail

Political Correspondent

LEGISLATION to empty jails of children awaiting trial was tabled in parliament today.

The Correctional Services Amendment Bill forbids the detention in prison of an unconvicted child, unless as an emergency measure limited to 48 hours and

ordered by a court.

Current legislation allows an unconvicted child to be held in prison if no suitable place of safety is available.

President Mandela told parliament in May that he had told the department of correctional ser-

vices to empty prisons of children.

A memorandum on the Bill said it was necessary to provide for the detention in prison of an unconvicted child accused of a schedule one offence, such as murder or rape.

(298) (S)
ARG 24/8/94

Prison for awaiting-trial children to be outlawed

CAPE TOWN — The detention of awaiting-trial children in prison is to be outlawed — unless there is no alternative and even then they cannot be held in prison for longer than 48 hours.

The detention of any awaiting-trial youth under 18 will also have to be specifically ordered by the courts.

The new provisions follow a statement on May 24 by President Nelson Mandela when he opened Parliament that the detention of children in prison was unacceptable.

Correctional Services Minister Siphon Mzimela said earlier this year that on May 26 this year about 800 unsentenced children under 18 were in prison. Last week, he said, there were still 732 children under 18 being held as awaiting trial prisoners.

Mzimela said he had ordered an urgent investigation into the situation, emphasising the need for alternative detention facilities.

The Correctional Services Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday, forbids the detention of any

Political Staff

unconvicted children in prison.

However, it provides for the detention of an unconvicted child where his or her admission to a place of safety cannot immediately take place.

In this case, this detention would be only an emergency measure for not longer than 48 hours and would be allowed only if a court ordered this.

The amendment to section 29 of the existing law will be proclaimed on different dates in different areas when places of safety become available for the detention of children.

This provision could mean that it will take some time before detention of awaiting-trial children is finally scrapped because places of safety will have to be built in rural areas.

JOHANNESBURG reports that the SA Prisoners' Organisation for Human Rights said yesterday building more prisons would exacerbate levels of criminality. The organisation was reacting to a call by Mandela for more prisons to be built.

It said it would appeal to Mandela

to reconsider his position on new prisons. "Building more prisons and making harsher laws are the solutions taken by the short-sighted and ill-informed and we would beg the President to consider the implications," said organisation spokesman Golden Miles Bhudu.

Increasing the number of prisons was not the answer to crime and inhumane and overcrowded prisons.

Correctional Services spokesman Lt Rudi Potgieter said prisons were overpopulated by about 14 000 people.

He said the Western Cape had accommodation for 14 748 prisoners, but held 20 645, while the Eastern Cape held 10 613, though the approved number was 10 406.

Potgieter added that Free State prisons were supposed to accommodate 11 273 but held 11 790 and the central Transvaal, while accommodating 19 450, should take 16 380.

This followed a remark made by Mandela at Pollsmoor prison on Tuesday that prisons were overcrowded.

Unisa shuts offices after riot by protesting students

UNISA has closed the university's Johannesburg and Pretoria offices following clashes yesterday between staff members and demonstrating students' representative council members in Pretoria.

Unisa's management committee said the behaviour of students over the past few days "in respect of littering buildings, vandalism, insulting behaviour and disruption of the institution's activities was unacceptable and not fitting the dignity and image of Unisa students in general".

The committee said the closure of the facilities, including the library in Pretoria and the Johannesburg study centre, remained in force until student representatives met the management committee.

Closure of the centres follows a demonstration by SRC members in Pretoria yesterday. The students were agitating for the recognition of the student body.

Sapa reports that a toyi-toying group of students stormed the university's administration building and clashed with security personnel inside.

Four staff members and three students were injured in the fracas. Among staff members injured were Leon Bezuidenhout, who sustained a suspected fractured skull, and Thinus Prinsloo who had a heart attack. A female student was taken to hospital suffering from a broken ankle. The

SELLO MOTLHABAKWE

crowd was driven out by police who arrested and later released a student.

Unisa rector Marinus Wiechers addressed the demonstrators after requesting police to leave the campus. He denied having summoned police and said he was saddened by the way the students had dishonoured the university.

Wiechers also denied having being under the influence of alcohol when he addressed a group of students at an earlier meeting. He had only had a glass of wine at a business lunch earlier that day.

SRC chairman William Mphilo called for student representation on the university's council and senate.

The SA Parastatal and Tertiary Institutions Union said it "deeply regretted the barbaric conduct of students on the Unisa campus". The union criticised the management committee for the lack of adequate security, saying it had ignored a security plan of action submitted to it by the union last year.

The union demanded disciplinary action against all students involved and steps taken to protect staff members and property against violation and vandalism. It also called for the provision of a student centre on the Sunnyside campus in Pretoria.

Legal Aid Board report

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Only 10% of the 703 455 people accused in district courts were represented by lawyers, the Legal Aid Board said yesterday.

And 61,05% of those accused in the regional courts were unrepresented, it said.

The board said in its 1992/93 report, tabled in Parliament, the majority of South Africans could not afford lawyers.

"It is self-evident that such a situation is not compatible with a democratic society."

The board said it was faced with the greatest challenge in its history as a result of the new dispensation. It planned to expand its services in the criminal law field to provide legal representation annually to a minimum of a further 150 000 adult accused and to all juvenile offenders.

During the 1992/93 financial year the board spent R52,1m, a 62% increase on the previous year, it said.

Move follows Mandela's pledge

Child detention forbidden by Bill

Star

25/8/94

■ BY ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The way has been paved to forbid the detention of awaiting-trial children in prisons following the tabling of the Correctional Services Amendment Bill.

The draft legislation — tabled in Parliament yesterday — amends section 29 of the existing Act which allows for the detention in prison of awaiting-trial youths. (298)

The move followed President Mandela's opening address to Parliament on May 24 when he pledged that the country's jails would be "emptied" of children.

The Bill, however, provides for unconvicted children to be detained in prisons where places of safety were unavailable. But the Bill says such detentions can be only emergency measures, for no longer than 48 hours and only if a court ordered it.

Correctional Services Minister Siphso Mzimela last week told Parliament that 732 awaiting-trial children were in detention on July 22.

About 400 sentenced children have been identified for possible release in terms of the six-month special remission of sentence announced by Mzimela on June 10.

These cases are, however, still to be evaluated.



Mandela . . . wants children out of jails.

Bill outlaws kids' detention

CT 25/8/94 (298) (258)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE detention of awaiting-trial children in prison is to be outlawed, unless there is no alternative — and even then they cannot be held for longer than 48 hours.

The detention of any awaiting-trial child under the age of 18 will also have to be specifically ordered by the courts.

These provisions follow a statement by President Nelson Mandela when he opened Parliament on May 24, that the detention of children in prison was unacceptable.

The Minister of Correctional

Services, Mr Sipho Mzimela, said earlier that on May 26 this year about 800 unsentenced children under the age of 18 were in prison.

Last week he said there were still 732 children under the age of 18, five of whom were girls, being held as awaiting-trial prisoners.

He added that 315 of these children, two of whom were under the age of 11, were being held in kwaZulu/Natal.

Mr Mzimela said then he had ordered an urgent investigation into the situation.

The Correctional Services Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday, forbids the detention in prison of any uncon-

victed child, except where he or she cannot immediately be admitted to a place of safety.

In this case, this detention will only be an emergency measure, for not longer than 48 hours, and will only be allowed by court order.

The amendment to section 29 of the existing law will be proclaimed on different dates in different areas, when places of safety become available for the detention of children.

This could mean that it will take some time before the detention of awaiting-trial children is finally scrapped, because it will be a while before there are places of safety in all rural areas.

Experts say child jail bill not enough

(298) (298) ARG 27/8/94

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

TWO days in prison is 48 hours too long for children who "can be raped in 10 minutes".

Reacting to the Correctional Services Amendment Bill tabled in parliament on Wednesday, juvenile-justice specialists said a new system that dealt comprehensively with child offenders, from the moment of arrest to the end of the sentence, was necessary.

The Bill forbids the detention in prison of any unconvicted child, except where he or she cannot immediately be admitted to a place of safety, but does not outlaw the imprisonment of children.

In this case, the detention would be an emergency measure for a period not exceeding 48 hours and ordered by the court.

"The new Bill is a buck-passing exercise," said Ann Skelton, director of the Lawyers for Human Rights' applied criminal justice programme in Maritzburg.

"Unilateral restructuring by one government department doesn't work," she said.

Ms Skelton explained that four government departments — safety and security, welfare, correctional services and justice — had a hand in the issue of imprisoned children.

The new Bill might stop children being held in prisons, but

■ The new correctional services bill keeps children out of prison for long periods, but it does nothing to protect them from police cells, say advocates calling for a comprehensive, new juvenile justice system.

would not stop children being held in police cells.

This simply meant "shifting the problem (from correctional services) over to safety and security".

Ms Skelton also criticised the intention of phasing in the new law to accommodate areas which had no appropriate places of safety.

She said the process could take years.

"Even with the new Bill, children who are accused of shoplifting can be held for 48 hours.

"That's no good. They can be raped in the first 10 minutes," she said.

Cape Town Child Welfare Society director Alan Jackson said the prevailing system of imprisonment and other forms of institutionalisation were likely to further criminalise the child.

The result would be a society with one of the highest crime rates in the world.

While the new Bill went some way to meeting a fundamental human rights principle regarding children — that no child should be imprisoned — the fact that the legislation did not outlaw the imprisonment of sentenced children was a problem.

Mr Jackson said: "What is required is something entirely new.

"We must begin to vigorously establish programmes, which are in themselves appropriate consequences to the behaviour of each child concerned and which are designed to keep children out of institutions and set them on a more positive course."

National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders' (Nicro) consultant on restorative justice Rosemary Shapiro said that, within weeks, important consultative material would be available to guide role players towards a new strategic plan.

"The only answer is a comprehensive juvenile justice system.

"There's no doubt the human rights issue of young people in conflict with the law is being addressed, but the community is also calling for accountability.

"A new system needs to take the parallel needs into account."

The movement in the government of national unity was strongly guided by a long, difficult campaign fought particularly by non-governmental agencies and private welfare bodies.

"They have tried to ensure young people are not held in prisons and police cells, but the reality is that most of the present solutions are *ad hoc* ones," said Ms Shapiro.

Mission of organisation for the disabled is to restore dignity and provide care

Hope for the wretched of Alexandra

Star 29/8/94

NOMSA Louw is a paraplegic, but her life has been devoid of even the most basic of normal requirements — until now

■ BY ANNA COX
SANDTON BUREAU

Nomsa Louw has not left her room in Alexandra for the past 20 years: she is a paraplegic with virtually no kith or kin. Day in and day out she sits or sleeps on a pile of old clothes in the dark room — she has no bed.

The squalid room has no toilet facilities, no running water and not even a door.

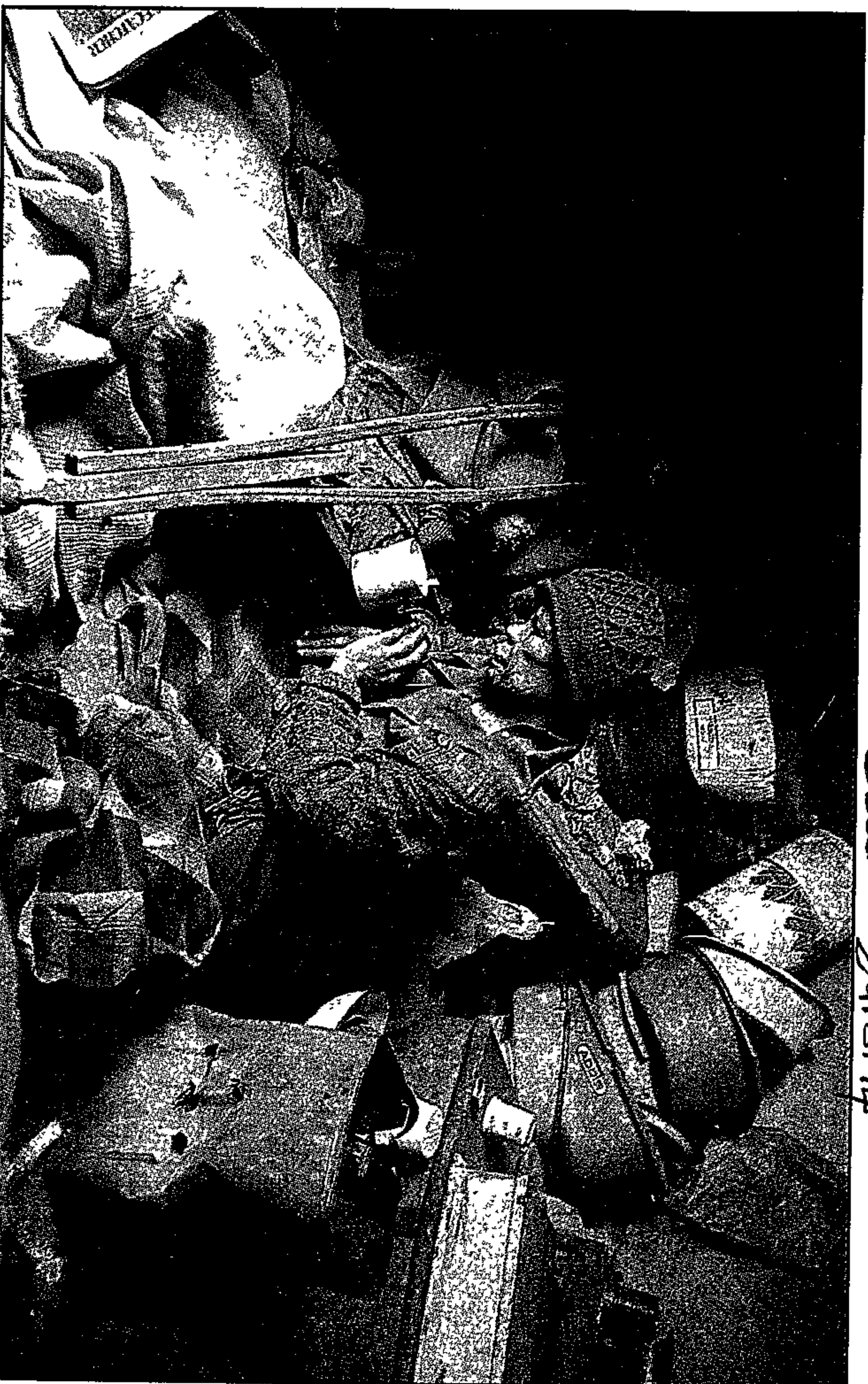
There is no furniture or cooking utensils. The old clothes and rags are piled up high around the room. The only form of lighting is a candle. The other contents of the room are broken tins and plastic containers.

The floor is littered and the smell of human bodies and smoke pervades the room.

Louw (62) is one of the township's forgotten people.

"I don't know how long I have lived in this room. I got sick about 20 years ago and have been here since. I have no family, no children and I haven't worked for a long time.

"The people around here give me food and move me into the sun sometimes if they have time. I sit here every day, I can't move," she said.



Forgotten . . . a small room and a total lack of care has been Nomsa Louw's lot for 20 years.

PICTURE JODI BIEBER

Louw is, however, relatively fortunate — she has a male relative who lives with her and assists her. But he is also sickly and unemployed, and the two live from hand to mouth

According to Alexandra Disability Movement (ADM) development officer Dennis Tau there are about 400 disabled people in the township, many living under conditions similar —

or worse — than Louw's. He describes them as Alexandra's lost and forgotten people (298)

"It is like the Dark Ages — many are kept hidden because families are ashamed of them.

Some, like Louw, live in hovels with no care and are left to fend for themselves. We found her a few months ago and are now helping her

"We are providing her with

food parcels and will soon be getting her a wheelchair so that she will be mobile. We are also trying to arrange a pension for her but she has no papers. There are many others like her whom we do not know about.

"Most disabled children have very little or no chance of going to school because their parents are living in poverty," Tau said.

There are no facilities in Alexandra for the disabled, except for two day schools for children.

The ADM assists where it can. It has started two sheltered employment workshops which employ about 50 people who make baskets and assemble mining equipment.

It is also initiating projects such as brick-making, doll-making and knitwear for the blind, deaf and epileptics.

"We aim at empowering people so they can help themselves. We want to teach skills and create jobs for them," Tau said.

■ The ADM has launched a big awareness and education campaign to teach residents such as the disabled and their relatives that they are not people to be ashamed of, that they are in need of love and care, and that help is available.

It will be holding a fund-raising Disability Day in Alexandra on Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm to increase awareness of the disabled. The procession starts at the Alex San Kopano Community Centre. Anyone who can assist can telephone Tau on (011) 882-1147.

R68m to feed kids in N Tvl

CT 29/8/94
JOHANNESBURG. — Northern Transvaal has been allocated R68 million to feed primary school children, Premier Mr Ngoako Ramathlodi announced yesterday. (298)

A national feeding scheme for needy primary school children announced by President Nelson Mandela earlier this year will come into effect in the Northern Transvaal on September 1 as part of the Reconstruction and Development Programme

Mr Ramathlodi said the money would be distributed to disadvantaged black businesses in the province who would aid the feeding programme and thereby speed up implementation of the RDP — Sapa

Child arrest legislation stalled

(298)
Political Staff

CT 30/8/74

THE parliamentary select committee on Correctional Services yesterday declined to pass legislation that would remove unconvicted accused children from prison to places of safety only if facilities existed.

The committee's decision sparked a sharp reaction from Correctional Services Minister Mr Siphó Mzimela, who accused members of being "arrogant"

The Correctional Services Amendment Bill states that an unconvicted person under 18 cannot be detained in prison. The only exception would be if "admission to such place of safety cannot immediately take place", but even in this case, the child could not be detained in prison for longer than 48 hours.

Committee chairman Mr Carl Niehaus said members of the committee felt the bill would be

ineffective if unconvicted accused under 18 would only not be imprisoned if alternative accommodation was available.

There are at present no places of safety in three provinces (the Eastern and Northern Transvaal and the North West) and only 29 in the whole country.

The legislation will be held back while the committee investigates existing facilities and the provision of extra facilities

DAY, Tuesday, August 30 1994

Bill on child detainees delayed

CAPE TOWN — The parliamentary select committee on Correctional Services yesterday declined to pass legislation that would move unconvicted juvenile accused from prison to places of safety only if facilities existed.

Sapa reports the decision sparked a sharp reaction from Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela, who accused members of being "arrogant" during questioning on the legislation.

The Correctional Services Amendment Bill says an unconvicted person younger than 18 cannot be detained in prison. The only exception would be if "admission to such place of safety cannot immediately take place", but even then the child could be held in prison for no longer than 48 hours.

TIM COHEN

Committee chairman Carl Niehaus said committee members felt the Bill would be ineffective if unconvicted accused minors would not be imprisoned only if alternative accommodation was available.

There are no places of safety in three provinces (the Eastern and Northern Transvaal and the North-west) and only 29 countrywide.

The legislation will be held back until the committee has determined what facilities exist and whether it is possible to provide more.

The legislation would be published for comment "as a matter of urgency", Niehaus said. (298)

He acknowledged the delay would

30/8/94
result in unconvicted children remaining in prison, but said the delay would not be long and was preferable to passing legislation that could be ineffectual.

The legislation follows a presidential announcement earlier this year that measures should be investigated to ensure prisons were emptied of children.

Committee members described the Bill as "toothless" and said it would have no practical effect.

Mzimela said it was one thing for members of the committee to ask questions about the legislation on matters that needed clarification, but it was quite another to make sweeping statements that the Bill would have no effect.

That was arrogance, he said.

Bill flawed, says child rights body

Staff Reporter

298
A CHILDREN'S rights group has taken issue with an "emergency" clause in the Correctional Services Amendment Bill which allows children accused of "serious" crimes to be held in prison for up to 48 hours.

The National Children's Rights Committee said that while the Bill was a positive step to give effect to President Nelson Mandela's call to empty prisons of children, it was flawed in several important ways.

Its chief objection is to an emergency clause which allows the 48-hour detention of children in prison if they are accused of offences listed in Schedule 1 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The group said the emergency clause was an improvement on

ARG 1/9/94
the past — in that it separated children from young adults in custody and stopped their indefinite detention — but it would continue to cause problems for children in trouble with the law.

Schedule 1 crimes were not only violent acts and included theft, receiving stolen property and fraud.

It did not disagree with children accused of particularly violent and dangerous crimes being placed in secure custody, but the continued reliance on prison for secure care — even for a short period — was a failure to implement fundamental rights in the interim constitution.

Also, because there was a lack of legal representation for children in trouble with the law, it

would be difficult to enforce the maximum detention period of 48 hours.

The group called for a full study in the number and availability of places of safety as a matter of urgency.

Other problems included the fact that there was no legislation forbidding the detention of unconvicted children in police cells, no time limit had been set for the implementation of the Bill, and the focus was on the unconvicted child and not all children.

The committee said the interim constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which South Africa was a signatory, placed a moral obligation to implement children's rights as early as possible.

Optimism over release of children from prison

ADRIAN HADLAND

CAPE TOWN — Removing children from prisons could begin in earnest once new legislation had been passed by Parliament later this year, Correctional Services representative Col Hannes Kauffman said yesterday.

The Correctional Services Amendment Bill was approved by a National Assembly select committee yesterday and would be tabled during the October/November parliamentary session. *21/11/94*

Kauffman said the Bill would "help a great deal to get the children out".

About 700 children were currently in prisons awaiting trial, according to ANC MP and committee member Andries Nel.

Committee chairman Carl Niehaus said the Bill reflected the concerns and beliefs of society that a revamp of the juvenile justice system was essential. *(298)*

The Bill however was only an interim measure and more comprehensive legislation was required for a long-term solution.

The proposed legislation forbids the detention in prison of an unconvicted child.

The legislation follows an instruction to provide guidelines on the matter from President Nelson Mandela earlier this year.

Minors under 14 who are charged with serious Schedule 1 crimes must be brought to trial within 24 hours of arrest if suitable alternative accommodation is not available, according to the Bill.

Stals shrugs off RDP concerns

CT 26/9/94 (298)

From ROBYN CHALMERS

JOHANNESBURG. — The Reserve Bank's decision to hike Bank rate to 13% from 12% has raised fears that growth will remain sluggish, affecting the RDP.

But Reserve Bank Governor Chris Stals shrugged off such concerns. It would have an effect in the short term, but would lead to more sustainable growth over the medium and long-term, he said.

Expectations of higher inflation, increased domestic credit extension and sharply rising imports made it imperative that the Bank rate rise.

Bank rate is the rate at which the central bank lends to the banks, determining the level of all interest rates.

Economists and bankers said while it was clear that a rise in the Bank rate was inevitable, the timing was unfortunate as it had occurred at a crucial time in the business cycle upturn. They expected overdraft and mortgage rates to increase over the next few weeks, although Nedcor economist Edward Osborn believed higher mortgage rates would come into effect only on November 1.

Economists feared that the raised mortgage rates could affect the national housing programme. Housing officials have been locked in discussions with the banking industry for months in a bid to draw them into the low-cost housing market.

'Bank rate hike was imperative'

Speculation that a fixed interest rate for low income borrowers could come into effect early next year, and that banks would be faced with lower profit margins by lending into the low cost market, meant banks could push for further interest rate rises in the near future.

The SA Chamber of Business said the increase came sooner and was larger than expected. "The increase in the Bank rate signals that the SA economy may be unable to sustain high growth rates critical for the RDP. Small business is particularly vulnerable to interest rate increases in view of its dependence on loan capital."

But Stals said rising inflation was just as detrimental to the RDP as any increase in interest rates, and it was vital that this was nipped in the bud.

He said over the past six months the rate of increase in financial aggregates used by the Reserve Bank as indicators of developments in underlying inflationary pressures had accelerated to levels that could not be

permitted indefinitely.

In the year to July, the M3 money supply had increased 16.9%. This substantially exceeded the guidelines of 6% to 9% announced at the beginning of the year as an acceptable rate of increase in M3 for 1994.

Over the same period, total bank credit extended to the public and private sectors had risen 23%. Claims of the banking sector on the private sector rose 14% — well in excess of the current rate of inflation.

"A further danger signal that cannot be ignored comes from the unexpectedly large increase in total imports of merchandise. On a seasonally adjusted annual rate basis, total imports in August 1994 amounted to almost R90bn, which was only R5bn less than the total value of merchandise exports and the net gold production."

He said that with an annual net deficit of about R15bn for SA's service payments to the rest of the world, the current account of the balance of payments had now moved into a distinct deficit.

Both production and consumer price inflation had moved up "quite strongly" and certain market interest rates had also risen in recent months. Money market interest rates, on the other hand, had increased by a smaller margin.

"Money market conditions remain relatively liquid mainly because of a welcome rise in the country's net foreign reserves."

SA must accept child rule

A PANEL of South African and international experts has urged South Africa to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Children "as soon as possible", it was reported yesterday.

Speaking at a conference on violence and children, University of Cape Town psychology professor and panel member Prof Andy Dawes said the UN convention would oblige the government to improve the care given to children who were victims of violence.

He said the convention would force the government to reform the law and set up structures to provide a better service to child victims of violence. It would also assist in the prevention of violence against children.

The panel, which based its recommendations on a Goldstone Commission report on public violence against children, said there was a need to co-ordinate all responses to violence against children.

It also recommended ways

should be found to reduce the culture of violence generally in society. Government officials should also receive better training to deal sensitively with the problem.

Prof Dawes said he believed the Reconstruction and Development Programme, with its plan for social upliftment, would go some way to reducing violence because much of the violence against children was caused by poverty and disadvantage. — Sapa

(298)

CT 28/9/94



AT HOME: These children would rather live hungry in the bush than be forced to work for their parents' employers.

BY SABATA NGCAI

AFTER escaping three years ago from alleged forced labour on Philippi farms, a group of children still have nowhere to go, and are sleeping under bushes in Mitchells Plain.

The 10 children, aged between eight and 15 years, were born on the Philippi farms where their parents work.

They claim the farmers forced them to work — and beat them when they refused to do so.

They ran away and became street children, saying life is better in the bush near Woodlands than on the farms.

Some of them stayed briefly in street children's shelters run by the Child Welfare Society, but decided to return to the bush.

Sean Adams (not his real name),

12, left school while he was in standard 2 because of ill-treatment at the farm.

"The life at the farm was hell — it's better to stay in the bush," he said.

"The farmer used to beat me and my mother couldn't complain because she is employed there.

"The only option was to leave the place and settle somewhere else.

"I started by playing games in the shops and ended up staying in the bush. (298)

"I hope we can find a better place where we can stay in peace and go to school."

Sean said he has been to three street children's shelters, but did not enjoy living there.

He feeds himself by begging in the streets of Mitchells Plain and from nearby shops.

When it rains the children make

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

plastic shelters to protect themselves. When it is cold they make long-lasting fires by burning tyres.

Margaret's House Mobile Outreach Programme, run by the Child Welfare Society, gives them soup and bread once a week and attends to their medical needs.

The manager of Child Welfare's street children department, Mrs Lindi Molefe, said their shelters

provided rehabilitation programmes for the children.

She said she knew the children came from the farms, but could not confirm whether they had been ill-treated there. (298)

Children who have never been to school are introduced to informal learning programmes. After a while the children are assessed, and if counsellors think they will cope they are sent to mainstream schools. (298)

Southwester (Lump) to South
Mrs Molefe said some of the children were a problem, but the Child Welfare Society was doing all it could to help them.

"Sometimes a child who has been on the street for three to four years can be difficult," she said.

"In the street there are no norms and values.

"When the child gets into a situation where he has to behave according to certain standards, he usually finds it difficult to cope."

School feeding scheme starts with early 'snack'

CT 11/9/94
JOHANNESBURG. — The primary school nutrition programme announced by President Nelson Mandela in his State of the Nation address began yesterday.

The Department of Health said 3 million pupils at 7 042 primary schools in "priority areas" had received a "nutritious early-morning snack".

Spokeswoman Ms Belinda Terblanche said about half the primary school children in the country, particularly those in rural and peri-urban areas, needed food aid to enable them to make full use of learning opportunities. — Sapa (298)

Fun 2/9/94 (299)
a required procedure is vital in reducing the cost of hospitalisation. SA has around 75 day clinics, mainly located close to the major metropolitan centres.

The potential saving for the private sector health care bill — currently around R12bn — is enormous. In the US, 58% of all medical procedures can be performed at day clinics — termed ambulatory surgery centres. Established in the US in the Fifties, they gained even more momentum in the Eighties with the advent of sophisticated anaesthetic drugs and minimally invasive surgery.

Some of the procedures they offer include cataract surgery, colon disorder diagnosis, eardrum opening, injection into the

way, I have no doubt that we shall be able to effect a win-win situation," he says.

Still, Kenyon says medical schemes might have to consider some "affirmative action" to encourage members to make use of the cheaper facilities. One option could see schemes amend their rules to provide incentives and disincentives by charging excesses when hospital facilities are used for procedures that could be performed at day clinics.

But Kenyon says this approach would not be appropriate while day clinics are not well distributed across the country. The safer route, he suggests, is to offer doctors incentives to use these facilities. "This means the doctor will exercise his professional judgment in deciding which facility is the best."

National Association of Private Hospitals Director Annette Van der Merwe agrees that economics warrant that patients should have simple procedures done at hospitals providing the cheapest alternative. But she notes that many hospitals now offer day wards where simple procedures are performed. She adds that the industry is already moving towards a fixed-fee system for certain procedures — regardless of where they are done.

However, she admits fully fledged hospitals are poorly positioned to compete with day clinics: "At the moment we have a situation where longer, bigger procedures are far less profitable than shorter simpler ones. The private clinics have a choice: either we provide facilities for the more profitable procedures (like day clinics) and we continue using the more expensive procedures to cross-subsidise the less profitable ones. Or we lose all our more profitable cases to the day clinics and we will have to stop doing longer cases or charge more for longer procedures. Both choices will make health care even less affordable and accessible in the long run," she cautions.

But real cost savings to cash-strapped consumers could see many patients insist on using local day clinics instead of hospitals — even if this means selecting a surgeon or practitioner who is willing to work in one.

If making economies is at the core of it then the choices will not be too difficult. Cost comparisons for a tonsils and adenoid operation — usually 45 minutes of theatre time — show a healthy 39% saving for the patient who chooses the day clinic above a hi-tech hospital. For a colonoscopy under general anaesthetic, the saving can be as much as 42%.

Says Speedie: "The savings show what's possible when providers and financiers of health care negotiate — something made possible with the new Medical Schemes Amendment Act."



Medical costs ... looking for cheaper alternatives

spinal canal, breast lesion removal, knee surgery, hysterectomy, tonsillectomy and dental surgery

Unfortunately, not all patients can be treated in them. High risk patients are one category deemed unsuitable. In addition there are still some procedures that can only be performed in hospitals.

The popularity of day clinics in this country could soar if doctors accept an incentive scheme they are offering. In a nutshell, medical schemes will be asked to pay doctors a fixed fee guaranteeing a minimum 15% more than the recommended medical aid rate for performing a procedure at a day clinic. This amount is still far below the Masa rate which many doctors charge — effectively 100% more than the Rams rate. But hospital group joint-MD Rob Speedie points out that doctors will benefit from faster cash flows — day clinics guarantee full payment within 21 days of a procedure.

It's an offer that's already winning approval from medical schemes. Kenyon explains that fixed fees mean easy administration, one-line accounts and the elimination of overcharging. He says day clinics are also testing the feasibility of a global fee — one which includes a fixed fee for the clinic, drugs, surgeon, anaesthetist and other assistants. "Of course, fixed fees and global fees transfer risk from the medical scheme to the day clinics. But as long as the problems encountered are handled in an open and accommodating

MEDICINE *Fun 2/9/94* **Price wars**

Day clinics say they can cut traditional hospital costs by around 40% because they do not have overnight facilities such as kitchens and 24-hour staff. (299)

But despite the growing international popularity of day clinics — in Sweden hospital beds are being closed in favour of day treatment centres — they have yet to take off in SA, says Day Clinic Association chairman Brian Kenyon.

Speaking at a recent Representative Association of Medical Schemes (Rams) conference, Kenyon noted that the unnecessary hospitalisation of patients was a major contributor to the spiral in medical costs. "As an industry, we appear to be protecting a dinosaur," he says.

Doctors agree. In a recent Medical Association of SA (Masa) publication, they stress that the use of the correct facility for

Medical aid industry in 'absolute shambles'

B1 Day 21/9/94

BEATRIX PAYNE

THE medical aid industry was in an "absolute shambles" and the blame lay with its administrators, Republic Ratings director Dave King said yesterday.

"The whole industry is a gravy train," he said. Fees paid by the medical schemes to the administrators had increased by a compound 30% a year since 1988.

"Medical costs have gone through the roof over the past few years but it has been in the interests of the administrators," he said.

Administrators were paid a percentage of the funds that flowed into a scheme. In 1988 administrators were paid an average of R124 per member per year by medical schemes, but in 1993 this had risen to R441 per member.

He said the agency was drawing up an overview of the medical aid industry which would contain ratings of all medical schemes that took in public money.

The report would be released in a few weeks.

"The agency has no axe to grind or vested interests" in conducting the ratings, he said.

"We have been pushed to do this by our clients, who are large corporations and institutions." The agency had also received many

requests for ratings from members of the public who were concerned by the number of insolvencies among medical aid schemes.

There were "enormous" vested interests in the industry, and the agency had experienced hostility from some administrators who had refused to be rated. Of the "big six" administrators, only three were prepared to co-operate.

"It would seem that those who do not want to be rated have something to hide and are stamping on the public's right to know," he said.

Most schemes were badly managed and had not kept proper financial records. It was also possible that considerable sums had been spent on unnecessary fringe benefits. (299)

"Some schemes are unable to give such basic information as member's age groups or potential risk areas," he said.

Two of the schemes rated had lost R15m in bad investment decisions.

King said many schemes were in a similar position but, due to the lack of transparency in the industry, some schemes had been able to cover up losses on investments.

10 years to get children out of jail

Political Staff

PRESIDENT Mandela may have to wait for 10 years before the end of the nightmare of awaiting trial children in South Africa's police cells and jails. *ARC 8/9/94*

This has emerged in evidence before the national assembly's portfolio committee on correctional services, which is dealing with draft legislation to remove awaiting trial children from prison.

At present, awaiting trial children are held in prison, police cells or in nine centres around the country. Mr Mandela has told cabinet ministers responsible to get awaiting trial children out of jail.

Brigadier C F Cronje of the SAPS' Visible Police Division said it would take 10 years for adequate, secure alternative centres to be built to accommodate awaiting trial children.

Brigadier Cronje told the committee that 1,8 million people were arrested by police a year. This included 48 000 children.

Kids in police cells: Rethink

By BARRY STREEK,

DRAFT legislation to limit the detention of awaiting-trial children in prisons is likely to be tightened up to include restrictions on their detention in police cells. (253)

But the absence of adequate places of safety in most of the country as alternatives to prisons and police cells has presented a major problem to implement President Nelson Mandela's call to keep children out of jail.

This emerged yesterday in evi-

dence given to the standing committee on correctional services by government departments and civil liberties bodies. (298)

Police Brigadier C F Cronje said 12 000 juveniles were detained in police cells during November and December last year, but 11 300 were released after only four days.

The Department of Justice's director of legislation, Mr Gerhard Nel, said the proposed legislation was defective and should be scrapped.

CT 8/9/94
In the whole of the Johannesburg magisterial district there were no places of safety to which children could be sent as an alternative to imprisonment. If the bill was implemented there, the magistrate would "not be able to do anything with juveniles, except let them free", Brig Cronje said.

● President Mandela said on Tuesday an interim report by the commission of inquiry into unrest in prisons had been submitted to him.

Scheme feeds E Cape kids

Political Staff

MORE than 100 000 Eastern Cape schoolchildren are benefiting from the school feeding scheme introduced last week, the Minister of Health, Dr Nkosazana Zuma, said yesterday.

She said the Primary School Nutrition Programme, introduced on September 1, was launched at 392 Eastern Cape schools.

The schools are, in Aliwal North, Barkly East, Elliot, Indwe, Maclear, Dordrecht and Queenstown.

Plight of jailed children

By THEMBA KHUMALO
Political Correspondent

THE plight of children in South African prisons came under the scrutiny of parliament in Cape Town this week when human rights advocates called on the government to scrap any law that suggests imprisonment of the under-aged.

A Select Committee on Correctional Services, under the chairmanship of Carl Niehaus, is gathering evidence to prepare itself for the drafting of the proposed amendment of Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act to address the plight of children in jail. The committee reserved almost the entire day on Wednesday on Wed-

nesday to listen to arguments presented by experts from different bodies to explain the necessity of keeping children out of prison, no matter how serious the nature of crimes they have committed.

Almost all the experts spoke in favour of the accused children being placed in the custody of guardians or places of safety instead of jail.

Inputs

Inputs to the draft Bill were made by the director of legislation in parliament in the Department of Justice, Gerhard Nel, the Black Sash, the Community Law Centre at the University of Western Cape (UWC),

the Human Rights Committee, the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town and the Cape Bar Council.

Allison Tilley of the Black Sash said:

"Even the so-called places of safety are considered dangerous to children. It is difficult to tell the difference between these and prisons. My experience of them during the visits I made was that of children who were begging for release."

Speaking about the envisaged problems of sending children to the places of safety while they were being tried in court, Nel said his investigations found that there were no such institutions in Job-

annesburg, which experienced a high rate of crime, and there were only two such institutions in the Western Cape.

"I've just spoken to magistrates in Johannesburg and Cape Town who told me that they did not know where to send scores of youngsters who are on trial," Nel said.

In his submission to the standing committee, Professor D van Zyl of the Faculty of Law at UCT said that while the proposed Bill was a "most laudable aim", it did not provide an adequate framework for keeping children out of jail.

"The most obvious difficulty is that the amendments to section 29 do not

restrict the detention of persons under the age of 18 years in police cells or lockups. To some extent the proposed amendment is a retrogressive step. The current section restricts the detention of such young persons in police cells or lockups as well as in prisons. (248)

Solution

"A possible solution is that the new Police Act deal with the question of young persons in police cells or lockups," he said.

In his critical analysis of the proposed amendment to section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, the acting director of the Community Law Centre at UWC, Professor Nico Steytler, said it

would not have any impact on the detention of awaiting-trial juveniles in police cells. The amended section 29 would remove the protection formerly available to juveniles under the old section. A child may be held in a police cell even when it was not necessary or even when a place of safety is available, he said.

Jeremy Sarkin of the Human Rights Committee said it was "gratifying that parliament is investigating the plight of children in prison - this is long overdue and SA's history in this regard is not a proud one."

The Standing Committee on Correctional Services will meet again on Tuesday.

ANC proposal will protect child suspects

Political Staff

SUSPECTS of 13 and younger will not be held in prison or police cells before being sentenced if African National Congress proposals become law.

The National Assembly's portfolio committee on Correctional Services continued its debate on the Correctional Services Amendment Bill today. This changes the law for people of 17 and under awaiting trial.

At present about 48 000 people in this age bracket go through the police cells every year, and there are about 700 in jails awaiting trial now.

ARG 13/9/94

State law advisers are to re-draft parts of the Bill to reflect ANC MP Dave Dalling's contention that suspects of 13 and under never be held in a prison, police cell or lock up.

Instead, Mr Dalling said later, these children would be held in a reformatory or hospital, or placed in the custody of their parents, guardian or foster parents.

There were at present nine centres around the country where such children could be held, and the effect of the Bill would be to put pressure on other towns and cities to provide such facilities.

each year ● Check the society's benefits

Medical aid is a wise investment for the young

Sowetan 15/9/94

GOOD VALUE Quality health care is very costly —

especially if you are suffering from a serious disease:

Often when we become ill we do not have the money to pay for treatment, especially if it is a serious illness. Many people have joined medical aid societies to make sure that they get quality medical care for themselves and their families.

What is a medical aid?

A medical aid is a non-profit fund which belongs to its members.

The members of the medical aid (usually with the assistance of their employers) pay a regular monthly amount into the fund. This fund is managed by trustees who are elected by the members.

All the members of the medical aid pay into a fund on a monthly basis. This money is then invested to build up strong reserves. When we become sick we can then claim from these reserves.

Why must I pay when I am healthy?

In the past elderly people could rely on their children to cover their health care costs. If you pay into your medical aid when you are young and

healthy, then you will be able to claim from your medical aid when you are older and more likely to suffer from serious illnesses which cost a lot of money.

What will my medical aid pay for?

With most things in life you get what you pay for — and good health-care benefits are expensive. Not all medical aids have the same benefits and you need to check carefully and be sure you know what costs your medical aid will cover.

Most medical aids will pay for following:

Basic Benefits — this covers a visit to the doctor and the cost of the medicine. It also includes dental care and eye tests.

Comprehensive Benefits — this includes the cost of hospital, ambulances and physiotherapy and if you need to see a specialist, this will also be covered.

How to keep your medical costs down

Obviously the more money is taken out of the medical fund to treat illness, the higher the monthly payments will become. Even without medical

knowledge, there are certain things that you can do that will help keep your medical aid payments as low as possible.

Helpful tips

- Look after your health — eat properly, exercise regularly and look after your body.
- Look after your medical aid card. You should not lend your card to anybody and allow them to claim expenses. This would be cheating other medical aid members and add to costs.
- Do not go from doctor to doctor or pressure your doctor into doing unnecessary tests or to prescribe unnecessary medicine.
- If you find your medicine costs are too high, speak to your doctor or pharmacist about generic medicine.
- Don't take minor complaints to your doctor. Most minor illnesses can be treated with the help and advice of your pharmacist.

Don't abuse it

Medical aids can greatly help the individual cover their medical costs — but they must be used properly. If you are not sure how to use your medical aid, ask your pharmacist. He knows how medical aids work and will help you.

New styling skills for the disabled

ARLT/16/9/94 (296)

LENORE OLIVER
Staff Reporter

THE Oasis Protective Work Centre in Elsies River has made a glamorous beginning in teaching a group of disabled women a new skill that will ultimately serve the neighbouring community

The women from Belhar, Ravensmead, Uitsig, Valhalla, Matroosfontein and Bishop Lavis are learning how to shampoo, cut and dry hair under the guidance of a professional hairdresser

The Oasis Association for the Mentally Handicapped was given R5 000 by the Golden Arrow Foundation to purchase equipment for an in-house salon

The women are trained for an hour a week in the salon which is run as a self-sufficient business scheme under the auspices of the Oasis organisation.

"We have existing training facilities for needlework and woodwork but we identified the need for an additional skill to be taught to the women," says workshop manager Lyn Kruger.

"Once they've styled somebody's hair, one can see the great sense of achievement they feel.

"Once the women have completed their course, residents in the area will be able to come to the centre and have their hair done at low prices," Mrs Kruger said.



Picture BRENTON GEACH. The Argus

BUDDING STYLISTS: Professional hairdresser Beryl Burt, centre, shows students Lucille Hess, left, and Geraldine Gomes how to set Golden Arrow Foundation trustee Mathilda Van-tura's hair.

MEDICAL SCHEMES

Starting to creak

Em 16/9/94
Medical schemes continue operating on dangerously low reserves, premiums are up and membership down, says a report released this week by the Representative Association of Medical Schemes.

It comes in the wake of the collapse of three schemes this year. AMA's Meds scheme has also failed to meet its June deadline to submit financial returns to the Registrar of Medical Schemes. (299)

The Registrar recommends that accumulated funds should be about 25% of annual contributions. Rams executive director Reg Magennis, who compiled the report, says many open schemes were

BUSINESS

operating with reserves well below 10% at the end of December — down from 16% the previous year.

Health consultant and former medical aid administrator Tony Leveton says open schemes' combined losses for 1993 were R55m and 1992 and 1993 operating results had a R78m deficit.

He adds that losses have been accelerated by a number of underpriced low-cost options — a costly way of attracting membership in the newly deregulated environment.

But Magennis, who's included a ranking of public or open schemes, maintains corrective action could easily have improved schemes' solvency margins. Such action, he says, could include:

- ☐ Increasing contributions;
- ☐ Cost containment — including cuts in benefits, and;
- ☐ Injection of funds from other sources.

Says Magennis: "This type of fluctuation is part of the short-term insurance nature of an industry that funds claims from contributions received. That's why rating or ranking schemes is a hazardous and potentially destructive exercise."

The report's findings are cause for concern and confirm warnings made in the Melamet report this year. It recommended more financial transparency, stricter financial controls — biannual financial re-

Em 16/9/94
porting, greater powers for the Registrar to exact timeous information from schemes and direct supervision by the Financial Services Board — and greater inputs of

legal, actuarial, business and medical administration expertise.

Government says it will appoint its own commission to investigate the problems ■

Law closes in on massive medical aid hanky-panky

ARG 17/9/94

(299)

Weekend Argus Bureau

PORT ELIZABETH. — Intensive investigations into the fraudulent activities of chemists and bogus operations charged for by doctors have started to show results.

This week a pharmacist who ran a medical aid scam was fined R7 000 and given a suspended jail sentence.

Hilton Sin Hidge, 40, a Korsten pharmacist, was told in the Port Elizabeth Regional Court that the collapse of three regional medical aid schemes highlighted the severity of his crime.

Sin Hidge admitted 53 counts of defrauding medical aids in 1991.

A spokesman for the police fraud squad said this week they were investigating other cases and more people would be coming to court.

Fraud was among the reasons medical aid schemes in the Eastern Cape collapsed and hundreds of people were left without medical cover.

Magistrate C J R Naude said Sin Hidge, who admitted deliberately altering prescriptions and submitting them to medical aids for payment, had abused his position of responsibility and trust.

According to the chairman of the Medical Association of South Africa in the Eastern Cape, Johan Snyman, money switched hands when doctors agreed to book patients for operations, such as tonsillectomies, which were never carried out.

In some cases in the townships, medical aid scheme members were forced to hand their cards to non-subscribers.

Often people booked appointments and forced doctors to pay them money for making the appointments. Then the doctors claimed it from the medical aid.

However, doctors and nurses were often too scared to come forward to testify because they were threatened with violence.

There were also cases where doctors dispensed cheaper medicines to unsuspecting patients, but charged medical aid societies a higher price. Some patients were known to get prescriptions which they used at chemists in exchange for make-up.

Dr Snyman said there was still a perception among some medical aid members that they had to get their money's worth out of the society.

With the collapse of two medical aid schemes, MCI and MCG, the Midland Chamber of Industries is considering selling its building, built 12 years ago for about R3 million.

If the sale goes ahead there is some hope that surplus funds could be used for "topping up" retrenchment packages for 157 ex-employees.

Brian Matthew, who worked for the Midland Chamber of Industries for 27 years, told about 50 former employees yesterday that the committee's attorneys wanted a list of MCI's assets and liabilities.

Mr. Matthew has also been retrenched. He warned former employees not to have high expectations because MCI had borrowed about R1 million against the building to survive.

'There may be 15 000 street children in SA'

Cape Town — The number of street children in South Africa could be as high as 15 000, Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams said yesterday.

"It is estimated that there are between 6 000 and 9 000 street children. This figure could be as high as 15 000 children," Williams said.

Addressing "serious concerns" about family life in South Africa, Williams said these and other statistics indicated that all was not well.

He said there were 28 264 divorces in South Africa during 1992 involving 36 000 children under 18. There were 1 366 unsentenced children under 18 in the country's jails.

Williams added that of the 6 707 awaiting-trial children in police cells between October 1 and December 31 last year, 3 019 were held for

theft, 263 for murder, 115 for attempted murder and 345 for robbery. (298)

The Minister said reasons for these high figures were complex.

"It is claimed that South Africa has a culture of violence and the conflict and aggression in our society has a negative impact on families.

"It is also claimed that any society that experiences a dramatic political and social transformation can be affected by uncertainty and tension which can have a negative impact on the family."

Williams said he believed work pressure also placed "tremendous demands" on some families.

He said his department and other role players were formulating a national family policy to try to ensure a healthy family life for South Africans. — Reuter.

Child workers 'toil in brutal conditions for low pay'

APC 22/19/44 (298)

WASHINGTON.—Child workers from Brazil, Honduras, Bangladesh and the United States told a Senate hearing that they and millions of other children around the world toil in often brutal conditions for little pay.

"The managers are always screaming at us to go faster, go faster," Lesly Rodriguez Solorzano, 15, of Honduras said of her job in a sweater factory. "The managers like to touch

the girls. They grab our buttocks or breasts," she said through a translator.

She said she worked 12 to 14 hours a day and was paid a salary equal to about \$21 (R71) a week.

Roberto Carlos Guimaraes, 17, of Brazil, said he started working in a shoe factory at the age of 11. He said sanitary conditions were bad and workers were exposed to chemicals. Nazma Akther, 19, said he

began working in a Bangladesh garment factory at the age of 11, earning \$15 (R51) a month for a 70-hour work week.

"I was beaten when I made mistakes or when I was late to work," said Akther, now with the Asian-American Free Labour Institute.

The speakers were among the 100 million to 200 million children working worldwide in violation of international labour standards, according to

a report by the Labour Department's Bureau of International Labour Affairs.

"The tragedy of child labour today is of global proportions and getting worse. The situation is as deplorable as it is enormous," said Iowa Democratic Senator Tom Harkin. Mr. Harkin has offered a bill to ban imports of products made by child labour.

"Nothing compares with the horrendous, brutal and inhuman treatment of millions of child labourers around the world," added Senator Howard Metzenbaum, an Ohio Democrat.

The report said children — mostly in Africa and Asia — are exploited because they are less demanding, more obedient and less likely to object to their treatment or work conditions than adults and often have few legal rights. — Reuters

Medical aid schemes 'cut their fingers'

ST Times (Buss)

25/1/94

PUBLIC medical aid schemes showed a collective underwriting loss of R44-million last year.

Medical aid consultant Tony Leveton says there has been a movement of members to cheaper medical cover. He says loss-making medical aids have been underpricing to attract members.

He says about half of the 49 schemes surveyed, comprising 346 000 members, suffered the brunt with R132-million in losses. The other half, comprising 408 000 members, showed an underwriting surplus of R88-million.

His figures are gleaned from audited accounts and the returns lodged with the Registrar of Medical Schemes.

He says successful schemes lost 9% of their membership while their average contributions rose 16%. "Schemes trading at a loss increased their membership by 4% against a 10% average contribution hike." (299)

According to the registrar, intermediaries have played a significant role in moving business. Mr Leveton says that medical aids employing intermediaries and brokers are among those not faring well.

Mr Leveton's survey shows that Sanmed, which comprises four schemes, Erica and Profmed are at the top of the list with solvency ratios of around 40%. Several are trading with a negative solvency ratio despite the fact that it is a requirement of the registrar to stay above 25%.

Only 14 of the 49 schemes surveyed have a solvency ratio above 20%, while 60% of them have solvency ratios of less than 10%.

Mr Leveton says schemes have eroded their accumulated funds per member as membership has grown.

Civilian Blind Society — the helping hand

(296) ARC 29/9/94

□ Maria Goliath prepares to retire after 40 years

LIBBY PEACOCK
Health Reporter

MARIA Goliath of Heideveld was only 20 when she started weaving for the Cape Town Civilian Blind Society.

Now, almost 40 years later, she is preparing to retire.

But the society, which is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year, is nowhere near retiring.

Its workshop provides sheltered employment for about 80 blind and partially sighted workers who manufacture a wide variety of caneware and handwoven fabrics.

It also runs a social services department, with 10 qualified staff who counsel blind people and their families, helping them cope with their disability.

Deftly weaving a flawless fabric — part of a bulk order from a leading department store — Mrs Goliath said her job had meant a lot to her through the years.

She travels to the Salt River workshop by bus every day.

The Cape Town Civilian Blind Society was established in 1929, initiated by a group of seven women who encouraged blind people to do handwork at home.

In 1930 a sheltered workshop was opened for blind men in Bree Street and two years later another in Hanover Street. The Salt River property was bought in 1936.

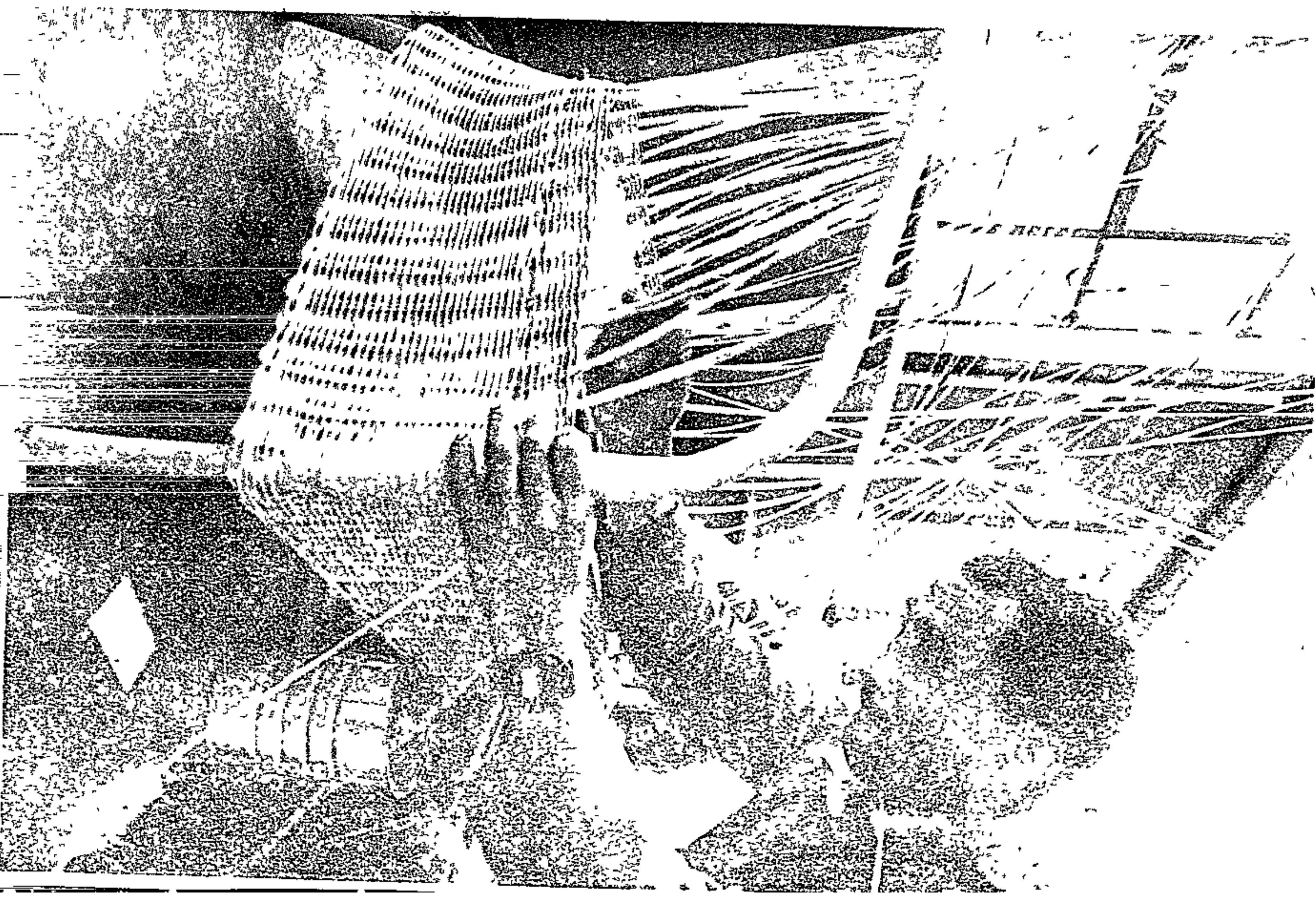
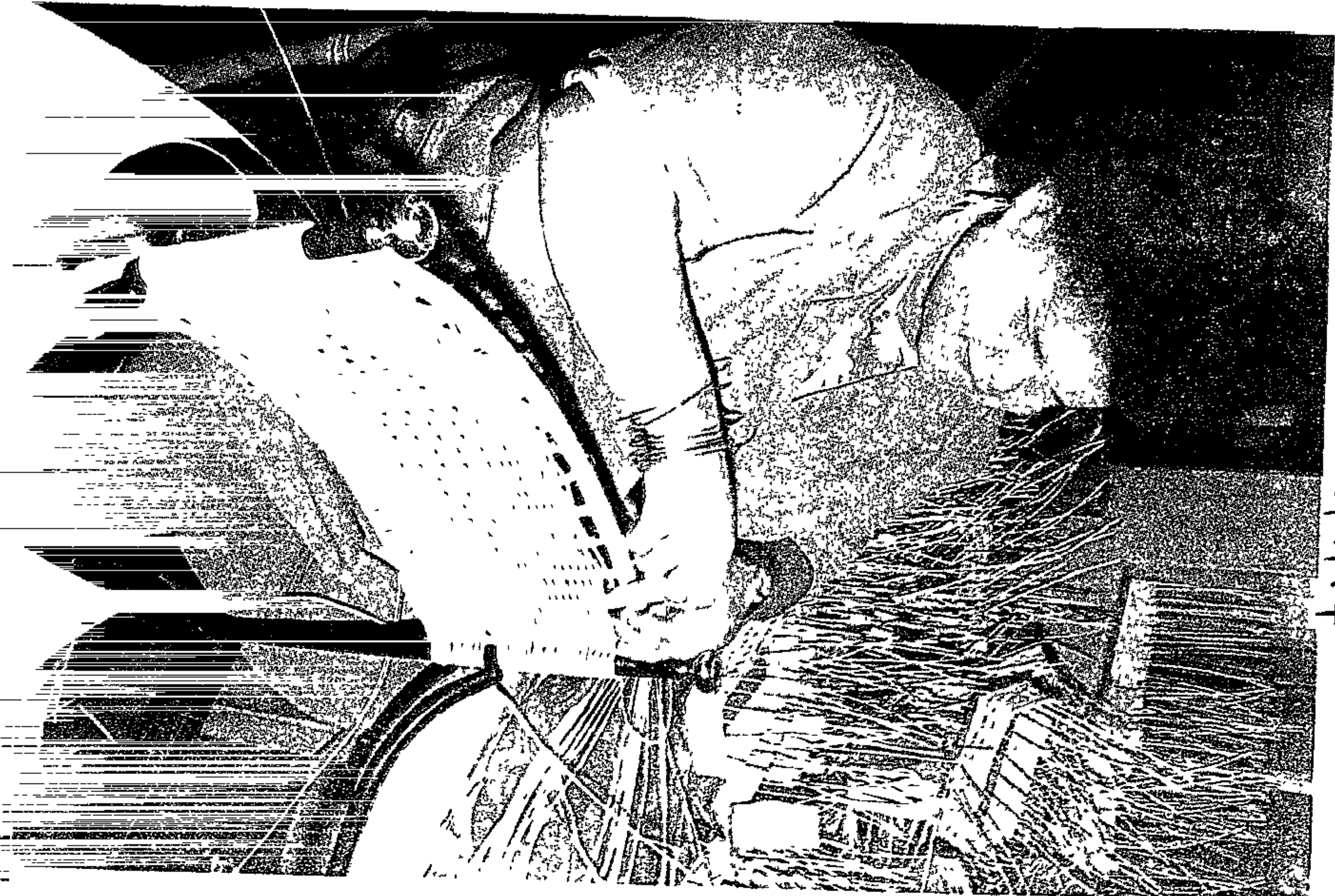
Statistics show that about 80 percent of people reported blind are partially sighted.

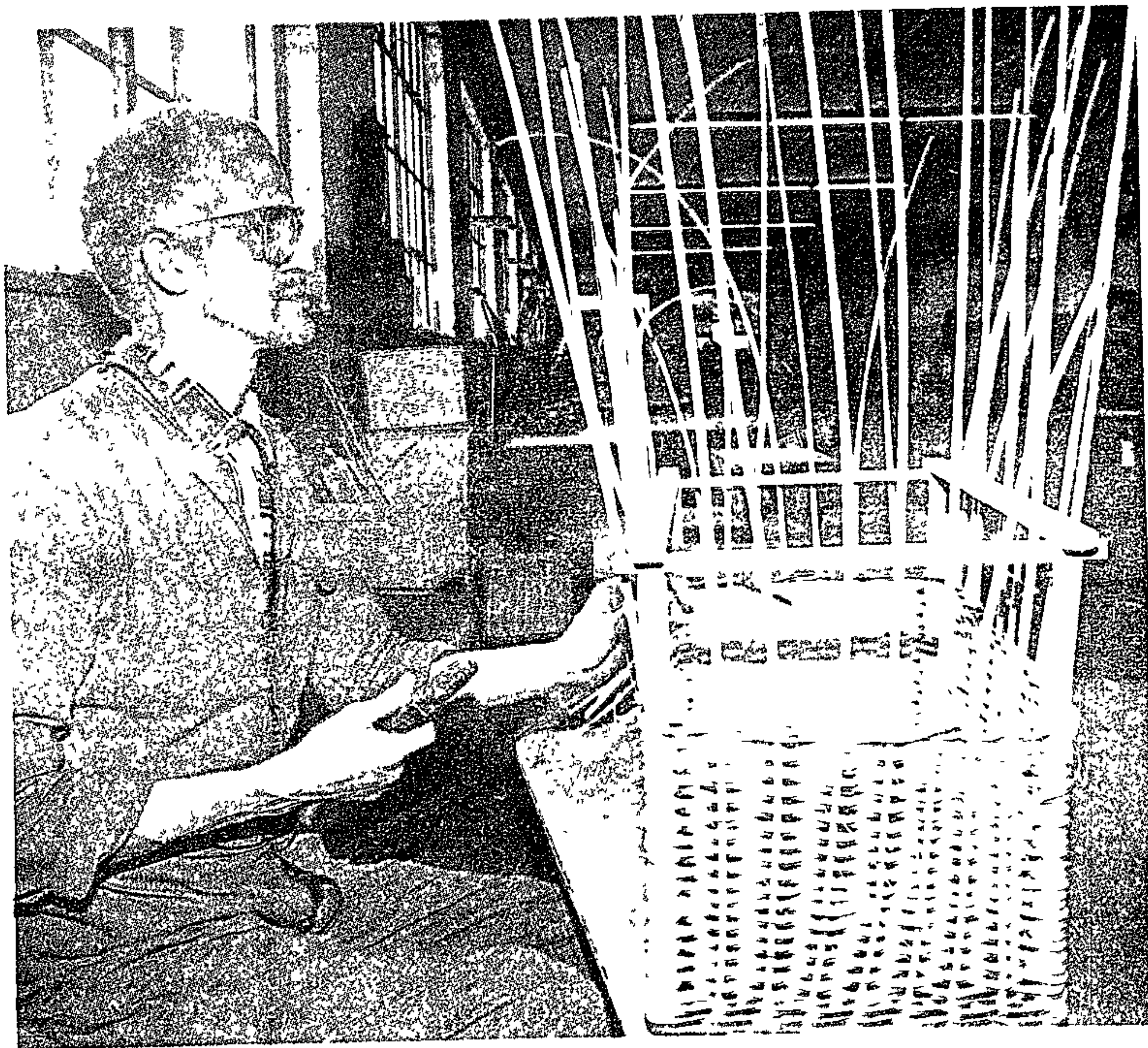
The society has established a low-vision clinic which offers treatment to the partially-sighted to make the best use of their residual vision.

FAST FINGERS: Nettie Coetzee, right, of Heideveld, who has worked for the Cape Town Civilian Blind Society for the past 10 years, finishes off a chair.

□□□□□

FAR RIGHT: Victor Octobus, 40 years old, is a member of the society.





Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

AT WORK: Abraham May, who has worked for the Civilian Blind for the past 10 years, demonstrates his skill.



TEAM WORK: Victor October, left, and Adriaan Albertus work together in the Civilian Blind workshop.

No aftercare on the flats

Thousands of working parents on the Cape Flats have to leave their children unsupervised after school because there are too few childcare facilities. These "latchkey" children are easily lured into gangs and the authorities are doing nothing to help them. GENE FESTER investigates:

AFFORDABLE and reliable after-school care is the only way working parents can be sure their children are safe when school closes. Miss Christine Smith worries about the safety of her five-year-old son.

"Finding somebody to look after

him is already a problem," Miss Smith said.

"At the moment a day-care mother looks after him.

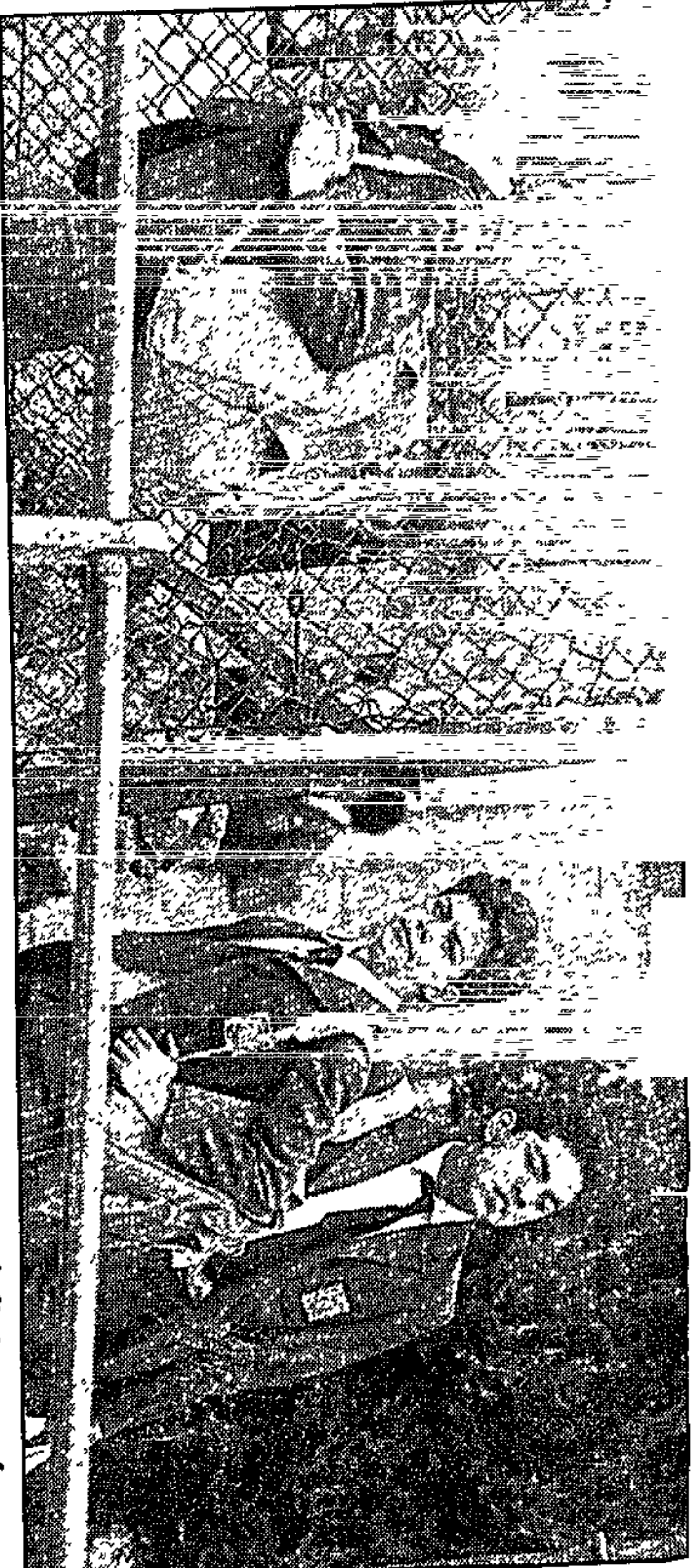
"I don't know what I'm going to do next year when he starts school. The school closes at 2pm and I work until 5pm.

"For three hours my son will have to stay at home alone and that is very dangerous."

Another concerned parent, Mrs Esme Meyer, said: "My seven-year-old daughter stays with neighbours or friends in the afternoons after school.

"I don't know what she does or where she goes. I worry because children are not safe on their own."

Mr Norman Jantjies, branch director of the National Institute for Crime Prevention and



WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN?: After school dismisses, many children are left to care for themselves and get up to all sorts of mischief

Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro), believes proper care of school-going children is crucial.

"This is when children are at their most vulnerable and most easily influenced," he said.

"Older brothers or sisters can't look after children properly (298) "They go to game shops or hang around cafe's — this signals the start of bad habits."

Mrs Elizabeth Vanleeve, training co-ordinator at Grassroots Educare, agrees that there is a great need for

after-care facilities at schools.

"Primary schools close at 2pm or 3pm. Most parents in the townships work and their children are at risk," Mrs Vanleeve said.

"Parents incorrectly think their children can cope on their own. Leaving children unsupervised can have tragic consequences."

The Station Strangler murders have shown just how tragic these consequences can be and highlighted the need after-care at schools.

Mrs Margaret Doman, principal

of Caravelle primary in Mitchells Plain, said: "During the Station Strangler's death campaign we realised that we needed to protect our children and keep them safe.

"We hope to start an after-care service at school next term that will provide adequate adult supervision.

Mrs Vanleeve supports this view wholeheartedly. She feels that existing infrastructures such as community centres and schools could be used to provide childcare services.

"Home alone" kids

"LATCHKEY" children left at home alone while their parents work are likely to suffer from depression, research has found.

Dr Shaun Whittaker investigated how the "latchkey" status affected these children's mental health.

"Children between the ages of seven and nine should as far as possi-

ble not be left at home alone because they can't look after themselves," Dr Whittaker said.

"They must be supervised by an adult." He found that when children are alone at home they are fearful, worried and depressed.

"A previous study indicated that two-thirds of latchkey children are afraid to be home alone," said Dr Whittaker.

"The lack of supervision tempts them to start smoking and drinking, and they often feel neglected by their parents."

Mrs Teresha Hanekom, Department of Education spokesperson, says that no school has registered or applied for after care facilities.

The City Council said they cannot provide aftercare services as their community centres are used for other purposes



THEY'VE GOT WHEELS ... Youngsters at the Makhakanya day-care centre in Khayelitsha
Picture: FANIE JASON

Ray of hope for trolley kids

By GARY COLLINS

EVERY morning Nozukile Tom and Nosipho Zokufa set off from their homes to collect 64 mentally and physically disabled children from their homes in Khayelitsha to take them to the Makhakanya day-care centre in supermarket trolleys. *SI Times*

Makhakanya centre — which means "let them be loved" — is the only day-care centre in the area looking after young disabled children, whose parents cannot afford full-time supervision.

The two women use supermarket

trolleys to wheel their charges from their homes to the disused container in Khayelitsha which serves as the day-care centre. *Le Metro*

Ms Zokufa said: "Makhakanya centre does not receive any support from anybody, except for food which is donated to us once a week." *16/10/94*

"Life is hard here. There is no running water and no toilets". *(298)*

Working for no pay, Ms Zokufa and Ms Tom look after the 64 children who range from slightly mentally retarded to severely retarded, physical and mentally handicapped. — TANIS

'Prisoner used my son as sex slave'

16/10/94

C. Press

298

By KHANGALE MAKHADO

MARGARET Mokoena of Soweto kept praying and hoping that her 19-year-old son Antonio would join her after serving his six-year prison term for rape.

But yesterday she buried the boy after he had died in detention.

As his remains were lowered into a grave at the Avalon Cemetery, a grieving Mokoena vowed she would not rest until she found out how her son had died.

She said his death came barely a month after he had complained that he was being sodomised by an elderly cell

mate at "Sun City" prison near Diepkloof.

Antonio died at the Garden City Clinic on October 5 after being taken there by prison authorities.

"When I visited him there early in September he complained bitterly about being consistently abused by a cellmate."

Her son told her he had reported the matter to the authorities, but they had taken no action, she said. The cellmate then threatened to poison him.

Mokoena said she complained to a social worker and a colonel at the prison on September 23 and was promised that her son would be transferred



DEAD SON ...
Antonio Mokoena.

red to a juvenile cell the next Monday.

"But when I went to visit him on the Monday I was turned back and told juveniles were not allowed visitors on that day - I had to come on

Thursday."

She said prisoners told her her son had fallen ill over the weekend and had vomited blood for three days but was not given any medical attention.

Correctional Services Brigadier Chris Olckers said they were awaiting the autopsy results, but it appeared Antonio had died of double pneumonia.

Olckers said Antonio had not reported being sodomised.

Olckers said on the Monday that Antonio was to be moved to a juvenile cell it was discovered that he had chicken pox and he was quarantined in a single cell.

Flats: 1 in 5 kids in trauma

(298)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

CT 21/10/94

MORE than 100 of 500 children surveyed in Khayelitsha required referral or treatment for a wide range of psycho-social problems.

Ms Judy Chalmers MP (ANC) said in the National Assembly debate on the health vote yesterday that these problems included depression, anxiety psychosis, post-traumatic stress disorder and mental handicap.

The survey had found that 115 of the children required this referral or treatment.

"Urgent cases such as physical and sexual abuse were noted."

Community workers had done a sterling job responding to the needs of their communities, but there was a critical lack of resources for mental health training in primary care and community-based services.

It was necessary to find a way of enabling communities to cope with mental health problems by using the limited professional resources available more effectively.

The challenge was how to move away from the old institutional approach to mental health, with its narrow definition, towards dealing with mental health issues more broadly.

"This country can no longer afford to relegate mental health needs to somewhere near the bottom of the health and welfare (and education) budgets.

"Mental health is the foundation stone on which all other aspects of health depend," Ms Chalmers said.

Reaching out to street kids over-16

By Edwina Booyen

A NEW project aimed at helping older street children, for whom begging, crime, drugs and prostitution has already become a way of life, is set to be launched next month.

The Don Bosco Outreach Project, the first of its kind in Cape Town, will hold programmes for youth over 16 years of age.

"We are looking at a group of people who have never been targeted for help before," said Mr Shane Halpin, project co-ordinator.

"These youths have fallen through the safety nets. They are too young to be looked after by adult shelters and too old to be housed by organisations geared for the younger child. No one caters for the group between 16 and 20 years."

Halpin said through discussion, recreation, drama and music the project, which will be based at the Don Bosco Centre at the Salesian Institute, will give youths the ability to make informed decisions about their lives.

"Many feel the pressure of having to take responsibility for their lives and often are unable or unwilling to shake off the enormous pull of the streets," Halpin said.

"The Outreach Project is an attempt to meet them half way. There is a possibility that this may lead them to sheltered accommodation, but it is not a guarantee."

Halpin said there are a growing number of young adults living on the streets.

"Many of them 'stroll' full-time, some beg at robots and more become involved in crime, drugs and prostitution," he said.

"We will try to put them in touch with organisations which will be able to help them if they have problems with drugs or alcohol. And through the project they can find out what job creation projects are around."

The project, which will run once a week initially, is looking for people to volunteer at the centre.

"The success of the project will depend so much on the quality of the volunteers and their commitment to its goals," Halpin said.

"We are starting off small at first to see what we are dealing with and how we can cope, but we need help from all sections of the community and are hoping for a good response to our initiative."

For more information on the project or to volunteer, contact Shane Halpin at (021) 251-452.



STREET WISE: Older street children, who tend to turn to drugs and crime, will soon be able to turn to a new project for help and advice

Physically disabled kids to get care grants

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

A LENGTHY campaign to have the scope of care grants for mentally disabled children extended to include physically disabled children has finally achieved success.

The Social Assistance Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday, proposes changes to widen the scope of care grants to include severely disabled children between the ages of three and 16. At present, parents of severely disabled children who are unable to survive on their own do not

receive any grants.

The Ministry of Welfare and Population Development said in a memorandum that the current definition of a care-dependent child was discriminatory. The present law also excludes foster parents from receiving grants, but the bill will "rectify the error".

The Fundraising Amendment Bill, also tabled yesterday, will extend the powers of the board of the Social Relief Fund to give financial aid to organisations which assist people with psychosocial problems resulting from the trauma of violence.

(298)
CT 25/10/94

Child and animal abuse are linked, says welfare group

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Crime Reporter

CLAIMS that animal abuse is present in 88 percent of families in which child abuse occurs, have prompted the city-based Animal Groups Network to campaign for the linking of primary health care and animal welfare clinics.

Animal Groups Network member, Cicely Blumberg, of Oranjezicht, has returned from an international conference in Israel on the theme "Prevention of violence in society through humane education".

The conference was told animal abuse was rife among people who abused children and heard that in certain cases where children had been warned to "keep the secret" they had been told their pets would be killed if they complained about the abuse.

Research presented at the conference showed a significant number of serial killers, mass murderers and violent criminals tortured and killed animals during their childhood.

Mrs Blumberg said the network had found that in underprivileged communities people often had too many pets.

She added that the network had begun to discuss the Israel conference findings at local workshops.

Mrs Blumberg, a former SPCA committee member, suggested "humane education" of the community was the only departure point for a long-term solution to prevent violence — including the abuse of animals — in society.

She cited Costa Rica where a humane education programme had been integrated in the public school curriculum as a pilot project to counteract endemic violence in that country.

Subsequent statistics showed a significant drop in violence among Costa Ricans.

The Animal Groups Network has submitted a suggestion to government this week for inclusion in the White Paper on education.

Among the network's proposals are these:

- The government should be involved on policy level in promoting humane education;

- Health care should be extended to pets;

- Protection of animals should be an integral part of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Mrs Blumberg said animal welfare was fundamental to human upliftment and that animal protection should therefore be included in the Bill of Rights.

How many children in SA jails?

ESTHER WAUGH

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN — Correctional Services Minister Dr Siphosiso Mzimela has become embroiled with Carl Niehaus — chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on correctional services — in a dispute over the number of children in jails.

Mzimela on Thursday insisted that only 616 children awaiting trial were in prisons on September 30, while Niehaus was adamant that at least 16 000 children — sentenced and unsentenced —

Star 29/10/1990
were in prison "at any given time". Niehaus said his figures excluded the number of children held in police cells.

At the heart of the dispute is a difference over the definition of children and of juveniles. Mzimela said children were those under 17 years and juveniles were those between 18 and 21 (298)

Niehaus last night released definitions supplied by the Department of Correctional Services which said a child was someone under the age of 18, and a juvenile under 21. Niehaus said the definition of juveniles included children.

'Lost youth' plan

CT 3/10/44

(248)

Service brigades will teach skills

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

AN ambitious master-plan to launch a service brigade to integrate former liberation fighters and millions of "lost generation" youngsters into productive civilian life will go before the cabinet soon.

Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise said yesterday he was confident that the cabinet would give the go-ahead to the SANDF initiative to turn the brigade into an instrument to address crime and other serious social problems affecting unemployed and undereducated youth in South Africa.

The private sector would have to help fund the scheme, as the defence budget could not afford it on its own, the minister said.

"We have to work towards reducing the number of people dependent on the few that have work," Mr Modise said of plans to get a generation of marginalised South Africans off the street and down to work in disadvantaged communities.

CRACKDOWN ON MK DESERTERS

See PAGE 5

"Once this takes off, hundreds of thousands — if not millions — of young people who took part in the struggle and never had the opportunity to go to school will be brought into the fold," he said.

Mr Modise said the struggle had not only been carried forward by highly trained MK cadres and those from the other liberation forces but also by young people in South Africa with limited skills.

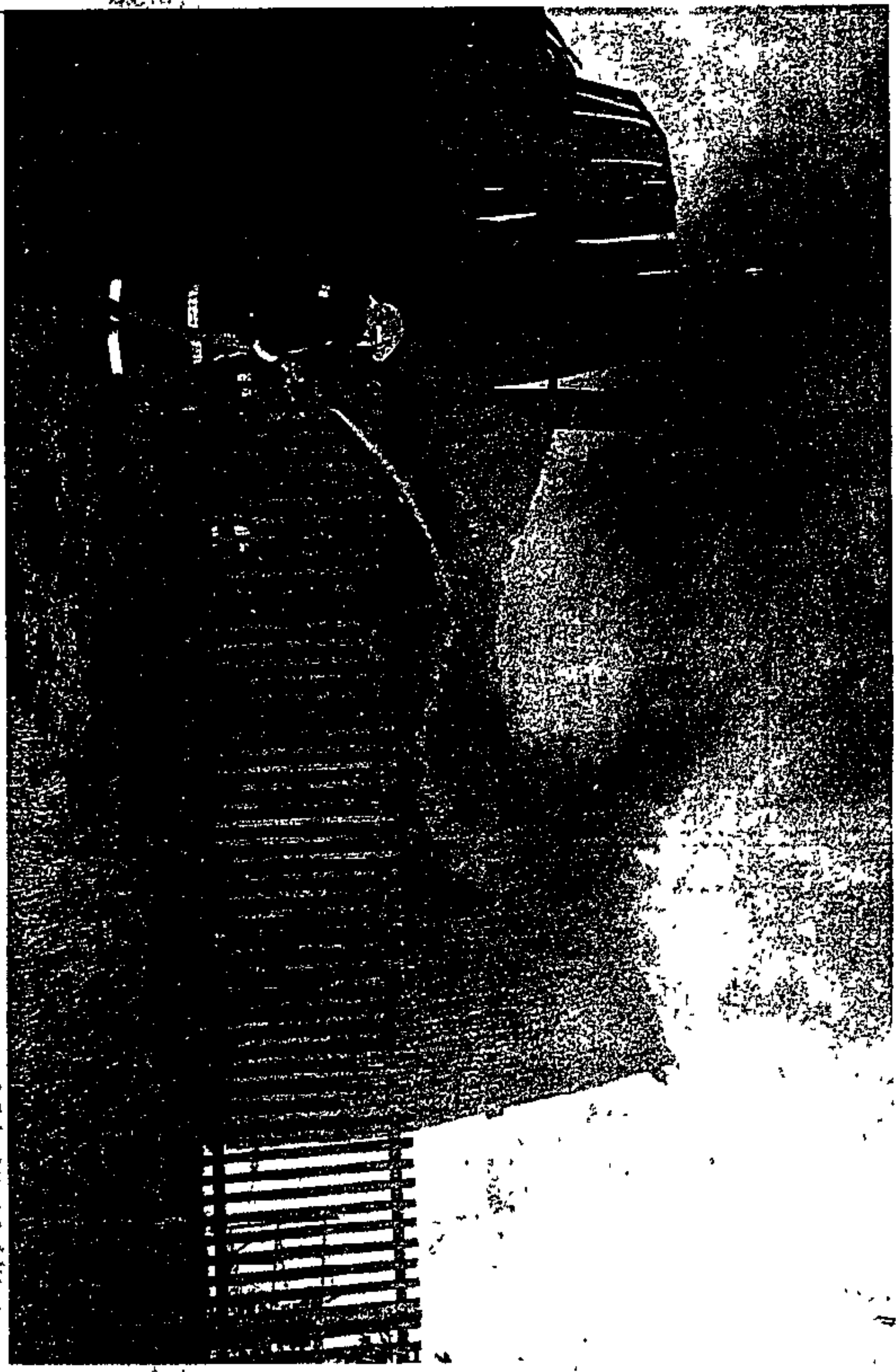
"I cannot now say we now have no need for them. It is not possible to reject them because young people sacrificed their lives in the name of democracy."

The minister said the best way to ensure stability and peace in South Africa would be to find ways of training such youngsters and equipping them with skills that would allow them to make a constructive contribution.

Mr Modise announced that Lt-Gen Lambert Moloi had been dispatched to Taiwan to study the successful experiment that country had launched with youth brigades and to raise money.

The minister pointed out that the integration process would graft 35 000 former anti-apartheid guerrillas and IFP irregulars into the new SA National Defence Force.

The SANDF will eventually have about 120 000 members before being trimmed down to a 90 000-strong force. A number of personnel who did not make it into the force could be taken up in the service brigades, he said.



BURN TO THE GROUND . . . The Van Leer packaging factory in Atlantis burns after a wildfire raged out of control in gale-force winds and set the building alight yesterday. Firemen battled the blaze for six hours before bringing it under control.

Picture: CLIVE SMITH

The future is in their hands

■ UNTOLD MISERY Projects that

help people to help themselves:

By Joe Mdhlela

WHEN THE STORY of Ikamva Labantu Project is told, the lump goes straight into the throat.

For it is a story of a struggle by black women in various parts of Cape Town to provide facilities — albeit makeshift — for the wellbeing of disadvantaged communities there.

A great number of physically and mentally handicapped children in Cape Town go through untold misery and many of them are locked up alone in shacks all day, according to women who work among the people in these areas.

A woman in charge of Golden Girls Centre for the Disabled in Langa had this say: "We have no facilities, no running water. To get water, we have to send children to the graveyard. Neighbours refuse to provide children with toilet facilities and water."

To relieve themselves, these children have to go to the bushes in the graveyard.

This reflects both the inability by people to share and the desire, despite these obstacles, to make do with what is available.

However, even this negative aspect by the community by certain people is overshadowed by the willingness by the people to engage in self-help projects aimed at helping themselves.

Indeed, Ikamva Labantu (the future of the people) is the people's project seeking "workable solutions to alleviate

the enormous suffering" around them.

To this end, funding facilitated by Ms Helen Lieberman has seen to the building of creches, schools, youth centres, skills training projects and centres for the disabled.

As a result of this, the pangs of hunger and depression have been alleviated in some of the squatter settlements in and around Cape Town.

Small wonder that the community in some of these depressed areas regard Lieberman as a saviour "who takes away our starvation."

That is partly true. The other truth is that Lieberman facilitates things to happen so that in the long run it is the women within these communities who actually do the spadework.

Gerie Tshetu of Noxolo Educare Centre in Gugulethu says: "I started the creche in 1989. Since then I have had an intake of 63 kids. Some of them do not even pay at all because their parents cannot afford to pay."

"I definitely will not turn away children whose parents cannot afford to pay."

Heart-rending stories abound in this part of the world: a group of women calling themselves "Ithemba Labantwana" are working in their backyards to care for children whose parents are working.

This group of women is in the main illiterate, in no position to scribble out a proposal.

However, by coming together and sharing ideas, they were introduced to Lieberman, who was gracious in offer-



With Ikamva Labantu projects, there is hope for the inhabitants of the squatter camps.

ing assistance to introduce them to the funders and other essential resources.

Now these women can purchase and manage groceries for the benefit of children they have been entrusted with by the parents.

Among other things, they are taught skills on how to be frugal with their spending, thus enabling them to "feed the multitudes."

The feeding scheme at Ikhaya Loxolo in Paarl ensures that hundreds of abandoned school children are regularly fed. The construction of Spika Private School at Millers Camp was spear-

headed by the community itself, collectively putting the shoulder on the wheel.

Now the plastic shelter squatter area boasts of one of the better constructed schools, with facilities that are comparable with those provided by Government-sponsored schools.

In nearly all the cases cited above, women have been in the forefront of the action to have schools and other institutions erected.

In a selfless manner, they have formed synergies with other organisations, including Lieberman Lieberman, through her contacts, has

been able to be a great resource to these grassroots organisations.

They have found guidance in her, enabling these organisations to have a focused vision about what they want to do for their people.

As a parting shot, Lieberman had this to say: "These are magnificent, ordinary women, who simply want to help. They are the backbone of growth in their area. They come from church organisations and other community-based structures."

● Tune to NNTV tonight at 7.30 for another view about these developmental projects.

November 4 to November 8 1994

Youth club members stay out of trouble

BY GENÉ FESTER

YOUTH clubs and programmes are springing up all over Mitchells Plain as a way of saving youngsters from a life of crime and drug abuse.

The Mitchells Plain Youth Club is one of these initiatives

Project co-ordinator Mr Ishma'el Petersen said the club was started three years ago by concerned social workers from the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders.

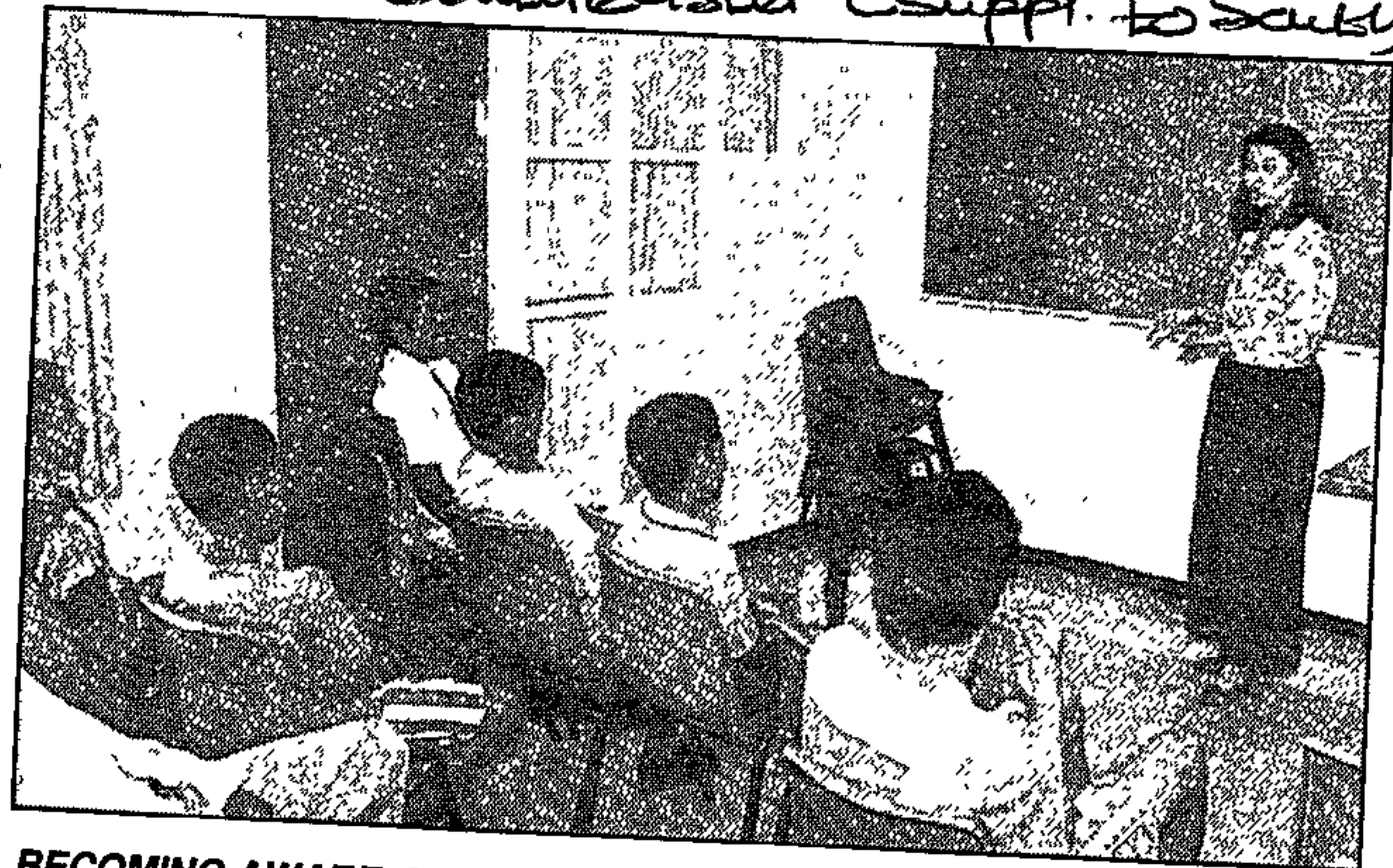
"An increasing number of teenagers were turning to criminal activity because there were no recreational facilities available for them," he said.

"Because Mitchells Plain has such a high crime rate, we concentrate mainly on crime prevention."

Zaaid Williams, 14, who has been a member of the club for two years, said: "Before joining the club I just sat at home doing nothing."

"At the club we learn a lot of things, especially how to stay out of trouble."

"The club plays an important role in fighting gangsterism and crime in



BECOMING AWARE: Members of the Mitchells Plain Youth Club listen attentively while Sanca worker Tessa Carolissen explains the evils of drugs

Photo: Roger Sedres

Mitchells Plain, and I intend staying a member for a long time."

As part of the educational lifeskills programme, members are taught about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and how to deal with substance abusers in their families or in their friendship circles.

Mrs Tessa Carolissen from the South African National Council for Alcoholism presents the lifeskills courses, and feels that it is important to reach the youth

before they turn to crime and substance abuse

"Taking preventative measures can help us save these children, before they become part of the statistics," Mrs Carolissen said.

"These programmes teach kids about the positive side of life — a life free of crime, drugs and heartache."

For more information contact Ms Faldielah Bassardien at 3976060.

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'Children not above the law'

(298) ~~(298)~~
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. — New legislation to keep awaiting-trial youngsters out of prisons did not place children above the law, chairman of the National Assembly's Correctional Service committee Mr Carl Niehaus said yesterday. Some magistrates appeared to have criticised the legislation passed last month, he said.

10/11/94

Miracles are for street kids too!

By PEARL RANTSEKENG

City Press
20/11/94 (298)

NOT long ago Simon Madonsela was living in the seedy streets of Hillbrow, sniffing glue and benzine.

Today the 13-year-old boy is a "model" pupil, and his teachers say they have never seen a "more wonderful" child.

The amazing story of Simon, who single-handedly pulled himself from the brink of self destruction, has delighted teachers and observers alike.

"He is an amazing child. To pull himself from the gutters and rebuild his life like that, at his age, is a miracle," says his teacher Lilian Magangoe.

She teaches Simon at the Charles Hurwitz Santa Hospital in Soweto, where he is being treated for tuberculosis.

Simon told City Press of his life on the streets – where he landed when his family threw him out after his mother died.

He never knew his father. When his mother died two years ago, Simon first went to live with his grandmother in Etwatwa East, Daveyton.

His grandmother then took him to stay with his aunt, says the lad.

However, his aunt took him to the Emdeni Children's Home.

"I did not enjoy staying at the home – so I de-



SAVED FROM THE GUTTER ... 13-year-old former street kid Simon Madonsela has become a model pupil.

cided to go back home to my aunt," says Simon. "But she would not have me, so I went to my grandmother – but she kept on sending me back to my aunt. So I decided to go and stay in the streets of Hillbrow."

There Simon was picked up by staff members of the Paradise Children's Home in Johannesburg.

"Being accepted there has made a lot of difference in my life. It is the best thing that has ever happened to me," he says.

Magangoe says: "I have never seen a child of his age who is able to tell right from wrong. A child who is able to have so much command over others in such a way that when he has finished talking to them they are able to differentiate between good and bad."

Simon says his stay at Paradise Home has given him a new outlook on life.

"There I have met people who taught me about Jesus. I am given love and have people to talk to and play with. I also get a chance to go to school and do other things that I like," he says.

Simon says his dream now is to become a priest because he loves God.

"He did so many things for me – like helping me to stop smoking glue and doing all the wrong things that we used to do while still living on the streets."

Red tape snags school feeding

PIETERSBURG. — Government red-tape and a lack of co-ordination among food distributors is hampering the primary school nutrition programme in the Northern Transvaal, Food Manufacturers and Distributors' Association secretary Mr Beyers Malan said yesterday.

ET 24/11/94
He said more than a million pupils in the province needed high-energy meals and the FMDA had been formed to facilitate this.

(298)
He said there will be a meeting to address the matter in Lebowakgomo on December 7. — Sapa

NEWS FEATURE True love for orphans and abandoned creates new lives

Saving Orphaned Souls

By Sizakele Kooma

■ **MOTHERLY CARE** Louise has committed herself to giving children at SOS Village another chance in life. (298)

LOUISE Omarjee, an Eldorado Park, Johannesburg, widow was among the first "mothers" at the pilot project of the SOS Children's Villages in Ennerdale 10 years ago.

Five years later she decided to go on retirement — but that lasted only two weeks.

An emergency call from the Mamelodi Village director Mr Vusi Gumede, who was stuck with two homes that did not have mothers, saw her back into the game.

"SOS is my second marriage. I have committed myself to giving these children another chance in life," says Omarjee. "I will not leave them until I'm satisfied that I've done my bit."

The mother of two children, both married, was exposed to the plight of orphans and abandoned children when she was a child herself. Her mother took in five orphans and brought them up as her own.

At the Mamelodi SOS Village, Omarjee is one of 15 mothers who each take care of 10 children in their households. Their responsibilities include doing the household chores such as cleaning, doing the laundry and cooking.

The mothers are also responsible for drawing the family budget. Each home gets about R1 300 for groceries every month and the children are taken on clothing shopping trips twice a year.

Omarjee is mother to six boys and four girls aged from five to 17. They were brought to the village from Pietermaritzburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and the PWV area.

She believes her family is one of the most coherent in the village. But like normal families they also have their ups and downs.

"It all depends on the mother to make the home work," Omarjee explains. "I have to help them adjust to the family situation and make all of us into a coherent unit."



Louise Omarjee with some of the Mamelodi SOS children.

"That is a difficult thing to do, considering that some of the children have always lived in institutions. But with time it eventually works out. You become attached to each other."

There have been a few lows in the Omarjee household. The most trying period for any mother, she says, is when the children get to the adolescent stage — when they start to answer back.

"This is a serious test for most mothers. It can get very distressing but you have to deal with it as if it was happening in your own home; be firm and exercise a lot of patience."

At the beginning of the year Omarjee lost her favourite daughter, who was doing matric. She deserted the village to live in the neighbourhood.

She said: "It was like a smack in the face. I felt deeply hurt. I still cannot talk about it and not feel some pain. I stopped dwelling over it because I still have other kids to bring up."

Major plan for juvenile justice

South 25/11 - 29/11/94

By Shannon Neill

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A PROPOSAL for the juvenile justice system seems set to get young offenders out of the courts and prisons and make them accountable to their communities.

A unique feature of the non-government organisation (NGO) driven proposal is that it is an attempt to take justice back to the community, according to one of the people involved in writing the proposal, Mr Don Pinnock of the UCT Institute for Criminology.

Except in the case of serious crimes, children will not go to court but will be part of a "family group conference" where the child's family or guardian and friends as well as the child's victim are present.

The whole group will decide what should happen to the offender. The child has the right to veto the decision, but if the child chooses this route the matter is referred to the courts. These cases will be given priority on the court roll.

Pinnock said the option to veto the decision was important to children. "The proposal was important to children," Pinnock said.

but there was a great deal of negotiation with the state, particularly with the minister of justice," Pinnock said.

There will be a year of discussion around the proposal which will then be redrafted and hopefully made an act, according to Pinnock. "For the year things will legally continue as they are now but in practice everyone is looking for a new system and there will be changes."

"Nicro, Lawyers For Human Rights and the Institute for Criminology will run workshops and pilot projects based on the proposals."

The document is being presented to the national ministers of health, safety and security, justice and correctional services.

children because otherwise they would not take the process seriously.

Police will have the discretion to warn juvenile offenders in the presence of their parents or guardians in less serious cases which should "shake out the chocolate-bar theft kids", Pinnock said.

The proposals have been well received by the minister of justice, Mr Dullah Omar who set up the group to rewrite the juvenile bill while he was head of the community law centre at UWC.

"The proposal was NGO driven

Street kids' numbers soar

(298)
CT 24/11/94

By MELANIE GOSLING

THE number of street children in Cape Town has increased by 20% this year.

Rocketing unemployment and the flooding of rural people into urban squatter camps are seen as the prime causes.

Child Welfare social worker Ms Lindi Molefe said yesterday there were now some 800 to 900 street children in the city.

"Many parents who come here can't find jobs, there is no money and they just cannot carry out their responsibilities," she said.

"The family breaks down and the children go on to the streets to survive."

Director of the Homestead, Ms Annette Cockburn, said each year the street children were younger.

"Some now are barely eight. Often it is plain hunger that drives them on to the streets. There is just no food at home."

Ms Cockburn said there had

Workless parents the cause

been a definite increase in the number of "strollers", who beg in the day and return to their communities at night.

"Some 10 000 people come to Cape Town from rural areas every month in search of jobs and housing," she said.

"Usually they find neither. In some households no one works. The children then take to the streets for survival."

"Ironically, the younger the street child, the better his chances of being rehabilitated."

"It is easier to get them back to school than a 15-year-old."

Although people who worked with street children agreed that the public should act, there was no agreement on the sort of action.

Token Trust — a private initiative to raise funds for street children — has urged people not to give the children money, which they say will be spent on glue.

It urges them instead to buy R5 tokens to finance shelters for street children.

Ms Molefe suggests they give the children food, not money.

The social worker at the Salesian Institute shelter, Ms Luann Scott, said yesterday. "Money will probably be used for drugs or alcohol and will keep the children begging. That money can be better used by the shelters."

Ms Cockburn said: "These children have lived lives of extreme rejection."

"They have told me that when motorists swear at them it makes them feel like dirt. Just try saying 'hello' instead."

Juvenile justice: No jail, no wail

AR6. 26/27/96

No charges will be laid unless cases are taken to court

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

A NEW juvenile justice system, which turns South Africa's way of dealing with youth offenders on its head, could be a reality within just one year.

Officially released in the form of proposals for draft legislation, the new system says criminal charges should be a last resort, with "diversion processes" the pivotal method for dealing with youth in conflict with the law.

Children being jailed, or held in similar secure facilities, would be "an unusual occurrence", but there's no easy way out for youngsters who have committed serious offences — they would be held accountable, but subject to a court governed by appropriate rules.

Court overcrowding as a result of hundreds of petty offences would be a thing of the past.

The proposals are the result of years of work and consultation throughout the country and the main role players include the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro), the University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre, Cape Town Child Welfare, Lawyers for Human Rights, the University of Cape Town's Institute of Criminology, Community Peace Foundation and the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape.

Major departures from the country's present system, which administers justice for juveniles by applying the Criminal Procedures Act, the Child Care Act and the Correctional Services Act, include the following:

- The young person may be cautioned rather than arrested;

- They are not charged unless the case is going to proceed to court (such as for serious offences or when conflict resolution with the Family Group Conference breaks down);

- The most common way of handling the offending behaviour of a young person is with a Family Group Conference; and

- It will be unusual to hold a young person in custody either at the pre-trial stage or at sentencing.

The new system would effectively raise the age of criminal capacity to 14 years and state that only young people of 14 or older could be tried

■ A new system of justice for South African children in trouble with the law promises to turn the present system on its head — and could be up and running within a year.

by criminal courts.

"However, young people between the ages of seven and 13 are able to be held accountable for their behaviour, by means of a caution or a family group conference."

The draft document claims the "present system merely continues to reproduce more of the same, using systems and procedures that neither curb crime nor assist the young person to take responsibility for their actions".

The new system would instead:

- Emphasise accountability, encouraging the young person to acknowledge and take responsibility for his or her offending behaviour;

- Encourage restorative justice and the resolution of conflict;

- Bring young people, their family groups and communities to the centre of the decision-making process;

- Protect the rights of the young person and the victim, with direct restitution to the victim being a particular feature;

- Provide alternatives at every stage of the process — at arrest, pre-trial and at sentencing — so that "diversion procedure" becomes a central part of the system rather than peripheral to it;

- Encourage plans to prevent re-offending;

- Provide methods to minimise the need for institutionalisation at any stage of the process; and

- Be sufficiently flexible to ensure cultural appropriateness.

The document lists "caution of a young person by a police officer" and "written notice to attend a referral meeting" as alternatives to arrest, and says the type of offences in such cases includes trespass, disturbance, or any minor victimless offence.

A nine-month phase of consultation is to follow the release of the proposals for draft legislation on juvenile justice. The adoption of the legislation is expected within a year.

Youth eager to play their part — HSRC

□ Survey finds tide may be turning for young

Staff Reporter

THE country's youth have adapted in remarkable and innovative ways to rapid change and many want to play a constructive role in the creation of a new South Africa.

Only a few can be considered truly marginalised.

This emerged from a two-year study the Human Sciences Research Council initiated into the country's youth.

The report, 460 pages long, was presented to deputy president Thabo Mbeki by the chairman of the research programme Frederik van Zyl Slabbert yesterday.

It states that the tide may be turning for the country's youth because population growth rates were decreasing, income distribution was more equal, the assault on family structures was bal-

anced by growth of the compound family and a legitimately elected government was in place which promised to introduce a national youth policy as part of the RDP.

The report said young people might lack skills and opportunities but were eager to face the challenge of reconstruction and development. Most shared their communities' values and were basically conservative.

However, there were many challenges and crises facing the youth which should be urgently addressed by the state and society.

These included:

- Family and community instability which led to a wide range of other social problems. The black family, in particular, was under enormous strain,

- An education system which was not providing all youth with relevant and quality education;

- Economic stagnation which together with inadequate education, resulted in high levels of unemployment and poverty; and

- Isolation of different racial and cultural groups with the accompanying negative stereotypes, intolerance and racism.

The report leaves little doubt that the youth have over the years been victims of political and socio-cultural crises and as a group was largely ignored by the leaders in control of their destiny.

The report also proposes that structures be set up so a national youth policy could be implemented.

These included:

- A cabinet committee on youth affairs;

- A national youth council directly linked to civil society;

- Training programmes for young people.

SA youth 'not a lost generation'

STEPHANE BOTHMA

PRETORIA — SA's youth is not the lost generation it has often been touted as, says a new report which gives the results of three years of investigation into the country's youth.

The report was initiated by the Human Sciences Research Council and compiled by the Co-operative Research Programme SA Youth, under the chairmanship of Van Zyl Slabbert.

It said only a small percentage of the country's young people could be considered marginalised.

The report was handed to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki at the Union Buildings last night.

Youth as a category in the report refers to South Africans between 15 and 30 years of age and constitutes 29,5% of the country's population.

The report found that most young people shared common values of society with signs of radicalism and militarism found only in a minority. However, it said no policy existed to attend to their needs.

Some of the most challenging problems identified in the report include:

- ☐ Family and community instability;
- ☐ An education system which did not provide all youth with relevant and quality education;
- ☐ Economic stagnation resulting in high levels of unemployment; and
- ☐ Demographic factors which continued to affect the population and more specifically the youth.

It was estimated that by 1995, 50%

of the age group from 15 to 19 would live in urban areas; and the extent to which young people from different racial groups had become isolated from one another, with the accompanying negative stereotypes, intolerance and racism, would increase.

The report said that over the years young people had been subjected to poverty, blatant political manipulation, racial and other divisions and a lack of any systematic youth policy.

The report stated that about 45% of black, 12% of white, 40% of coloured and 29% of Asian youth were unemployed.

The core family had been affected by social upheavals, and data from a survey of matriculants indicated that 22% of white, 20% of Asian, 32% of coloured and 40% of black families were headed by women.

"Percentages of teenage pregnancies and births out of wedlock are high and AIDS is a frightening spectre," the report stated.

But the youth had adapted in innovative ways to the often painful processes of rapid change.

The proposals in the report included that government adopt a national youth policy, and that youth should be accorded a special status in an active labour market.

It concluded that not only the state, but society as a whole should accept "ownership" of the development and execution of youth policy.

No youth crisis in SA — report

Sowetan 11/2/94

■ **NEW ANGLE** Study finds many youth have positive and constructive attitudes:

SOUTH AFRICA'S YOUTH cannot not be called a "lost generation" and there is no "youth crisis" as such, a Human Sciences Research Council study finds.

The editors of the report on a two-year investigation into the country's youth the youth are not "simply passive victims of society's crises in various areas".

"The majority of youth, including black youth, want to participate actively in the process of transformation and want to contribute to a new South Africa. Their role is constructive."

Dr Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert, chairman of the study's steering committee, handed a copy of the report to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in Pretoria on Wednesday.

The report, *Youth in the New South Africa — Towards Policy Formulation*, lists a number of positive elements found among the youth. These include their support for the negotiation process, the cultural and racial tolerance displayed by many, their rejection of violence and respect for law and order. Among the values widely held by the youth are respect for parents and the importance attached to education and

training.

"Many young people place a high value on self-development, on family and kinship, on community development and on a peaceful and just society," the report states. It states that one can talk about a "youth crisis" only if, in spite of all attempts, youth refuse or fail to respond and remain "a problem". There is no doubt that a proportion of the youth have been so negatively affected by decades of disadvantage that some are unable to play a "normal" role in society.

(298)
The effects of apartheid can be seen in the form of crime, substance abuse, disease, violence, homelessness and other forms of social pathology. These are the people who are sometimes described as alienated, marginalised or "lost", the report says. It adds: "However, studies found that many young people were highly positive in their outlook even though many felt they would not be able to fulfil their potential."

Instead of "youth crisis", one should talk of "a range of intractable problems" in which young people find themselves and that should be addressed in policy.

Breakthrough on street children

(298)

CT1/12/94

By JILYAN PITMAN
A SEARCH is on in Rondebosch for the youngest homeless children so that the Cape Town City Mission Homes and Services organisation in Lavender Hill can give them a home and care.

The children will be taken to Kidshelter in Cecelia Street, Lavender Hill, where there is space for 35 children.

Some of them will be placed with foster parents over Christmas so they do not spend the holiday season on the streets.

The Cape Town Mission and Services organisation — whose headquarters are in Bridgetown — was asked to tackle the task by the Rondebosch police station commander and the Rosebank and Rondebosch Ratepayers and Business Association who are concerned about increasing child vagrancy and because of continued complaints from the public.

Head of the Bridgetown body, Mr Lorenzo Davids, confirmed the children would be collected by his organisation.

"We will persuade the youngest boys to come

with us. A social worker will work with each child individually to find out where the child comes from.

"We have many good families on our books who would like to be foster parents if the real parents can't be found or are not in a position to offer their child a home."

Short-term

"We will collect the youngest children from the Rondebosch streets because the younger we get them the more we are able to help them break out of the vicious cycle they find themselves in.

"We will put them with other youngsters and give them specialised therapy over a long period to try to break the cycle of abuse, bad socialisation, the introduction to early criminal activity, educational lag, cultural deprivation and poor role-modelling."

Mr Davids said night shelters were only a short-term solution because they functioned at night and "perpetuate a distorted view of society".

His organisation's two residential homes —

their other one is Ethel's Place in Mitchells Plain where there is now space for 18 children — were full but there were other homes where children could be sent.

"When a collective decision has been made to help street children in any area just phone us about the problem and we will come for them so that we can give them a new start to life with a proper programme. Night shelters are not the long-term answer."

He said street children usually had a severely damaged self-image and were usually educationally, socially and emotionally deprived.

Some of them had various serious physical ailments, including TB, Aids and lice.

Mr Davids said about 10 000 leaflets were dropped in the southern suburbs about six weeks ago asking the public not to give money to street children but rather to Catch, the fund-raising branch of the organisation.

Station commander of Rondebosch police station, Captain Henry

Hubbard, said: "After consultation and a personal visit to Mr Davids to look at the facilities offered for street children we consulted the Rosebank Rondebosch Ratepayers and Business Association who will support us in our efforts to help the children."

Removing

He said the police's role would only be to identify children who needed a home. "We will not be forcibly removing children from the area."

Association secretary Mrs Monica Sutherland was "relieved and excited" that a breakthrough was being made in the lives of Rondebosch street children. "Mr David's organisation is just what our community has been looking for and we will support him and the police."

The Rondebosch community has been divided for many years about the best way to deal with its street children. On the cards is a night shelter being proposed by the Rondebosch Civic Association on state land behind Rondebosch police station.

SA youth not a 'lost generation'

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The youth of South Africa are not the lost generation they are often said to be, a three-year study has found.

The study, initiated by the Human Sciences Research Council, was conducted by the Co-operative Research Programme: SA Youth, chaired by Dr F van Zyl Slabbert.

It found that only a small percentage of the country's young people could be considered marginalised.

The report of the study was handed to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki at the Union Buildings last night.

Youth are defined in the report as people aged 15 to 30. They constitute 29,5% of the population.

The study found that most young people shared common social values. Only a minority showed signs of radicalism and militarism.

There was, however, no comprehensive youth policy to see to their needs.

Some of the most challenging problems identified in the report include:

- Family and community instability.
- An education system that does not

provide all youth with relevant and quality education.

- Economic stagnation resulting in high unemployment.

- Demographic factors that continue to affect the whole population, but more specifically the youth.

It was estimated that by next year, 50% of the 15-19 age group will live in urban areas.

The extent to which young people of different races had become isolated from one another — with the accompanying negative stereotypes, intolerance and racism — would increase.

The report said that over the years young people had been subjected to poverty, blatant political manipulation and racial and other divisions.

About 45% of black, 12% of white, 40% of coloured and 29% of Asian youth were unemployed.

The core family had been seriously affected by social upheavals. A survey of matriculants indicated that 22% of white, 20% of Asian, 32% of coloured and 40% of black families were headed by women.

But the youth had adapted in remarkable and innovative ways to the often painful processes of rapid change.

Royal grant for youth fund

From LINDA ENSOR

LONDON. — A royal trust is to make £100 000 (about R550 000) available as an initial grant for youth development programmes in South Africa.

The private sector will be invited to make contributions to the fund and it is hoped that a total of £1m (about R5,5m) would have been raised by the time the Queen visits in March.

Buckingham Palace announced yesterday that the Queen and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh would be visiting South Africa from March 19 to 25 at the personal invitation of President Nelson Mandela.

She hopes to meet those involved with the new youth initiative which is funded by the Commonwealth Fund of the Royal Jubilee Trusts, of which she is the patron.

The donated funds will be administered by the National Youth Development Forum (NYDF).

Trusts director Mr Tom Shebbeare pointed out that there was a "reverse twist" to the grant.

In a sense, he said, Britain was repaying the generosity extended by South Africa towards its youth in the 1940s "with interest". In 1947 the South African government donated £172 000 (about R946 000) towards the establishment of camps for youth after World War II.

NYDF communications officer Mr Sipiwe Dlamini said yesterday that there was an urgent need for the government to address youth issues.

Child-crime reform

Jailing of juveniles resorted to only in exceptional circumstances

Ardr 3/12/94



(298)

Non-government bodies and state departments have joined forces to back proposals for a new juvenile justice system for South Africa to be presented to parliament in nine months.

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

REVOLUTIONARY plans for a new juvenile justice system for South Africa have received the thumbs-up from non-government bodies and state departments.

They have committed themselves to piloting the proposals until final acceptance by parliament in nine months.

The new ideas are to be tested and researched at all levels of the justice system during this period of consultation.

And the National Committee on Children in Detention has been renamed the National Committee on Juvenile Justice and will act to centralise planning and consultation around the proposals.

Last weekend, Weekend Argus detailed the proposals for new draft legislation around children in trouble with the law, revealing that in the new system criminal charges should be a last resort.

Children being jailed, or held in similar secure facilities, would be "an unusual occurrence", but there's no easy way out for youngsters who have committed serious offences — they would be held accountable, but subject to a court governed by appropriate rules.

The proposals were accepted at a workshop, before which they were handed to President Mandela and his deputy, Thabo Mbeki.

The workshop was attended by NGOs including Nicro, Lawyers for Human Rights, UCT's Institute of Criminology, the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape and Cape Town Child Welfare, and by representatives of the departments of justice, welfare, safety and security and correctional services.

Don Pinnock, of UCT's Institute of Criminology and one of the drafters of the proposals, described the new developments as "extremely exciting".

"Our way of dealing with kids in conflict with the law has been really alien to young people and has been so punitive that offenders become its victims the moment they come into contact with it."

Principal legal drafter of the proposals, Lawyers for Human Rights' Ann Skelton, said the high level of accord was a very positive step towards the development of a comprehensive juvenile justice system.

Nicro's Rosemary Shapiro, who organised the workshop, was elated at the understanding and goodwill of all the principal role-players. "All the important organisations and people are on board the process. This is good news for the young people of South Africa."

Youths' health 'is neglected'

CT 6/12/94

298

Staff Reporter

ADOLESCENTS make up a third of the world's population and 80% of them live in developing countries — yet they are neglected by their countries' health services, a conference on promoting adolescent health has been told.

The week-long conference, organised by the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), Unicef and the World Health Organisation (WHO), has brought together government officials, medical professionals and young people from seven African countries to discuss adolescent health problems and find possible solutions.

Apart from health service problems, the lifestyles and habits of the 10- to 24-year-old age group is

Conference spotlights inequalities

also to come under the spotlight this week.

CMA secretary Dr John Havard said yesterday that, in contrast with developed countries, the number of adolescents in developing countries was increasing markedly and at the same time their life expectancy was decreasing.

This he ascribed to accidents

"of all kinds", suicide, substance abuse and the high incidence of sexually transmitted disease, particularly HIV/Aids.

Health services also placed little emphasis on adolescents, concentrating on infants and mothers instead, and adolescents on their part failed to use health services.

He said the conference's aim was to identify the reasons for these problems, and come up with workable solutions.

However, a change of attitude by all those involved was essential, hence the involvement of young people in the conference.

"It's desperately important that something gets done about it," Dr Havard said, adding that the health problems of youths directly affected their adult health and their ability to be good parents.

Aid bodies battle to make it merry

(298) ~~297~~
Staff Reporter

WELFARE organisations in the city are at pains to secure survival on shrinking budgets at a time children are simply dreaming about the surprises lurking in Christmas stockings.

The Community Chest, benefactor of 320 welfare organisations in the Western Cape, is more than R3 million short of this year's target of R10,5 million — with little over three weeks left in the year.

While institutions like the Kensington Crèche, run by the Union of Jewish Women, are holding Christmas parties for the children in their care, they must also face the fact that funds are dwindling in real terms. ARG 7/12/94

Crèche chairman Ahn Susman said a substantial amount of their daily operating costs came from the coffers of the Community Chest.

"Without the annual sum we receive from them we would not be able to pay our salaries, to provide the meals or buy the equipment for the crèche."

Community Chest chairman Ted Parlabeau said: "This year has been the first year in our 66-year existence we had to reduce our allocation and we are very conscious that this decrease has caused hardship in welfare organisations who depend on our financial assistance."

"We are determined 1995 will not see a further drop in allocations, but we have to rely on the public to make a contribution, no matter how small."

Picture: PIETER MALAN, The Argus.

Teens' health under threat

(298) (88)
UNSAFE sex, smoking and drug abuse are among the major avoidable threats to teenage health being discussed at an international medical conference in Cape Town this week.

The conference is being hosted by the Medical Association of South Africa. ET 7/12/94

Secretary of the Commonwealth Medical Association Dr John Harvard said yesterday a third of the world's population was aged between 10 and 24, and 80% of these lived in developing countries.

In some countries adolescent life expectancy was falling though many deaths were avoidable.

The lives of young people were being affected by changes in traditional family structures, rural-urban migration, early marriage and early childbearing, unemployment, sexually transmitted diseases, alcohol and drug abuse. — Sapa

Modise 'keen' on Scottish youth plan

CT 9/12/94
Own Correspondent

LONDON. — A scheme developed by Scottish airborne forces to rehabilitate young offenders could be adopted in South Africa to integrate the so-called "lost generation" of black youth into society. (298)

Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise has asked for a presentation on the programme, which will be given next week in South Africa by the initiator of the project, Mr Alan Curtis — a World War II pilot and former owner of Aston Martin.

Mr Modise and Mr Curtis discussed the project when the minister was in England for the Farnborough air show. Mr Modise also visited the Airborne Initiative's military camp outside Glasgow.

"He was very interested and asked for help in starting a programme in South Africa," Mr Curtis said yesterday.

Youth participating in the courses are young offenders who are offered the choice of probation by the courts on condition they "volunteer" for training. The instructors are military officers who aim to instil a work ethos and a sense of purpose and trust in deprived young people.

Call for 'partnership' to train youth

Staff Reporter

UNEMPLOYMENT in the Western Cape, which tops 42%, cannot be beaten unless all interest groups form a broad-based partnership to bring skills and opportunities to the region's 250 000 unemployed youth.

This was the message to both formal businesses and community organisations which attended the Careers Research and Information Centre's (Cric) seminar on youth, work and reconstruction in Athlone yesterday. Unless all sectors pulled together and extra

efforts were made to provide opportunities for the so-called lost generation, "we are all going to sink together," said Mr Herbert Hirsch, co-chairman of the Western-Cape Economic Development Forum.

Cric manager Mr Greg Erasmus urged local firms to conduct work preparation programmes as the first step to providing seemingly unemployed and unschooled youth with the skills required in their fields of interest.

Regional Economic Affairs Minister Mr Chris Nissen, of the ANC, said a "massive increase" in

human-resource development was needed to create economic growth and employment for the region's 668 000 unemployed.

Public works programmes would provide thousands of temporary jobs and basic skills training to the youth.

However, the Reconstruction and Development Programme relied on the creation of partnerships between business, labour, community, youth and civic organisations to tackle long-term job creation, he said.

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CF 9/12/94
Own Correspondent

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South 9-13/12/94

'The youth are not yet lost'

ALMOST half of South Africa's population between 15 and 30 years of age are unemployed, a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) study has found.

Black youths are worst off with a 45 percent unemployment figure. Forty percent of coloured youth are unemployed, 29 percent of Indians and 12 percent of whites.

But South Africa's youth is not "lost", says the HSRC. Crisis areas such as unemployment simply need to be addressed by the government.

The report says the tide might be turning for the country's youth.

"With forced removals over, population growth slowing down and family conditions and poverty levels stabilising, it could be that South Africa is on the road to recovery."

However, amenities such as on-tap water, sewage and refuse removal were still massively underprovided.

"Black youths live in homes of which 46 percent have no running water and 57 percent no electricity," the report said.

Rates of teenage pregnancies and illegitimate births are reported as being unacceptably high, with "Aids



JOBS FOR ALL: Young South Africans need work

a frightening spectre' (298)

Only 16 percent of the youth belong to youth clubs and eight percent to cultural organisations.

Another crisis was the destructive effect of violence and crime.

"Research concludes that the black respondents generally rejected violence as a political option, but that about 20 percent of white respondents were militaristic in their outlook," the report read.

Campaign to discourage invasions by the homeless

COMMUNITY organisation Actstop is planning a campaign to dissuade homeless people in Johannesburg's inner city from joining the Johannesburg Tenants' Association (Jota), which it says has no right to exist.

And the PWV government said at the weekend it had held "useful discussions" with Jota during which it was decided — among other things — that a meeting should be facilitated between landlords, the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council and organisations representing homeless people.

It is hoped the meeting will be held this week.

Jota has agreed to a moratorium on the invasion of inner city buildings, while the province called on landlords to declare a moratorium on evictions until inner-city problems had been resolved.

Actstop president George Sejaphala said at the weekend it was perturbed by Jota's actions, which last week resulted in a confrontation between police and people staying at Claridge Court.

WILSON ZWANE

Sejaphala said his organisation had embarked on a "low-profile" campaign aimed at dissuading people from joining Jota.

"Jota grabs homeless people from Park Station and moves them into flats. Naturally, the homeless will see Jota as an organisation which has their interests at heart," he said.

He said Actstop was planning a big campaign aimed at persuading people not to accept Jota's "illegal housing delivery".

He added that people should take note of the fact that Jota chief Moses Moshoeshoe and nine of his "colleagues" had been expelled from Actstop for their "radicalism".

PWV housing and local government minister Dan Mofokeng said Jota had not attended a single meeting called to address inner-city housing problems.

It is understood, however, that Actstop official Cas Coovadia and Moshoeshoe are to debate inner-city issues on SABC-TV this evening.

Mbeki opposes youth ministry

JOHANNESBURG

BUSINESS, political, church, student and labour youth organisations were on Friday urged by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to reconsider their call for a youth ministry.

This followed a resolution taken at the National Youth Summit at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park that a technical team be formed to look at how the youth could be part of the government of national unity.

Mbeki said SA youth should begin to deal with issues affecting youth.

The ANC Youth League's proposal for a youth ministry was impractical because youth affairs were so broad they touched all existing ministries, he said.

Mbeki suggested a statutory national youth commission, a youth adviser or advisers to the President and a national youth council to co-ordinate youth forums.

League president Lulu Johnson said the league was not fundamentally opposed to Mbeki's proposal for a national youth commission. However, he said, the commission should be the first step towards a ministry.

stop coughing; the second is one unwrapping sweets. REPORTS: Business Day Reporters, Own Correspondents EDITORIAL OFFICE PO Box 1138, Johannesburg Fax ((011) 497-2711

Zuma calls for SA children's programme

DURBAN. — South Africa is the only country in Southern Africa without a national programme for children; Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said here yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of the United Nations Children's Fund 1995 report on the state of the world's children, Dr Zuma said a programme had to be developed urgently.

She said the cabinet had established a core group of ministers to achieve this task.

She added that the plight of children was directly linked to the status of women. (298)

"Many women, especially in our rural areas, suffer from low status, lack of education and limited access to decision-making structures. This diminishes the opportunity for them to achieve adequate levels of health, nutrition and income for themselves and their children."

Dr Zuma said many children in South Africa were dying from preventable diseases and were deprived of basic human rights. — Sapa

'Abuse and neglect' at institution

CT 16/12/94
(298)

Staff Reporter

THE Siyakhathala Place of Safety, near Stellenbosch, is to close temporarily in the face of child abuse and neglect claims, worker misconduct and labour problems, and a recent mass breakout by inmates there.

Western Cape Health Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool said in a statement yesterday that child abuse and neglect was a criminal offence which would not be tolerated, either within families or in child-care institutions.

"Children are placed in care so as to provide them with a safe and nurturing environment, and the state is the legal protector of all children," he said.

Mr Rasool said he was also paying "serious attention" to staff grievances, including salary demands, working conditions and a lack of personnel at Siyakhathala.

Mrs Virginia Petersen, Strategic Management Team (SMT) co-ordinator for welfare, said yesterday reports by independent consultants and non-government organisations had indicated physical and sexual abuse of inmates there.

However, she stressed that sexual abuse claims did not involve workers at Siyakhathala.

Also, 58 inmates absconded from Siyakhathala last Saturday. Twenty of them had since returned but the others had not yet been traced, she said.

The best way of dealing with the problem was to suspend activity there and find other accommodation for the children while an investigation was underway, she said, and so far all but 24 of the inmates had already been relocated.

The most important factor was that children were not at risk, she said.

Mrs Petersen said all places of safety would be treated equally, but the abuse allegations, a fire there in October, the breakout and the labour problems had made Siyakhathala "stick out".

If the abuse claims were found to be true "then we will act", she said.

Mrs Petersen said also that the labour issues were "being worked on at the moment", and discussions with the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) were in progress.

A Nehawu spokesman could not be reached for comment yesterday.

A new report from the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) highlights the plight of hundreds of millions of the world's young. But there's definite good news — and a major challenge — as well. Health Writer David Robbins reports



Blue chip investment . . . protecting and nurturing the physical, mental and emotional development of all children is the foundation of a better future, the end and the means of progress, the very foundation for economic development and social cohesion, says Unicef.

PICTURE CLAUDE SAUVAGEOT

Star 10/12/94

Suffer the children . . .

In 1990, the World Summit for Children agreed on a set of specific goals aimed at improving the lot of children in the developing world. The most important of these goals dealt with alleviating malnutrition, preventable disease and illiteracy.

What progress has been made since 1990? The good news is that generally these goals are being met. Listen to the Unicef Report, "The State of the World's Children 1995", which was launched yesterday in major world centres:

"More than 100 of the developing nations, with over 90 percent of the developing world's children, are making significant progress towards the goals. On present trends, a majority of the targets set for 1995 are expected to be met by a majority of the developing nations."

Some of the achievements are:

- Malnutrition has been significantly reduced. More than 20 developing nations are on target to reduce malnutrition by 20 percent by the end of 1995.
- Immunisation levels of 80 percent have been achieved by most developing countries.
- Large areas of the world are now polio-free, and measles deaths are down by 80 percent.
- Iodine and vitamin A deficiency disorders are rapidly being eliminated.
- More than 40 nations are likely to achieve the target of 80 percent oral rehydration therapy for gastro-related diseases by 1995.

All this progress means that already about 2.5 million fewer children will die each year of malnutrition and disease, and at least 750,000 fewer will be disabled, blinded, crippled or mentally retarded.

"These achievements," says James Grant, Unicef's executive director, "are a suitable reply to those who believe that international gatherings produce only fine words and forgotten promises, or that there is only disaster and failure to report from the developing world."

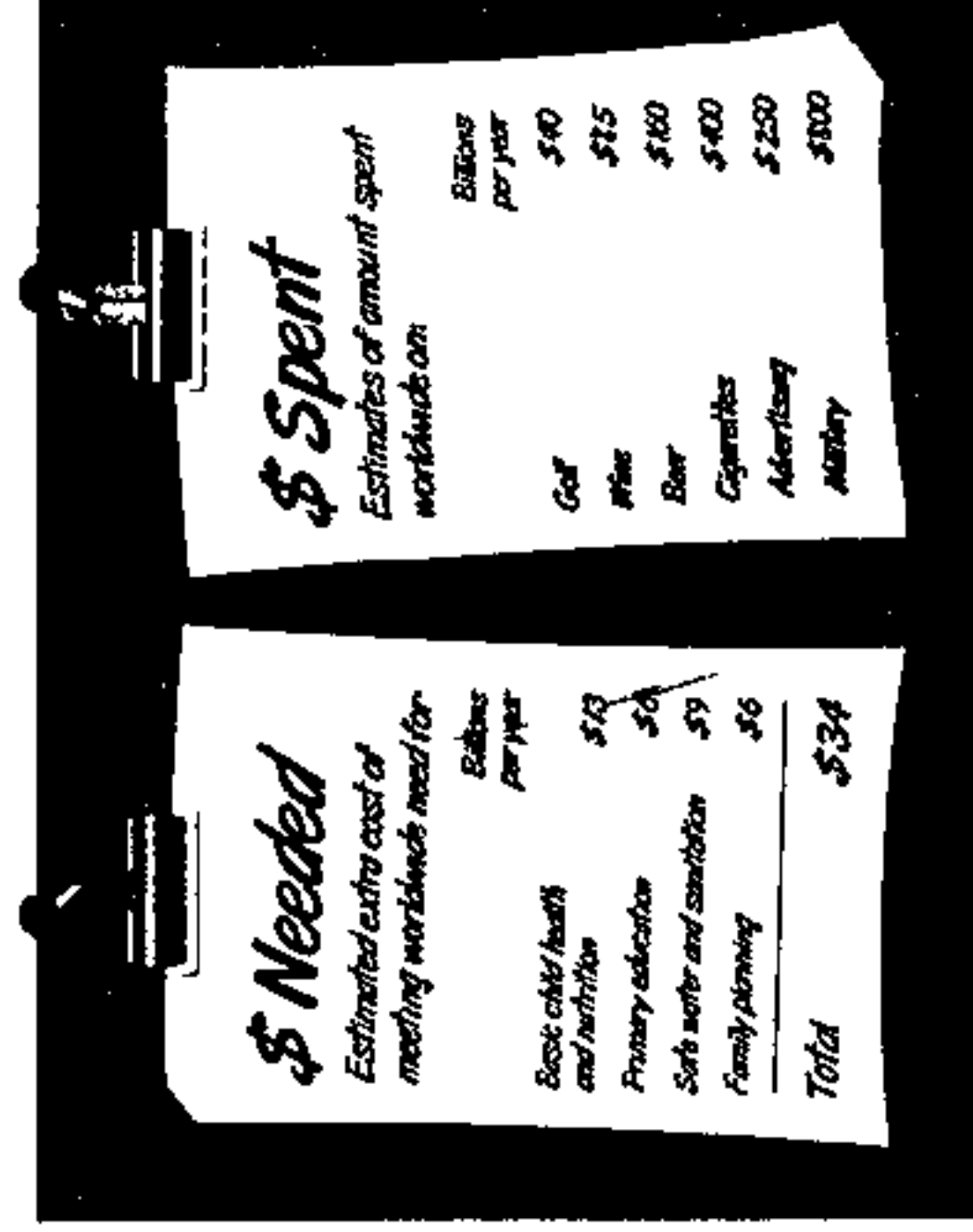
Yet "The State of the World's Children 1995" does not shirk the dangers which still beset the world's children.

"The tragedy of Rwanda's children," the report asserts, "is the latest in what appears to be an increasingly frequent sequence. At one time, wars were fought between armies; but in the wars of the last decade far more children than soldiers have been killed.

"Also, the economic marginalisation of ever larger numbers of families is casting a long shadow over the future of nations by depriving millions of children of the right to develop normally in mind and body. The mutually reinforcing relationship between these two forces — increasing economic exclusion and increasing social disintegration — is at the core of a new generation of threats to human security."

Underlying these threats are the obvious problems of overpopulation (even though fertility rates in the developing world have dropped from six children per woman to 3.8 between 1960 and 1990) and environmental degradation. Based on a clear understanding of these linkages, the Unicef report provides two visions of the world in the year 2050.

The first vision is almost all bad news. A world population of 12.5 billion, environmental devastation and crippling pollution; ethnic and tribal conflict escalating as people struggle for vanishing resources; unbridled urban-



isation and all the dangers of relative deprivation attendant upon this process.

Vision two sees the global population stabilising at less than eight billion; an advance towards environmental stability; and the release of "tremendous vitality and innovation for the creation of a new, just and sustainable international order".

What will determine which vision our children will inherit? In a word, the reduction of the developing world's birth rate. But how is this reduction to be achieved?

According to the Unicef report, decades of experience have shown that it is a combination of changes which brings about a rapid fall in birth rates. Chief among these are:

- When countries move towards gender equality, so that women themselves can decide whether and when to become pregnant.
- When educational levels rise, especially for girls.
- When child death rates fall, so that parents can have confidence that their children

will survive.

- When economic security improves, so that children are no longer essential for support in illness and old age.
- When high quality family planning information and services are available to all.

Clearly, what the Unicef report is urging is simply that development programmes, not least those which aim to safeguard the lives and wellbeing of children, are crucial to the stable future of the world.

"In the past," says the report, "the international development effort has lacked any real urgency. But in the light of the population projections, all this is changing. Development now has a deadline, and failure to meet it will bring consequences not just for the poor but for all. Overcoming the worst aspects of poverty is now not only a moral minimum for our civilisation but a practical minimum for ensuring its survival."

But at what cost? Something like \$34 billion a year, estimates Unicef. Who can afford this? Here the report is at its most revealing. The \$34 billion required is less than the world spends annually on golf, and less than one-tenth spent on cigarettes!

The notion that our planet, especially the industrialised section of it, cannot afford the development of its Third World sector is patently absurd, concludes the report. And it may yet prove to be a paltry sum, when the medium-term gain will be to steer our collective future away from almost certain disaster.

■ Copies of, or more information on, the Unicef report can be obtained by telephoning Unicef on (011) 331-1091. Fax: (011) 331-1231.

UN Children's Fund making progress

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ARG. 17-18-112194

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DAVID ROBBINS

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ARG 17-13 12 1994

Zuma spells out SA plan to ensure child health

DAVID ROBBINS
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — More than two million children worldwide are being saved from certain death each year by basic health interventions introduced in the developing world over the past five years.

This emerges from a new United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) report, "The State of the World's Children 1995".

The situation in South Africa, however, is far from satisfactory, according to Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, due to our years of isolation from international influences.

In the developing world generally, infant mortality rates and life expectancy are improving, and Unicef executive director James Grant says the improvements since 1990 "are as much as was achieved in all previous history".

"The 20th century will be remembered not so much as an age of political conflicts, but as one in which human society dared to think of the welfare of the whole human race as a practical objective," says Mr Grant.

Targets for the basic health interventions were set at the 1990 World Summit for Children. Goals for the year 2000 included the cutting of child deaths by one-third, and malnutrition by a half. Major childhood diseases like measles and diarrhoea were to be brought under control; polio was to be eradicated; and, at least 80 percent of children were to complete primary school.

"Almost 60 nations are on track to achieve these goals, and another 32 could do so with a big effort over the next 12 months," states the Unicef report.

At the South African launch of the report in Durban this week, Dr Zuma said: "Our years of isolation had a negative impact on all spheres of South African life, not least on our health-care services. In consequence, many of our programmes are inappropriate for a developing country and the situation facing children and families in South Africa is cause for alarm."

She said it was for this reason that free health for young children and pregnant women, as well as the primary school feeding programme, had been introduced as a top priority.

She also announced South Africa's own child-health goals, which included:

- 90 percent coverage for each vaccine in the primary childhood series (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, tuberculosis, polio and, sometimes, German measles and mumps) by 2000;

- Polio eradication by 1998;

- Fewer than 4 000 measles cases a year for a period of five years beginning in 1996; and

- Reduction of neonatal tetanus to fewer than 1/1 000 by 1997.

Dr Zuma said: "For years, South Africa has neglected these tasks. In future, we will succeed, but only if we can forge a partnership between family, community, non-governmental organisations and government."

The Unicef report also devoted considerable space to the problems of global over-population, but argued that "the world will not solve its fundamental long-term problems until it learns to do a better job of protecting and investing in the physical, mental and emotional development of its children".

■ See page 21

ARG 19/12/94

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Mothers forced to queue for 6 hours for medicines

ADELE BALETA
Staff Reporter

HUNDREDS of exhausted and frustrated mothers with sick children are forced to queue for medicines for up to six hours at a stretch at Red Cross Children's Hospital's overloaded dispensary.

Women have fainted in the crush and hospital authorities fear cross-infection as sick children and adults cram into a narrow passageway waiting for the beleaguered dispensing hatches to open and give them "just a little bottle of medicine".

With hundreds of people squashed into the bottleneck, staff including doctors with patients on stretches — some emergency cases — add to the chaos as they fight their way to and from Out-patients.

"The passage is the only route linking the main hospital to Out-patients and the specialist clinics," says acting chief matron Daphne Hoogenhout.

There are few benches for people to sit on and most stand and wait, sometimes they give up, leave empty handed and have to return the next day.

There is little ventilation. Ms Hoogenhout confirmed a mother had fainted in the fray a week ago.

The seven permanent pharmacists, and two interns, are under enormous pressure as they have to cater for in-patients, out-patients and up-country patients as well, says principal pharmacist Trevor Dawes.

Mothers interviewed in the crowd this week had children with a range of disorders including ringworm, asthma, vomiting and diarrhoea and measles.

They come from Langa, Guguletu, Khayelitsha, Bonteheuwel and even from as far afield as Stellenbosch.

Many had chosen to travel all the way to Red Cross because the day hospitals were "just as bad, we have to wait just as long and then they send people away at 5pm".

Working mother Primrose Mabuto's son has asthma. "It



JAMMED ALLEY: Parents of sick children wait patiently for up to six hours for their names to be called from the dispensing hatches marked "1" and "2" at Red Cross Children's Hospital.

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

would suit me better to go to a day hospital but I have to wait until next year for a referral letter from the paediatrician.

"I'd rather wait here for just a little bottle of medicine for my child all night if I have to. At least I won't be turned away."

Mr Dawes said relief was on the way with the filling of two vacant pharmacy posts — one senior and one pharmacist — at the end of January and February next year.

"Extra pharmacists would fulfil the needs of the main dispensary which before the announcement of free health care, dispensed medicines to out patients with chronic illnesses only."

Ms Hoogenhout said: "The only way we can clear the passages and get people served is to get the speedy dispensary up and running again."

The speedy dispensary was started a few months ago to service out-patients with minor ailments such as colds, flu, mild asthma, minor ear, eye

and skin complaints.

The idea is to divert minor cases away from the main dispensary. But Mr Dawes had to batten down its hatches because there was no staff to run it.

In a two-day survey conducted by the UCT Department of Community Health it was found that the speedy dispensary had a marked impact on patient welfare.

On September 20 and 24 days, 94 percent of out-patients were diverted from the main dispensary, leaving it to concentrate on in-patients and out-patients that need medication for chronic illnesses.

What about doctors taking over some of the dispensing functions of simple medicines?

Mr Dawes and Ms Hoogenhout agreed this would be problematic as it would "increase the workload of doctors who were already very busy".

Mr Dawes said pharmacists also needed to cross-check doses which in paediatrics

meant the slightest error could make a difference between life and death.

Ms Hoogenhout said if staff earmarked for positions in Primary Health Care centres were seconded to help with Red Cross's dispensing functions temporarily until the PHC were operating, the situation could be alleviated.

But concerned doctors at the hospital believe the "intolerable conditions" under which mothers have to wait need to be addressed immediately and cannot wait for the new appointment next year, especially because of the hot weather conditions.

A suggestion was that doctors be seconded to staff the speedy dispensary or that doctors help count out tablets.

A major concern expressed by doctors was that the hospital make an attempt to become more patient-friendly by providing more seating for people, and that something be done to adequately ventilate the area.

Keeping jails

free of youth

Star 19/12/99

Two years ago, 13-year-old Neville Snyman was arrested in connection with a store burglary. To this day no one will ever know if he was in fact guilty. He never stood trial because he was found dead the next day, killed by his cellmates.

The tragic incident happened at the height of a campaign by the Community Law Centre, Lawyers for Human Rights, Nicro and other organisations to sensitise the Government to the plight of young people in trouble with the law. (298)

As things stood, young people in conflict with the law were not being treated according to internationally acceptable standards. In the view of the organisations, the number of state departments involved in the handling of young offenders' cases, and the fact that no specific department could be found which could be held accountable for young people in conflict with the law, made the need for uniform legislation on young offenders to be formulated more urgent.

Presently there is no specific body of legislation which governs the handling of juvenile offenders. Those dealing with young offenders have to pore through three different Acts, namely the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, the Child Care Act 74 of 1983 and the Correctional Services Act 8 of 1959.

Document

But this may change if proposals drafted by the Juvenile Justice Drafting Consultancy, in conjunction with members of the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cape Town, and contained in a new policy document, become law.

Titled "Juvenile Justice for South Africa: Proposals for Policy and Legislative Change", the document proposes revolutionary changes to the present juvenile justice system.

After consultations which begin this week, the proposals will be finalised and may become law within a year.

The proposals emphasise accountability, encouraging young offenders to acknowledge and take responsibility for their action, to encourage restorative justice and to protect the rights of offender and victim.

YOUNG people who fall foul of the law could be protected in terms of proposals for a new juvenile justice system. Justice Malala reports

provides methods to minimise sending juveniles to rehabilitation institutions and provide alternatives at the arrest, pre-trial and sentencing phases.

After arrest, the young person may be cautioned, cautioned in front of the parents or given notice to appear at a referral meeting.

If the case is serious the young person may be taken to a police station where an appointed youth justice worker is contacted, the parents notified and a referral meeting arranged.

The referral meeting, which is attended by the offender, a parent or guardian, a police officer and a youth justice worker, may charge the young offender and refer the case to a prosecuting authority, a Family Group Conference (FGC) or a Children's Court Inquiry.

If the FGC cannot deal with the case it is referred to the Juvenile Court.

The Juvenile Court must commence the trial within 30 days of arrest and complete it within 90 days of the arrest if the young person is in custody.

The court cannot regard previous arrests as admissible evidence and evidence adduced in the absence of a parent or guardian is also inadmissible.

The trial must be held *in camera*, legal representatives must be provided for the young person and convictions must be subject to an automatic review.

In sentencing the young offender, the Juvenile Court must be guided by the principles of proportionality, restoring harmony, accountability, family group preservation, possible treatment and counselling and decarceration, says the document.

The court may refer the case to the FGC for sentencing recommendations.

Finally, the court may sentence the offender to community service, to some kind of supervision, residence at a centre for specified purpose or to any other programme.

"These proposals are not a soft option. The process works by re-integrative shaming — getting kids, in the context of those whom they respect, to take responsibility and make reparation for what they have done," says a member of the team that drafted the document.

They also aim to bring young people and their families into decision-making processes and to provide alternatives at every stage of the process.

"Unilateral restructuring will not work. Throwing money at the problem without completely altering the present policies and practice will simply result in more chaos," says the document.

The document instead puts forward a new process which

Soweto kids prone to speech disability

Sowetan
21/12/94

By Glenn McKenzie

SOWETO children may be more likely to have speech and language disabilities than many other youngsters, a University of Witwatersrand study suggests.

In a non-random survey of 188 pre-school children, Wits speech pathologists found that 11 percent of the children had some speech and language difficulties.

Another five percent of the children had difficulties brought on by being multilingual at an early age.

In any given country, only about three to five percent of children are believed to have speech and language problems.

Wits speech pathologist Melissa Bortz said that many speech and language problems go undetected in Soweto children until they reach school.

One reason for the apparently high rate of learning disabilities is because of undetected ear infections that hamper children's hearing. These problems are usually easily cured, Bortz said.

Other children may have problems learning languages because they have been traumatised by violent or tragic events.

Parents should take their children to a doctor or speech therapist if they suspect that a child is learning a first language too slowly, she added.

(298)

ADRIAN HADLAND

BLOEMFONTEIN — The Cabinet could be expanded to 29 Ministers next year following an ANC decision yesterday to push for a youth affairs Minister.

ANC Youth League president Lulu Johnson told a news briefing government's Education Ministry and policies catered inadequately for the broader needs of SA's youth, particularly those who had left school.

On the recommendation of a commission on youth development and empowerment, a plenary session at the ANC's conference supported the need for a comprehensive national youth policy and an executive officer to oversee its framing and implementation. Commission chairman Febe Potgieter said strategies for dealing with unemployment, criminality, substance abuse and AIDS would be addressed in the policy.

Johnson said while President Nelson Mandela and the ANC had expressed support for a youth ministry and had signalled their intent to lobby for

Additional Cabinet post mooted for youth Minister

the position, government still had to discuss the creation of a 29th Cabinet post.

According to the constitution, SA may have only 27 Cabinet Ministers. The appointment, however, of Chris Fismar to the new position of General Services Minister next month will already require a constitutional amendment to increase the number of Ministers to 28.

If government could not agree on expanding the Cabinet, the ANC would push for the appointment of an executive officer in the President's office responsible for youth affairs.

The officer or Minister would be supported by a broad-based advisory commission on youth, the ANC agreed.

To represent the youth in civil society, the plenary accepted the need for the formation of a national youth council.

These measures would ensure

the agenda of SA's youth, who represented a significant proportion of the population, was considered at the highest possible level, Potgieter said.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, meanwhile, said he had been mandated by the ANC to frame legislation to strengthen tenant farmers' rights.

With evictions continuing on a "significant scale" in various parts of SA, the ANC plenary agreed existing legislation should be revisited and new legislation put in place to strengthen tenancy rights.

An investigation of land deals concluded by former TBVC and self-governing territory public servants shortly before the election would also be launched next year, he confirmed.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Thoko Msane said the role of agricultural boards would be re-examined and the Marketing Boards Act would be reviewed.

Home-care for 'trachi kids'

DI CAELERS
Weekend Angus Reporter

ONE person can indeed make a difference, and there's no better proof of that than Red Cross Children's Hospital's tracheotomy home-care programme that's both reuniting families and offering "trachi kids" a life in the real world.

It's thanks to the initiative of advanced paediatric clinical nurse Jane Booth that tracheotomy children — known fondly as the hospital's "trachi kids" — are making history, being sent home to Third World conditions instead of spending years confined to hospital.

Sister Booth is quick to share the success of the project with those who encouraged her — especially her two "right hands", social worker Sandra Adley and Dorothy Shulman, the sister who runs the tracheotomy ward — but the reality is that it was she who decided five years ago to take a chance.

Now, five years after she took that chance and established the home-care programme, no child on the programme has died nor suffered a near-lethal tracheotomy complication at home — and the children appear to have fewer respiratory infections than in hospital.

Tracheotomised children are those who have undergone a surgical procedure to have a tube inserted into their windpipe to allow them to breathe. Traditionally, they spent years and years in hospital due to the seriousness of this life-threatening condition.

The home-care programme has changed all that, empowering parents to care for their "trachi kids" at home, changing the tubes and suctioning their children every hour to remove secretions.

And it's saving hundreds of thousands of rands, considering it costs the hospital R150 000 per child to keep them in hospital for a year.

Sister Booth told Weekend Angus tracheotomy children worldwide were only ever sent

■ Tracheotomy children at Red Cross Children's Hospital, previously sentenced to spending their young years in hospital, are being sent home via a unique home-care programme that's setting new world standards for Third World conditions.

home to first world conditions where parents could easily get help if they needed it. But Red Cross Children's Hospital has sent home 55 children since 1989, most of them to shacks without any facilities.

"I trained my first mother in 1989 and she took her child home to Mitchell's Plain. The second went home shortly afterwards to a shack with no basic facilities.

"But I discovered the mothers could, in fact, cope. I realised that one-on-one nursing of a mother to her child is better than any care a nurse can give."

Before they take their children home, the families, particularly the mothers, are taught everything from basic resuscitation to hygiene and feeding. They replace their child's tracheotomy tube daily to avoid the chance of blocking, and never travel without a spare.

Sister Booth is always on call for problems and she also instructs any caregivers, including teachers at schools and creches, who might care for the children if their mother must return to work.

"The programme is a multi-disciplinary team effort that ensures all caregivers have the necessary knowledge, skills, resources and essential equipment — which is on free loan from the hospital, as well as continuing support and supervision after discharge from hospital.

"But the most unique thing about it is that most of the children involved are from disadvantaged families and that such home-care is possible in the presence of poverty and illiteracy, in shack dwellings without electricity, running water and telephones," Sister Booth said.

For the children and their families, however, the savings can never be counted in rands



□ **HANDS-ON TRAINING:** Macassar mother Esther Temela suction her year-old child Thanduxolo's tracheotomy tube under the watchful eye of home-care programme co-ordinator, Jane Booth. Thanduxolo lives at home from where his mother runs a home industry, but was back in hospital because of an infection. The 'trachi kids' have to be suctioned every hour.

Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, Weekend Angus.

and cents. For them it means life outside a hospital ward, maintenance of their position within the family and the opportunity to go to a normal school.

Ms Adley said, "Parents used to give up hope, with their children living here at Red Cross often for up to 10 years. They tended to get on with their lives and slowly forget about the child in hospital.

"For the child we're now preventing social and developmental delays — problems associated with long-term hospitalisation, preventing breakdowns in development of relationships, and ensuring there's no loss of culture."



□ **TALK TIME:** The hospital social worker attached to the home-care programme, Sandra Adley, gets together for informal monthly sessions with parents and children to discuss problems in the tracheotomy unit.

Forum acts to prevent deaths of detained kids

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — The death last week of a child beaten and tortured by other prisoners in the Humewood police cells is being taken up urgently by the Children in Detention Forum — to prevent a recurrence.

The forum, set up two years ago, is made up of members of the police, provincial social services, Correctional Services, the Justice Department and other concerned bodies.

A member of the forum and provincial social services co-ordinator Mr Ashley Theron said immediate action had been taken on the death of the child, believed to have been 10 years old.

The child, detained on charges of serious assault, died in hospital four days after being assaulted by other youths in the cell.

There were also burn marks on his chest and between his toes, indicating he had been tortured.

Mr Theron said determining the age of child prisoners and tracing their parents were usually major problems.

"There are also long periods of detention because of the slow movement of juveniles to other facilities like reform schools and places of safety."

Mr Theron said, however, that in two years a 50% reduction in the number of juvenile suspects detained in police cells had been

achieved.

Social workers assessed every child detained to decide on the most suitable place of detention

A centralised place of custody for juveniles whose detention was essential had been established at the Humewood police cells, where there was a full-time social worker.

"The Justice Department has committed itself to setting up a legal procedure to speed up the court procedure and a senior state prosecutor has been appointed to monitor each juvenile detainee."

Mr Theron said the forum had cited the lack of places of safety as a major problem.

CT 29/12/94

Child rapist

Soweto

On the loose

21/7/94

(298)

By Isaac Moleli

Police have launched an intensive search for a 31-year-old man allegedly linked to several cases of child rape in Soweto. The man allegedly raped a nine-year-old girl at knifepoint in his shack in Moletsane on Saturday night and was apparently caught red-handed while trying to rape a nine-year-old girl in the neighbourhood on Monday. Residents have linked the man to other cases of child rape in the area.

Angry Moletsane youths stripped the suspect naked and tied him to a pole near Jabulani Flats before flogging him in front of scores of residents on Monday. The man was rescued from the mob by a friend who pleaded for his release. The suspect has not been seen in the area since and is believed to be in hiding. The suspect, whose name is known to Sowetan, apparently lives near the homes of his

alleged victims

Another 10-year-old girl was raped at gunpoint in the neighbourhood in June.

Weeping as she recalled the incident yesterday, the mother of Saturday's rape victim said the suspect was known to her family.

"My child came here at 6.15pm on Saturday, crying. She had been playing with other children in the yard. When we asked her what had happened, she said a man had slept with her."

Describing her ordeal, the nine-year-old girl said she and her friend, also nine years old, were called by the man at about 5.45pm. He asked them to go and buy him something at a nearby spaza

shop. When they came back, the man apparently chased her friend away.

The man then closed the door behind her, produced a knife and sexually molested her.

Her parents reported the matter to Jabulani police and took her to Baragwanath Hospital. Jabulani police said they were still searching for the man.

This is the second time in a week that a man has been apprehended by Soweto youths and paraded naked in public.

Last week, a crowd of youths caught another man in Senaane after they found him raping a five-year-old girl at a clinic.



'Alter child abuse laws'

276/7/94
DURBAN. — Most molested children were abused by people who knew them personally or people close to them, Sergeant Ian Hopley, of the Victoria Child Protection Unit in Australia, told members of the South African Child Protection Units here yesterday. (298)

He said legislation in South Africa needed to be changed to protect children more effectively against abuse, and a large public awareness campaign was needed to highlight the problem.

Commanding Officer of the SACHild Protection Unit Colonel Anneke Pienaar said there had been a 30% increase in the reporting of child abuse cases last year — Sapa

Child abuse 'on the increase'

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa is a child-abusing society and the number of children affected by violence is increasing, the Goldstone commission of inquiry into the effects of violence on children said yesterday.

Neglect and abuse was illustrated in destructive apartheid practices related to the development of children, advocate Mr

Solly Sithole said.

There was no national watchdog to monitor acts of violence against children, and the helping of victims was hindered by a shortage of resources and services.

One of the more serious consequences of this was the increasing number of children now committing acts of violence

themselves, he said

A visible consequence of the level of violence was the countless children without food, shelter, clothing and medical care.

Their rehabilitation would be determined by whether their physical needs were met and whether adequate stimulation and emotional support could be provided in shelters — Sapa

Alarming rise seen in abuse of stepdaughters

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

MEN who sexually assault their stepdaughters appear in the Wynberg sexual-offences court almost every day, making up most of the cases with which the court deals.

That's one of the most alarming statistics — viewed against the background that about 40 percent of South African children have a stepfather — that has emerged after the unique court has been in operation for just more than a year.

And, while magistrates are taking a tough line with offenders and making some exciting breakthroughs with convictions, prosecutors working in the field daily believe it'll be a long time before tough sentences act as a deterrent.

The sexual-offences court, a world first that has attracted international attention, deals exclusively with these

■ Startling divorce statistics have turned up an even more alarming statistic — the largest number of sexual-offence cases being prosecuted in the special Wynberg court involve attacks by stepfathers on their stepdaughters.

cases and ones in which child witnesses are involved.

According to an article in the August issue of the attorneys' journal *De Rebus*, there has been an increase in the number of sexual-offence cases brought to court since its inception, as well as an increase in the number of convictions.

Prosecutor André Minnaar described what they saw as "horrific", explaining that sexual assault by stepfathers, or mother's boyfriend, included anything from touching the breasts to sexual intercourse.

While he speculated that the close contact between stepfathers and children who were not biologically theirs, often in cramped living conditions, could be the cause, he said no concrete

reasons had emerged.

"The children are young and vulnerable, and they can be easily manipulated. In some instances, the children even believe it's normal," he told Weekend Argus.

Fellow prosecutor Lynette Myburgh said the children involved were under 12 and she often encountered cases where the victims were as young as two or three. Most were girls, with boys being abused occasionally.

Magistrate Piet Theron, who earlier this month sentenced a Manenberg man to three years in jail for indecently assaulting his 15-year-old stepdaughter, said at the time: "The time has come for the courts to draw the line."

He expressed concern that people

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could take the law into their own hands, which would lead to chaos, if the courts did not impose suitable punishment.

During that case he told the accused: "You assaulted your own stepdaughter. I can only tell you that this is the type of behaviour that increasingly presents itself in our courts, specifically stepfathers who commit assaults on their wives' daughters. The courts have to deal with it on a daily basis."

Ms Myburgh said: "The children keep quiet for a long time and that's where our task gets difficult. They heal so quickly that if they're not examined within 12 hours, we won't have any physical evidence. There is no scarring after a week."

Discussing the mothers' role, she said some were aware of the abuse, some were right there when it happened, "but most of them deny any knowledge basically because they're in a financial prison".

11 children under 14 raped in SA this week

PRETORIA. — Twenty-two females, including 11 children under the age of 14, have been raped in South Africa in the past week, police said in a statement here yesterday.

Appealing to people who might have information on these crimes to call the police, the statement added anyone suspecting that a child was being abused should not hesitate to call the police. The toll-free number is 0800-11-12-13.

The statement urged parents to ensure that they knew of their children's whereabouts at all times. —

Sapa

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Durban's Child Protection Unit handles record number of cases (298)

The Argus Correspondent ARG 28/9/94
DURBAN. — The Durban Child Protection Unit dealt with a record 268 abuse cases last month — the highest number of complaints it has had since the unit was formed more than six years ago.

Rape and indecent assault were the most common and were generally committed by people known to the children, police said.

In the light of these figures, the KwaZulu-Natal Crimestop phone line is to devote a 24-hour period solely to fielding calls from victims of sexual and physical abuse.

Members of the CPU and trained psychologists will be manning the phones on December 2.

It is the first time in the country this is to be done and follows a successful project run in Australia.

A Durban child psychiatrist said that an increase in the incidence and reporting of child abuse cases has also become apparent in his private practice.

CPU head Lynette Prinsloo is lobbying for funds to promote the phone-in mainly through schools, from where most abuse cases are reported.

Major Prinsloo said schools were encouraging more children to come forward and report sexual or physical abuse by holding regular educational awareness programmes.

"There are definitely more people coming forward, often teachers," said Major Prinsloo.

"Sex abuse victims either tell a friend first or go directly to their teacher."

In Johannesburg more than 200 new cases of sexual abuse are reported every month.

Last year alone almost 17 000 crimes against children were investigated.

Major Willie Botha, head of the Johannesburg CPU, believed the increase of reported cases was because people were beginning to realise there "are people out there who can help them".

The Durban psychiatrist, who cannot be named, said the high rate of unemployment and a breakdown in family values had increased pressures on parents.

Coupled with a massive drug and alcohol abuse problem, the pressures created conditions in which child abuse abounded.

The reporting of cases of abused children had increased because victims and sympathisers were becoming more aware that treatment is essential and readily available.

SA moves to 'child-abusing' society

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — South Africa had gone from a "child neglecting" to a "child-abusing" society, says an unpublished report of the Goldstone commission of inquiry into violence against children.

the Goldstone report Mr Brian Rock feared the violence may worsen.

"Long years of apartheid, family and community political violence have so distorted the psyche of South Africans that political, social and economic transformation alone will not suffice to put an end to high levels of violence and

South Africa's ignominious status as the world's most violent country."

Police figures show reported cases of sexual or physical assault on children rose from 7500 in 1988 to 16800 last year. This year numbers are expected to hit 22000.

Sergeant Gert Jonker of the police protection unit said

one million children may be affected every year.

PWV Public Safety and Security Minister Ms Jessie Duarte said: "Years of physical, psychological and economic abuse have meant young people have lost their grip on the value of human life because so little value has been put on their own."

"For too long in South

Africa, children have been deprived of the right to be kids. We must give them back their childhood."

Social workers and NGOs have urged the government to ratify the United Nations charter for the rights of the child and set up a task force to carry out the anti-violence plan.

A report in the London Sunday Times said co-author of

(298) CT 3/10/94

Reports of child abuse skyrocket

Wm 7-13/10/94

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Mduduzi ka Harvey

REPORTED incidents of child abuse and rape have increased dramatically since the April elec-

tion. MEC for Safety and Security Jesse Duarte said this week that incidents of child abuse and rape in the PWV region had increased by 40 percent since the election.

Police statistics show that in the first eight months of this year, 13 508 cases were reported, compared to 16 809 for the whole of last year.

And the Child Emergency Service has found its calls rising from 62 000 a month to 72 000 — about 2 500 every day.

Child protection organisations claim more cases are being reported because of intensified campaigns at schools, churches and public meetings to encourage children to talk about their experiences.

Brian Rock, co-author of the Goldstone report on *Children and Violence*, attributed the rise in reports to the

intensified lobby against child abuse. "Children have become an increasing concern, and more education is being directed at child abuse, as can be seen by the adoption of the United Nations Charter on the Rights of Children and the setting up of the National Children's Rights Committee," he said.

Soweto Child Protection Unit representative Sergeant Susan Seboldisho said the unit had recorded a rise in the number of cases reported when it started going out into the community to create awareness about abuse.

Seboldisho said: "In two days this week I have already dealt with 10 rape cases involving children between the ages of six and 14, the indecent assaults of two children aged four and seven, and the neglect of a baby, compared to 26 cases last week."

A similar trend was noted at the Child Emergency Service, where chief social worker Corrie Calitz said the service had been forced to employ more social workers in its 16 centres around the country — all of whom were working around the clock.

Crimes	1993	1994
Rape	4736	4042
Sodomy	431	280
Incest	146	98
Indecent assault	3439	2450
Sexual offences	1034	698
Attempted murder	175	149
Serious assault	1339	1189
Common assault	2364	1913
Abduction	522	461
Kidnapping	654	594
Child neglect	1969	1634
	16 809	13 508

More and more victims: Crimes against children under 18. The figures refer only to cases known to the Child Protection Unit

Calitz attributed the rise in calls to the publicity given to abuse cases: "Most our calls are from the Western Cape and PWV because of the density of people, and because crimes are given more publicity."

In most cases she dealt with, Calitz said, it was "normally the step-father or a close relative" who committed the crime.

Carol Bews, manager of the Child and Family Unit of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, rather attributed the problem to the stresses of unemployment and alcohol and drug

abuse. Disputing claims that child abuse occurred primarily in townships and squatter camps, Bews said: "This problem is everywhere. It happens in densely populated areas like Hillbrow and it happens in the northern suburbs."

As public concern mounts, organisations are embarking on protest marches to put an end to abuse.

Masechaba Mabaso, president of Women against Violence, said: "In Soweto we have noted how serious this problem has become. We have decided to sign petitions and hand them over to the ministers of Justice and Safety and Security, and to lawyers and magistrates."

Mabaso's organisation will demand life imprisonment for culprits, and a court environment in which children feel free to tell their side of the story.

The Child Abuse Action Group will march on Hillbrow police station this Saturday to hand over a petition signed by 15 000 people, demanding harsher sentences for offenders.

ARG. 20/12/94.

Allegations of abuse at place of safety

LIBBY PEACOCK
Health Reporter

(298)

ALLEGATIONS of child abuse and assault, an incident when several children were badly burnt after starting a fire in their cell and other conflicts have led to the suspension of operations at a Stellenbosch place of safety.

Western Cape Minister of Health and Welfare Ebrahim Rasool has given the undertaking that all children at Siyakhathala Place of Safety will be transferred.

The step was taken after allegations and investigations involving the state Welfare Department, non-governmental welfare bodies and his ministry.

Problems at Siyakhathala over the past months include:

- A fire on October 9, when five children were seriously burnt, and there were allegations of random beatings before and afterwards.

- An incident in which 58 children absconded after taking the keys by force from a key officer.

- The resignation of middle management staff troubled by the conduct of care officers in the institution.

- Continuing complaints by children regarding alleged assault and physical and sexual abuse.

Child Welfare head Alan Jackson said one of the factors hampering the investigation into the alleged abuse, and in establishing who the guilty parties were, was a "conspiracy of silence".

Children had not named the alleged perpetrators, possibly because of "fear of reprisals".

But as early as April, 10 children had made statements to the police regarding charges against staff members.

"I hope we can proceed and establish who were the staff assaulting and abusing them," said Mr Jackson.

Mr Rasool said he had been giving serious attention to the

grievances of staff at state welfare institutions and a special commission was investigating these.

But in terms of the new constitution, children's best interests were paramount where a dispute arose between the rights of guardians (such as child care workers) and children.

Incidents at the institution would continue to be investigated and the outcome would determine whether it was closed or reopened "in a different form".

Once guilty parties had been identified, the department would institute criminal proceedings.

He could not say "with certainty" that similar problems were being experienced at other places of safety, but added he could not rule that out.

Rose September, a member of Mr Rasool's strategic management team, said an independent inquiry team had found that children's concerns were seldom met at Siyakhathala.

And months before the fire a report had indicated management problems at the institution.

Director of Welfare Ebrahim Jarodien said that of the 58 children who had absconded, 20 were apprehended and taken back to Siyakhathala.

This brought the total number of children held there to 53, of which 31 were reassessed and 29 would be transferred to parents, guardians or other places of safety.

Thirteen children, all older, and charged with serious crimes such as rape and murder, had been placed in Pollsmoor Prison. The 24 remaining boys were being interviewed and assessed and would also be transferred soon.

Dr Jarodien said a "whole new approach" was needed in places of safety. In the past children were often "locked up like dogs".

SOCIAL SECURITY - CHILD CARE

1995

JANUARY - MAY

Child abuse at horrific level

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CP 1/1/95

By STAN MHLONGO

THE rate of child abuse in the Vaal has swelled to dramatic levels – with about 15 children being abused per day in the area, says Captain W van Wyk of the Vaal Child Protection Unit.

Speaking to City Press from the Protection Unit's offices in Vanderbijlpark, Van Wyk said it was estimated that between 110 and 120 children – “or even more” – were being abused each month.

The most prominent forms of child abuse were assault, rape, sodomy and neglect, he said.

Van Wyk said his unit was clearly making little progress in fighting child abuse and was hindered by an acute shortage of police officers.

Only four officers are at present employed by the unit.

Van Wyk said his unit had already

visited several Vaal schools to ask the principals to help them fight the crimes against children.

But he admitted it would take some time before his unit was able to cope with the situation.

Besides lack of manpower, there was also a shortage of vehicles – the unit only has two.

Van Wyk said the unit's offices needed to be moved from Vanderbijlpark to Vereeniging where they could be more accessible to the public.

The unit's workload is made heavier by the fact that Vaal police are presently facing 550 outstanding cases of rape awaiting investigation.

Nevertheless the Child Protection Unit was always ready to help, Van Wyk said.

He can be contacted at (016) 33-1196.

NEWS *Committed team improves quality of life of small farming community*



Bethuel Mpholwane and his team are fighting for a better deal for children.

Muldersdrift's man of mission

By Joe Mdhlela

■ SOCIAL ISSUES *Teaching the children reduces sexual abuse:*

THE HIGH LEVEL of illiteracy, the lack of job opportunities and a myriad of other social problems, including the lack of a pre-school in his area, has persuaded Bethuel Mpholwane to roll up his sleeves in preparation for the task of empowering his community.

There are other important players who are just as concerned about uplifting the community. But Mpholwane has assumed a leading role in the development of his people.

The other players are a school principal, his teachers and a social worker.

This team is committed to bringing meaning to the lives of the people of Muldersdrift, a small farming community outside Johannesburg.

This community has had its share of social problems, including cases of child abuse.

Social worker Caroline Thipe says the abuse takes the form of both sexual and physical molestation.

Selling their bodies

"Children get food by selling their bodies and are picked up by men who sexually abuse them," says Thipe.

By teaching children to be aware of their rights, one of which is refusing to be used as a sex object, they will begin

to take charge of their lives and scare off people bent on abusing them, argues Thipe.

Mpholwane agrees entirely that to deal effectively with sexual abuse, children should be taught at an early age to develop tactics to help them ward off advances by unscrupulous men

No to abuse

As part of the programme, he has established a pre-school, Thusanang Pre-Primary School. Another part of the programme to be emphasised is a campaign entitled "No to Sex Abuse"

Children, through the programme, are taught to assert themselves and be made aware that they have the right to "rubbish" advances made by men.

In doing so, Mpholwane has interested parents to get involved in all the projects aimed at improving the quality of life in Muldersdrift.

"After doing my research, I encouraged parents to get involved in all the affairs that concern the well-being of their community," Mpholwane says.

As a result of his initiative a number of projects, including the establishment of a school as well as the Muldersdrift

Parents Association, took off.

The association's main aim was to establish a school in the area. The nearest school was 10km away, until the first school was established in 1990.

The long journey on foot had its problems, especially for teenage girls who were exposed to sexual abuse as they travelled a long distance to school.

Motorists purporting to be offering children lifts to school would then find an opportunity to abuse them.

The establishment of the Thusanang Pre-primary School in the area in 1990 was the beginning of an enterprise that would lead to the erection of Itireleng-Zenzele Comprehensive School.

Incidents reduced

These projects meant that children no longer have to travel a long distance to get to school. That also meant that the incidents of child abuse were reduced.

Ms Grace Molopa of Itireleng-Zenzele School says the aim now is to establish a high school

"To do away with illiteracy, we now need a high school so that we can increase the level of literacy among our people," says Molopa.

Involving the community ensures that all the projects we embark on succeed because the people will also make their contribution

Professionals like teachers, social workers, and community workers, agree that for the projects to work effectively, the local community should be involved.

"Involving the community ensures that all the projects we embark on succeed because the people will also make their contributions," says Mpholwane.

Good Samaritan

On hearing that the people of Muldersdrift are geared up to improve the quality of their life, a number of good Samaritans came forward with donations.

For instance, DG Murray Trust do-

nated a bakkie to transport children to school.

There are other companies who have contributed educational equipment, furniture, motor bikes and cash, all for the good of enhancing the quality of life in the area.

Recently, a bus was donated to help ease congestion in transporting children to school.

As part of the project to enhance the quality of life, a feeding scheme is in place to help children who may not have had a meal before coming to school.

Depend on goodwill

To a great extent, Mpholwane's projects have to depend on the goodwill of Mr Lionel Bird, financial director of Murray and Roberts.

Bird has given Mpholwane all the necessary support, often giving him time to conclude his projects.

In a humble way, Bird is averse to claiming glory for the projects in Muldersdrift

"It is Bethuel Mpholwane who initiates and ensures that the projects work. I only assisted," says Bird.

While realising that it is good to help others, Mpholwane is also aware that he has a duty to himself to improve his qualifications. He is presently working at private studies to finish his matriculation.

For more information about this wonderful man and his work, watch NNTV tonight at 7.30

Task team to probe place of safety after claims of child abuse, assault

Health Reporter

(298)

A TASK team consisting of union members and provincial administration representatives will meet on Monday to devise a plan to use Siyakhathala Place of Safety outside Stellenbosch effectively.

In December, provincial Minister of Health and Social Services, Ebrahim Rasool, announced the suspension of activities at Siyakhathala.

This followed allegations of child abuse and assault, an incident when several children were badly burnt after starting a fire in their cell and other conflicts.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Rasool said he had met representatives

of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union to discuss "a formal consultative process with regard to the suspension of activities" at Siyakhathala.

ARG 20/1/95
"The staff at Siyakhathala brought to my attention that they are presently being victimised by their communities and are experiencing personal problems due to reports which appeared in newspapers with regard to the situation at Siyakhathala."

Some reports had implied that care officers at Siyakhathala were "rapists and child abusers", but "no charges of such a nature have been laid to date against any staff member".

Wilma, Sister of

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

IN a community rife with child sexual abuse and neglect, where rape and sodomy are "just part of a child's life experience", one young woman's solo crusade to change things is the only ray of hope for many youngsters.

Wilma Jantjies, 22, has become a surrogate mother to more than 50 children in Ocean View — she virtually singlehandedly feeds, counsels and supports them through court cases, talks at their schools and, of course, takes plenty of abuse from their families.

Her bright and happy smile

is often the children's only comfort but it belies the personal agony of a young woman who is fighting a lonely battle, for whom there's no escape from the horrors of abuse and neglect.

"I often want to just run away from it all. I live in the community and it's a 24-hour job. I'm too scared to leave, even at weekends, because what if the children get raped? Who will talk to them? Who will look after them?"

"I have to be there for them," an anguished Ms Jantjies told Weekend Argus.

She started her Open Door project in 1993 almost accidentally when she began organising excursions for children and opening her home so

■ Ignoring threats and verbal abuse, a young Ocean View woman is battling the odds in a mammoth effort to provide a better life for the neglected and sexually abused children of her community.

they could watch television in the afternoons.

"They were sexually abusing each other because there was nothing better to do. And for them it's something they experience, a life experience, a part of growing up."

When in September 1993 she had no funds to continue, Catholic Welfare Development and other donors stepped in to save the project. Now about 35 neglected and abused children, referred by schools and social workers,

arrive at her office each day where they're fed lunch and cared for during the afternoon. She's responsible for therapy sessions at Safeline twice a month for about 26 children, and she feeds and counsels another 16 street children.

The Open Door project's resources are limited; not only does Ms Jantjies share an office with another welfare worker — which makes counselling abused children very difficult — but she has no

transport and takes children on a train and a bus for their counselling sessions at Safeline.

Afternoon play used to be in the hall at the community centre which houses the project, but now the children are forced to eat and play outside in the courtyard.

"That's okay for now but with winter approaching we're going to be in serious trouble. We have to get new premises, especially a separate counselling room.

"It takes such a lot for abused children to open up and it's imperative that we have a private place so they can talk," Ms Jantjies said.

Ms Jantjies works hard to raise the children's self-es-

teem and to raise parents' awareness of sexual abuse.

She urges parents not to talk widely about it when a child has been abused because she finds this "exposes the child further" and they become easy targets for other abusers.

Another problem is that mothers won't lay charges of abuse against their husbands or boyfriends because they fear they will lose the roof over their head.

"I speak at the schools often and in one class I can find as many as 15 to 20 children who have been sexually abused. It's a way of life here and it's even worse for boys who are sodomised because the community believes they

should be able to fight for themselves."

And Ms Jantjies is distressed at the number of cases that get thrown out of Court and at how seldom the Courts work in the child's favour.

"There is one guy here who has faced two charges of sexual abuse and two of indecent assault, and he is still walking around in Ocean View.

"In another case a two-year-old was sexually abused by her father. She knew exactly what had happened, but he walked out of court free because of lack of evidence."

Most abuse is committed by fathers and stepfathers.

Ms Jantjies has tried to in-

volve other members of the community but she says nobody wants to work with these children.

"One of my priorities now, with Catholic Welfare Development, is to launch a public awareness campaign so residents can become watchdogs, looking out for signs of sexual abuse in the community."

For now however, she's forced to fly solo ... "If I leave, there won't be anyone for them," Ms Jantjies said.

■ Anyone who wants to assist the project, with cash or donations of clothing and food, should contact Ms Jantjies at 783-2292 or 783-4114.

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21/1/95
Mercy

By KHANGALE MAKHADO

HOUSE NUMBER 1 541 Zone 6, Extension 3, Sebokeng in the Vaal looks like any ordinary home – until you get to the backyard.

Twenty children who have been abused, abandoned or lost have made this humble home theirs.

When City Press visited the "Lost People's Bureau" this week, destitute children were having lunch – a simple but nourishing plate of miehe-rice with soup.

The owner and "Good Samaritan", Sakhephi Kelly, told City Press that things have not been going well for the home-turned sanctuary because there was no outside financial support.

"My husband works as a motor mechanic and since the project

started about 11 years ago, we have had to share our food with our new children.

"The problem is compounded by the fact that the authorities have no homes or centres where abused and lost children can be housed while their cases are being investigated," said Kelly.

She said that while at times they managed to reunite lost children with their families, there are those who were unlucky and have been staying with the family for over two years.

"You cannot just keep children without affording them the chance to go to school. Eight of them have been enrolled, thanks to the few resources at our disposal," she said.

The problem remains a lack of resources to help the children. But

the couple has vowed to continue with the community service. The home also caters for abandoned elderly people.

According to the statistics released by the Child Protection Unit headquarters in Pretoria this week, over 22 911 children under the age of 18 were abused in South Africa last year, an increase of 6 102 compared to figures in 1993.

A large number of these children were raped, indecently assaulted, or assaulted with grievous bodily harm. Others cases relate to incest, sodomy, attempted murder, abduction and kidnapping.

In the Vaal alone 277 cases of child abuse were reported between October and December last year, 58 of which have already been effectively dealt with.

5 men to stem tide of abuse

By KHANGALE MAKHADO

FIVE policemen to handle child abuse cases in an area populated by five million black residents! This is the seemingly impossible daily task of the Vaal Child Protection Unit.

The besieged members of the CPU warn that unless something drastic is done to beef up their resources, already widespread child abuse in the Vaal – a vast area comprising more than 20 black townships – will spiral out of control.

This week City Press visited the unit's office in Flora Gardens, a plush Vanderbijlpark suburb far away from the townships and squatter camps.

We were shown into a tiny office shared by the detectives and within minutes of our arrival they were already handling two cases. According to the officers, they received an average of 10 cases each day.

While there are about



OVERLOADED . . . (From left to right) Detective Sergeant Moahlodi, Detective Sergeant Hlubi, Detective Constable Mohajane and Detective Constable Malefane looking at the piles of files they have to contend with daily. ■ Pic: EVANS MBOWENI

10 policemen dealing with child abuse in the Vaal as a whole, only five are responsible for policing the black areas.

According to the Vaal CPU members they have already dealt with about 300 cases since the begin-

ning of the year.

To compound their woes, the five officers had to share only two vehicles and were expected to cover a vast area which included Meyerton, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging, Klipriver, Debarrage,

Ennerdale, Zacharia-park, Lenasia South, Rusteval, Orange Farm, De Deur, Grasmere, Zonkezizwe and a host of squatter camps.

As a result, they failed regularly to follow up cases, they were delayed in taking sexually abused children to medical inspections, and they were sometimes late in court – resulting in cases being thrown out.

Last year, in a bid to improve their situation, the policemen made representations to their unit commander, the district commander, the Gauteng MEC for Safety and Security and to the Child Protection head office in Pretoria.

The overall commander of the CPU, Lieutenant-Colonel Anneke Pienaar, said she had visited the area.

"We agreed to increase the number of police by 12. We are also looking at new offices and extra vehicles, but Rome was not built in a day."

START A REVOLUTIONARY SCHOOL YEAR



GOOD SAMARITAN
... Detective
Constable
Mohajane speaks
to some of the
abandoned
children Sakhephi
Kelly cares for with
her husband's

Shocking child abuse statistics

CP 22/1/95

(298)

RY 30 1995

Child rape on the increase

Activists seek tough deterrent

Star 30/1/95 (298)

■ BY GLENDA DANIELS

A 60 percent increase in reported cases of child rape could be countered by imposing harsher sentences on convicted child abusers, the Child Abuse Action Group has said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Anneke Pienaar, commander of the SAPS Child Protection Unit (CPU), said that, last year, 7 559 child rape cases were reported to the CPU compared to 4 736 cases in 1993.

In December 1994, there were 853 incidents of reported child rape and 384 arrests.

Ellen Methven, a member of the Child Abuse Action Group, which comprises women activists vehemently opposed to lenient sentences on child abusers, said: "I wish I knew the answer to the problem, but one of the solutions would be to impose harsher sentences on the abuser, so that they might be a deterrent to others doing the same thing."

Pienaar said child abuse also included sodomy, indecent

assault, attempted murder and kidnapping.

These acts had risen by 35 percent from 1993 to 1994.

Pienaar attributed the increased figures to there being more awareness of, and therefore more people reporting, child abuse.

Rape education campaigns and other awareness programmes, especially in black schools, were on the increase, she said, adding that this could be the reason why more children were reporting abuse and rape.

But Methven said the increase was "shocking", adding: "These people do not deserve to live".

She attributed the increase in reported cases to increased stress in society and to the fact that abusers were getting away with light sentences.

"The law needs to be changed so that when people are caught the sentence is severe."

"We need more public awareness; everybody has got to know what is going on."

700 children kept in jails

— some only 7 years old

(298)

ARLG 29/3/95

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

MORE than 700 unconvicted children were in jails at the end of January because of insufficient community-based alternatives and a shortage of places of safety.

By January 31, 27 children aged between seven and 13 were in prisons, along with 44 children aged 14, 127 aged 15, 237 aged 16 and 287 aged 17.

Of these, 146 were in Pollsmoor, 316 in Durban-Westville prison, 78 in Johannesburg and 48 in East London.

On January 31 there were also 8 619 sentenced juveniles in jail.

"The reality is that at this stage there are insufficient community-based alternative services... Therefore unconvicted children are detained in correctional institutions all over the country by order of the court," said Buks Jordaan, deputy commissioner of the

Department of Correctional Services' chief directorate for development programmes and religious care.

Major-General Jordaan told the portfolio committee on correctional services yesterday that the department wanted to see an end to the incarceration of children.

Meanwhile, measures were being taken to isolate children from other prisoners and, as far as possible, to place them in the care of compassionate female staff.

In terms of an amendment last year to the Correctional Services Act of 1959, no unconvicted child under the age 14 may be detained in a prison for longer than 24 hours.

An unconvicted child who is between 14 and 18 may be detained for up to 48 hours only if the court has ordered that the child be put in a place of safety and if admission to such places

of safety cannot immediately take place

General Jordaan said that while the courts were trying to adhere to the principle of having no children in prison at all, there had been cases where there was no alternative accommodation for children whose parents were not contactable.

General Jordaan said his department was in constant contact with non-governmental organisations, the courts and government departments, and Correctional Services social workers were constantly helping to trace detained children's parents, but still the department had been left with 722 children at the end of January.

While the responsibility for social work services to children awaiting trial rested with the Department of Welfare, social workers of the Department of Correctional Services would as far as possible provide a basic supportive system.

A place to rene

Take some paper, paint, bright dyes and wax. Add a group of young girls, hardened from living on the street and carrying scars of abuse and neglect. Mix well, and, what do you get? Teenagers glowing with pleasure at concrete evidence of their own creativity, a batch of marbled paper and a row of fat colourful candles.

These craft activities take place at the Siviwe shelter in Woodstock. Its name means "God has heard us."

Here and at Ons Plek, the first haven for female street children, more than food and a roof, education and love are offered. Through various projects — such as vocational skills development — former street children learn about self-empowerment. MYRNA ROBINS reports.

"THE first candle they make, they keep — it is a souvenir of their capabilities," says Renée Rossouw, co-ordinator of the vocational skills programme. "The next few go to their favourite sisters, teachers, aunts or friends."

"The next stage is selling and bartering them in a familiar context — valuable experience is gained this way ..."

At Siviwe in Woodstock, the young girls are producing colourful candles and marbling sheets of paper which will be used to make greeting cards.

This, the second Ons Plek shelter, opened in 1993. It offers a home for girls who have weaned themselves from street life at Ons Plek and who are ready for the second phase of rehabilitation. This includes vocational skills development, such as confidence-building, skills teaching, and the marketing of those skills, all of



READY FOR MARKET: A proud Ons Plek girl dips candles into a final layer of wax for a glossy finish.

W. Human Self-Respect

(298) ART 22/3/95

which will empower them to support themselves.

The programme includes schooling and a volunteer study-support programme. And, this year, it has expanded to offer training in study methods, communication skills and a very popular craft project.

Few of these children attended a pre-school, or even enjoyed the chance to use paper and crayons when very young. Today, they are learning crafts which, while compensating for early developmental gaps, are the first step towards finding out about profit and loss in the real world.

After making an article, business training follows. Once the girl has exhausted her immediate market, she goes to the trainer to ask how she can make "real business."

Now, after three months, the first group is about to face the world. Their candles and cards — bearing the Ons Plek logo — soon will be on sale on Greenmarket Square.

The Ons Plek shelter, the only safe-house shelter for girls in Cape Town, opened in 1988. Although it accommodates a maximum of 25, it has helped about 1 000 girls since it opened, or about 150 a year. It caters for female street children, the poorest of the poor. They leave home because of overcrowding, possible sexual harassment or the complete breakdown of family life.

Even on the streets they have the lowest status — comprising only 12 percent, they often are ignored by projects set up to help the boys.

Last year, unit manager Pam Jackson reported that about 75 percent of the intake went back to school or started school for the first time, and more than half returned to the community to live with their families or other families.

The staff conducts interviews with their families, helps to resolve conflicts and teaches conflict resolution skills. The girls also are educated

Ons Plek, housed in the Methodist Church building in Albertus Street, was well described at its opening as a place of love and comradeship, "where human self-respect will be reinstituted . . . this house is truly Ons Plek — yours, mine, ours."

Babies sometimes accompany young mothers. One such, an 18-month-old toddler was a second-generation street child. A parking lot or a derelict building had been the only homes she had known in her short life.

Her 18-year-old mother had left home at 14 to find her own mother. Within a few weeks, she became one of central Cape Town's street children, or strollers, with whom she lived for four years.

Some of the girls come from rural areas, being brought to the city for employment as domestic workers or nannies. Finding themselves poorly treated, they run away.

At Ons Plek, the girls take part in developing the rules at weekly house meetings. Domestic chores are done on a roster basis. Visitors are welcome in the afternoon, and the girls are allowed out, but have to return by 9pm on week nights and by 11pm at weekends.

The shelter was partly gutted by fire in 1990. While firemen battled the blaze, the girls wept on the pavement as their meagre possessions were destroyed. Money, pledges, food and offers of accommodation followed, and rebuilding started one month later.

In 1993, the Woodstock premises were acquired for Siviwe. The Ons Plek shelters are projects of the Child Welfare Society.

● While money is always needed, the staff at Ons Plek also need volunteers to help with homework, fund-raising, transport and teaching.

They would like to expand their craft lessons to include basic pottery, if a potter could provide some fire time in a kiln. For further infor-



NEW SKILLS: Programme co-ordinator Renée Rossouw and a girl from Siviwe make marble paper for greeting cards.

Pictures DOUG PTHEY The Argus

Call to change Child Care Act

(298)

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

CT 17/3/95

THE law must be changed to protect street children and sexually abused children, the planning committee of the Conference on Child Prostitution and Street Children said yesterday.

The call to change the Child Care Act was made by the 250 delegates who attended two conferences in Pretoria this week.

The delegates felt the focus of law enforcement should be on child abusers, rather than on the criminalisation of the child.

They also called for the registration of shelters according to prescribed standards, and said that sex education should discard its "traditional taboos".

Corporal punishment to go

□ 'It's unconstitutional': Kahn to abandon court fight

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

CORPORAL punishment seems destined for the legislative scrap-heap with the announcement that Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn does not plan to argue for its retention at the Constitutional Court later this month.

And if South Africa follows the Namibian model, caating at government schools will be outlawed too.

Mr Kahn told Constitutional Court president Arthur Chaskalson yesterday that in his opinion corporal punishment was unconstitutional.

To pursue the argument for its retention would be a "waste of time and money".

To reach a decision as to whether beating is constitutional or not, the Constitutional Court is to make arrangements for the appointment of a lawyer to present argument for its retention.

But it appears the die is already cast.

Not only has Justice Minister Dullah Omar announced imminent legislation scrapping corporal punishment, but a full bench of the Namibian

Supreme Court found it to be unconstitutional in 1991.

And not only are the relevant sections of the Namibian and South African constitutions virtually identical, but one of the Namibian judges who determined the punishment's unconstitutionality — Ismael Mohammed — now sits on the South African Constitutional Court bench.

The Namibian Court found: "The imposition of any sentence by any judicial or quasi-judicial authority, or directing any corporal punishment upon any person, is unlawful and in conflict with Article Eight of the Namibian Constitution."

"The infliction of corporal punishment in government schools is likewise unlawful and unconstitutional."

The registrar of the constitutional court, Martie Nienaber, said yesterday: "A notice was received this morning from the Attorney-General of the Cape informing the president of the court he takes the view that corporal punishment is unconstitutional and that he does not plan to argue to the contrary."

"In the circumstances, the president of the court will make arrangements for an amicus curiae (friendly lawyer) to be appointed to present the contrary argument to the court."

Mr Kahn had already submitted heads of argument, arguing the contrary view, to the constitutional court. Questioned on his change of mind, Mr Kahn said he initially filed his argument to help the court make an informed decision.

"I am now persuaded that corporal punishment is unconstitutional in law — to pursue the argument would be a waste of time and money."

Steve Kahanowitz of the Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town is to argue for the unconstitutionality of the punishment. The case is on the roll for March 24.

● President Mandela announced in his opening speech to parliament three weeks ago that South Africa would ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — both of which bar judicial and institutional corporal punishment.



FRANK KHAN

ARG 10/3/95

(292) (298)

Child abuse 'shocking'

By Charity Bhengu

SOWETO has become the "child sexual abuse" capital of the world with nearly three cases of this dastardly crime being reported to police in the township every day.

Soweto police confirmed yesterday that in the year before February 1995, 840 cases involving sexual abuse against children had been investigated.

Police spokesman Major Govand-samy Mariemuthoo said in one of the

worst examples a mere 10-year-old girl had been diagnosed HIV positive. HIV is the virus that causes Aids, which is a sure killer as there is no known cure.

No fewer than 9 000

To our shame South Africa may well be lining up as the "child sexual abuse" country of the world, with no fewer than 9 000 sexually abused children being brought to the attention of police last year. Describing the situation as "disgusting", Major Mariemuthoo called on the community to report each and every

case of suspected child abuse, sexual or otherwise. (298)

What made the situation even more disgusting was the fact that only 10 or 15 percent of cases came to the attention of police and also the superstitious and barbaric belief in certain South African communities that a man could rid himself of the HIV virus by raping a virgin child.

The horrific truth to these figures is that South Africans abuse their children at the rate of 90 000, or more, a year. *Sowetan 6/3/95*

Angry, frustrated youth 'feel abandoned'

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

MANY young people in South Africa felt abandoned by those they had looked up to and were in a state of limbo leading to a tremendous sense of frustration, anger and worthlessness, the chairwoman of the Independent Development Trust (IDT), Dr. Mamphela Ramphele, has warned.

The youth could be regarded as a millstone around the country's neck or they could, and should, be regarded as an opportunity, she wrote in the latest issue of the IDT magazine, *Leading Edge*.

Dr. Ramphele said the Development Bank had estimated that 50% of the African population, the most affected sector, was under the age of 19 and this would rise to 60% by the

year 2000.

Some people had suggested a get-tough approach with the youth, including military camps, imprisonment and the use of harsh measures to impose discipline.

"If we go this route, we will have failed to learn the lessons of the US where the 'three strikes and you are out' approach has not worked."

Dr. Ramphele said South Africa should rather nurture the youth into

becoming a national asset instead of the liability they were seen to be.

"A revitalisation of the chain of vital institutions such as the home, school, community and work environment is essential. A balanced approach is critical."

A massive residential skills training programme to equip the youth with life skills was needed as well as

skills to enable them to become economically active and a radical revamp of the school system to improve its delivery of quality education.

"Single parenthood, and female heads of households are a reality we have to live with. These families need support to raise children who are balanced and likely to make a contribution to a prosperous South Africa," she said.

New action against child abusers

(298) star 4/11/95

Child safety

A new pressure group hopes to make society a safer place for children in 1995 and beyond.

Glenda Daniels reports.

You may think your child lucky not to have been a victim of child abuse, indecent assault, rape or murder, but despite precautions to protect them, children are suffering the effects of this malaise in society regardless.

They can no longer play in parks on their own, walk to the shops on their own or do any of the things which has been the right of children through the ages, says Shelley Bainbridge, chairperson of the Child Abuse Action Group.

Bainbridge says children's movements are severely restricted because parents worry that something bad might happen to them.

"This is a tragic state of affairs and something has to be done to change it. One way is to give child abusers harsher sentences so that it might be a deterrent to crimes against children."

The pressure group was formed last year to oppose lenient sentences handed down to child abusers. In just three weeks, the group collected 4 380 signatures from the public for their petition, demanding the Government and courts protect all children by taking immediate action to ensure that punishment is more stringent.

And from May to December 1994, they collected about 40 000 signatures in support of their campaign.

Bainbridge says the group was formed after a young boy from Kempton Park was dumped into boiling water and nearly killed by his mother's boyfriend. The mother got off and the boyfriend received a 15-year sentence.

"Who knows whether he will serve those 15 years? The mother should also have been punished," says Bainbridge.

Last month, the Child Abuse Action Group met Minister of Justice Dullah Omar to bring to his attention that "the judicial system is not dealing with the perpetrators of child abuse in the way that it should".

Harsher

"Our aim was to persuade him to use his power to make changes to the law so perpetrators of crimes against children get harsher sentences," Bainbridge says.

The group asked that a law be passed to define child abuse because, they say, the Child Care Act was not sufficiently strong and adequate enough.

They asked that the law that a judge can only pass a maximum of 10 years for child abuse be changed, as 10 years was insufficient.

For child murderers, the group asked for life imprisonment.

Omar's response was that the various issues would be investigated, the suggestions would be given serious consideration and that he would have another meeting with the group soon.

Bainbridge has horrific pictures of child abuse from the police Child Protection Unit and documentation of lenient sentences imposed on child abusers.

Bainbridge said that in 1991 a four-year-old girl from Westbury in Johannesburg went for a walk with a member of the community.

She was anally raped, he masturbated in front of her and then he threw her against the railway line, smashing her

head so that she died in about five minutes.

He was serving 33 years, but whether he will serve those years or be let out into society to do the same again was open to question, says Bainbridge.

The Child Abuse Action Group routinely protests outside courts where child abuse cases are being heard.

It engages in a daily collection of signatures for a petition via the post and at shopping malls, on the streets and in other public places.

Members have had exhibitions in malls to spread public awareness about

the issue.

Activities have been confined to Gauteng, but they hope to start extending to other regions next year.

Other plans for 1995 include continuing with pressure on the authorities to introduce changes and to lobby for more places of safety for children.

"We would also like to see less money being pumped into the rehabilitation of the perpetrator and more money being spent on the rehabilitation of the victim," Bainbridge says.

The group hopes to have more exhibitions, "even if it shocks people, they

need to know that child abuse is rampant"

It plans to have protests outside brothels where many young children are "used and abused".

The group will also be marching in certain townships where there are known child abusers

Bainbridge says the group's cause is not a "political one" but a "human rights one".

She adds it is attracting a lot of support for its protests from the ANC Women's League, the Democratic Party and the National Party.



TOMORROW

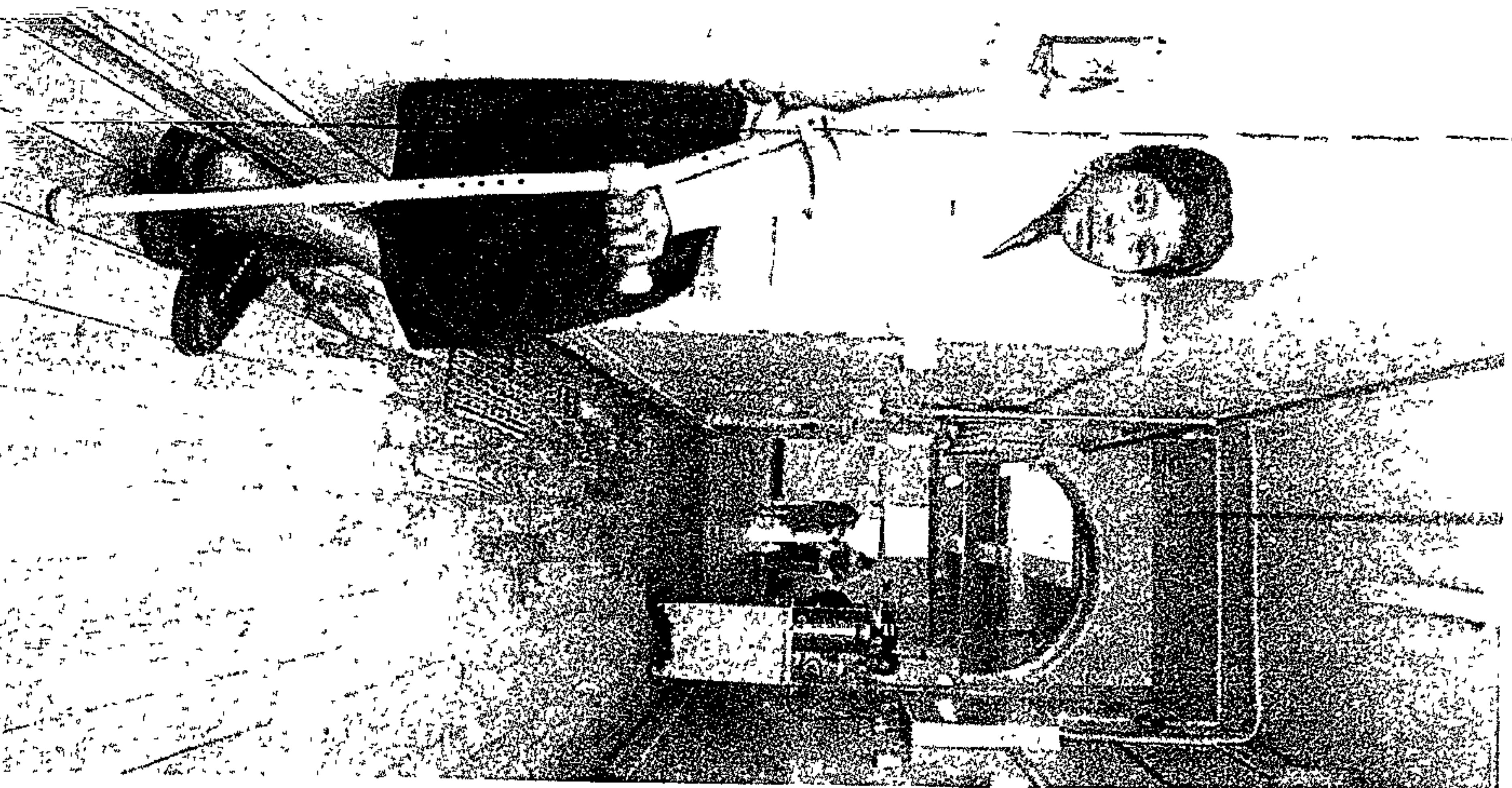
Modern technology has led to transcutaneous magnetics being specifically designed for medical use to combat pain through magnetic therapy.

Philanthropist organiser believes it would be unfair to return children to the streets

Homeless 'headache' at Valkenberg

(298) REG 9/11/95

Valkenberg Hospital authorities claim 47 homeless people living in an empty building in the hospital's grounds are there illegally. Health Reporter LIBBY PEACOCK investigates.



STREET children and older homeless people who were invited by a group of philanthropists to take up residence in a disused Valkenberg Hospital building are giving hospital authorities a headache.

The group of 47 strollers and adults, some with children, moved into the dilapidated building before Christmas.

Authorities say they are sympathetic to their plight, but maintain their "illegal" presence is causing various problems and have asked them to leave.

But organiser Joseph Little, who calls his project *Learn to Earn to Own*, believes it would be unfair to return the children and adults to the streets.

He said he had always felt sympathy for the homeless and saw his project as part of the Reconstruction and Development Plan.

"We're not moving out. We don't want to put the children back on the streets."

The project started when Mr Little saw the vandalised building standing empty and open about five months ago and decided to approach Valkenberg Hospital with a proposal to use it as a shelter and skills centre.

He conceded that although he presented authorities with his aims and objections, he didn't submit a formal proposal.

He said instead of trying to deal with loads of red tape, he tackled the problem and invited street children and homeless adults to move in before Christmas.

The children and adults were divided into units and the children were always fully supervised, he said.



OFF THE STREETS: Project leader Joseph Little, middle, back, with some of the street children who have taken up residence in the disused building, in the background.

ants", but to establish a skills centre on the premises.

Some of the adults in the building have already made themselves at home by neatly decorating their small rooms.

Moam Malgas and his common-law wife Michelle Presense said they were grateful to finally have their own

But the building has only one bathroom, which is not "functioning properly", according to Mr Little.

Valkenburg senior medical superintendent Ethel Hacking confirmed Mr Little had approached the hospital regarding the proposed rehabilitation centre for street

used building — owned by the regional government's Works Department — and leases were being "sorted out".

Dr Hacking said many of the street children were "very vulnerable" and prone to substance abuse, as were some of the Valkenberg patients. This could potentially

Representatives from the hospital, the departments of Welfare and Works and health authorities met with Mr Little and his colleagues and discussed the matter with them.

"Our proposal was that they meet with the Department of Welfare and either

until in our view a suitable alternative had been negotiated."

Dr Hacking said she was "concerned" that supervision of the children was inadequate.

Children had been found "wandering around at night"

LOOKING FORWARD: The building is empty, old and dilapidated, but this woman would like to call it home.



SHELTER: Some of the strollers in their bare "dormitory".

not been trained as a child care worker, but said he was "just a philanthropic person". His objective was to not only clothe and feed the "ten-

streets. Pictures drawn by the strollers decorated the walls of one of the large, empty wards.

submit a formal proposal. While she had sympathy for the scheme, discussions were already underway with prospective tenants for the dis-

cren "running" for patients. The new tenants had at first "fooled" hospital security into believing they were authorised to move in.

for the project or consider the placement of the children elsewhere. "We would not evict them

"terrorised" and "threatened". The scheme needed skilled social workers and psychologists to give it credibility, she said



OWN HOME: Moam Malgas and his common-law wife Michelle Presense, who lived on the streets for six years, relax in their room. They have prettily adorned the walls with religious pictures, flowers and other decorations.

Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM. The Argus.

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Street kid problem (298) CT 9/11/95 'escalating'

Staff Reporter

WELFARE organisations have warned that the problem of street children in Cape Town is escalating alarmingly — and the influx could have the city facing the same problem as Rio de Janeiro.

Social workers and the City Council have further revealed that adult "Fagan characters" have become involved in exploiting the children.

They say a "rent-a-baby" scheme is available for women to hire an infant for R10 a day to hold on their arms and beg at street corners.

Ms Toody Mouton, of the Haven nightshelter, said there was a drastic increase in the number of destitute people flocking to the cities.

However, there are no accurate figures to assess how widespread the problem was.

"It's not a go-away issue, it's a here-to-stay issue," she said.

Ms Annette Coburn, director of the Homestead Projects for Street Children, said "guesstimates" put the number of street children in the city, Sea Point and Rondebosch at between 600 and 800.

Recent trends revealed that "the

children are getting younger". Cape Town would become like Rio de Janeiro "unless the socio-economy changes a lot. It's romantic to imagine you can clean up the streets."

"There's a big problem with the Fagan characters, but the police never arrest the big ones, only the little ones," she said.

She said campaigns encouraging hardware stores and bottle stores to refrain from selling glue and alcohol to street children had also backfired.

Now adults were exploiting the children by offering to buy the substances for them in return for a stake in the money they collected through begging.

Despite the existence of several homes to clothe, feed and educate the children, Ms Coburn said many of them do not want to be in the homes at night as there are rules involved.

Circles

City Council spokeswoman Mrs Dolce Perks said despite committees trying to work out a solution, "it just goes around and around in circles".

Captour spokeswoman Ms Lauren de Wet urged people to stop giving money to street children.

Business

'lost over street kids'

(298)
CT 12/11/95

By MELANIE GOSLING

STREET children are causing businesses to lose custom, the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce said yesterday.

Yesterday groups of up to 20 street children were seen huddled and asleep under blankets on pavements in the city centre at 10am.

Pedestrians had to step into the gutter to pass them.

Some businesses complained bitterly yesterday, saying they were unable to wake the children sleeping outside their shops and offices.

Others admitted pouring water on the children from top storeys. Still others were seen cleaning excrement from their doorsteps.

Cape Town Chamber of Commerce spokesman Mr Charl Adams said "They disrupt businesses. Our members say the children are scaring off potential clients or customers."

"This happens particularly near public parking areas. If they don't give them money, they damage cars. Some have been caught red-handed."

He believed city centre shelters which provided "free board and lodging" to street children attracted children from outlying areas.

"We need to establish homes with discipline and curfews and where they have to go to school. That is the solution. Night shelters are just creat-

ing a problem," he said.

Not so, says St Patrick's Home director Mrs Annette Cockburn.

"There is much research which suggests this claim is unsubstantiated. No child leaves a family where its needs are met for a shelter where they sleep on the floor and get bread and pap for a meal. They leave home because of abject poverty."

"Five years ago kids said they left home because 'my pa het my geslaan' (my father hit me). Now they say it's because there is no food at home."

She said all shelters had curfews and locked their gates at 9pm.

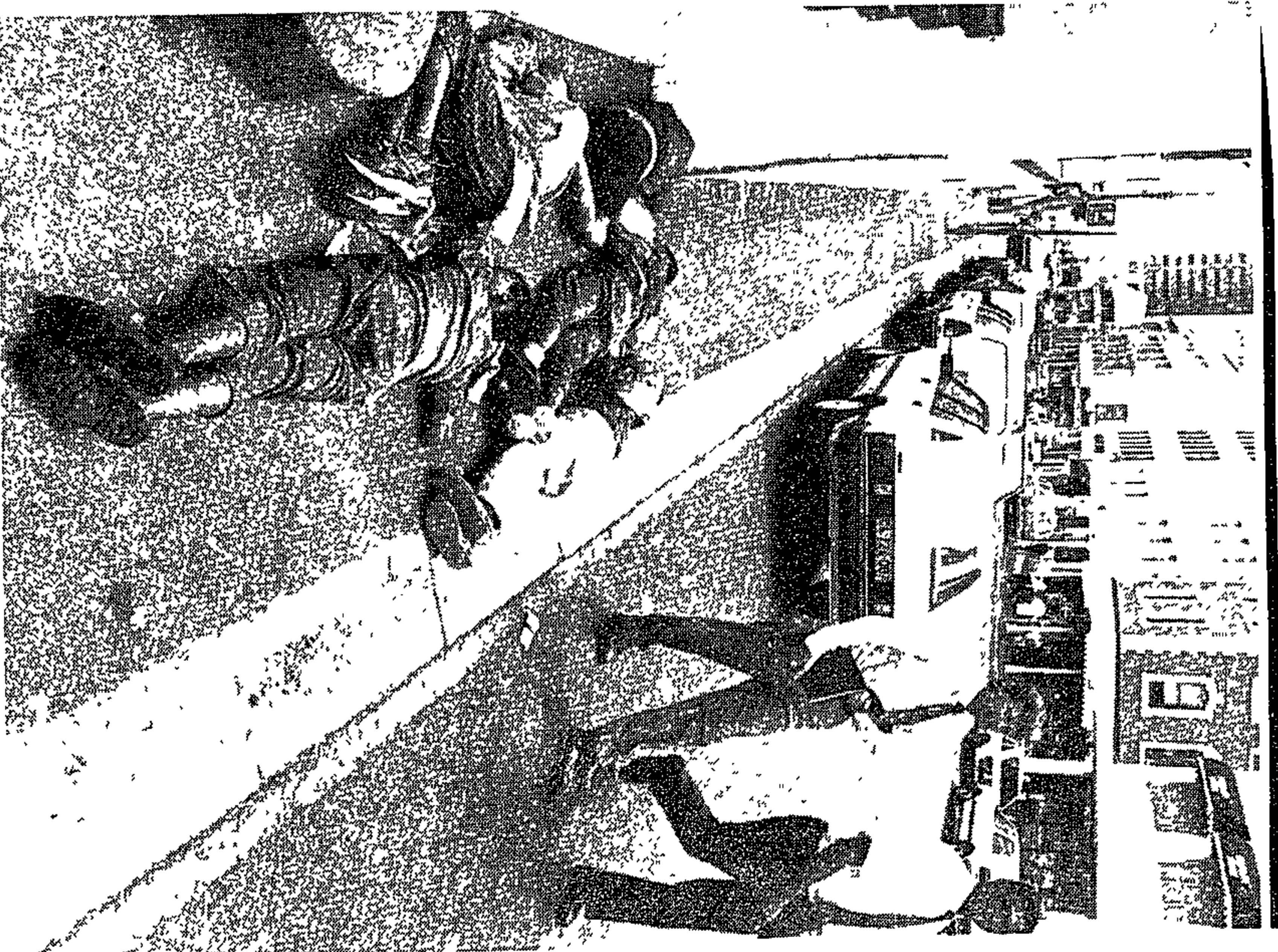
"The children asleep on the streets in the morning have been awake all night begging outside clubs."

She also said street children were getting younger.

All homes provided informal education. Last year, St Patrick's Home sent 40 street children to school and this year 65, some to high school.

Dr John Sonnenberg, chairman of the City Council's vagrancy committee, said: "Street children are a symptom of a society which is fragmented and unstable. The long-term solutions are to stimulate the economy, create more jobs and provide more housing."

"In the short-term, shelters must be provided. Street children can't be eradicated. They are part of urban society. We must aim to rehabilitate them," Dr Sonnenberg said.



PROBLEM . . . These street children were still asleep at 10am yesterday. The Chamber of Commerce said they are causing businesses to lose money.

Picture BENNY GOOL

Norway Red Cross gives R1 m boost to SA youth

THABO MABASO
Staff Reporter

298
ARG 12/1/95
THE Norwegian Red Cross has given a boost to South Africa's disadvantaged youth with a R1-million donation for upliftment.

The donation, which includes a personal contribution of R150 000 by Norwegian soccer star, Rune Bratseth, will be paid over three years.

Members of the Norwegian Red Cross are on a fact-finding mission in South Africa.

Secretary general of the Norwegian Red Cross, Sven Molleuleiv, said the donation would be used for the Red Cross's various operations in the country. "We must work for the upliftment of the people," he said.

Rune Bratseth could have donated his money to any other country in the world but he chose South Africa because "a lot has happened in this country".

"In others, you donate your money and after a week it is gone," he said. "The situation is stable here."

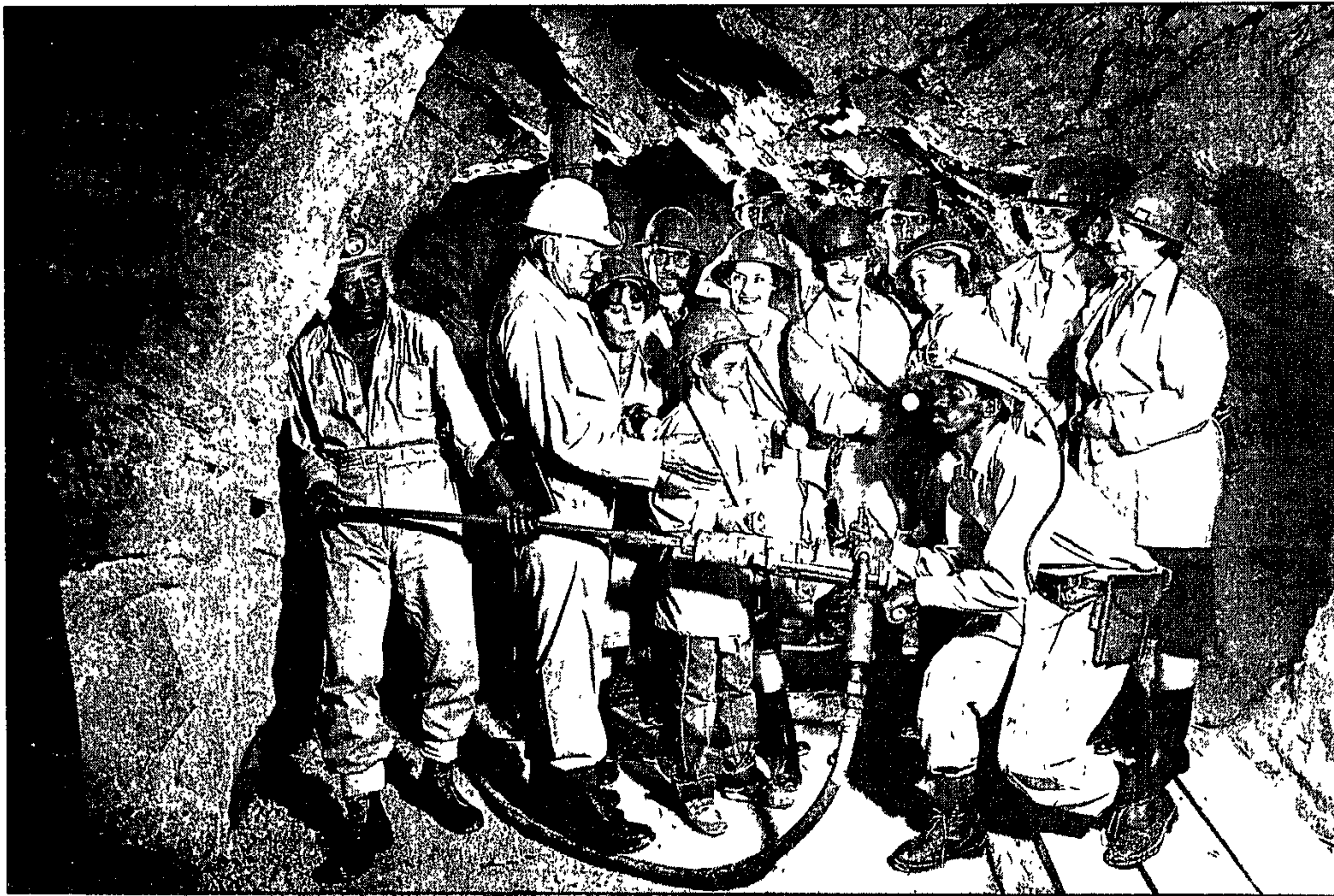
The donation would be divided among various Red Cross charities aimed at youth upliftment. The Red Cross believed one way of doing this was through sport.

During a visit to Guguletu, the Nordic guests had a chance to scrutinise South African soccer talent as two young teams battled it out on a bumpy pitch. The youngsters so impressed the visitors that Sven Molleuleiv was heard saying: "They have good technique."

Mr Bratseth, who has played in one of the world's toughest leagues — the German Bundesliga — was full of praise for the talent displayed by the young soccerites.

"Technically they are well-trained, but they still have a lot to learn," commented the former Norwegian team captain. "They have to play as a team, not as individuals."

Publicity officer for the Red Cross in Cape Town, Elsa Green, said: "Children are our future ... what better way to uplift them than through sport."



The South African Tourism Board has developed a multifaceted strategy to encourage tourism, both as an economic stimulus and as a generator of employment, writes Winnie Graham. It is starting by giving jobs to unemployed youth to protect visitors.

Satour has plans for SA

Satour has targeted South Africa's unemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 25 for training as "tourist protection officers" in the country's main tourist centres.

In addition, it hopes that at least 50 young people will be operating as tourist guides in a pilot project masterminded by government-based institutions and private tour operations by the end of this year.

Information on these schemes is contained in a consultative document prepared by Satour detailing its "reconstruction and development strategy" until 1999.

The document contains an

array of preliminary proposals in various fields where tourist development projects could have spinoffs in meeting basic needs, developing human potential and building the economy.

South Africa's current earnings from tourism are relatively low. Satour estimates that they contribute somewhere between 1,5 and 2 percent to the gross national product. The average world figure is 6 percent.

"Foreign exchange earnings from tourism are estimated at about R7 billion, but they could expand to R9 billion within the next three years," the document states.

Although the challenge of achieving tourism growth by 1996 is seen as vital, Satour's determination to develop the

"human facet" of tourism is greater. It lists, as a top priority, the need to ensure that South Africans embrace a culture of hospitality, friendliness and service.

Because a large section of the population was for long excluded from participating in tourism, research has indicated that many do not appreciate the potential benefits and responsibility of a growing tourist industry.

At the same time, Satour recognises the need for training to provide equal opportunities for all to effectively participate in the industry. By the beginning of 1996 it plans to have an integrated and co-ordinated tourism training strategy in place and, a year later, hopes that tourism will be a component in the primary and junior secondary

schools' national geography curriculum.

In a bid to draw attention to South Africa's wide variety of cultural and sports experiences, Satour is compiling a comprehensive inventory of cultural attractions, museums, monuments and socio-political landmarks for inclusion in the 1997 tourism theme year of "sports and cultural experiences".

It wants South Africans to travel in their own country before considering trips abroad.

The document states "The largest section of the South African population has been prohibited through past policies from being tourists. This trend should be reversed to ensure that South Africans develop a pride in their beautiful country."

It plans to ensure that all

forms of racial discrimination are eradicated from the tourist industry this year and will proactively penalise discriminatory facilities or establishments.

The new political dispensation has opened many new tourist markets to South Africa. Growth in international tourism, Satour stresses, is at the core of the potential economic contribution of tourism.

The documents makes these points.

By the middle of 1995, a tourism development fund should be operative which will cater strongly for the needs of the emerging tourism entrepreneur, particularly in the development of tourist attractions, accommodation facilities and tour operations in and around townships and rural villages.

■ An investment incentive package for the development projects in rural areas operative from the this year.

■ A structured programme for small development in tourism of educational material, is in the process of being developed.

■ A programme marketing opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs soon be operative.

The problem of addressed

Research indicates 40 percent of tourists regard safety as "good". This trend is reversed substantially in and around townships and rural villages.

Satour is working



“The largest section of the South African population has been prohibited through past policies from being tourists. This trend should be reversed to ensure that South Africans develop a pride in their beautiful country.”

Bringing home the bacon... foreign exchange earnings from tourism (including the popular trips down Gold Reef City's mine shaft) are estimated at about R7 billion, but they could expand to R9 billion within the next three years, says a Satour document detailing its reconstruction and development strategy until 1999.

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Winnie Graham. It is starting by
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Plans for SA youth

288 298 Star 16/1/95

schools' national geography curriculum

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■ An investment and funding incentive package to encourage the development of tourist projects in rural areas will be operative from the beginning of this year.

■ A structured advisory programme for small business development in tourism, consisting of educational literature and video material, is now available

■ A programme to facilitate marketing opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs should soon be operative

The problem of crime is also addressed

Research indicates that only 40 percent of tourists to South Africa regard safety and security as "good". This trend needs to be reversed substantially if tourism is to grow.

Satour is working to ensure

that by the end of 1996 a substantial tourist protection force will be operating in all major tourist centres.

All tourist areas with a high crime rate are to be identified and a comprehensive tourist information service, comprising information brochures and toll-free emergency numbers, made available. The police, public, business community and vendors will be involved

There are plans, too, to provide tourists with improved road signage at every tourist facility in South Africa by 1997. A new electronic tourist information and reservation system will be functioning by 1996 and a series of 50 tourist information maps should be located at strategic points along the South African road network within a year.

itches" ● SA as tourist trap

Youth to benefit from tourism

(298)
Sowetan 17/1/95

Sowetan Correspondent

SATOUR has targeted South Africa's unemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 25 for training as "tourist protection officers" in the country's main tourist centres.

In addition, it hopes that at least 50 young people will be operating as tourist guides in a pilot project masterminded by government-based institutions and private tour operations by the end of this year. Information on these schemes is contained in a consultative document prepared by Satour detailing its "reconstruction and development strategy" until 1999.

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Although the challenge of achieving tourism growth by 1996 is seen as vital, Satour's determination to develop the "human facet" of tourism is greater.

It lists, as a top priority, the need to ensure that South Africans embrace a culture of hospitality, friendliness and service.

Feeding their tumms as well as their minds

Staff Reporter

FOR at least 268 000 under-privileged children at 350 schools throughout the Western Cape, being back at school means a return to bread queues. (298)

That's the number of children who were fed by the Peninsula School Feeding Association every day last year.

Yesterday the association received a major boost in the form of R20 332,56 cheque from First National Bank.

The money was raised partly by the bank's staff through last year's Blisters For Bread walk. A further R5 000 was donated by the bank while T-shirt sales provided another R2 200.

Stan Powell, FNB Western Cape general manager, and Don Ferguson, chief manager of marketing and sales, expressed great pleasure in continuing the bank's support for the association. The bank has organised the annual walk since 1975. AR 18/1/95

More than 200 walkers from various branches took part last year.

The Athlone branch collected R3 930, the highest amount for the second year running.

Athlone branch manager Carl Lotter accepted a trophy in recognition for their efforts.

Reggie Moses, manager of customer services at Athlone, was winner of the trophy for the most money collected individually. He brought in R3 130.

The association has been feeding Cape schoolchildren since 1958.

It works an area extending from Plettenberg Bay and Beaufort-West.

In response to a halt in government subsidies, the Rotary Club of Paarden Eiland feeds children in that area.

Huge demand delays school feeding funds

NELSPRUIT. — The co-ordinator of the school feeding programme in the Eastern Transvaal says more than 300 schools in the province have not yet received their cheques to implement the programme.

Mr William Mokoena attributed the delay to the large number of applications for assistance.

He appealed to schools which had already received their cheques to go ahead and implement the feeding programme.

Mr Mokoena urged parents not to blame headmasters for failure or delays in implementing the programme. — Sapa

(298) CT 19/1/95

Meals for childrens' empty tumms

298

ARC 23/1/95

□ 300 000 fed on a daily basis

Staff Reporter

FOR more than 300 000 underprivileged Western Cape pupils, being back at school means more than just getting a grip on education.

It means painfully whiling away the hours on empty stomachs.

But, thanks to the two-year-old National Nutrition and Social Development Programme (NNSDP), many of these children are given wholesome meals.

While the feeding of primary and pre-primary children is a priority of the scheme, unemployed adults are also helped.

Last year, the reconstruction and development programme gave R12,9 million to the Western Cape Primary School Nutrition Programme (WCPSNP), after President Nelson Mandela announced a national primary school-feeding scheme.

According to an NNSDP spokesman, the Western Cape unit has been a forerunner in the field of school-feeding since the programme's inception.

Fifty-two percent of the

Western Cape unit's 1994/95 annual budget of R24 million was allocated to primary school-feeding in the province.

More than 260 000 primary schoolchildren are fed daily by the Peninsula School Feeding Association (PSFA).

The substantial state aid received by the association over the last three years has meant an improvement in the meals given to children and an increase in the number fed.

The association, a non-profit organisation, survived 33 years without state aid through intensive fundraising and support from other organisations.

The annual "Blisters for Bread" Walk is expected to raise more than R300 000 this year.

Another 39 non-government organisations and individual schools in the rural areas receive funds from the WCPSNP to feed 36 983 pupils.

In total, all of the traditionally black schools and 67 percent of the traditionally coloured schools in the Western Cape are being fed by the primary school nutrition programme.



HAT TRICK? Alicia Jacobs, Standard 9, with Sulaiman Samuels, Jonathan Saunders, Standard 10, Envil Wertheim, Nolan Jansen, Standard 10, Lee-Anne Phelps, Standard 9 and Deidre Assure. In front are Regan Stemmers, Standard 10 and Waldo Damons.

Picture DOUG PITHEY, The Argus



NEW LIVES: Some of Plettenberg Bay's street children — Ronnie, Johannes, Josef, John and Michael — with the handicrafts they make to sell.

Saving street children from living in a cardboard box

LIBBY PEACOCK
Health Reporter

A YEAR ago they were living in cardboard boxes or on the beach, barely surviving, abandoned and unloved.

Now they live in a safe house, and last week they went to school, dressed in brand-new uniforms.

They are the lucky ones — the group of small-town street children who are rising above their impoverished backgrounds with a little help from some friends.

The town in question is the popular, upmarket seaside resort of Plettenberg Bay, where the number of strollers has grown from about 50 two years ago to around 200 this year, according to clothing shop owner Lesley Myburgh, who a year ago initiated a street children project in the town.

What started off as a one-woman scheme has blossomed into a team effort.

A local policing forum sub-committee for street children has been formed, a three-bedroom "safe house" has been made available — and 17 children went back to school at the beginning of this term.

Mrs Myburgh said: "I've only lived in Plett for two years now. The first year that I was here, I was aware of the problem. I made inquiries, but it seemed that nothing was being done."

"At the beginning of last year, I started picking them up, taking them to the beach and playing with them."

A local pastor made a room available for her to work in.

There she and the children "started making things" — "the most beautiful mobiles of sticks and shells", candles, decoupage and other items.

"I set up a little store for them — they get half of the proceeds and the other half was put in a kitty ..."

"Then kids started coming on their own and I didn't have to fetch them anymore."

By this time Mrs Myburgh, assisted by her friend Lyn Tomkins, was deeply involved in the children's plight.

"One guy, John, had four little guys that he was looking after. They lived in a little house made of cardboard boxes ... The four little boys slept on the floor."

"You think you've got to help them, but you realise it's not just them — there are millions of people like them."

The children's self-esteem received a boost when they enthusiastically took part in a local wire-toy making competition — and won the mountain bikes offered as prizes.

At the end of November Mrs Myburgh was contacted by a representative of a policing forum, which had been formed in the town. She joined the forum and a sub-committee was launched.

The committee has since raised enough money to buy a wooden house, situated on a piece of ground allocated by the municipality.

"Since the end of November we have raised between R6 000 and R8 000."

An aftercare centre, where volunteers will help the street children who went to school this year with their homework, is being set up.

But still there are many children who need help.

"This December the tourists were actually quite shocked."

"There is a lot of influx into the town, but no work. This town goes totally dead after season."

Three of the street children in the town had been abandoned by their mother, who in desperation left the town to try and find a job elsewhere.

● Anybody wanting to assist the Plettenberg sub-committee for street children, may contact Mrs Myburgh at P O Box 1596, Plettenberg Bay, 6 600, or call her at (04457) 9491.

'Too few' tokens sold to help kids

(298)

CT 25/1/95

Staff Reporter

TOKEN TRUST, the charity project which collects funds for the upliftment of street children, spent all the money collected on infrastructure and awareness campaigns.

None of the money collected went to street children's shelters, homes or projects.

Chairman Mr Mark Mocke said yesterday Token Trust had collected only R1 390 from the sale of tokens at petrol stations. The trust's costs had come to R2 243, which had created a loss of R853.

Mr Mocke said the funds raised from the public had "had to be used for the instigation of infrastructure and public awareness campaigns".

"Unfortunately, insufficient tokens were sold to allow a distribution to the (street children's) shelters," Mr Mocke said.

Token Trust was launched in May 1993.

Asked why the project had not succeeded, Mr Mocke said: "If we had had volunteers standing at petrol stations we would have had a better response. Only if people specifically asked for tokens did they get them. Petrol attendants don't have the time. We've tested it with volunteers and we can make sales."

Mr Mocke said the trust's organising committee had given "substantial amounts" of their time and finances to set up the trust.

● In its story on Friday the Cape Times, in a headline, said the Child Welfare Society "threatens" a take-over of Token Trust. This was incorrect.

The report clearly stated that the society was considering the feasibility of taking over the project. The trust had, in fact, approached the society to discuss this.

Rape a hazard for street children

298
ARJ4/2/95

KAREN STANDER
Weekend Argus Reporter

RAPE is a far greater risk for street children than voluntary prostitution, say social workers working with runaways and children of vagrants.

A Weekend Argus investigation has found that although police and social workers agree some child prostitution exists in Cape Town, it is not perceived as a growing problem.

Police have adopted a "no complaint, no action" policy and reported that no prostitutes were arrested in the city last year.

Ons Plek shelter manager Pam Jackson said it was a myth that all children on the street were prostitutes. Fewer than a sixth of the street children with whom she had worked had been involved in sex for money.

"I was surprised, when I started, to find out how few are involved.

"The greater danger for these children is rape. The girls are lowest in the pecking order (on the street) and forced sexual intercourse is one of the ways the boys use to control them. They talk about 'op die tafel gooi' (throwing someone on the table), which means to be gang-raped."

Mrs Jackson told of one seven-year-old girl who lived with her family on the street and was forced by the family into prostitution.

"The little girl didn't see it as wrong. It was part of life."

Her impression was that rape and sex for money were more common among boys on the street — little boys forced by bigger boys to engage in sexual activity with the bigger boys or with paying customers.

When there was sex for money (called "karrejump"), it was usually a very basic transaction with payment from R2.

Annette Cockburn, director of The Homestead's project for street children, said children were not prostitutes but victims of adult sexual exploitation.

"Publicity on child prostitution attracts the attention of potential abusers ... (Children on the streets) are unprotected by adults or anyone else."

Some "survival sex" was found among street children but "given half a chance they abandon it", Mrs Cockburn said.

Cape Town police were strongly opposed to the method reportedly used

■ Child prostitution among Cape Town's street children is a problem — but not as serious as the risk they run of being raped.

by Pretoria police recently — using a child as a decoy in a trap — to arrest child prostitution clients.

Narcotics Bureau head Lieutenant-Colonel Alwies van Schalkwyk was vehement: "Never, ever! I find that totally unacceptable. That's absurd."

Apart from the ethical problems, children were never ideal witnesses in court, he said.

Child Protection Unit member Warrant Officer John Lubbe agreed.

"I wouldn't do it. It is against my personal principles. That is exploitation and we are here to prevent children being exploited. Imagine the public reaction!"

He said there were no cases in hand of child prostitution. The unit was aware of collusion between "some taxi companies" and foreign sailors who were taken to houses, mainly in Woodstock, from which a drug and prostitution ring operated.

However, in spite of complaints and "a lot of information", every lead ended in a dead end.

There had been a case last year in which police believed two 14-year-olds were involved in prostitution, but the teenagers had not been prepared to make statements.

"(Child prostitution) ... is happening, but it (the extent) is difficult to assess if the children will not co-operate. That shows how deeply involved they are."

He said the unit went out on the streets two or three times a month looking for children and talking to them.

He saw only a peripheral role for police in finding a solution — of notifying social services of cases which came to their attention.

"The reason those children are out there is mainly because of their home situations. The children are often contributing to their families' incomes. Prostitution is easy money."

"The solution is in the creation of jobs, in the (provision of) social services. Nip it in the bud where it originates — in the home. It doesn't help to remove the children from the streets. We must get to the root of the problem."

Sandwiches for Africa

JOHANNESBURG. —

Millions of children are getting their first tangible taste of political change as 4,5 million peanut butter sandwiches are delivered each day to their schools.

Schoolteachers say school attendance has increased 15% in many parts of the country since the start of the R14m scheme. — Sapa

CT 10/2/95

Peanut butter sandwiches give RDP its first victory

298
5T/2/95

By CHIARA CARTER

EACH schoolday South Africa produces its own version of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, when more than 4,5 million of the country's poorest children are fed.

Five months after its inception, the Primary School Nutrition Programme, which operates at rural and peri-urban junior schools, is being hailed as the first Reconstruction and Development Programme success.

Administered by the departments of health and education, the programme aims to provide poor children with more than a quarter of their required daily food needs — milk or fruit juice and brown peanut butter sandwiches.

The logistics involved in feeding 4 641 162 children are mind-boggling.

Just under R473-million has been allocated to the scheme from the RDP fund for the present financial year.

Each region has approached the challenge differently. Some allocated the food contract to large companies, others are using local traders to boost small enterprise. Local welfare organisations run the scheme in the Western Cape.

The programme has experienced many hiccups, not least because many of the schools are located in areas with poor roads and no telephones.

But, while it might have been a bumpy ride for officials to get the programme up and running, they are now patting themselves on the back for achieving what many thought impossible: getting nutritious food on a daily basis to the poorest children in some of the country's most remote areas.

The bulk of the children benefiting are in the impoverished Eastern Cape where about 2,9 million children are fed.

Northern Transvaal Deputy Director of Health Corinne Lubbe said the programme was a "miracle".

"We had no school feeding schemes. Now we are reaching more than 1 800 primary schools, almost all the primary

schools in our province."

Mrs Lubbe said the scheme was community-driven: local committees presented proposals for approval; local traders had to tender for the contract of feeding children at each school; and implementation of the programme was closely monitored with schools submitting monthly reports.

"The scheme benefits all children, irrespective of race. If they need to eat, we make sure they get food," she said.

For many youngsters from impoverished backgrounds, the food is the drawcard that brings them to school each day.

According to reports from the 211 Gauteng schools participating in the scheme, the programme has helped to reduce the drop-out rate and improve behaviour and learning.

Kutumela-Molefi school principal Abel Kgatla said: "Since the children have been fed, we have much better attendance and their schoolwork has improved. It's amazing what a meal can do."

The scheme's Gauteng co-ordinator, Mokgadi Phokojoe, said the tender system was being phased out. Big business had been awarded contracts for the delivery of food but now smaller traders would become involved. Schools capable of running the project would begin administering the programme themselves.

Ms Phokojoe said about 38 000 children were being fed in the region. By the end of the year, it hoped to be feeding four times as many children.

While officials will meet later this month to evaluate the success of the scheme, it was used as a pointer for other projects at an RDP conference in Gauteng earlier this month.

Western Cape Health Department spokesman Ruth Lewin said more than 300 000 children were being fed in the region, the bulk by a non-governmental organisation, Peninsula School Feeding.

The scheme was operating at all "traditionally black" primary schools in the area and 67 percent of formerly coloured primary schools. Miss Lewin said it costs 50 cents a day to feed each child.

Rivalry for feeding contracts

■ NUTRITION PROGRAMME

No easy solutions to problems:

By Bobby Jordan

MILLIONS of South African children are getting their first tangible taste of political change as four-and-a-half million peanutbutter sandwiches are delivered each day to their schools.

However, rivalry between big and small business for the lucrative supply contracts and administrative foul-ups threaten to sour an otherwise healthy scheme.

One of the first special reconstruction and development projects set up by President Nelson Mandela in September last year was a R470-million primary school nutrition programme.

"The whole idea is to provide children with nutritional snacks in the morning to enhance their concentration in class," explains the national co-ordinator of the nutrition programme, Dianne Kloka.

Bread snack spread

"We provide them mostly with a brown bread snack spread with peanut butter, together with a drink of either milk or fruit juice."

Schoolteachers say school attendance has increased 15 per cent in many parts of the country since the start of the scheme.

Despite the scheme's apparent success, small and predominantly black enterprises are furious that they have largely been ignored as possible suppliers of the bread, peanut butter and juice.

We provide them mostly with a brown bread snack spread with peanut butter, together with a drink of either milk or fruit juice

Tabata, executive director of National Economic Initiative which seeks to promote small business growth.

According to the nutrition project's guidelines, each of the country's nine provincial governments are authorised to administer the funds by a tendering or quotation system.

Government can either call for tenders, or establish "project committees" in the rural areas that rely on informal food suppliers to deliver the goods.

The Gauteng government's award of a R14-million contract to two white-owned food conglomerates to provide bread and milk to primary school children has sparked a row over the project's adherence to priorities of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

The emerging black business



Sad faces and drowsiness will soon be a thing of the past. Thanks to President Nelson Mandela's primary school nutrition programme, millions of underprivileged schoolchildren will benefit from the R470 million feeding scheme.

power those people previously disadvantaged under apartheid — thereby rectifying the imbalance between blacks and whites.

Congress of South African Trade Unions spokesman Neil Coleman says granting business contracts to historically privileged white-owned business contradicts RDP principles.

"One of the primary aims of the RDP is to ensure that the old nepotistic networks that operated in the past give way to opportunities for emerging players," Coleman says.

The NEI's Tabata says the tender-

"There are a lot of business opportunities opening up for small business, but the tendering process is totally hostile to them," he fumes.

But big business — eager to capture part of the emerging black consumer market — believes it can play an important role in the RDP by delivering quick and efficient service to those in need.

Gauteng government officials say the R14-million contract, awarded to the Premier Group's food division and Clover SA, was intended to entrench the feeding schemes as quickly as possible.

"We've

Phokoje.

She says big business has a role to play in nurturing emerging business "so that both can become partners in the wider picture". "Standards may go down in the short term, but we have to get more people involved and start training and development — that's what the RDP is all about."

Premier Foods marketing executive of the baking division, Graham Simonsen, says emerging business operations will not be able to cope with the scale of delivery without assistance from big business.

He says Premier Foods had encountered

some say 13/2/95 (298)

able to cope with such problems.

Furthermore, community-based businesses, such as those envisaged by the quotation system, have not yet proved themselves capable of efficient delivery.

"In certain provinces where they (the regional government) tried to go the empowerment route straight away, there have been major hiccups such as administrative foul-ups, corruption and poor quality of food — such as delivery of mouldy sandwiches," he says.

Although participation of community-based or small black-owned business was desirable in the long-term, "lots of hand-holding still needs to be done".

Despite disagreements over implementation procedures, most stakeholders agree that partnerships between white and black-owned business is essential to the success of the RDP.

Similarly, chairman of the Gauteng standing committee for finance, Leon Cohen, says the regional tender board will seek to promote "combinations of both big and small businesses".

"We hope to create a situation where production and supply can be jointly administered by big and small business in an efficient manner," Cohen says. — *Sapa*.

Town planning could save children's lives

Staff Reporter

298

CT 13/2/95

ROAD traffic injuries are the biggest cause of injury-related death for children over four years old, and town planning should strive to inhibit traffic in residential areas to combat the problem.

According to an article in the latest SA Medical Journal, a survey of 430 child pedestrian injuries over a 12-month period in the Cape metropolitan area by Dr David Bass and colleagues from the Red Cross Children's Hospital found that 75% of children injured were between four and nine years old.

Only 24% of the children were under direct adult supervision when the accidents occurred.

Prime minister reaffirms Sweden's support for SA

CAPE TOWN — There was a strong will in the international community to support development in the new democratic SA and the Swedish government and people would like to contribute to this process, Sweden's Prime Minister, Ingvar Carlsson, said yesterday.

In a special address to Parliament, he said SA had a special place in Swedish peoples' hearts. (297)

President Nelson Mandela and Carlsson yesterday signed a R170m development aid agreement.

Mandela said the aid would help government meet promises it made in the run-up to the election.

Carlsson said that in the early 1960s Sweden had become the first Western country to give official assistance to the southern African liberation struggle.

Carlsson, who was given a standing ovation, said an important consequence of the worldwide shift of focus from states to people was the need for greater security. This required the world to address the culture of violence in everyday life, which was a major source of insecurity for people everywhere, especially women and children.

SA's reconstruction and development was not happening in isolation but in close interaction with nations not only in the region but on the continent and the world.

He said a strong international civil society was growing and SA was a good example of this development.

Sweden hoped to increase the value of its aid by targeting sectors where it could also contribute knowledge. It wished to support the transformation of the public administration and key activities facilitating SA's economic reconstruction and development. — Sapa.

Child offenders' new deal in prison reform

(298) ARG 21/2/95

Political Staff

CORRECTIONAL Services Minister Sipo Mzimela has plans to convert the Siyakhathala place of safety near Stellenbosch into one of a range of youth development centres to keep child offenders out of mainstream jails.

Mr Mzimela said yesterday that Siyakhathala, other places of safety and disused prisons for women were under consideration as part of a national prisons reform programme.

He was to visit Siyakhathala today but had to cancel his plans because of other commitments. A ministry official said today Mr Mzimela would visit the place of safety soon.

Problems at Siyakhathala, run by the Department of Social Welfare in the provincial administration, recently include:

- A fire on October 9, when five children were seriously

burnt, and there were allegations of random beatings before and afterwards;

- An incident in which 58 children absconded after taking keys by force;

- Resignation of middle management troubled by the conduct of care officers; and

- Continuing complaints by children about alleged assaults and sexual abuse.

Regional Health and Welfare Minister Ebrahim Rasool gave an undertaking the children would be transferred to other centres.

At a briefing yesterday Mr Mzimela said his department had made a "lot of progress" in nine months.

All children who had not committed violent crimes had been released but there were still nearly 2 000 children and 16 000 to 18 000 people aged between 18 and 21 in prisons.

2 000 children in SA jails *slow* 21/2/95

Cape Town — South Africa has up to 2 000 children between the ages of 13 and 17 in jail for offences ranging from theft to murder, Minister of Correctional Services Sipho Mzimela told a briefing at Parliament yesterday.

Mzimela said there were also up to 18 000 "juveniles" in jail. These young people were over 17 years of age but were too young to be classified as adults.

While every attempt was made to keep child prisoners separate from the adults, this was not always possible.

A former prison for women in Maritzburg was being converted and another facility in the Cape would open shortly to house child prisoners. (298)

The minister said that among urgent steps which needed to be taken were the building of rehabilitation centres and the re-training of custodial staff. — Political Correspondent. (298)

A look at health of children

(298)

THE rights and health of children are to be addressed by a special national plan of action, consistent with aims of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child, Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday.

In a statement issued during a two-day workshop on the development of the national plan of action for South African children, Zuma said its success depended on acceptance by both Government and non-governmental organisations.

Thousand births

"We urgently need such a programme. The UN Children's and Educational Fund has determined that for our Gross National Product per capita we should have an under-five mortality rate of 34 out of a thousand births.

"Unfortunately our under-five rate is presently 72." — Sapa.

24/12/95
Sowetan

Forum for SA youth

298
sowetan

By Gloria Mogase

24/2/95
THE Ubuntu organisation is to host an international youth conference in Krugersdorp from April 13 to 17.

The conference, to be held at Rebone Camp in Swartkop, is aimed at young people aged between 16 and 28. Delegates to the conference will focus on school development projects. Organisers of the event said the conference would encourage participants to work with communities after the conference.

They said participants would contribute towards the development of South Africa.

Those who wish to take part should contact Shardi Miller at (011) 887-2462.

■ WYNBERG

Police: 'Child unit needed'

(298)

ART 27/2/95

□ *Urgent call for a juvenile night court*

GILL TURNBULL
Staff Reporter

WYNBERG police have prepared dockets on 105 juvenile suspects in the first 23 days of this month and urgently need a night court with a special juvenile processing unit if juveniles are to be kept out of jail.

This emerged in discussions at the monthly meeting of the Wynberg Community Forum.

Last year, the Correctional Services Department implemented a scheme to keep juveniles out of jail by processing their bail hearings in the Wynberg juvenile court when they were arrested — even if this happened at night.

All other police cells in the Cape have been closed to juveniles and they are all brought to Wynberg — mostly during the night.

In his report on the new procedure, Major Pierre van der Riel said arresting officers from all over the Cape Flats

brought youths to Wynberg, whose police were obliged to do all the paper work.

"They come from as far away as Khayelitsha and we have to go there and find their parents and bring them to Wynberg. We also have to call the magistrate out for a bail hearing before releasing them in to their parents' custody — and magistrates would come out only up to a certain time at night."

Problems at night arose when the youths were brought in after dinner hour at the police cells.

"The kids are hungry, they have to wait for hours to be released, and at night we don't have food for them."

Major Van der Riel suggested Wynberg needed a night court and a special juvenile unit.

Warrant Officer Stipp added that at a recent workshop involving all groups dealing with juvenile suspects, the probation officers had boycotted the

meeting until certain demands had been met — one of which was that youths should never be taken "near a police station".

Welfare officers demanded a special office with someone on duty 24 hours a day.

Majidee Abrahams of the Claremont African National Congress suggested that until the new structures were in place the community could help by sitting with the youths at night and providing sandwiches and coffee.

Community Forum chairman Mel Anderson asked community leader Gadija Heuvel if she and her "team of ladies" could lead that initiative.

Warrant Officer Stipp warned, however, that "we couldn't just let ladies from the community sit with juvenile prisoners".

"In December, we arrested three kids of 13 and 14 years old for attempted murder and they were back here again last week for killing a policeman."

Strategy to improve the status of children

(298)

KATHRYN STRACHAN

A STRATEGY for improving the status of SA's children was formulated recently following a three-day convention bringing together governmental and non-governmental organisation delegates from around the country.

Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma said a national plan of action was urgently needed and details of the plan would be released this week.

The UN Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) had determined that SA had an under-five mortality rate which was more than double the rate in countries of comparable GNP, she said.

The fact that President Nelson Mandela had signed the International Convention of the Rights of the Child did not guarantee success.

This depended on a national plan of action accepted by all roleplayers — government and non-governmental. The draft document produced by the workshop would serve as a basis for further discussion.

Once the international convention had been ratified by Parliament, SA was bound to strive towards the goals set out by the convention for all nations.

The major goals to be reached by the year 2000, as set out in the convention's plan, were:

- ☐ Reduction of the infant and under-five child mortality rate by one-third or to between 50 and 70 per 1 000 live births, whichever less;
- ☐ Reduction by half of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under five;
- ☐ Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of sewage disposal;
- ☐ Universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80% of children;
- ☐ Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on women; and
- ☐ Improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

The workshop was planned with the support of Unicef.

Star 13/95

Doctors hail vaccination programme

BY DAVID ROBBINS
HEALTH WRITER

The intention of the Department of National Health to immunise all South African infants against the hepatitis B virus is being widely praised by medical experts.

Director of the National Institute for Virology, Professor Barry Schoub, called it "an excellent move", and Professor Walter Prozesky, president of the Medical Research Council (MRC), said the council was delighted by the move.

Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma this week announced that the hepatitis B vaccine would be introduced into a new immunisation schedule which will, from April 3, also protect babies against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, polio and tuberculosis.

Work done in the former homeland of KaNgwane several years ago by Professor Michael Kew of the MRC's Molecular Hepatology Research Unit at Wits showed that the vaccination was 97% effective.

It is estimated the cost of protecting SA's infants against this disease will be around R12 million a year. Schoub pointed out, however, that the introduction of the vaccine would be "very cost beneficial in terms of reducing later hospitalisation ... and years of productive life lost".

Hepatitis B, which is 10 times more infectious than HIV, has a specific tendency to attack the liver, causing a variety of diseases including cancer.

There are more than 1 million carriers of the virus in South Africa, of which considerable numbers will eventually die of liver cancer.

Infants can contract the infection from their mothers.

Four off to Denmark

THABO MABASO, Staff Reporter

ARC 7/3/95

THE Western Cape Youth Forum is gearing itself for the establishment of a Youth Ministry in government and will send four youth leaders to Denmark to observe the workings of the established youth council in that country. (248)

On their three-week visit, the four delegates will inform Danish youth about the problems facing South African youth. They will also have the opportunity to supervise and learn about the activities of the Danish Youth Council.

The visit has been made possible by the Southern African Northern Danish Youth (Sandy), an organisation with its headquarters in Denmark and funded by the European Commission.

The delegates will include Youth Forum secretary-general Alfred May; Teresa Cook, a Std 9 pupil at Cape Town High; Phelisa Nkomo, a regional executive member of Cosas; and Nazeem Samuels, a regional leader of the Muslim Youth.

Dream comes true for ex-streetchild

■ BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS
EDUCATION REPORTER

For three years, the cold tar-mac was Lucky Dlamini's only bed, the street urchins his only family and the dagga pipe his only warmth.

But the dirty boy in ragged clothing was more than just another petty thief and mugger.

Instead of breaking into cars, the 18-year-old spent nights after night dreaming of books and pens. His dream has now become a reality.

But Lucky will never forget the years of pain and suffering that branded his soul.

His descent into hell began in 1991 when he returned, aged 13, from three years' in exile in Tanzania.

"I left my home in 1988 when I was 10 because I was tired of the violence and seeing people die in front of me. During my exile, I went to school until we were repatriated. But when I came home, my mother was gone," Lucky said as tears welled in his eyes.

He then went to Shell House, Johannesburg, on orders from the ANC, but elected to live on the streets of the city instead of being sent back to his home province, KwaZulu-Natal. It was a life he found hard at first, but soon got used to it.

"Being on the streets is okay. You have friends. But you also learn about things

that you never think will happen to you. Mad things that you just want to forget and can never talk about.

"Things like boys being paid to have sex with rich men or smoking dagga and sniffing glue because it helps you forget the cold. The drugs make you think you are warm so you can go to sleep," Lucky said.

He said he left the streets late last year after being shot. "I managed to get into a streetkids' shelter where I made a new life for myself. Now all I want to do is finish school and forget about the bad things that can happen.

"Later, I want to work with people so that I can teach them to respect and understand themselves and to learn discipline," Lucky said.

There are about 40 000 streetchildren — most of whom live in Gauteng — in South Africa, according to Johannesburg YMCA programmes director Rev Les Sanabria. *Star 13/3/95*

But there is only accommodation for about 350 children in Johannesburg, a city which has 13 000 streetchildren. *(298)*

"Our funding comes from donations, but it costs at least R600 to feed and clothe each child. This is without providing them with psychological counselling, education and recreation," Sanabria said.

Anyone who would like to help the streetchildren can phone (011) 403-3426.



Survivor . . . Former street urchin Lucky Dlamini who has started to realise his dreams.

Caning may be declared illegal

Punishment at schools under legal spotlight

298
SMT 14/3/95

■ BY HELEN GRANGE

The issue of corporal punishment at schools — outlawed in most Western countries — is to be addressed in the Constitutional Court next Friday.

Arguing to have the law scrapped will be Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn, who has told the Constitutional Court he wishes to change his original position arguing for its retention.

He last week informed the court's president Arthur Chaskalson that in his opinion, corporal punishment is unconstitutional and to pursue the argument for its retention would be a waste of time and money.

He said he had initially filed his argument in favour of the retention of corporal punishment to help the court make an informed decision.

Kahn will be backed by Steve Kahanowitz of the Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town.

The court has yet to disclose the name of the *amicus curiae* (friendly lawyer) who will present the contrary argument.

If South Africa follows the Namibian model, caning at government schools will be outlawed.

The Namibian court found: "The imposition of any sentence by any judicial or quasi-judicial authority, or directing any corporal punishment upon any person, is unlawful and in conflict with the Namibian constitution."

"The infliction of corporal punishment in government schools is likewise unlawful and unconstitutional."

President Mandela announced in Parliament three weeks ago that South Africa would ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — both of which bar judicial and institutional corporal punishment.

R500m for school feeding

BY BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

CT 16/3/95 (298)

THE government will spend R500 million on its school feeding programme during the current financial year.

The project, initiated by President Nelson Mandela, was one of the first introduced by the new government last year.

Local Education Minister Mrs

Martha Olckers said the Cape Peninsula school feeding scheme was "doing well and I'm glad that they can continue their good work".

National Education Co-ordination Committee spokesman Mr Sihle Moon said the project benefited about four million school children a year and was extremely important, particularly in rural areas.

Aim is to keep juveniles out of jail

GILL TURNBULL
Staff Reporter

WYNBERG'S new Juvenile Assessment Centre is up and running and aims to keep young criminal suspects out of jail wherever possible.

Esther Steyn, Wynberg's senior public prosecutor, said the new system introduced in October was instigated by the justice department, the social services and the police in consultation with the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape, Nicro and other NGOs.

The assessment centre covers the Wynberg magisterial district. Cape Town district had started a similar facility.

Mrs Steyn chairs a 15-member multi-disciplinary juvenile assessment committee which meets every month.

She said when probation officers brought a child suspect to court, prosecutors decided whether the matter should proceed in a criminal court, be di-

verted to the children's court or referred to community services or a juvenile offenders' programme

Pencare, an organisation run by Michael Davey which helps young offenders, assisted after hours by fetching parents from as far afield as Khayelitsha and Hout Bay, Mrs Steyn said.

If juvenile suspects were brought to Wynberg police station after assessment the procedure existed for them to lodge a bail application before a magistrate.

"A roster exists for court personnel to work at night for bail applications and to process juveniles."

Although police complained magistrates would not sit after 10 pm Mrs Steyn was not aware of any magistrate who had declined to come out at night

"Sometimes magistrates work up to 2 am or 4 am. We are understaffed but we are all

trying to do our best. What we need is an office which is child-friendly. We are also aware there is a problem of children not getting fed at the police station at night and we are trying to find a solution."

Mrs Steyn welcomed earlier suggestions from the Wynberg Community Forum that members of the community might be prepared to help out with coffee and sandwiches at night.

Other problems discussed were:

- Better liaison between the disciplines;

- A need for the community to be informed of the assessment process so that if parents heard their child had been arrested they knew to go to Wynberg; and

- A data base of all information relating to juveniles arrested.

Mrs Steyn said anyone with suggestions could contact her on 761 9130 or 762 7842 (fax).

On the street in Hillbrow at 13

(298) Saw 20/3/95

HOUSE OF RISING HOPE

The oldest profession in the world is fast becoming the newest for children who run away from home, says Adele du Plessis who started The House in Hillbrow to provide shelter for child prostitutes. TROYE LUND reports.

A different type of street child exists in Hillbrow. Few are aware of her because, addicted to drugs, she lives a half-life in shady brothels or clubs. She can be as young as 13, just one of Greater Johannesburg's estimated 20 000 under-age prostitutes.

"The oldest profession in the world is fast becoming the newest and latest for children who run away from home," says Adele du Plessis, who started The House in Hillbrow to provide shelter for child prostitutes.

Last year Du Plessis recorded 4 000 children passing through her door. She handed out 228 000 syringes — an obvious indication of the complexity and dualism of the social crisis being played out in Hillbrow's streets.

"These girls are not just prostitutes. I have never come across one who is not addicted to drugs," says a petite Du Plessis, speaking at the Human Science Research Council's conference on sexual abuse against children.

Warning

A few older girls who have benefited from her home have agreed to share their experiences as a warning to other runaways. They mention the ease with which girls become sucked into the sub-culture where sex and drugs are mutually inclusive.

"When I was 12 years old my mother sold my virginity for R150. I did not even know what a virgin was, then," says Sophie, who ran away to Hillbrow to escape sexual abuse.

She found herself a very lucrative career. But after nine years she has not a cent to show for it. Her daily "coke fixes" cost her more than she earns.

According to Du Plessis, 72 hours is all it takes for a new runaway on the street to be "lost to a life of prostitution."

"The plumps know exactly what runaways need — love, food, and attention; within a week the girls are addicted to drugs and are standing on the street to pay for them."

Her work has been criticised by certain academics. They believe she is not solving the problem but exacerbating it by providing free shelter, food, condoms and syringes. But she and her volunteer staff are



At risk... street children run into trouble when they run away from home.

adamant that they provide the bridge which offers a crossing from a chaotic and grim existence to one of routine and normality.

"The values on the street are not theoretical. They are savage and very frightening. We work at grassroots, keeping one foot in line and the other in the kid's world."

"They will often still leave us once they recover enough to carry on. All have a break point, a turning point, but they must hit the gutter first. Until they choose to turn around, our door will always be open. They will be loved, money offered, the rhino. It has not sunk in as the divorce rate is 1 in 3, so 1 in 3 girls are abused before they are 16."

A shoestring budget makes every month a financial nightmare. "No one will help us financially. The House is a registered welfare organisation but the public seems to see it as tacky and sort of did."

"People would rather give their money to the rhino. It has not sunk in as the divorce rate is 1 in 3, so 1 in 3 girls are abused before they are 16 years old. What is going to happen to our children?" asks Du Plessis. She has dedicated herself to asking questions and exposing realities until she is satisfied there are enough places of safety, and adequate legislation, to protect victims and punish people who perpetrate and make the real money from prostitution.

TOMORROW:

Two artists have clasped hands on a gallery owner as they claim that payment was not received for work exhibited and sold at the venue

Need for places of safety, alternatives to jail

Children put strain on prison system

298

Star 30/3/95

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — More than 700 children were awaiting trial in jail at the end of January due to insufficient community-based alternatives and places of safety.

On January 31, 27 children aged seven to 13 were in jail, along with 44 children aged 14, 127 aged 15, 237 aged 16, and 287 aged 17.

Of these, 146 were in Pollsmoor, 316 in Durban-Westville Prison, 78 in Johannesburg, and 48 in East London.

On January 31 there were also 8 619 sentenced juveniles in jail.

"The reality is that at this stage there are insufficient community-based alternative services ... therefore, unsentenced children are detained in correctional institutions all over the country by order of the court," said Buks Jordaan, deputy commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services' chief directorate for development programmes and religious care.

Major-General Jordaan told the portfolio committee on correctional services on Tuesday that the department wanted to see an end to the incarceration of children. In the meantime, measures were being taken to isolate children from other prisoners and, as far as possible, to place them in the care of compassionate female staff.

Detained

In terms of an amendment last year to the Correctional Services Act, no child under the age of 14, who has not been convicted of a crime, may be detained in a prison for longer than 24 hours.

A child between 14 and 18, who has not been convicted, may be detained for up to 48 hours only if the court has ordered that the child be put in a place of safety, but admission cannot take place immediately.

General Jordaan said while the courts were trying to adhere to the principle of having no children in prison at all, there had

been cases in which there was no alternative accommodation for youngsters whose parents could not be contacted.

His department was in constant contact with non-governmental organisations, the courts and other governmental departments, while Correctional Services social workers were constantly helping to trace detained children's parents.

But the department had still been saddled with 722 children at the end of January.

The department regarded all persons under the age of 21 as extremely vulnerable.

While sentenced children of 17 and younger were dealt with in the same institutions as juveniles aged 18, 19 and 20 — and shared classrooms, the workplace and recreation facilities — they had separate sleeping quarters.

Separate establishments for sentenced juveniles existed at Leeuwkop, Rustenburg, Pollsmoor and Hawequa (in the Western Cape).

Report backs right of access for fathers

Political Correspondent

THE Law Commission has recommended far-reaching reforms to give fathers of illegitimate children rights of access.

At present, fathers have to pay maintenance but have no rights of access, custody or guardianship.

Only mothers have parental authority over illegitimate children.

In a report to Minister of Justice Dullah Omar, tabled in parliament this week, the commission recommended

● The natural father of a child born out of wedlock should be able

to apply to the Supreme Court for access,

● The court should not grant the order unless this was in the interests of the child.

The court should take into account the relationship between the mother and the natural father, the commission said.

Other factors included the relationship of the child to the mother, the natural father, or to another person.

The effect that separation from the mother, natural father or another person would have on the child

and the attitude of the child about access being granted to the father would also have to be considered.

The commission said the court would be able to take any other factor it believed relevant into account.

Other recommendations for reform included allowing fathers to apply for custody or guardianship.

If a child born out of wedlock was to be put up for adoption, the natural father should be told.

"He should be afforded the opportunity to apply to adopt the child."

(298) ARG 3/13/95

nesses. He should also try to address some of those weaknesses, including women's rights to land in our policy positions.

Mrs S M CAMERER: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, is it perhaps the position that these husbands are applying for the land because women do not have the right to acquire the land, and unless the husbands defend their right, as the Beijing Conference report indicates, this would be confiscated by the tribal authorities? Does the Minister not think that perhaps the picture is being distorted, because women do not have the right to acquire land, and the husbands have to do it for them?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, under this programme women do have the right to acquire land unambiguously, but of course there will be communities acquiring the land. The programme does not dictate to communities how they should arrange their internal matters.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, is the Minister aware of the dissatisfaction within the Portfolio Committee on Land Affairs in that they were not consulted beforehand as far as these pilot projects are concerned, and what is he going to do to ensure that this committee will in future be consulted for the sake of transparency?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the answer to the question is no, I am not aware that the portfolio committee is dissatisfied; this has not been communicated to me. I would appreciate such a communication formally, and then we can address that problem. I should say that I believe my relationship with the portfolio committee is a very good one, certainly with its chairperson. We have a series of discussions lined up, including some about the pilot projects.

I believe a comprehensive briefing on the pilot programme was given to the portfolio committee for the second time yesterday. We have various other topics identified by hon members, on which I or people identified by me or requested by hon members will be consulted. Briefings will take place, and discussions will be held with members of the portfolio committee. We appreciate the valuable inputs from members of the portfolio committee.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, will he ensure that the portfolio committee is briefed beforehand, and that they do not hear of pilot projects being announced in the press, after which they are then briefed in the portfolio committee?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I think a longer discussion will be necessary, involving myself and others about the respective roles of Ministers, the executive and the legislature. It is clear that the primary source of consultation and involvement was with the MECs, who then took this to their provincial cabinets. It is not always clear to me, nor to other Ministers, exactly where one draws the line with regard to the implementation of one's programme, the execution of one's work, and the legislative functions of Parliament.

Funding of SA delegation to World Conference on Women

*5. Mrs S M CAMERER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department will be responsible for sending all or part of the South African delegation to the World Conference on Women in Beijing from 4 to 5 September 1995, if not, why not; if so, (a) what amount has been set aside for funding this delegation and (b) how large will the delegation be;
- (2) whether the said delegation will be fully representative of political parties across the political spectrum; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

N229E
The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

All visits abroad by Ministers and/or Deputy Ministers require the approval of the Office of the President, acting on the recommendation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. According to international practice, only the Minister of Foreign Affairs may issue credentials in respect of official delegations representing the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995 is of a multidisciplinary nature since it concerns all aspects of the empowerment of women. A Ministerial Meeting on 30 May

1994 transferred overall domestic responsibility in respect of the empowerment of women to the Office of the Minister Without Portfolio. The Deputy Minister for Welfare has been appointed Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee in respect of preparations for the Beijing Conference.

Nominations on the part of Ministries/departments/administrations and political parties in respect of representatives to be considered for inclusion in the delegation to the Beijing Conference should be directed to the Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee.

- (1) (a) In terms of State Expenditure Rules, departments may only accept financial responsibility for their own line-function activities. Read together with Treasury Regulations K3.12.6, K3.12.9, U2.1.2 and U2.1.3, which, inter alia, determine that all subsistence and other expenses incurred by delegates to these international conferences shall be met from the Vote from which that delegate's salary is paid, it is clear that the Department of Foreign Affairs can only fund its own officials.

Ministries/departments/administrations/political parties wishing to nominate delegates for inclusion in delegations to international conferences remain responsible for all costs relating to such attendances.

- (2) The Department of Foreign Affairs is of the opinion that the Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women should be fully representative of political parties and NGOs in South Africa. The Department would like to use this opportunity to encourage political parties to submit nominations for consideration for inclusion in the delegation to the Beijing Conference to the Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee, which is chaired by the Deputy Minister for Welfare.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! May I just ask from the Chair whether men would be eligible to form part of this delegation? [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the gender issue is also of concern to men, and therefore you can send your name in to the chairperson [Laughter.]

Transfer of MMVAF to Minister of Finance

*6. Dr P J WELGEMOED asked the Minister of Transport: *Amnsand 29/3/95*

- (1) Whether it is intended to transfer the Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund to the Minister of Finance; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, when;
- (2) whether this fund currently has an actuarial deficit; if so,
- (3) whether he or his Department has established whether the Minister of Finance will underwrite this deficit; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N230E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR (on behalf of the Minister of Transport):

- (1) No. The question whether the MMF should fall under the political control of the Minister of Finance or not will be addressed together with various other important fundamental policy issues regarding the workings of the Third Party Insurance Scheme by the Board of the MMF in conjunction with the Department of Finance.
- (2) Yes
- (3) As indicated under (1), various fundamental policy issues are presently being dealt with by the Board of the MMF including the question of a state guarantee for the outstanding claims amount not actuarially formed to consider this issue of a state guarantee.

Problems experienced by school feeding scheme in Gauteng (2978)

*7. Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister for Health: *Amnsand 29/3/95*

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain media reports, the school feeding scheme in Gauteng is experiencing problems resulting in large numbers of children not receiving any bread every day; if so, (a) what is causing these problems and (b) what steps are being taken to resolve the problems;
- (2) whether problems with the school feeding scheme are also being experienced in other provinces; if so, in which provinces? N231E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

(1) Yes.

(a) Gauteng province is experiencing a number of problems with the delivery of food under the tender system.

On 13 March 1995, the driver of a bread delivery van was taken ill suddenly and no deliveries were made to 18 project schools on that day. This affected about 7 983 pupils. Delivery of bread was, however, resumed the following day.

(b) The Gauteng province is gradually phasing out the tender system and replacing it with the quotation system, which is the preferred system for procurement. School project committees can purchase food directly from local suppliers in the quotation system.

The province has also introduced a system of weekly reporting on monitoring of deliveries. Project committees are required to submit weekly reports to the provincial office on time of delivery, quantity of food and quality of food delivered. The suppliers are also expected to submit weekly reports to the provincial office. The two sets of reports are compared by the Provincial Technical Task Team. Where disparities are found in the reports, the Technical Task Team takes the matter up with the suppliers.

These two steps have resulted in a marked improvement in the delivery of food on a daily basis from about 88% to 93% in all project schools. It is believed that a complete change from the tender to the quotation system will be the ultimate solution.

(2) Yes. The other province where problems with deliveries are encountered is the North-West. Food is delivered late to some of the project schools. The North-West province also operates on the tender system.

Mr A S BEYERS. Mr Speaker, arising from the Minister's reply, it is clear from the report that the Government and the ANC, *inter alia* prom-

ised our poor children peanut butter sandwiches. I specifically want to know from the hon the Minister when our poor children can expect those promised Black Cat sandwiches. They never received their black cats from the ANC's fat cats.

Is the Minister aware of the fact that, according to the official report, she often feeds our children in the Gauteng province with rotten sandwiches? Those sandwiches are often delivered unpacked from the back of a delivery truck. Is the Minister aware of the fact that the only positive feature of her school-feeding is that the rotten sandwiches are normally delivered too late every day, after the hungry children have already left for home? Is the Minister aware of the fact that, according to that official report, the situation is even deteriorating?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH. Mr Speaker, the report that I received from the Gauteng province is the one I have given to the hon member.

I also want to say that their school-feeding scheme is operated by the GNU in the province and not by the "fat cats" or by the ANC. If it had been done by the ANC, it would probably have been even more efficient. [Applause.]

†Dr W A ODENDAAL: Mr Speaker, I should like to ask a follow-up question arising out of the hon the Minister's reply. I want to . . . [Interjections.]

Prof D C DU TOIT. Mr Speaker, on a point of order. Is it in order for members on this side of the House to be compared to animals such as cats? [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order! Generally it would be unparliamentary to compare an hon member to an animal, but I think the expression "fat cat" has a rather different connotation [Laughter.]

†Dr W A ODENDAAL. Mr Speaker, with reference to the reply of the hon the Minister to the follow-up question of the hon member Mr Beyers, which was a little derisive, I should like to point out that the hon Minister, according to newspaper reports at my disposal, misled the House slightly by trying to indicate that it really was not going that badly.

This report, as Mr Beyers in fact pointed out, says, *inter alia*: "In the report headmasters also

complain that children become malnourished precisely because of the scheme." My question is simply whether the hon the Minister can give this House the absolute assurance that the measures she took to prevent this obvious waste of tax-payers' money will be implemented, and that we are not going to see this happen again in future.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH. Mr Speaker, I would like to say that if the hon member is genuinely concerned, he should not generalise. He should say that there is a problem at school A, B, C or D. He is making a sweeping statement which is incorrect. Secondly, the school feeding scheme is operating in places where children are poor, and it is trying to provide them with at least a meal at school.

To say that children are not fed because of the scheme is absolutely incorrect. I have given him the facts and the date on which there was a problem at particular schools. If he is genuinely concerned, he must tell us exactly where the problem is. However, to come with sweeping statements that children are not fed because of the scheme and that the sandwiches are rotten is to try to make political capital. In addition, it comes from somebody who actually has been responsible for the starvation of those children over all these years! [Applause.]

Mr A S BEYERS. Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon Minister's reply, I would like to know whether he is aware of the fact that, in this instance, the ANC is treating Black children as if they are just as unwanted in the new South Africa as White Afrikaner males. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH. Mr Speaker, I do not think the ANC is going to accept lectures from people who over years have starved the children, have not allowed them to go to school, have treated them like slaves. We are not going to allow those kinds of lectures, and I think that it does not do the hon member any good to try to lecture us. [Applause.]

†Dr W A ODENDAAL. Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask the hon the Minister something. The hon the Minister asks me to be more specific about existing problems, and I shall make sure that I send her the newspaper report I have with me

I just want to point out to her that a certain Mr Johan Dladla, a member of the project committee controlling the scheme, referred in the report to the poor way in which the feeding scheme was managed in the Gauteng province. He said that, although this report had been compiled last October, matters had only deteriorated. The date of this report is . . .

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order! What is your follow-up question?

†Dr W A ODENDAAL. My follow-up question to the hon the Minister concerns the fact that we on this side of the House are serious about making sure that this feeding scheme runs in an orderly fashion and that the children who need this food do in fact get the food. It is in the interests of the health of the children of this country that they be fed by way of preventative measures—and this is a preventative measure—to ensure that we have fewer problems in the hospitals and clinics. Now the Minister is making harsh allegations . . .

The DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order! Please put the question.

†Dr W A ODENDAAL. My question is: Is she now satisfied that what she tried to put to the House this afternoon, namely that everything is going well with this scheme, is in fact not so? There are ugly things happening below the surface in the name of this scheme. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH. Mr Speaker, I am pleased to say that if I have achieved nothing else in this House, I have at least taught Dr Odendaal that children do need to be fed and that preventative measures are important. I think he should thank us for the fact that we have taught him something. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order! That concludes question time. The time allotted for questions has expired. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 199 (3) of the Standing Rules for the National Assembly

ghts to visit or adopt their illegitimate children

Fathers may adopt their children

298
Sowetan
31/3/95

Sowetan Correspondent

THE Law Commission has recommended far-reaching reforms to give fathers of illegitimate children rights of access.

At present fathers have to pay maintenance but have no rights of access, custody or guardianship. Only mothers have parental authority over illegitimate children.

In a report to Minister of Justice Mr Dullah Omar, tabled in Parliament this week, the commission recommended the natural father of a child born out of wedlock should be able to apply to the

■ GUARDSHIP Fathers can apply for access to their children

Supreme Court for access to the child.

The court should not grant the order unless this was in the interests of the child and should also take into account the relationship between the mother and the natural father, the commission recommended.

Other factors included the relationship of the child to the mother, the natural father, or to another person.

The effect that separation from its mother, natural father or another person

would have on the child and the attitude of the child about access being granted to the father would also have to be considered.

Other recommendations for reform included allowing fathers to apply for custody or guardianship.

If a child born out of wedlock was to be put up for adoption, the natural father should be told.

"He should be afforded the opportunity to apply to adopt the child"

Rights for dads

By PHILLIP MOROBI

(298)

FATHERS who have been legally barred from access to their children will soon receive wider recognition of their parental rights.

This follows the recent recommendation by a Law Commission that the magistrates' courts should not be too harsh to fathers who were paying maintenance for their children and that "family courts" be established.

CP 2/4/95
Legal Assist managing director Wiets Beukes told City Press that in the past, legislation had denied fathers the right of access to their illegitimate children, despite the legal obligation to maintain them.

The Commission announced that the interests of the child would remain the decisive factor and that steps would be taken to make it easier for the father to be granted access rights.

Guidelines would be laid down giving judges wider powers of discretion to the rights of access based on the relationship between the natural mother and father and the child's relationship with his/her natural father. The attitude and behavior of the natural father would play a major role.

The Commission said that family courts would be cheaper and more accessible than the Supreme Court.

'Please free us from slavery, Madiba!'

2021/4/15

(298)

BY JEFFERSON
LENGANE

ON the eve of the first anniversary of freedom and democracy in South Africa, the 13-year-old child of a farm worker in the Free State this week made a moving plea to President Nelson Mandela and Free State Premier Patrick Lekota to free his family from "slavery".



'FREE ME! ... 13-year-old Pheello MaAfrika, who wants to be delivered from 'slavery'.



CHILD LABOUR ... 15-year-old Mthidisi Molefe also milks cows in the Free State - getting up at 4 am. PIC: EVANS MBOWENI

Pheello MaAfrika is being used as a child labourer at a dairy farm in Deneyville near Sasolburg. His job is to milk cows. He is woken up every morning at 3.30 am and works from 4 am to 6 am. He then rushes home, except weekends, to wash and walk three kilometres to school. After school he works

from 4 pm to 6 pm. He is paid R40 a month. I twelve-year-old Potsanyane Tsotetsi, who lives on the same farm, does the same job

for the same pay. "I appeal to the president and the premier to stand up on their feet and end the suffering we are undergoing here," Pheello said this week.

"They must try hard to take us out of this farm of slavery and let us live a normal life with other people outside the farm. Even if I do not find

other employment - as long as I can continue to go to school," Pheello said. Pheello's unemployed mother - who sells chickens, ducks, pop-

corn and liquor to augment the "insulting" wages paid by the farmer - this week told City Press how child labour had started on the farm. "At first the farmer asked the children to help him during weekends as their fathers would be drunk. We were surprised when he suddenly ordered them to work mornings before going to school and after school on an insulting salary of R40. "The fathers fear this man and took no steps to stop him."

She says she refuses to touch the wages earned by the young children. "When my children bring their money at the month's end I do not take it. I think of what they have gone through to earn it."

■ CLAREMONT

Policeman has plan to help street children

Staff Reporter

CLOSE contact with street children at the Claremont Shelter has inspired young police sergeant Christo Swanepoel to come up with a scheme that could help them to become useful members of society.

But Sergeant Swanepoel needs public support, in cash or kind, to launch his project.

As a police community liaison officer, he has seen how the shelter succeeds in providing the street children with the basics of food, a bed, schooling and some self-discipline.

But he is convinced that unless the children learn to believe in themselves and acquire a work ethic, they may never understand that they can earn their rightful place in the community.

The Christo Project begins at the Llandudno training and recreation camp site of the SA Police Services, which has given him permission to bring 24 boys, aged from 11 to 17 years, from the shelter for a long weekend, starting after school on Friday, August 4, and lasting until August 6.

The police are arranging an exciting programme to demonstrate to the boys that the community cares. Unfortunately police funds cannot extend beyond the boys' accommodation. Sergeant Swanepoel must find R1 300 to pay for food and transport to get this stage of his project off the ground.

The second stage does not necessarily require funding, but it is far more difficult. Once the benefits of finding work for themselves — and saving a few rand for clothing of choice — have been explained to the children, actual work has to be found. Who out there will help Sergeant Swanepoel to find them that work?

If you can help, contact him at the station, ☎ 61 0611.

298
Aug. 30/95

POLITICAL BRIEFS

667 children in SA prisons

THERE were still 667 children under the age of 18 serving sentences in prison at the beginning of this year, the Minister of Correctional Services Dr Siphoswe Mzimela has told Parliament.

CT 3/8/95

Programme aims to develop youth

(298)
CT(BR) 4/4/95

A total of 200 young people from Gauteng will be chosen to participate in a programme that has helped young people in Britain, Australia, Hungary and South America discover and develop their business talents.

The Shell Livewire programme is divided into three parts: the Livewire business idea generation programme, a business skills programme and young business

awards, says the company's public affairs manager, Humphrey Khoza.

The announcement comes in the wake of reports that less than 5 percent of matriculants will find work in South Africa's formal economy.

The ideas generation programme encourages entrepreneurial thinking through a series of leaflets inserted in newspapers. Workshops and programmes on

NNTV also help the youth generate ideas, which will form the basis of their applications for the business skills training programme.

The young business awards programme will be held in September to honour participants' excellence in planning and setting up new businesses. For more information, telephone Clive Hardwick on (011) 482-3667 or send him a fax on (011) 482-3447.

'Children (298) jailed for royal visit'

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

On the day of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Durban, 65 children were swept off the streets and put in Westville Prison so that royalty would not have to endure the sight of the city's destitute young, Pinetown Child Welfare Society director Priscilla MacKay said yesterday.

This bitter anecdote came to light during a debate on how to extend child-support benefits to cover black single-parent families who had been effectively excluded from racially biased state maintenance systems.

Lieutenant Rudi Potgieter of the Department of Correctional Services was unable to comment specifically on the imprisonment of street children during Queen Elizabeth's visit.

But he said: "We only admit to prison when a magistrate certifies there is no other place of safety for them to be held."

MacKay said the expensive option of caring for children in institutions provided no real answer. South Africa had only 12 000 places in children's homes and similar institutions.

These institutions could afford to be "picky" and refuse to take in problem children — the very children who needed care the most. The result was that many children under the age of 18 ended up in prison.

Westville Prison alone had 300 children in custody. "Some just happened to have been in the wrong place at the wrong time," she observed.

65 YOUNGSTERS were swept off the streets of Durban, says Child Welfare director

Jackie Lofell of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society took issue with economists, who contended it was simply too expensive to contemplate extending maintenance grants to all population groups.

Economists at the conference estimated that the annual bill for this would be between R10-billion and R13-billion.

Social workers knew that maintenance grants had played a crucial role in assisting single mothers in the white community, Lofell said.

Maybe it would be unsustainable to extend the benefit, she conceded, adding: "But what are the alternatives?"

Lofell pointed out that the cost to the State of each abandoned baby being placed in hospital for a month was R9 000. A maintenance grant, which might enable a single mother to keep her baby, was currently R370 a month for the mother and R117 per child.

When it came to children's homes, the annual cost to the State for each child placed was R9 420. In addition to this state grant, the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society spent between R13 800 and R32 700 per institutionalised child a year.

Community care options were "the least costly", Lofell insisted.

Star 5/4/95
**65 children
were jailed
for royal visit'**

On the day of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Durban, 65 children were swept off the streets and into Westville Prison so that royalty would not have to endure the sight of the city's destitute young, Pinetown Child Welfare Society director Priscilla MacKay said yesterday. (298)

Lieutenant Rudi Potgieter of the Department of Correctional Services was unable to comment specifically on the jailing of street children during Queen Elizabeth's visit.

► See Page 9

**622 cases of child
abuse phoned-in**

(298) ARG 5/4/95
THE national toll-free telephone service for victims of child abuse led to 622 cases being referred for counselling last year, the senate was told.

This was part of the service provided by the state to victims of child abuse, Minister of Welfare and Population Development Abe Williams said. — Political Correspondent.

Street children jailed during queen's visit

(298) CT 6/4/95

DURBAN: Child welfare officials said yesterday about 65 street children were held in prison during Queen Elizabeth's visit here, possibly to keep them out of sight — but prisons and police officials denied the charge.

"Social workers at Westville Prison told me that 65 children were brought in over the weekend that the queen was here," said Ms Priscilla McKay, director of the Pinetown Child Welfare Society.

"It seems they were held in prison rather than have her see them," she added.

Ms Busi Ntshingila, a social worker who works at Westville

Prison, said: "We found they were arrested for petty crimes and for being in the wrong place at the wrong time."

She said on average up to 25 children were brought to the prison over weekends. "It's never as high as 65."

Police and prison spokesmen rejected the allegations.

"It's not our policy to put children in prison. It's not right and it's just not done," Inspector Derek Moorehouse of the Durban city police said.

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip spent March 24 and 25 in Durban. — Reuter

Call for action on lead levels in Soweto children

(298) CT 11/4/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: A co-ordinated metropolitan approach was needed to reduce high levels of lead in many Soweto children, according to local director of environmental health Dr Yasmin von Schirnding.

Dr Von Schirnding said international lead safety levels had been reduced over the last three decades and it was "not known if there is a safe lead level".

While lead levels in the blood of many Soweto children were high, this was not unusual in many parts of the world. However,

while lead levels in one child could have little or no effect, another child with the same levels could be severely affected.

"We need a concerted effort to reduce lead levels," Dr Von Schirnding added. Lead was most prevalent in petrol and in leaded paint used in older homes.

Lead levels were not above safety levels throughout the metropolitan area, but there were "pockets of problems", she said. The metropolitan council was in the process of making a comprehensive assessment of the situation to develop a health policy.

Juvenile rights contravened

Sowetan 13/4/95

By Claire Keeton ~~293~~

298

HUNDREDS of unconvicted children are still being held in detention in South Africa, despite the law that they be released from prison within 48 hours.

National Party Federal Youth organiser Mr Max van der Wath said they plan to protest these detentions at prisons and police cells countrywide on June 16.

He said the Ministry of Correctional Services has failed to respond to demands made by NP Youth Action con-

cerning juvenile justice two weeks ago.

They criticised the detention of 722 unconvicted juveniles, according to January 31 records

The NP youth demanded to know exactly how many unconvicted juveniles were currently in detention.

Van der Wath said yesterday: "We were told most juveniles are held in police cells, so they cannot get numbers."

Other demands from the NP youth were:

- All juveniles be released into custody or transferred to suitable correc-

tional institutions,

- An independent juvenile justice commission be set up immediately,

- A formal interdepartmental juvenile justice commission be established; and

- The RDP White Paper be rewritten to address the problems facing youths.

Gerber said a 1994 amendment to the Department of Correctional Service Act provided for unconvicted children under 14 to be released from prison after 24 hours and for youths between 14 and 18 years to be released after 48 hours, except for specific circumstances.

Help needed — children's home in funds crisis

□ Sick, abandoned youngsters may be turned away

JILYAN PITMAN

SICK and abandoned children might have to be turned away from the Sarah Fox Home for Convalescent Children in Silvertown, Athlone, if extra money is not found to keep the doors open and the standard of care high.

Doctors and staff would like the community to help them keep the home open to continue treating malnourished and convalescing children who range in age from a few months to 12 years old.

The home is short of at least R150 000 a year if it is to keep operating at its present high standard. The number of sick children has been reduced from 68 to 60.

This home is now the only convalescent home for children open on the Peninsula since the Eaton Convalescent Home for Children in Retreat closed two years ago.

Paediatrician Dr Frank Friedlander, who is the medical superintendent at the home as well as chairman of the Board, said all the children in the home have already been treated for a variety of illnesses, including Kwashiorkor and TB, at the big hospitals.

The children who are referred by other hospitals and by social workers stay in the home for a minimum of several weeks but frequently for longer periods, particularly when the parents do not come to collect them.

This long period away from home is often traumatic for the child, Dr Friedlander said.

"The Sarah Fox Trust, first set up in 1948 with money from a wealthy but childless woman, still gives us some money which was adequate when we built our first home in Retreat many years ago treating only a few children.

"We also get funds from the Western Cape government but we are now always short of money. We manage somehow with what we get from all our sources and we budget for R80 a day for each child who also gets dedicated care from the staff. Emotional healing is also vital here.

"This type of organisation is community based and therefore fits in with the RDP. We actually generate funds for replacement of equipment and maintenance without asking for extra from Province," said Dr Friedlander.

If the home had to cut down on staff it would have to cut down on patients and the children would then be the ones to suffer.

"We have wonderful, dedicated staff for whom the welfare of the children is the first priority."

A fundraiser for the home is needed as well as toys and volunteers to help with feeding and playing with the children over weekends and at other times.

If you can help call the home on ☎ 637 1302 or ☎ 637 7196.



LOVING CARE: Dr Frank Friedlander at the Sarah Fox Home for Convalescent Children holds a patient, Yolanda, 16 months, who was admitted with malnutrition and kwashiorkor.

PROVINCE HAS MOST JAILED JUVENILES

Cape's symbols of failure

CT 20/4/95

(298)

UNWANTED: There are more children in Pollsmoor than ever before, reports **BARRY STREEK.**

A N often tearful 11-year-old boy called Derek was yesterday a sad and somewhat pathetic symbol of the failure of one of Nelson Mandela's first presidential orders — to empty South African prisons of children.

Derek, an alleged first offender, comes from Nyanga, but he does not know where his parents are and they don't know he is in jail.

He told National Assembly Portfolio Committee chairman Mr Carl Niehaus that he had been refused bail and was facing a charge of housebreaking.

Yesterday there were 149 boys of 17 and under in the children's section of Pollsmoor Prison awaiting trial in a building that should accommodate only 84 people.

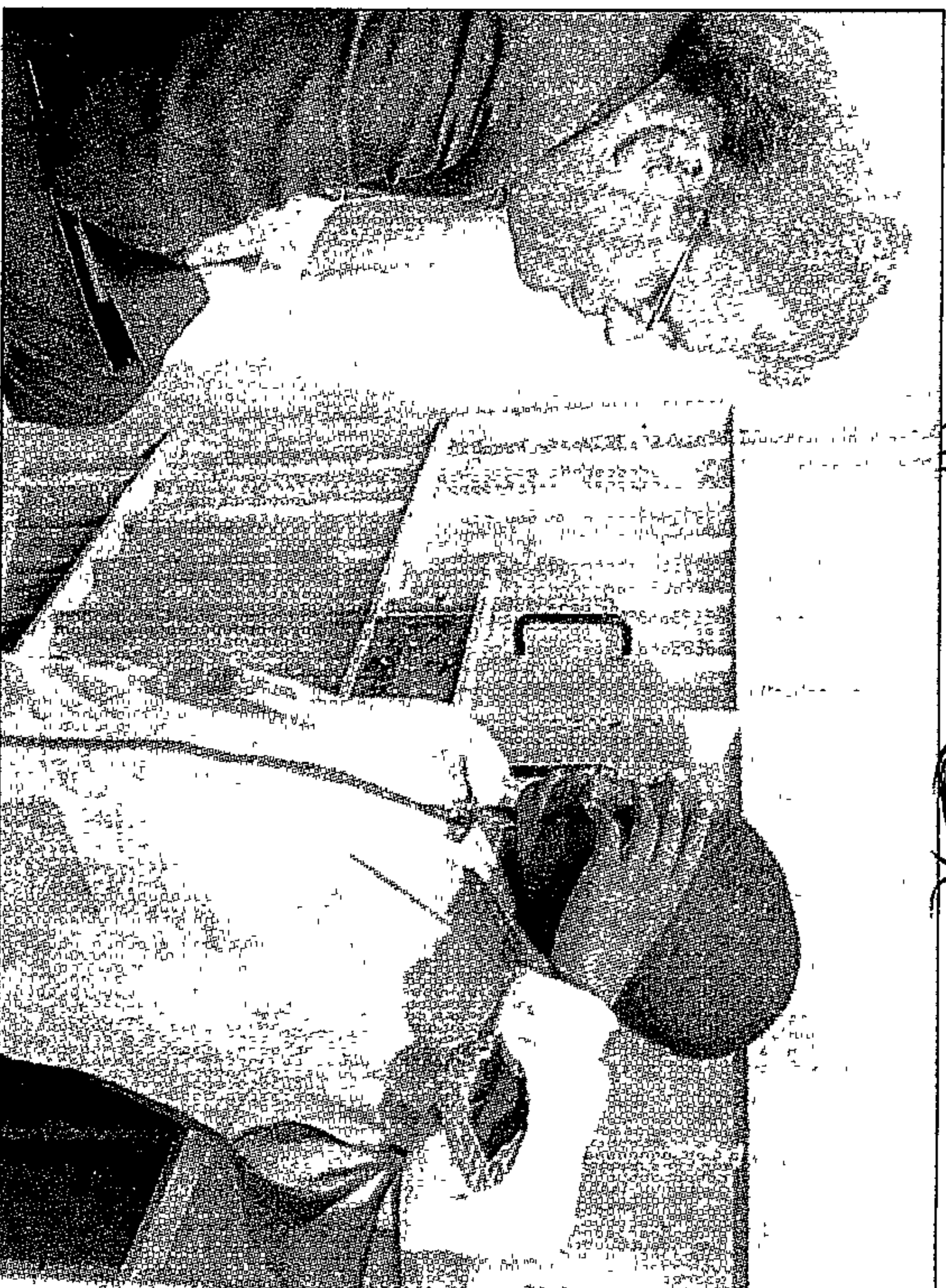
And, despite Mr Mandela's urgent instruction nearly a year ago, the number of children in Pollsmoor has tragically increased to the highest level ever.

No one thinks they should be in prison, but the collective will of various government departments — particularly Justice, Police, Correctional Services, Welfare and the provincial welfare department — doesn't seem to be able to do anything about it.

"We don't want these children here," the prison's commander, Brigadier Johan Robberts, said yesterday.

"They should not be here. "But if a magistrate orders that a child be detained in prison, we have to carry out that instruction."

Often parents can't be traced, although the head of the children's section, Warrant-Officer Christopher Malgas, said they contacted the parents' nearest police station when the children arrived at the prison.



JAILED CHILDREN: Mr Carl Niehaus, chairman of the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, talked yesterday to Derek, 11, the youngest awaiting-trial prisoner at Pollsmoor Prison Admissions Centre.

Mr Niehaus said children were also detained in police cells, and he had been told an eight-year-old was recently held in Sea Point.

The Western Cape had more children in prison than any other province.

Closed

If the bureaucracy had got its act together the children could have been detained in places of safety. But the Syakhatale home in Stellenbosch is closed owing to labour problems, which have also reduced the Bonnytown home in Ottery to half capacity.

Fleur Home in Elsie's River is also closed.

Qualified social workers are paid R1 200 a month and child-care workers get less.

Last May Mr Mandela said: "From now on the system of criminal justice must be the very last resort in the case of juvenile offenders."

"I have therefore issued instructions to the departments concerned, as a matter of urgency, to work out the necessary guidelines which will enable us to empty our prisons of children and to place them in suitable care."

But from the evidence Mr

PICTURE: MIKE HUTCHINGS

Niehaus and ANC Western Cape leader Mr Chris Nissen found at Pollsmoor yesterday it was clear that those instructions have had little effect in the Western Cape

Dream

Mr Niehaus said a huge challenge faced the government and the community to get all children out of prison.

Unless concerted and co-ordinated action is taken children like Derek will be a reminder that the system has failed and that Mr Mandela's "urgent" instructions remain a dream.

Overcrowding at Pollsmoor eases slightly

POLITICAL STAFF

THE chronic overcrowding at Pollsmoor Prison Admissions Centre — formerly known as the Pollsmoor Maximum Security Prison — has eased slightly over the past three weeks, its commander, Brigadier Johan Robberts, said yesterday.

But there were still more unsentenced awaiting-trial prisoners held at the prison yesterday than it should accommodate.

Brig Robberts said the centre, including the children's section, should hold 1 703 prisoners, but yesterday there were 1 916 awaiting trial prisoners there.

There were also 1 162 sentenced prisoners at the centre, most of whom were facing further charges.

Correctional Services Minister Dr Sipho Mzimela said this week there had been 1 734 sentenced prisoners at the centre on March 29.

Tension

The effect of the overcrowding is that three people share "single cells" and up to 38 men share cells built to hold 16 people.

Warders said the overcrowding made rehabilitation more difficult and increased tension among prisoners and staff.

In one section, six warders were responsible for 278 prisoners and this had made it impossible to guarantee half-hour exercise periods in the morning and afternoon.

About 50 of those detained in the centre are being held as illegal immigrants, mainly from African countries such as Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Nigeria, Liberia and Rwanda.

Some of them said they had been held in Pollsmoor for longer than six months.

Warders said countries often took a long time to confirm the identity of illegal immigrants.

(298) Workshops to aid youths

SHELL Livewire workshops, aimed at developing and managing projects that can create opportunities for young people to start their own businesses, begin next week.

Launched in February this year, the project will start in Gauteng on April 23.

The five-day training project, divided into five workshops, each conducted by trained facilitators, will involve only youths under the age of 30, who want to be self-employed. *Semeta*

About 200 participants will be taught business concepts, financial management,

marketing and customer service.

The course will be free of charge to selected participants from the workshops.

The dates and venues of the workshops are as follows:

April 23 — Neels Le Roux Hall, Vaal Showgrounds.

April 29 — Hall H, Pretoria Showgrounds. *20/4/93*

April 30 — Lecture Room B, Vista, Soweto.

May 6 — Duncan Hall, Johannesburg City Hall.

Abused children now have place of safety in Soweto

Spar 21/4/95 (298)

■ CITY REPORTER

A Soweto clinic has opened the first trauma centre in the township to address the problem of child abuse.

Zamokuhle Centre in Zola clinic will offer counselling to abused children and to their parents.

Matron Dudu Mthombeni said all other clinics would refer their cases to the centre.

"Abused children here have never had a proper place where they would feel safe. This centre

is (here) because of the increase in a number of reported child abuse cases," she said.

The centre is manned by social workers, doctors, a psychologist and the Child Protection Unit.

Mthombeni said they had already treated more than 28 cases of child abuse and most of them were girls who were sexually abused by family members, neighbours and at times by strangers.

She added that the children were younger than 14, including some infants.

MINISTER'S PLAN TO EMPTY PRISONS

24-hour assessment centres for jailed kids

CT 21/4/95

(298)

WELFARE MINISTER Mr Ebrahim Rasool yesterday unveiled plans for children in prison. **CHRIS BATEMAN** reports.

CHILD assessment centres staffed round the clock are to be set up across the Western Cape to help empty the province's prisons and police cells of children and place them with parents or custodians.

The after-hours service, a national first, was announced by Health and Welfare Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool last night in response to reports about the overcrowding of awaiting-trial children in Pollsmoor Prison.

With many places of safety closed and others operating at greatly reduced capacity, 149 boys of 17 and under are awaiting trial in the cramped children's section at Pollsmoor.

Saying "monumental problems" at Siyakhatala Home in Stellenbosch had led to him to decide occupants were better off at Pollsmoor, Mr Rasool said plans had been made to increase the capacity of Bonnytoun Home in Ottery to 125.

These had been delayed by a combination of official heel dragging and union indifference.

Siyakhatala Home would immediately be re-opened as an assessment centre and, together with Bonnytoun, it would accommodate boys aged 13-18 who are awaiting trial.

Girls awaiting trial would be placed at Rosendal House and boys aged 12 and under could be housed at other places of safety.

The Siyakhatala Home would help compile a register of children held by police and monitor recidivism.

Volunteers

Bonnnytoun, which is undergoing alterations, admitted 20 children from Pollsmoor yesterday.

Mr Rasool said assessment centres had been set up in the magisterial districts of Wynberg, Cape Town, Parow, Atlantis, Paarl, Kuils River, Stellenbosch and Mitchells Plain, with 80 probation officers helped by trained volunteers at night and over weekends.

Mr Rasool said that between October 1994 and February this year, 266 children had been

assessed at Wynberg Magistrate's Court, 230 placed in parental care, eight in places of safety and 26 at Pollsmoor.

This had been undertaken in response to President Nelson Mandela's call earlier this year to release children from prison and to use the Criminal Justice System as a "last resort".

● The erection of emergency and temporary prison camps for minimum security prisoners should be considered, National Party Senator Mark Wiley said yesterday.

Mr Wiley, the NP's spokesman on correctional services in the Senate, said the shocking overpopulation that now existed in Pollsmoor prison was unacceptable and required immediate and urgent attention.

The NP urged the Minister of Correctional Services Dr Siphosiso Mzimela to move some of the prisoners from Pollsmoor to less populated prisons.

The Democratic Party's spokesman on correctional services Senator James Selfe said: "The most urgent necessity is the construction of new prisons which will alleviate the current prison overcrowding."

Home's future in the balance

ARG 24/4/95 (298) ☐ Bank group launches rescue bid

Staff Reporter

THE fate of Woodside Sanctuary, a home for profoundly mentally and physically handicapped children in Rondebosch East, hangs in the balance.

Although a rescue mission is under way, the home — established in 1976 — faces closure at the end of the year because funds are drying up.

While Woodside was just able to break even this year, more money is needed if its doors are to remain open next year for the 84 children who live there.

In an effort to save the home Woodside's management board has decided to close the daycare centre at the end of this month.

Even with the centre closed, however, the home will still have a shortfall of R23 000 a month.

Last month desperate parents and staff appealed to the public for help through newspaper articles, including one in Southern Argus which elic-

ited several compassionate responses.

A banking group was among the many who responded to the home's plea for financial help.

The group has started a major drive to raise funds to keep Woodside going longer.

The group's biggest endeavour is a competition which has a R150 000 townhouse at Golf Beach, Strand, as the main prize.

Woodside, the only privately run, inter-denominational, multiracial home of its kind in the Western Cape, offers specialist care to 84 handicapped who range in age from birth to 30.

All have IQs of less than 25 — that of a one-year-old — and all are ineducable.

Woodside's income is derived from an annual donation from the Community Chest, fees from parents according to their means, donations from the public and a monthly government grant for some children.

A huge portion of the government grant was withdrawn in 1993.

It costs nearly R2 000 a month to keep a child at Woodside.

Last year the total annual cost for 80 children was about R1,9 million.

The total annual income for that year was R1,25 million, leaving a deficit of R600 000 which had to be raised from donations.

Woodside's future will be decided in June when the management board meets to assess the home's financial position.

To help or for more information phone Bronwyn Gage at 696 2811.

Entry forms for the competition to win a home at Golf Beach will appear in Southern Argus tomorrow. Crossed cheques to the value of R100 should be made out to Woodside Sanctuary and sent to Bronwyn Gage, c/o Woodside Sanctuary, Box 23225, Claremont, 7735. The closing date for entries is August 15.

Boost for campaign against child abuse

By Charity Bhengu

(298)

Sowetan 28/4/95

EFFORTS to involve the community in the campaign against child abuse in Soweto received a boost this week.

This follows pledges by Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sidney Mufamadi, Gauteng MEC for health Mr Amos Masondo and MEC for safety and security Ms Jesse Duarte to support the Soweto Child Abuse Awareness Project, which was launched at Meadowlands Stadium, Soweto, this

week.

Masondo said the Government must provide funds and manpower to "save and rehabilitate the child".

Duarte said the project brought together the communities and services in one joint effort to fight child abuse.

Mufamadi said the project highlighted the plight of the children.

Mrs Judy Sexwale, president of the Child Abuse Action Group, said the focus of law enforcers should shift from criminalising children to more severe punishment for the abusers.

Feed the kids: RDP gets jackpot boost

Weekend Argus Reporter
MAY 29/4/95 (298)

THANKS to the Weekend Argus Charity Jackpot, the work of the reconstruction and development programme has been enhanced with funds to help provide primary school children in the Western Cape with a balanced nutritional diet.

The money was donated to the Peninsula School Feeding Association and used for its pilot study, in conjunction with the Primary School Nutrition Programme, to assess the feasibility of alternative menus for pupils in six underprivileged schools in the Western Cape.

The PSNP currently feeds over 300 000 primary school children daily in the Western Cape while the association which receives funding from the RDP caters for 263 658 pupils at 685 primary schools in the province.

According to fieldworker co-ordinator Beryl Pinshaw the money was specifically put toward buying a gas burner and 20 litre pots as well as additional foodstuffs such as raw and instant porridge, oil and sugar.

"We have never offered these foods (a good source of energy) before," she said.

The study explored four different food combinations to provide 30 percent of the Recommended Daily Allowance for energy and protein, at 50 cents a pupil.

It aimed to determine the acceptability of the different food options for the children and also the practical implications of implementing these options.



☐ **PORRIDGE SMILES:** Ms Wilma Pause dishes out porridge to children from Hillwood Primary School in Lavender Hill. Picture: NIC BOTHA.

Condoms and hope at child prostitute haven

(298)

ALG 4/5/95

JOHANNESBURG. — It is called The House, it gives hope and condoms to child prostitutes and is run by one determined, no-nonsense woman.

"We have been battling for five years to survive, to be socially acceptable," said Adele du Plessis who has run the refuge since 1991.

"Now I say to society. Don't point fingers at my kids. You are the scum who buy them. The average client is Mr Upstanding Citizen... it's your nice Mr Jones from next door."

Police and social workers say child abuse and child prostitution have risen sharply in South Africa.

Figures released at a recent seminar on child prostitution show that child abuse cases rose 36 percent in 1994 to 22 911 from 16 809 in 1993.

Prostitution is illegal in

South Africa but in Hillbrow, the bustling crime-ridden area where The House is located, girls as young as 12 work the streets.

"The kids come in for a chat, a peanut butter sandwich and condoms," said Ms Du Plessis. With an estimated 6 000 prostitutes in Johannesburg, competition was fierce and drug abuse rife.

Ms Du Plessis said she had refused to register her haven as a welfare organisation, as South African law dictated.

"We choose not to register. Our primary concern is the kids — I don't care about the system," she said.

"We break the rules to suit the situation because the kid to us is the most important thing. We act as a go-between between kids and parents."

The youngest prostitute she has dealt with was 12 and the

youngest abused child was a nine-month-old baby.

Ms Du Plessis's experience is that many of the runaways come from backgrounds of sexually-abuse or where the family structure had disintegrated.

Unable to cope with the desperate reality of life on the streets, they turned to drugs which in turn led to prostitution to finance their habit.

Eloquent and well-spoken, Crystal, 21, is a former pupil of a top South African school. She has been working as a Hillbrow prostitute since she was 14 to finance her drug habit.

"It is the most horrific thing one has to go through. Once I had a gun held to my head by a guy who said he would shoot me if I did not do what he wanted."

While she is talking she anxiously looks at the door. She is waiting for her mother to fetch her from The House. Crystal

swears she is off drugs and off the streets for good.

Police and academics believe harsher punishment could break the spiral caused by child abuse.

"Harsher sentences do work," said Herman Conradie of the Unisa criminology department.

"They protect the victim for longer. The longer the perpetrator is put away the greater the possibility the victim will not be victimised," he said.

The Child Abuse Action Group, which lobbies for harsher sentences for child abuse, said sentences were too lenient.

Ms Du Plessis agreed. "The laws are pathetic. The kid goes through hell to testify and at the end of the day the guy gets a slap on the wrist."

"To me sexual abuse is worse than murder." — Sapa-Reuter.

By Betsy Spratt

WANY children in South Africa's black working class communities often risk danger by waiting at school at night to be retrieved by parents who work long hours.

Recently, British Airways and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) joined forces to launch a national fund raising drive for a project sponsored by the National Youth Development Forum that will make the children's wait less dangerous and more pleasant. The Kids Care Project will provide after-care facilities for children aged six to 11 at the Wilkoppen School in North Johannesburg. Later on, the project will be extended to schools in Durban and Cape Town.

"I have no words to describe the plight of our children and how necessary it is to participate in these initiatives," said veteran ANC member Walter Sisulu to an audience of celebrities and dignitaries gathered recently at a press conference on the project at the Manda Club in Sandton. The fund raising project, called "Bringing People Together," was

Children at grave risk

FUND LAUNCH Plan to provide

care plus education for those who wait.

launched last week in time with the celebration of the anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections.

It kicked off with a mobile billboard inscribed with the campaign's theme: "There are more things that bring us together than keep us apart," that travelled to shopping centres and flea markets in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. The public was given the chance to sign the board and donate R10 or more to qualify for a ticket to win prizes offered by British Airways.

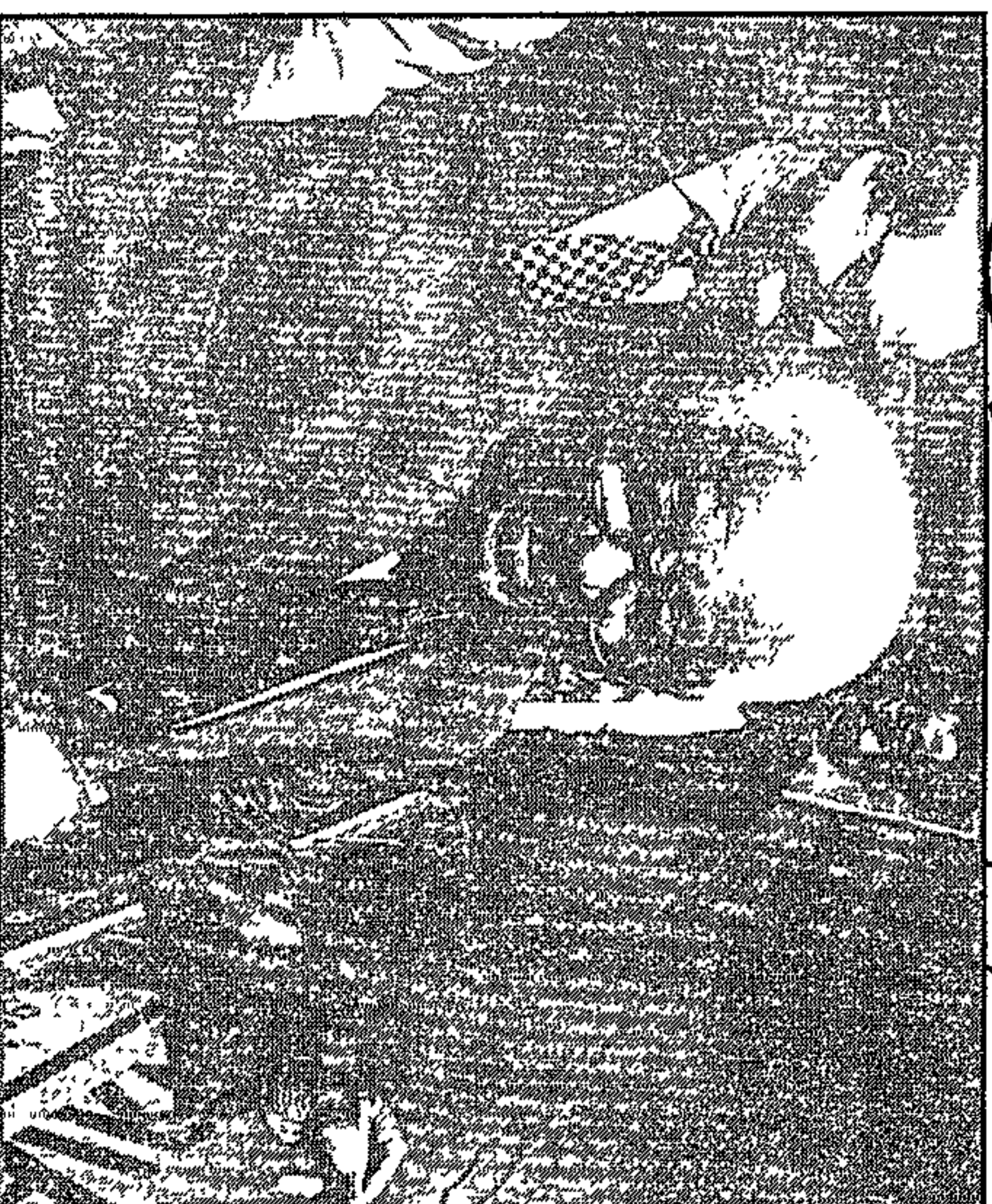
The money raised from the promotion will go toward the after-care project where children will be given additional help in homework and reading skills. Ten youths trained by the forum will assist the youngsters in their after-care education.

"The project illustrates the important

role that South African youth can play in ensuring the health and welfare of their younger brothers and sisters," said Mr Ian McLeod of Unicef.

Prizes to be won

People who donate R10 or more qualify for a ticket that could win one of three British Airways prizes.
1st prize — Two Concorde tickets to New York, five days Randsaver accommodation and R5 000 in spending money.
2nd prize — Two Club World tickets to any point in Europe, five days Randsaver accommodation and R3 000 in spending money.
3rd prize — Two World Traveller tickets to London, five days Randsaver accommodation and R1 500 in spending money.



Walter Sisulu at the launch of "Bringing People Together" youth project recently.

(298) source Jan 4/15/95



FRIENDS: Two volunteer workers make friends with three vagrants who have come to the flower market for a meal and a friendly conversation.

Aid wanted for the people of the street

Staff Reporter *ARL 8/5/95* (298)

THE Shiloh Street Ministry, feeding hundreds of vagrants at the Adderley Street flower market on Sundays, wants to extend its donor pool away from church members only, to include businesses and other individuals.

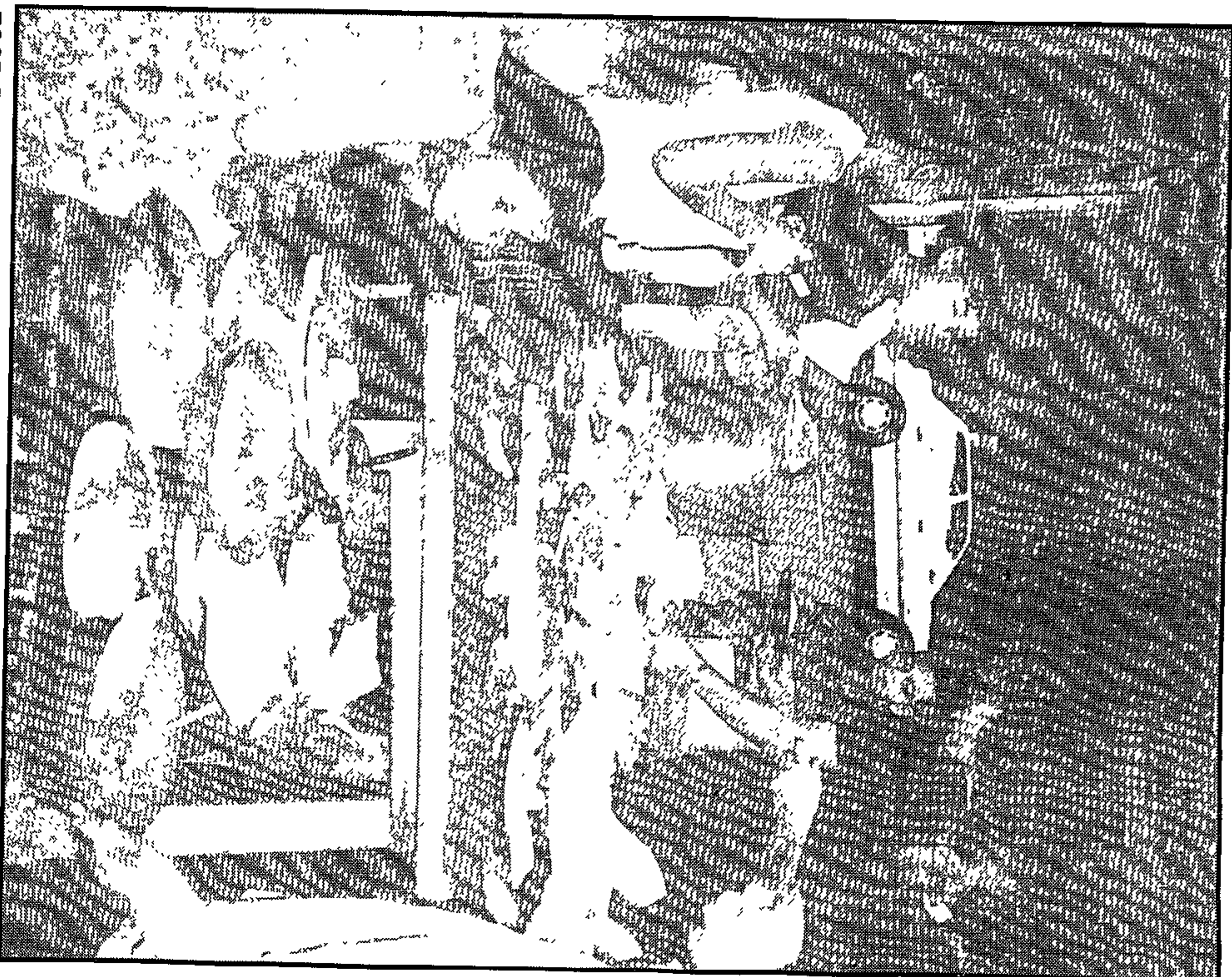
Street Ministry reverend, Allan Africa, says the need in Cape Town is tremendous and the Shiloh Family Church, to which the street ministry is linked, has limited resources.

"We've had to send people away on empty stomachs a few times because we just didn't have enough food.

"The homeless people of Cape Town know where to find us every Sunday at 4 pm and we've had wonderful success in bringing the word of God to them, and in helping some of them to improve their physical conditions.

"Many have found homes. Others have been pointed in the right direction where they were able to get help in times of severe need."

Anyone who can help should contact Reverend Africa on 32 1973



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Shiloh Street Ministry members dish up the food for hungry vagrants at the Adderley Street flower market

It is called "The House", it gives hope and condoms to child prostitutes and is run by one determined, no-nonsense woman.

"We have been battling for five years to survive, to be socially acceptable," Adele du Plessis says.

"Now I say to society: 'Don't point fingers at my kids. You are the scum that buys them.' The average client is Mr Upstanding Citizen ... it's your nice Mr Jones from next door."

Police and social workers say child abuse and child prostitution have risen sharply in South Africa.

Figures released at a recent



Hillbrow's house of hope for child

seminar on child prostitution show that child abuse cases rose by 36% in 1994 to 22 911 from 16 809 in 1993.

Prostitution is illegal in South Africa but in Hillbrow, where the refuge for girls — "The House" — is located, girls as young as 12 work the streets.

"The kids come in for a chat, a peanut butter sandwich and condoms," says Du Plessis, who has run the refuge since 1991.

With an estimated 6 000 prostitutes in Johannesburg, compe-

tion is fierce and drug abuse rife, Du Plessis said.

On the reception counter of the refuge, is a basket of condoms. Stapled to each pack is a note inviting people to a church service at the refuge.

Du Plessis says she has refused to register her haven as a welfare organisation as South African law dictates.

"We break the rules to suit the situation because the kid to us is the most important thing. We act as a go-between between

REFUGE is a peanut-butter sandwich and free condoms at 'The House' for Hillbrow's oppressed, writes Robyn Green

kids and parents."

The youngest prostitute she has dealt with was 12 and the youngest abused child was a nine-month-old baby.

Du Plessis's experience is that many of the runaways come from sexually-abused back-

grounds or ones where the family structure has disintegrated.

Unable to cope with the desperate reality of life on the streets they turn to drugs which, in turn, leads to prostitution to finance their habit.

Crystal (21), is a former pupil

of a top South African school.

She has been a Hillbrow prostitute since she was 14 to finance her drug habit.

"It is the most horrific thing one has to go through. Once I had a gun held to my head by a guy who said he would shoot me if I did not do what he wanted."

While she is talking she anxiously looks at the door. She is waiting for her mother to fetch her from "The House". Crystal swears she is off drugs and off the streets for good.

But police and academics alike believe harsher punishment could break the spiral caused by child abuse.

"Harsher sentences do work," said Professor Herman Conradie of the University of South Africa's Criminology Department.

"They protect the victim for longer. The longer the perpetrator is put away the greater the possibility the victim will not be victimised," he said.

The Child Abuse Action Group, which lobbies for harsher

sentences for child abuse, said sentences were too lenient.

It listed recent examples as: rape of a 10-year-old girl, R1 000 fine and three months imprisonment; rape of a three-year-old, a five-year jail term of which two years were suspended.

Du Plessis appears to agree: "The laws are pathetic. The kid goes through hell to testify and at the end of the day the guy gets a slap on the wrist."

"To me, sexual abuse is worse than murder." — Reuter.

prostitutes

(298)

Star 8/5/95



A new life . . . street children have a friendly haven at the new Drop-in Centre, in Esselen Street, Hillbrow. Here they will learn how to read and write — but they will not be provided with a sleeping place.

PICTURE ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

New refuge for Hillbrow street children

■ BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

When Street-Wise closed in December to renovate its old and dilapidated shelter in Esselen Street, Hillbrow, the street chil-

dren living there thought they had reached a dead end. But the long wait has opened new doors for them.

Now they can obtain education during the day at the Drop-in Centre, which opens on May 17. Simone Gampel, the co-ordin-

ator of the centre, said it will provide the youngsters with two meals a day, a bath and informal education.

They will, however, not be able to use the shelter at night as a sleeping base.

Gampel said the centre's main

aim was to re-unite the children with their families while shaping their education.

"A learning centre during the day would give them some form of direction and keep them busy. But they will have to know they should go back to their homes,"

she said.

The centre would try to keep contact with the same group of street children until they had acquired the basic skills of reading and writing.

The centre will accommodate 30 children not older than 14.

(298)

SPW 8/5/95

Children back in Pollsmoor prison cells after being freed

ARLT 9/5/95 (298)

ESANN de KOCK
Staff Reporter

MORE than 40 children have been returned to Pollsmoor prison cells after no accommodation was found for them at places of safety in the Peninsula.

This is in spite of a government decision yesterday that no children under 18 would be kept in prison or police cells.

The government announcement seemed to have caught places of safety unaware and the "short-term" solution of releasing the children has been strongly criticised by Child Welfare and the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation (Nicro).

Mike Green, Western Cape Correctional Services spokesman, said 112 children were released from Pollsmoor yesterday and "a few more" from other prisons in the Peninsula. Of the 112 released from Pollsmoor, 42 were returned last

night "probably because no accommodation could be found for them".

He said the children now had to appear in court again within 48 hours "If they are not sentenced, they will have to go to places of safety."

Captain Green acknowledged there would be a problem if the children could not be placed.

Rozette Jephta, Nicro Tygerberg programme co-ordinator, said the organisation had always been opposed to children being held in prisons and police cells.

"We have been in favour of their release from such places provided alternative accommodation could be found for them."

Ms Jephta said Nicro last year served on a ministerial committee which made recommendations to the government about children being held in prison and police cells.

"One often finds that the

places of safety are filled with children who could really be placed in the custody of their parents. But, as a result of family problems, they are allowed to stay on at places of safety — taking up space which should really go to serious offenders."

A spokesman for Child Welfare said the government's announcement yesterday was "not unproblematic".

● The Argus Correspondent reports from Johannesburg that 47 youths, awaiting trial on charges such as robbery, theft and housebreaking, were released from the Johannesburg magistrate's court in what was described by a court official as a rushed and disorganised process.

The youngsters were transported to the court from the Johannesburg Prison and released by magistrates in terms of a change in the Correctional Service Act which came into effect yesterday.

No place for released children

STAFF REPORTER

ET 9/5/95
MORE than 130 unsentenced children were taken from prison and police cells across the Peninsula yesterday morning, leaving the courts with the headache of finding them alternate accommodation before midnight.

About 700 juveniles nationwide stood to benefit from the announcement by Correctional Services Minister Dr Siphosizwe Mzimela yesterday that unsentenced children younger than 18 would no longer be kept in prisons or police cells, after President Nelson Mandela amended the Correctional Services Act effective from midnight last night.

In future, children who are arrested will be released into the custody of their parents, guardian or any other suitable person, or kept in a place of safety in terms of the Child Care Act.

'Short-term'

However, Miss Tammy van der Sandt, spokeswoman for the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders, said that although Nicro welcomed the move, there were not enough places to accommodate the released juveniles. "This is a short-term solution. We need a holistic solution," she said.

According to a spokesman for Correctional Services, 42 children had to be returned to Pollsmoor late yesterday as no accommodation could be found for them.

Wynberg Magistrate's Court senior prosecutor Mrs Esther Steyn said the Bonnytoon place of safety in Wynberg had only been able to accommodate six juveniles out of 25 from her court yesterday.

She said some juveniles might be returned to prison, although they could not legally be detained longer than 48 hours.

Many awaiting-trial juveniles were "violent criminals" who could not just be returned to their parents, she said. "One is 17 and has his fourth murder charge against him."

Just under 700 sentenced children will remain in jail until youth development centres are built, Dr Mzimela said yesterday.

Gauteng needs new ministry for youth

(298)

NOMAVENDA MATHIANE

EP 9/5/95

A YOUTH ministry should be initiated in Gauteng to deal with young people who were traumatised by political violence, a member of the provincial legislature's safety and security standing committee, Robert McBride, said yesterday.

McBride, who is also the Gauteng ANC's head of safety and security, said arresting the perpetrators of crimes was merely dealing with the symptoms of the problem, and not the cause.

"What we need in this country is a youth ministry that will counsel the young people whose minds have been ravaged by violence. But unfortunately there is no budget for that," he said.

He argued that if Americans were still dealing with the trauma of the Vietnam war in the '90s, then SA should realise that they needed to attend to the youth who were exposed to political violence.

"There is a war-psychosis on the youth that is not being recognised and addressed and this will continue to eat at the social fabric of our lives," he said.

McBride also lashed out at a truce reached between the ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party in Kathorus, saying the agreement made no arrangement for Inkatha to vacate houses owned by ANC members which they were occupying.

Inkatha Kathorus spokesman and member of the Gauteng safety and security standing committee Gertrude Mzizi denied knowledge of Inkatha followers forcefully living in ANC-owned homes.

"ANC members organised people to look after their homes when they ran away from the townships. Some of the people living in these homes ... are Inkatha members, others are just ordinary people who lived in the hostel. But the matter will be solved by the home owners and the people who live in those houses," she said.

Bengu hints at pay rises

Own Correspondent

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN — The sum of R1bn could be made available to improve teachers' salaries, with a decision expected by the end of this month, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

He said the Ministry had proposed that half of the R2,5bn allocated by government to improve salaries of public servants should go towards teacher allowances and parity.

Bengu told teachers at the Kaffrarian Girls' High School that the proposal was being negotiated with the negotiating council on education and an outcome was expected this month.

Also included in the proposal was a housing allowance for married women teachers.

He said the negotiating body had rejected a Ministry proposal that salaries of teachers in the lower ranks be improved first.

"The Education Ministry is committed to improving teachers' salaries and their conditions and all these can be covered in three years" he said.

700 children freed from prisons and police cells

ABOUT 700 children were released from prisons and police cells yesterday when an amendment to Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act came into effect.

All unsentenced minors under 18 years of age would be released into the custody of a parent, guardian, other suitable person or a place of safety as defined in the Child Care Act, Correctional Services Minister Siphosizwe Mzimela said. Unsentenced minors were children who had been arrested for allegedly committing an offence or who were waiting to appear before a court.

The day would be remembered as one which "dramatically changed the fate of many unfortunate children". The problem of child detainees had finally been resolved and Mzimela said he was "proud that we could rectify the wrong of the past in this way. President Mandela in particular is today a very happy man".

The amendments were approved by Parliament last year, following Mandela's slating of the "unacceptable practice" of keeping "young and vulnerable" children in prisons, in his state of the nation address last May.

The department's next step would be to

INGRID SALGADO

build more youth development centres where children who had been found guilty by a court of law could receive proper education and training, he said.

Such centres were already in place at Leeuwkop, Rustenburg and Pollsmoor, and another was planned for Maritzburg.

Lawyers for Human Rights yesterday criticised Mzimela's department for not consulting other government departments which were "dramatically affected" by the releases, in particular the Safety and Security, Welfare and Justice Departments.

A heavy burden would be placed on the police, social workers and court personnel and there was a risk some children would be released on to the streets.

Some areas of SA did not have sufficient places of safety, the organisation said.

Although the Minister's move had broken through the lethargy surrounding the issue of children in custody, a more holistic and consultative approach by the department would have removed stumbling blocks and been less risky to the children involved.

Police no closer to solving Heyns murder

SIX months after former NG Church moderator Johan Heyns was assassinated at his Pretoria home, police are no closer to solving the murder.

"We are also not any closer to finding a

STEPHANE BOTHMA

and grandchildren in his living room.

At the time, police sources said it appeared the church leader had been killed

Constitution: ANC targets child labour

Star 9/5/95 (298)

The new constitution should force the State to enact legislation prohibiting the paid employment of children below a specified age limit, the ANC has proposed to the theme committee dealing with fundamental rights.

In its submission on children's rights, the ANC said the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights included such a provision.

"It is our belief that the new formulation of this right must include a similar provision," the organisation said.

The Freedom Front also supported the introduction of a minimum age for paid child labour, arguing that existing provisions were inadequate to effectively regulate such labour.

The ANC said children should be given special protection and care because of their physical and emotional immaturity.

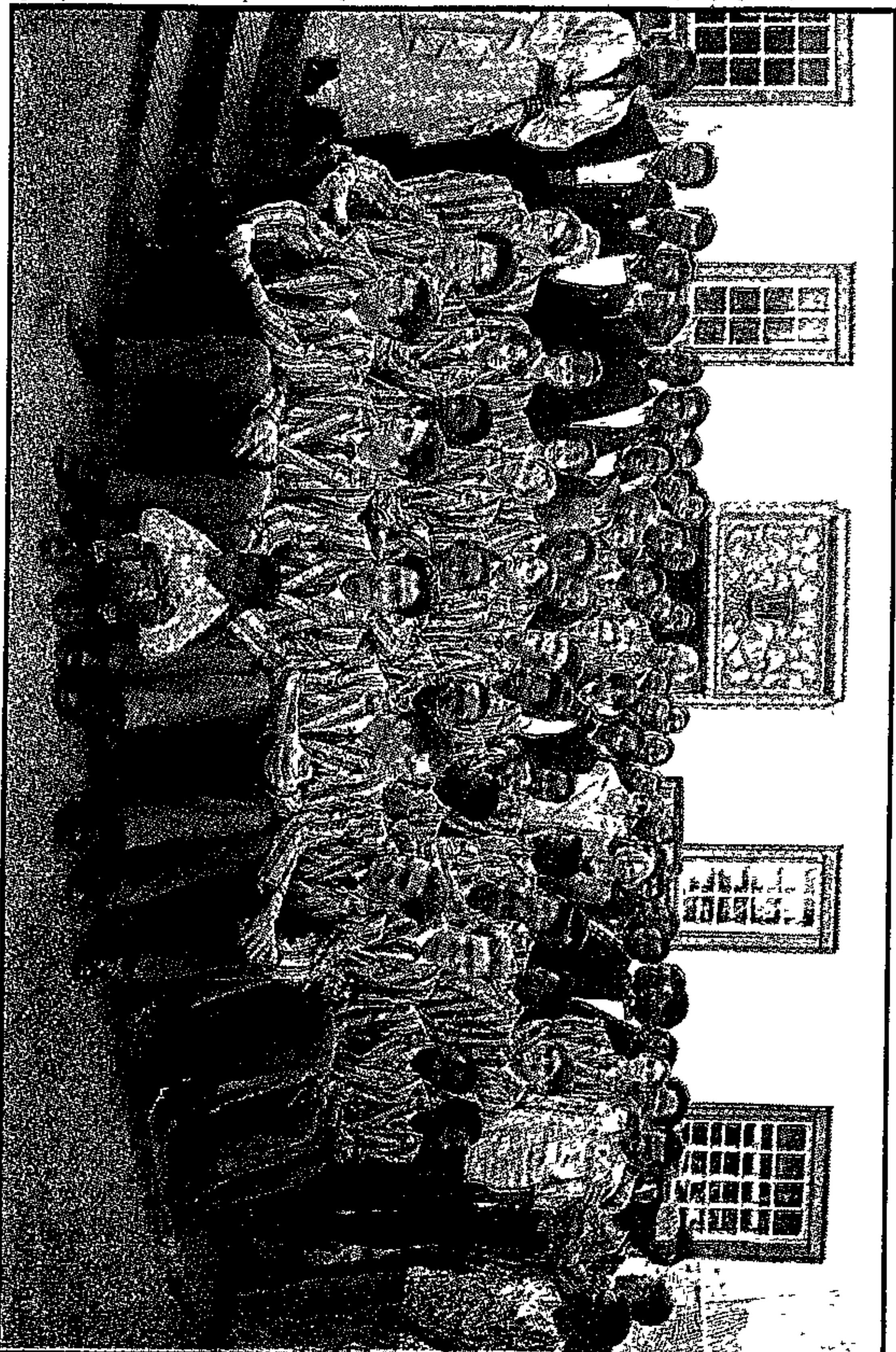
The State should have a positive duty to ensure the protec-

tion and entrenchment of children's rights. This included appropriate legislative measures.

All parties on the theme committee supported the existing children's rights stipulated in section 30 of the interim constitution, but the Democratic Party had argued for a holistic approach, which defined a core group of basic rights applicable to all individuals.

"We believe that to specify special rights for children, as opposed to including children among all people who are subject to the constitution, could lead to unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances," DP leader Tony Leon said.

The PAC said the new constitution should also address the issue of free and compulsory education for youths of up to 18 years old (or in Std 10), as well as the right of illegitimate children not to be discriminated against. — Sapa.



Investing in tomorrow ... President Mandela and schoolchildren at his Pretoria residence.

PICTURE: ALF KUMALO

Mandela opens children's fund

Star 9/5/95 (298)

■ BY BOBBY BROWN

The President said at the launch of his Nelson Mandela Children's Fund in Pretoria yesterday that he was donating R150 000 of his annual salary to the project.

Flanked by fund trustees at his official residence, Mandela told reporters the fund was already R1,6-million strong after generous donations from the private sector, individuals, foreign governments and citizens.

The money would be

used to alleviate the suffering of all children in South Africa, but the president emphasised that black children were most needy.

"We all have a responsibility to contribute in eradicating the wretched existence of what is in fact a significant segment of the nation's future," he said.

Mandela said he would not increase his donation because his salary had already been cut after accusations that his government was on a gravy train.

Association to tide over fostered 'adults'

■ BY WINNIE GRAHAM

Thousands of young people in South Africa who were cared for by foster parents are now unemployed and homeless because the State allowance to which they are entitled as a child is cut off on their 18th birthday.

The majority of foster parents, who are themselves struggling to make ends meet, are unable to support the young people without help, and assistance stops when the child turns 18 and is legally considered an "adult".

The problems are exacerbated because most of

these young people have not yet acquired the necessary skills for a job, neither do they have relatives and friends who are able to support them until such time as they are financially self-sufficient.

No interest

The situation is so serious that a group of concerned people, headed by Johannesburg's former medical officer of health, Dr Hilliard Hurwitz, has formed the After Care Association in an attempt to help them.

Mrs Clare Rheinallt Jones, a committee member, said social workers

(298) SHAW 9/5/95
were alarmed that many of the 10 000 children in foster care were drifting away from their foster homes — unwanted because they could no longer contribute to the family income.

"At 18 a young person is no longer considered a child and the government takes no further interest in them," she said.

The State, having invested in the young person during his or her childhood, now leaves the "adult" to cope alone.

The dilemma of the foster child is relatively new. Until a few years ago, most newly matriculated youths could count

on a job straight from school when the need for State assistance fell away.

Now, however, it has become virtually impossible for untrained young people to find work. As a result, many are forced to steal to survive.

The After Care Association has been given some money to initiate training schemes for former foster children. However, volunteer helpers are needed to get the projects underway. Anyone interested in helping should contact Dr Hurwitz at (011) 782-8168 or write to him at Box 44273, Linden 2104.

NEWS

'Rushed and disorganised'

47 Youths are released from jail

298

Star 9/6/95

Forty-seven youths, awaiting trial on various charges were released from the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court late yesterday in what was described by a court official as "a rushed and disorganised process".

The youngsters were the first wave to be released in terms of a change in the Correctional Service Act which came into effect at midnight.

Senior public prosecutor Brink Ferreira said their parents or guardians could not be traced, and that the only place of safety in the region was full.

There were more than 800 youngsters released nationwide yesterday, only hours after the amendment to the Act was announced by Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela.

The proclamation was signed by President Mandela and gazetted on Friday.

It prohibits the detention of children in jails or police cells, and means

arrested children must either be released into the custody of their parents or kept in a place of safety as defined by the Child Care Act.

"We were notified by the prison that they were bringing the 47, and had to rush around trying to get police officers and charge sheets.

"Some of them might have had parents in rural areas, but there was no time to contact them, so they were released," Ferreira said.

He added that the Johannesburg courts had been running a "diversion programme" since August last year, in terms of which only juveniles charged with serious offences were kept in custody; those charged with lesser crimes were referred to the new programme.

"Those released yesterday were juveniles who had failed to make the programme and were in for serious offences."

Two juveniles who were being detained in connection with the murder

of an 82-year-old man were not released yesterday when a magistrate upheld a previous ruling refusing them bail and remanded them to the Brixton police cells.

But, explained Ferreira, the magisterial order was not valid in terms of the new amendment, and the case had to be heard again today.

Should there not be beds in the place of safety for them, they would have to be released.

Johannesburg Child Welfare social work consultant Jackie Loffell said they supported the decision, but pointed out that the welfare budget cuts hit beds in places of safety and family support services — the very services which needed to be strengthened to support the move to release awaiting-trial juveniles from cells.

A spokesman for the Salvation Army said at least one of the youngsters had turned to them for help last night. — Staff Reporters.

700 kids freed from jail

By Josias Charle

MORE THAN 700 CHILDREN in South Africa's prisons are to be released into the custody of their parents or referred to places of safety, Minister of Correctional Services Dr Sipho Mzimela announced yesterday.

The move came into effect yesterday. "I am very pleased to announce that as from today (Monday) all children

under 18 and awaiting sentence will no longer be kept in prisons or police cells. This is made possible after the President signed a proclamation which makes all this possible," Mzimela said.

He said the Act, which prohibited the detention of children, had already been approved by Parliament and was gazetted last year.

"The unacceptable presence of children in prisons and police cells has now finally been resolved and I am proud that we can rectify the wrongs of the

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"The unacceptable presence of children in prisons and police cells has now finally been resolved and I am proud that we can rectify the wrongs of the

Executive director of the National Children's Rights Committee Ms Shirley Mabusela said the releases were "exciting". She said it was important to ensure that children were not rearrested.

Many areas countrywide did not have rehabilitation facilities and the chances of children being rearrested there were high. Existing rehabilitation centres were also inadequate.

She said the Correctional Services Ministry should consult and work with non-government organisations, many

of whom were already involved in youth rehabilitation programmes.

The Johannesburg Parent and Child Counselling Centre last night cautioned that unless the released children are given treatment and proper counselling they could end up in limbo.

JPCCC director Ms Jacqui Michael said while her organisation was happy at the releases, their concern was over whether the Government had created adequate support systems within the community.

Freeing children was a 'quick fix'

Staff Reporter

THE release of 620 awaiting-trial children from South African prisons was a quick fix to a political dilemma, but had done nothing to resolve the problems of those working with children in trouble with the law.

This was said by Allan Jackson, director of Child Welfare in Cape Town, in response to this week's government decision to release children under 18 from prison and police cells into places of safety.

Mr Jackson, who last year headed a ministerial committee to investigate the problem of children in custody, said President Mandela's announcement that all children should be released from jail had now been heeded.

This should have been the case much sooner, he said.

But the way in which it had been done was unfortunate, and failed to address some very real problems.

These included the outdated system of sending convicted children to prison; the need for secure containment in child-friendly facilities of children awaiting trial for seri-

ous crimes such as murder and rape, and the need for family support programmes for families into whose custody awaiting-trial children were released.

These programmes, he said, should include training in relationship-building, conflict resolution and problem-solving, the provision of skills-training and educational support, the lobbying of local and provincial government for basic resources and providing material assistance. *ARG 10/5/95*

Child Welfare believed the unilateral promulgation of a new act by the Correctional Services Department would not solve the problem.

Much work needed to be done on an inter-departmental basis toward the building of a truly positive programme to address the problems.

Mr Jackson said it was no solution to return children to the same environment from which many of their problems arose.

The unwillingness of many children's homes to accept children who had been in trouble with the law was also a problem.

Kids

Shaw 10/5/95 (298)

All out by midnight' order leaves many among 700 without shelter

Row over freed jail

MONDAY'S release order clearly found most Government departments unprepared

BY JANINE SIMON
NIKKI WHITFIELD
and PRISCILLA SINGH

There is a growing storm — political and social — over the hurried release across the country of more than 700 awaiting-trial juveniles on Monday night and yesterday. Some of the juveniles are facing charges of murder, armed robbery, attempted murder and rape.

They were released in terms of an amendment to the Correctional Services Act, which was gazetted in November 1994 but only came into effect from midnight on Monday.

Despite months of knowing the amendment was to come into force, some Government departments were not ready for Monday's out-by-midnight order. Ministry of Safety and Security spokesman Peter Gastrow said an official had only been notified of the proclamation late on Friday night. He had managed to fax it to the minister and the commissioner of police on Saturday.

The proclamation allows for children to be released into the care of their parents or places of safety but many of those released are roaming the streets because their parents could not be located in the rush or officially-recognised places of safety were already full.

"Accusing fingers are being pointed at the SAPS for not tracing the juveniles' parents sooner.

Police also seldom used a

► To Page 2

Storm over freed jail children as many end on streets

► From Page 1

provision in the amendment which allows for continued detention over 48 hours of a young person aged between 14 and 18 if a magistrate was satisfied they could not be properly cared for.

In Pretoria, for example, where 125 juveniles were released yesterday, police vehicles were sent out only late on Monday to locate parents. None were kept for the additional 48 hours,

despite knowledge that some were facing charges including murder and possession of an AK-47.

But in the Cape, some juveniles were returned to Pollsmoor prison rather than dumped on the streets.

Neville Chaine, lawyer with the Community Law Centre and member of the legal subcommittee of the National Children's Rights Committee, said the

amendment was welcomed, but it had been irresponsibly and hastily executed.

Johannesburg chief magistrate Chris Eckstein said his department had started preparations months ago when he first learnt of the amendment.

"I appointed a senior magistrate, Danie Davel, to sit in Juvenile Court and scrutinise every case and investigate each and every one individually.

"I understand that the shelters are full, but as a practical solution, an investigation can be made for police cells to be converted into places of safety."

He also pointed out that the children were released unconditionally, with no guarantees that they would appear on allocated court dates for trial.

"The magistrate will have no power to set out conditions of release if the children are out on their own recognisances. This appears to be a loophole."

Magistrate critical of juveniles' release

(298)

■ BY HOPEWELL RADEBE

A Johannesburg magistrate yesterday slammed the amendment which led to the release of thousands of awaiting-trial juveniles.

Magistrate Andrew Johnson was giving a ruling in an application by the State to continue the detention of two youths suspected of killing an 82-year-old priest.

The State argued that the youths had no fixed addresses and their parents had not been located.

Johnson said parliamentarians found it "easy to legislate" without having to assess the availability of infrastructure to accommodate juveniles who had committed serious crimes.

He said it was not appropriate simply to legislate without providing alternative measures for the courts to serve justice.

The amendment would have far-reaching negative effects for the victims' families, who desired to see justice done.

Johnson ordered that the youths be kept in detention in the Brixton police cells until their parents, or appropriate places of safety, were found within the next two days.

2 132 arrested while on bail

Cape Town — Police arrested 2 132 people out on bail between October 1 last year and February 28 this year, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi told Parliament yesterday.
— Political Correspondent.

Star 10/5/95
Courts have a responsibility to ensure that not only the interest of justice is served but also to safeguard society."

He added that courts would have to rely on the willingness of parents or guardians to ensure that the suspects attend trial proceedings.

Prosecutor Corlia Moggee said various places of safety in the province contacted on Monday were found to be either full or not equipped to deal with child serious offenders.

A sister of one of the accused had said she did not want anything to do with him.

The hearing was postponed to tomorrow.

NEWS

Released juveniles could escape justice

BY NIKKI WHITFIELD

The hurried release of juvenile prisoners has led to fears that dozens will escape justice and fail to turn up for their court appearances.

On Monday night, a police van full of youths was turned away from the Twilight Children's shelter in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, by the shelter's authorities who claimed they "do not have the infrastructure" to cope with "children like that".

Salvation Army public rela-

tions officer Denise Baisley said the organisation's Simmonds Street men's home received a call from a Vereeniging police station asking for transport to collect a group of youngsters.

"But the home was full already."

It is not known what happened to either of the groups.

Police spokesman Wikus Weber said 24 juveniles had been kept in cells at Kempton Park. Of those, 19 had been released, one was waiting to be placed in a reform school and

four were to be sentenced for their crimes today.

The 19 freed prisoners were "delivered to a police station in Tembisa (on Monday night) and after that they had to go their own way," he said.

Janet du Preez, director of the Witwatersrand Mental Health Society, said she received a call at midnight from the Meyerton police station where 20 released youths were being held.

"The kids had nowhere to go and the police didn't want to just let them go at that time of

night," she said. "They decided to keep them in the police station overnight and try to find accommodation for them in the morning."

In the Cape Peninsula, about 130 unsentenced children were taken from prison and police cells, leaving the courts with the headache of finding them accommodation. Forty-two had to be returned to Pollsmoor Prison.

In Soweto, five minors were released from custody. Attempts to trace their parents failed.

Storm over freed jail children as many end on streets

◀ From Page 1

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Parties lashed for freed children bungle

Political Staff

298

CORRECTIONAL Services Minister Sipo Mzimela says political parties and non-governmental organisations should accept responsibility for the plight of unconvicted children who have been released from prisons. **ARG 11/5/98**

A number of political parties and other organisations have criticised President Nelson Mandela's proclamation this week which paved the way for the release of awaiting-trial children around the country. Critics say the proclamation is being implemented while many of these children do not have families they can return to, or while there are not enough places of safety to accommodate them.

In a statement yesterday, Dr Mzimela said the Correctional Services Act had been amended late last year after he had notified all relevant role-players that unconvicted children would in the near future no longer be kept in prisons.

Before the amendment, gazetted last November, Mr Man-

delo had on many occasions referred to the problem of children in jail and had stated very clearly that this should be rectified.

The matter had been brought before the cabinet and the various ministers and their departments and political parties, NGOs and relevant government departments had again been given the opportunity to give evidence before the portfolio committee on correctional services.

The amendment had flowed from this process, which had been followed by a five-month grace period leading up to Mr Mandela's proclamation.

"The question now arises as to what has been done in the meantime by the responsible parties who knew all along that unconvicted children would be released from prison soon.

"What concrete steps have they taken to prepare themselves for the accommodation or relocation of these children? The answer to this question may be very interesting," Dr Mzimela said.

Children: Mandela 'ill-advised'

ARG 11/5/95
Political Staff

PRESIDENT Mandela's proclamation this week freeing children from prisons is another case of ill advice to the president, says the National Party.

NP spokesman on correctional services Gert Oosthuizen said that while his party welcomed the action to release children in custody and move them to places of safety, the NP regretted the clumsy way in which it had been handled.

"Something which was made possible by legislation in 1994 and has been legally available as an option for the past eight months, has been tied to President Mandela's first year in office for political reasons and is

becoming a security fiasco," Mr Oosthuizen said.

The Democratic Party has warned that many of those released are no longer children in the true sense of the word but young adults charged with serious and terrible crimes, and the party has charged that little or no discretion was used by Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela in the process of the release.

Dr Mzimela yesterday shifted blame for problems arising from the mass release on to political parties and organisations which, he said, had all been role players in amending Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act which prohibited the detention of unconvicted children in prisons.

Children freed from jail hold up matrons

(298)

ARG 11/5/95

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Fourteen youths, some with knives, held up two matrons at the Excelsior Place of Safety in Pinetown within 72 hours of being released from prison.

They freed 13 of the inmates after forcing the matrons to give them keys.

Police have since arrested seven youths at Tollgate in Durban — none of them runaways.

Police said that 14 released youths were taken to the institution last night in terms of the government's decision to keep juveniles out of prisons and police custody.

On arrival at Excelsior they held up two matrons at knifepoint, tied them up with telephone cord, forced them under beds and took their keys, jewellery and clothing, then released 13 children living at the institution.

The matrons were rescued by other children at Excelsior

Pinetown Child and Family Welfare Director Priscilla McKay said she was "not surprised" at the break-out as Excelsior was designed as a place of safety and did not have the security of a juvenile detention centre.

She said the only secure areas were the dormitories. There were no guards and only ordinary fencing.

A resident who lives near Excelsior expressed concern about security in the area.

"What about the safety of the people working in the area and our children's safety? What is going to happen to our properties?" she asked.

Today the Department of Welfare held an emergency meeting to discuss the incident but remained tight-lipped about the affair. Sources said Excelsior was discussing whether to take in any more ex-prisoners.

"We cannot say anything now, but we are investigating this," said Welfare spokeswoman Urmilla Riga.

'No idea' where many freed juveniles are

BY PRISCILLA SINGH
and SUSAN MILLER

Social and welfare organisations were yesterday still desperately searching for places of safety or refuge for the more than 700 juveniles released from police and prison cells this week.

In Johannesburg, two juveniles who claimed they were among those released on Monday were asking for funds to get them to Tzaneen.

"Only about 10 children were accompanied by their parents in court and released into their custody. The rest of them, I have no idea," said Prince Maluleke of Lawyers for Human Rights.

In Pretoria, 125 children were released and only 51 have found a place of safety at the Jabulani Home in the city.

"Nobody knows where the other 74 children went to after they were released," Community Law Centre lawyer Neville Chainee said.

Mockery

In Maritzburg, Juvenile Justice Project director Ann Skelton reported that 44 children had been released. "Many of them had to be transported 200km away to Zuma, where there is a place of safety. Twenty-four children have not yet been placed."

National Welfare, Social Service and Development Forum spokesman Riah Phiyega said agencies were already overloaded and "they really don't need problems like this, which could easily have been avoided".

"While we applaud the president's decision to release children from

prison, it is unforgivable to turn them out into the streets. It is a mockery of the president's intentions and it calls into question the competence of those directing the process," she said.

Jovial Rantao reports that Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela yesterday strongly defended the Government's decision to release the children, and dismissed as "racist" criticism of the move by the NP and other political parties.

He conceded that the proclamation of the Correctional Service Amendment Bill, in terms of which 700 youths under 18 years were released, would pose short-term problems, but said he was convinced that these would be sorted out soon.

Mzimela charged that cabinet ministers and all role-players who had been informed about the amendment and the impending release of the children had done nothing to prepare for them.

He said all the role-players had had the opportunity to give evidence before the parliamentary select committee on correctional services, before the amendment of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act was discussed in both Parliament and the Senate.

"The question now arises as to what has been done in the meantime by the responsible parties who knew all along that unconvicted children would be released from prison soon. What concrete steps have they taken to prepare themselves for the accommodation or relocation of these children?" Mzimela asked.

NATION BUILDING *Community worker struggles to improve lives of mentally handicapped*

Caring for special children

By Betsy Spratt

■ **EMBATTLED MINTAMBO** So

much to do for so many unprivileged kids:

THE children who attend the Tebogo Day Care Nursery Centre for the Mentally and Physically Disabled at Orange Farm may not be as fast as others, or as articulate.

But Pinky Mtambo (39), one of the nominees for the *Sowetan*-Eskom Woman of the Year Award, believes they are just as special.

However, many of the residents of the informal settlement located south of Johannesburg do not share her sentiment. Often, Mtambo learned, disabled children are left in the care of elderly relatives who are unable to meet their special needs.

"I started to feel in my heart the needs of the children and the suffering of children," Mtambo said.

As a result, she began the Sizabantu Day Care Centre in 1990, when Orange Farm had few schools and no



ESKOM

playgrounds or creches. It is a settlement that has grown quickly, forged out of the violence that rocked Johannesburg during the turn of the decade.

Located near Vereeniging, Orange Farm began in 1989 with 50 shacks. Today, it is a sprawling community of 165 000, complete with electricity, 17 government schools and 13 private schools.

The majority of the residents are unemployed. The residents lucky enough to find work are usually employed in menial jobs hours away which

forces them to leave their children alone or in the care of the elderly.

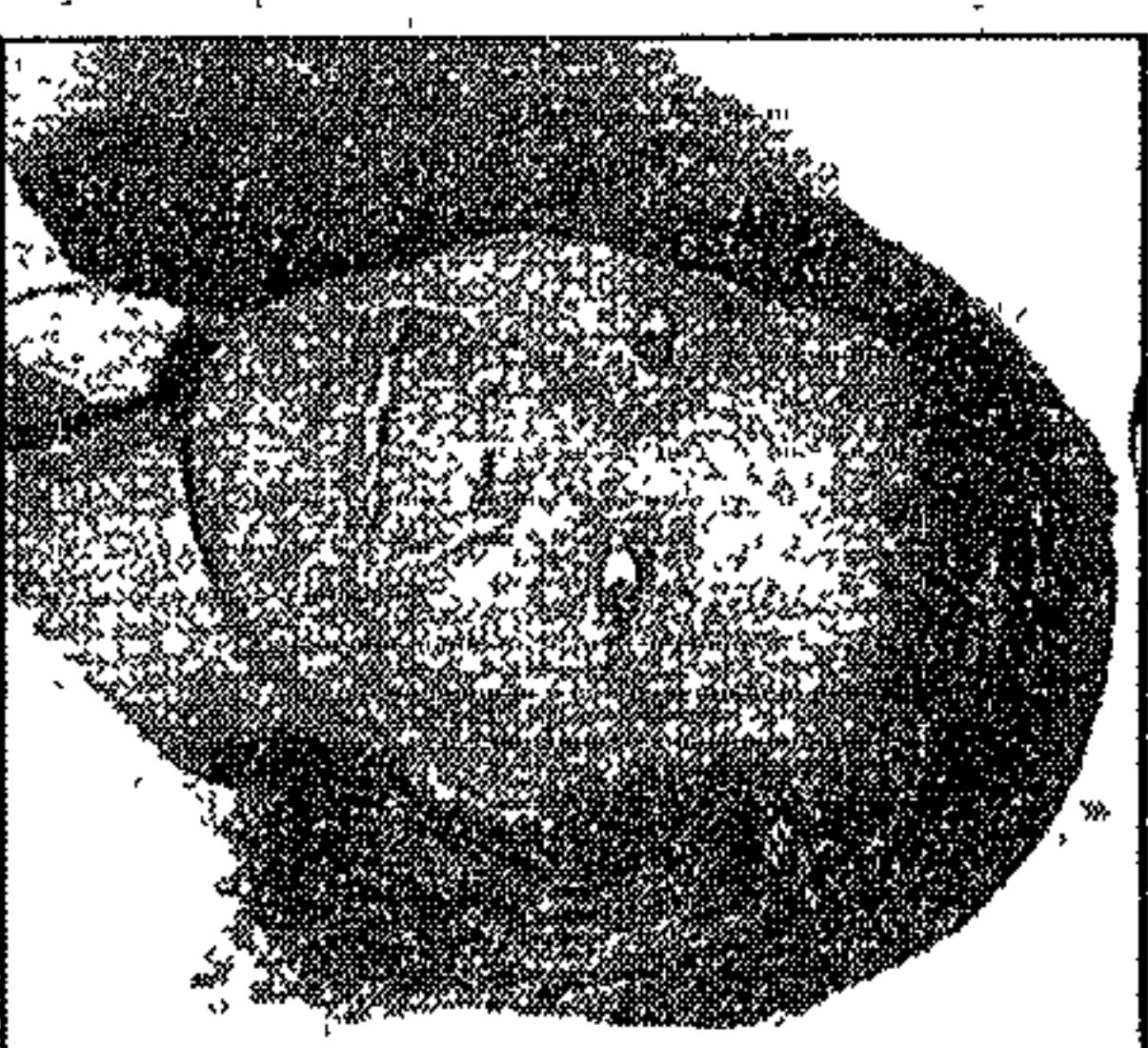
It is a situation that often spells disaster for disabled children, Mtambo said.

"The grandparents will feed them or change them," she said, "but they don't spend time with them."

At the Sizabantu Day Care Centre the disabled children received the care and nurturing that is often missing at home. In the beginning they attended school with their abled peers. However a social worker from Baragwanath Hospital instructed Mtambo to separate the groups.

"She thought there would be fights," Mtambo said, "and that the disabled kids would be picked on."

Consequently, Mtambo began the Tebogo Day Care Nursery Centre for



Pinky Mtambo

the Mentally and Physically Disabled a few kilometres away from the Sizabantu Centre.

Parents of children at Sizabantu Centre and Tebogo Centre must pay R25, or R30 a month, respectively, a fee that barely covers the cost of food, Mtambo said. However, with no government

(298) *Sowetan 11/5/95*

support, or money from private donors, Mtambo must rely on the fees and her own resources to meet the schools' operating costs.

If selected "Woman of the Year," the award money will go towards the purchase of food and transport for the children, many of whom live as far away as Sharpeville.

For the 125 students who live at Sizabantu, the R5 taxi ride home on weekends is beyond the means of many of the parents of the children who spend the week crowded into the centre's three-room structure.

To ease the overcrowding, a portion of the award money would go toward constructing an additional structure to house children up to three years old, Mtambo said.

The three- to five-year-olds would remain in the present structure.

The remainder of the money would be used to construct a fence around the centre and to purchase cooking utensils, Mtambo said.

Presently, food for more than 300 children is prepared in two pots.

Out in the cold

Sowetan 11/5/95

(298) ~~(298)~~

**By Gloria Mogase
and Mzimasi Ngudle**

THE JOY OF LEAVING PRISON turned into a nightmare for two 16-year-old boys from Tzaneen when they spent their first night of freedom on the chilly Johannesburg Station.

The two were part of more than 700 children released from prison this week without being provided with food, transport or accommodation.

Correctional Services Minister Dr Siphosizwe Mzimela said in a TV interview on Tuesday: "No children were released onto the streets."

The two boys from Tzaneen were spotted at Johannesburg Station by a Soweto resident, Mr Moses Mufamadi, on his way from work on Tuesday. They were making frantic efforts to phone neighbours in Tzaneen as their parents have no telephones.

On his way to work yesterday Mufamadi again saw the boys, who told him they had been released from Johannesburg Prison where they had been held since February on suspicion of car theft.

Mufamadi said he decided to take them to his home after Johannesburg Prison authorities told him there was nothing they could do for them. Captain PI Pretorius of John Vorster Square, to where the boys were transferred before their release, said they were the responsibility of the Child Protection Unit. Attempts to contact the unit failed.

A total of 700 awaiting-trial juveniles were released on Monday and Tuesday in terms of an amendment to the Correctional Services Act.

The proclamation allows for the children to be released into the care of their parents or places of safety. But many of those released

were roaming the streets, apparently because their parents could not be located in the rush.

Meanwhile, a *Sowetan* Correspondent reports that magistrates, prosecutors and welfare organisations in KwaZulu-Natal slated the process as being too fast and unplanned.

"It's ludicrous and we feel we are party to a farce," a Durban magistrate said yesterday.

Director of Pinetown Child and Family Welfare Mrs Priscilla McKay said no facilities had been prepared to take the children once they were released from prison and there were not enough places of safety to keep them.

The National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders also criticised the release process as being exclusive of NGOs who should have been involved in the planning process.

Places of safety

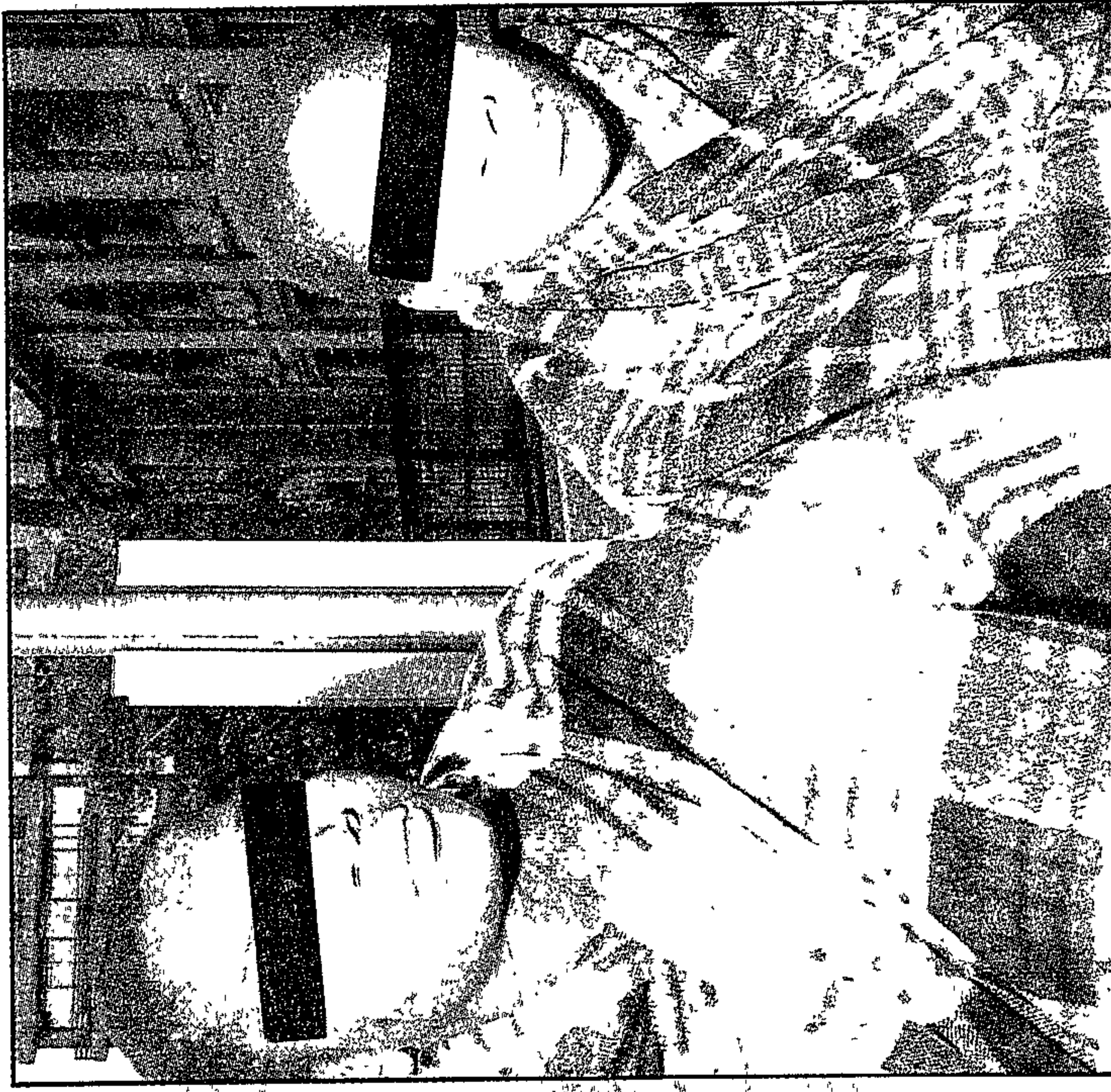
President Nelson Mandela's spokesman, Mr Joel Netshitenzhe, said the matter was being handled by the Department of Correctional Services. He added that the major task facing the Government and the private sector was to find places of safety for the children.

A spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services, Major Bert Slabbert, said the release process was marred by a lack of communication between justice, police and welfare departments.

Mzimela lashed out at the National Party and other political organisations who expressed concern over the release process.

Mzimela said these organisations had ample time to comment on the proposed amendment to the Correctional Services Act when it was tabled in Parliament.

"Unconvicted children were never supposed to be the responsibility of the Department of Correctional Services," Mzimela added.



These two 16-year-old youths were stranded after being released from prison on Tuesday.

PIC JOE MOLEFE

'Dangerous' child released, escapes place of safety

Crime Reporter

ARCT 12/5/95

A TEENAGE boy facing charges of murder, rape and armed robbery is on the run in the Peninsula after escaping from a place of safety for the second time.

The case highlights the pleas of police for tighter control after President Mandela's proclamation last week releasing children from prisons to places of safety.

One of the investigating officers seeking the boy, 15, said he was "a real danger to the community".

The boy was sent to the Porter School, a reformatory in Tokai, in December after allegedly killing a man, and police said he allegedly committed more violent crimes after escaping in January.

He is accused of raping a 26-year-old woman in Athlone and robbing a man at gunpoint three days later. He was arrested after this robbery and held at Pollsmoor Prison.

On Wednesday, a day after he was released and transferred back to Porter School, he escaped again and is still at large.

Despondent investigating officers appealed for individual evaluations and scrutiny of each minor before transfers to places of safety.

A fact-finding tour of reform schools and places of safety in the Peninsula by a ministerial delegation yesterday disclosed inadequate facilities, although in some cases only minor changes were needed.

E Tvl school fraud exposed (298)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CT 12/5/95

NELSPRUIT: The Eastern Transvaal education ministry has uncovered fraud and theft involving thousands of rand in feeding schemes at schools, local Education Minister Mr David Mabuza said yesterday.

Mr Mabuza said a number of arrests were expected soon.

"Nine cases, one involving R20 000 and another R9 000, have been identified and a principal will probably be arrested today."

He said plans were being made to alter the system of getting food supplies to schools to prevent future fraud and corruption.

Child suspects escape

(298)

12/5/95

DURBAN: There has been a second break-out by juveniles at places of safety in kwaZulu/Natal.

Twenty-seven juveniles escaped from the Excelsior Place of Safety in Pinetown on Wednesday, after 26 child suspects escaped from the Bayhead Place of Safety in Durban only hours after they had arrived at the facility on Tuesday.

The group that escaped on Wednesday included 14 youths who had just been released from the Westville Prison.

None of the escaped suspects has yet been re-arrested.

Police spokesman Major Henry Budhram said the 14 released juveniles held up two matrons at knifepoint, tied them up with telephone chord, forced them under beds and took their keys, jewellery and clothing, then released 13 of the children who live in the institution before fleeing.

The matrons were eventually rescued by children in Excelsior.

Pinetown Child and Family Welfare director Mrs Priscilla McKay said she was "not surprised" at the break-out, as Excelsior was designed as a place of safe-

ty and did not have appropriate security measures.

The Department of Welfare held an emergency meeting to discuss the incident yesterday, but remained tight-lipped about the whole affair. "We cannot say anything now, but we are investigating it," said a spokeswoman.

Mrs McKay blamed the mass escape on bad planning and a lack of consultation and preparation. She said welfare staff had been caught totally unaware by the release of the youngsters. — Special Correspondent

Joint action for releases (298)

ET 12/5/95

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

JOINT action by all ministers was necessary to address the release of children from jail, Minister of Welfare Mr Abe Williams said in the Senate yesterday.

He said he was aware of the problems surrounding the release of children from detention, but felt strongly children should not be kept in custody.

"We will try our utmost to address the needs of all the children and to protect the communities where necessary.

"The government will have to consider making funds available for extra personnel and expenditure to ensure that more places of safety become available."

Provinces 'furious' (298) over juvenile decree

CT12/5/95

CHRIS BATEMAN
POLITICAL STAFF

PROVINCIAL welfare ministers were "furious" about Correctional Services Minister Dr Siphosizwe Mzimela's sudden instruction to relocate all awaiting-trial child prisoners by midnight on Monday as this disrupted existing relocation programmes.

This was said yesterday by Western Cape Minister of Health and Welfare Mr Ebrahim Rasool, who revealed that there were still 45 awaiting-trial child prisoners in Pollsmoor Prison — despite firm instructions by Pretoria.

They are still in jail "only because of the severity of the char-

ges and previous convictions such as murder, as well as serious questions about some of their stated ages", he said.

Mr Rasool said that since Monday 30 children had been reunited with parents and another 55 relocated to places of safety.

"The lesson has been about how central government must operate — we (welfare ministers) first heard about the deadline from the media — it'll be the death-knell of the government if ministers act without consultation," he said.

But Correctional Services sources replied that President Nelson Mandela made a clear statement of intention at the opening of parliament in May last year.

SAB starts training project to help unemployed youths

SA Breweries beer division and the National Youth Development Forum yesterday launched a multimillion rand project for unemployed youth which would teach at least 12 000 young people business and consulting skills. (298) (25)

Known as Kick Start '95, the project would initially provide information on business operations to 500 000 young people and encourage the unemployed to identify and start small enterprises.

Kick Start would be co-ordinated by an organisation, the Centre for Opportunity Development, in eight regions nationwide. Ultimately, those who proved themselves would get "substantial help", centre GM Burt Neethling said. (173)

About 240 trainers would be taught business skills and each in turn would train 50 people in their communities to develop business plans, identify business opportunities and start small businesses. Four hundred trainees stood to win R1 000 cash prizes to help them to start up enterprises.

The winners would be monitored to establish their business's sustainability. Of these, 24 would receive further capital.

IGNACIO SALGADO

Forum co-chairman Vuyo Mosana said the unemployment rate and the business world's demand for experience had demoralised SA's youth and made them economically inert. Of SA's 10,7-million youth between 16 and 30 years of age, more than 2-million, 80% black, had no access to legitimate economic activity.

SAB MD Norman Adami said high unemployment levels and a lack of job opportunities in the formal sector meant most young people could earn a legitimate income only through self-initiated projects.

Market opportunities for products and services existed in urban and rural areas, and the potential was considerable. However, few people had the knowledge to identify these opportunities, or else often lacked the capital needed.

"We believe that Kick Start will enable many people to ... replot the course of their lives and, on a wider community level, emphasise the importance of skills training, particularly in entrepreneurship," Adami said.

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Rampage in place of safety

Freed juveniles attack women

SAW 12/5/95

298

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — Two elderly women, both care officers at the Excelsior Place of Safety in Pinetown, were bound and trussed and held at knifepoint yesterday by a mob of youths who were released from prison under the Government's controversial move to free unconvicted children.

Margaret Gillot and Ruth Norris narrowly escaped serious injury when two teenage residents at the centre came to their rescue.

Local residents and welfare officers expressed their concern after the attack, with the Pinetown Children and Family Welfare Society saying that the sudden release of awaiting-trial child prisoners was deplored.

Priscilla McKay, the society's director, said their release was ill-considered and unconstitutional. It did not protect the best interests of the youths as no plans had

**CONCERN grows
as number of
escapers from
care centres in
Durban region
increases to 65**

been made to prepare them psychologically and emotionally, she said.

Gillot yesterday visited her doctor for treatment following the attack by a mob of about 20 youths.

Gillot's worried son, Craig, yesterday said Excelsior was equipped to take in only 18 residents, but on Wednesday night had 34 — five usual residents and 29 awaiting-trial youths.

He said the youths were in a restless mood and the women tried to calm them down with beverages and biscuits.

But just after 8.30am yesterday, Gillot was attacked, tied up with a telephone cord and then strangled. The attackers released her when a resident intervened.

Meanwhile, Norris' arms and legs were bound and she was allegedly about to be thrown down a flight of stairs when a resident came to her rescue.

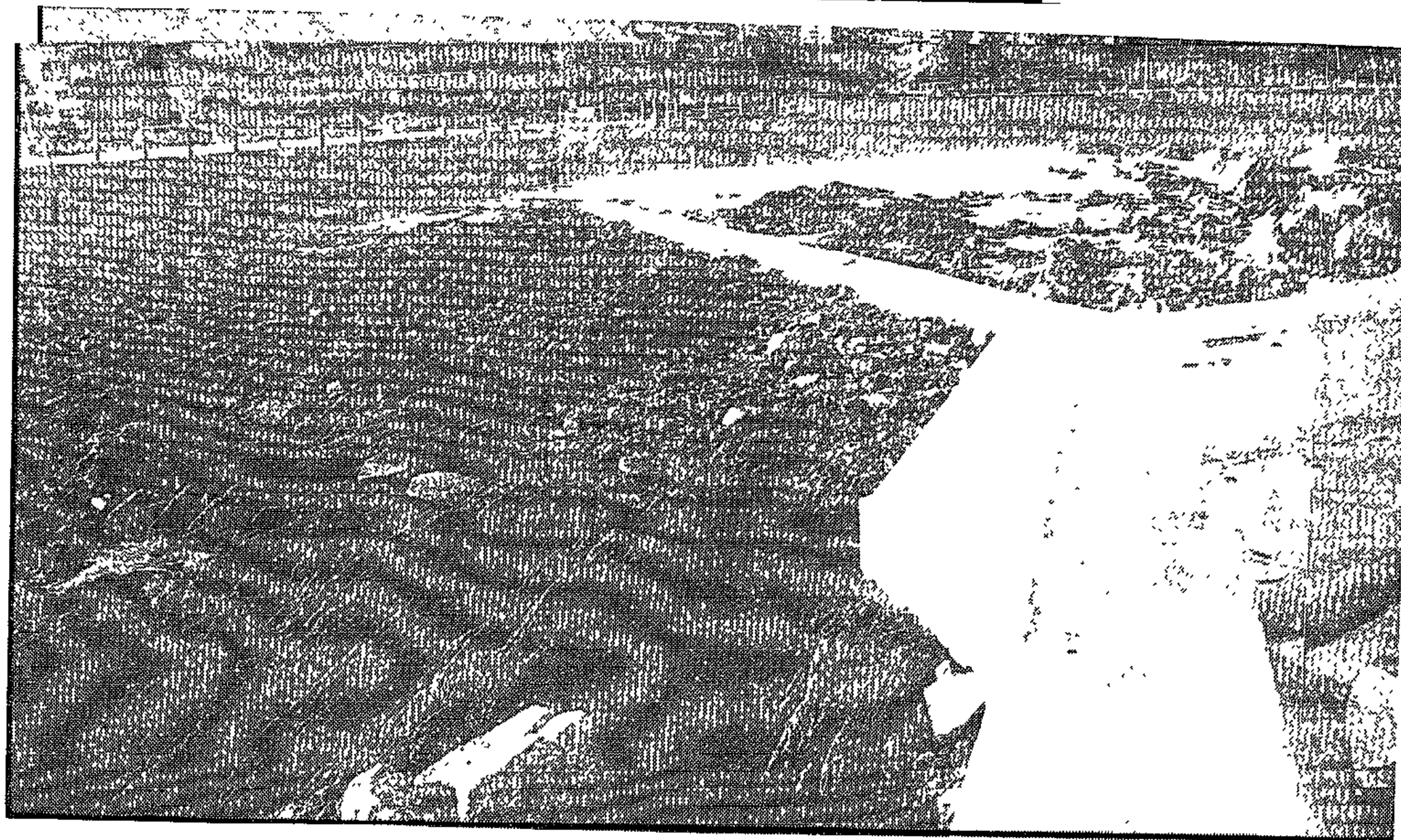
The mob then stole the women's jewellery and keys. Ten of the youths decided to stay at the centre and the other 19 fled. Seven were later picked up by police.

Meanwhile, another 19 awaiting-trial prisoners have escaped from Bayhead Place of Safety in Durban, adding to the 23 who escaped on Wednesday and bringing the total number of escapers in the area to 65.

■ A place of safety has been found for two awaiting-trial juveniles, accused of murdering an 82-year-old priest, who had been kept in prison since Tuesday on the orders of Johannesburg magistrate Andrew Johnson.

The two accused were remanded until a proper care centre could be found for them.

un *unconvicted*



Graaff's Pool to close at sunset — for 'decency'

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
Weekend Argus Reporter

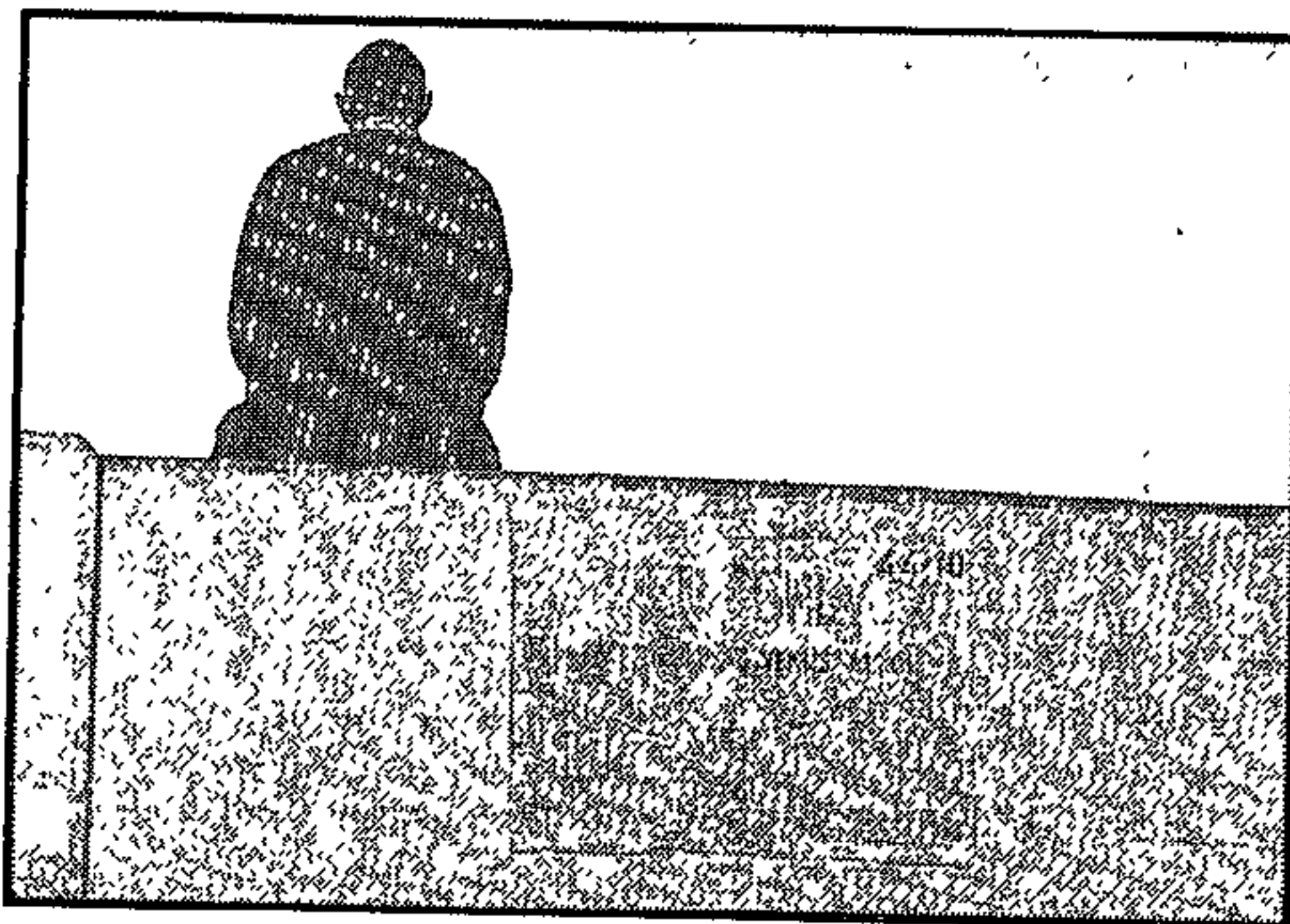
SERIOUS Graaff's Pool fans are delighted that the famous men-only nude bathing facility in Sea Point, hidden from prying eyes by a high concrete wall, is to be closed every evening around sunset to prevent "indecent behaviour".

City councillor Chris Joubert said the council would place a gate at the entrance to Graaff's Pool to prevent people using it after sunset.

The natural pool was the spot where the Cape Graaff family bathed almost 100 years ago. Today it has become the site for soliciting and "undesirable activity," said Mr Joubert.

Closing times for the pool would change seasonally, he said.

Mr Joubert's proposal that the pool be closed after sunset



□ **NATURAL POOL:** Graaff's Pool in Sea Point is a landmark among bathers but "undesirable activity" at night means it will now be closed after sunset.

approached by the police, who wanted Graaff's Pool closed in the evening. The soliciting and "undesirable activity" was taking place on a wide scale.

"We've tried putting up very

this. It is a well-used pool and we had to clean it up."

The gate would be locked at sunset and those who tried to enter at the side would be doing so at their own risk, said

closed after sunset. I think it is a very good move."

Harry Lewis, a resident of Bordeaux Flats overlooking Graaff's Pool, said he was "delighted" at the decision to close the pool at sunset — but he would prefer to see the wall knocked down and the pool opened to all sexes.

Mr Lewis said the whole image of Graaff's Pool had to be changed and the sexist attitudes dropped.

"Graaff's Pool has become an international meeting spot for the most undesirable people," he said.

A regular bather at Graaff's Pool, Mr Lewis pointed to the closed tunnel which once led underground from the site of his block of flats to the pool.

The tunnel was built by a prominent member of the Adderley Street Groote Kerk, Pieter Marais, before the Graaff family bought the grand

Kahn: Bid to ease case load of sex offence court not working

Political Staff

SPECIAL arrangements to ease the workload of the sexual offences court in Wynberg may defeat the purpose of the court, Cape attorney-general Frank Kahn has warned.

In his annual report to parliament, Mr Kahn said there were a large number of cases outstanding on the court's roll.

At present, the total was 193. It was expected these would be disposed of in six months.

An attempt had been made to counter this problem by making an alternative regional court available two days a week to try sexual offences.

But the trials were not conducted by the court's prosecutors, and witnesses did not enjoy the benefit of a special waiting room, the smaller courtroom, and the privacy of the floor where the sexual offences court was accommodated.

"The result of this is that the

purpose of the court is largely defeated."

Mr Kahn said the co-operation between the staff of the court in Wynberg and the police, especially the child protection unit, was excellent.

A good relationship had been established between the staff of the court and social workers, especially those from Red Cross Hospital, Safeline and Shawco.

"The prosecutors regularly lead the evidence of the social workers — especially before sentence — and a mutual understanding of each other's profession has been established between them."

Mr Kahn paid tribute to people who had helped ensure the courtrooms were not cold, impersonal and distressing for the victim.

● Mr Kahn's report, prepared before this week's controversy about the release of children from custody, said a programme had been started in October last year to ensure ju-

veniles were not detained in police cells or prisons.

Juvenile offenders were assessed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether they could be released into the custody of their parents.

A court sat every week night at 9 pm to handle all cases that arose after normal court hours.

"The introduction of this project has placed prosecutors under considerable pressure not only because of the after-hours court sessions, but also due to the fact that guidelines and procedures have to be evolved."

There had been reasonable success, but problems remained.

"The sad fact is that during the year under review, in Cape Town alone, 537 juveniles failed to appear in court after they had been warned to do so and 184 parents also failed to attend."

The only alternative was to find an acceptable place of detention, but little space was available.

ARL 13/5/95

(298)

DDMM

130 KIDS IN WESTERN CAPE AFFECTED

D-Day for jailed children

(298)

AT MIDNIGHT tonight the only juveniles in SA prisons will be those already convicted. All those awaiting trial — 620 countrywide — will be released into appropriate custody, writes Crime Reporter **JACKIE CAMERON**.

HUNDREDS of unconvicted children are to be freed from South African prisons from midnight tonight.

In a long-awaited move to empty South African prisons of children, all awaiting-trial juvenile prisoners have to be out of jails by midnight, when the Correctional Services Amendment Act comes into effect.

This will affect about 620 children around the country, of whom about 130 are in Western Cape jails, Correctional Services spokesman Colonel Barry Eksteen said last night.

President Nelson Mandela's proclamation of the act, signed on May 4, means awaiting-trial children may no longer be held in detention by the Correctional Services department.

The change to the law does not affect convicted juvenile prisoners.

The police, who are ultimately responsible for the children before they are convicted, were making plans yesterday for all of them to appear in court today to be released into appropriate custody, said police spokesman Colonel Raymond Dowd.

"Duty officers in all the areas have been instructed to take charge of getting the children from prison to court," he said.

"We are trying to work out where we can detain them, and have been liaising with the Department of Correctional Services and places of safety to make arrangements."

Police were trying to contact

the children's families and where possible would try to help them to attend the court appearances, as the courts might decide to release many of the children into the care of their parents.

"Juveniles cannot be detained in police cells except in exceptional circumstances where it is in the interests of justice, or where the parents are incapable of looking after them," Col Dowd said.

Police were informed of the change in policy at the weekend and were expected to hold a top-level meeting today to work out a new strategy.

Correctional Services Minister Dr Sipho Mzimela is expected to spell out the details at a press conference in Durban today, Col Eksteen said.

Proclamation

Meanwhile, the proclamation has also taken the Western Cape's Health and Welfare department by surprise.

Regional Health and Welfare Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool introduced 24-hour child assessment centres late last month to help empty the prisons of children.

A spokeswoman for Mr Rasool, Ms Veronica Petersen, said last night that an additional 30 children could be accommodated at places of safety.

She said it was probable that a meeting between several government departments would be held today to discuss the matter.

"If all the departments affected by this come together to decide on

a strategy, we can definitely handle the problem," Ms Petersen said.

Dr Mzimela, said at the weekend that he had ordered the closure of Bloemfontein prison because of its "sub human" conditions.

The government's crash programme to improve prisons would have to be speeded up, he said when he released the final report of the Kriegler Commission of Inquiry into unrest in prisons.

The commission said the Department of Correctional Services knew where the sources of friction lay, but it was largely unable to remove them because it did not have the money.

At the commission's hearings the non-government organisations had "forcefully and persuasively" made the point that a range of grievances had "created an environment of alienation, resentment, disaffection, hostility, boredom and frustration".

"The submission by the Department of Correctional Services had largely supported this view."

The NGOs, however, saw a much bleaker picture than the department, which viewed some of the shortcomings in the system as transitory relics of the old South Africa which could be eliminated departmentally, given time and money.

Many of the NGOs regarded the defects as congenital and irreversible without fairly radical surgery.

"The NGOs decry the paramilitary character of the service and contend that it promotes a culture of control by force. The department's response is a guarded intimation that it is prepared to look into the matter."

"The extent of the unhappiness about the new release policy was another area of disagreement."

Corrupt school food scheme is earmarked for an overhaul

ST 14/5/95

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BY JUSTIN ARENSTEIN

THE Eastern Transvaal government has admitted that its school feeding scheme is a failure and that mistakes have been made in its implementation.

The province's education minister, David Mabuza, admitted to the problem after the government announced this week that it had uncovered widespread corruption and theft of scheme money in the province by school principals, businessmen and senior government officials.

"We are very disappointed and obviously made a mistake by trying to involve people in running the scheme at a grass-roots level," he said.

"It is embarrassing, but senior government officials and provincial businessmen have been caught stealing.

"We had hoped to empower the people, which is one of the principle aims of the RDP. But it would appear that the people are not yet ready for responsibility.

"The entire scheme in the Eastern Transvaal will have to be redesigned."

Mr Mabuza could not put a figure to the amount of money that had been stolen or say how widespread the corruption was, but he said nine criminal investigations were being conducted.

"The biggest instance so far involves R20 000, while only R150 was stolen in another case. We can't say how much money is involved at this stage because we don't know if we have uncovered all the corruption taking place," he said.

His department had been aware of abuses for as long as six months, but the scheme's administrators had been unaware of the problem until the communities involved had reported it, he said.

The scheme was financially administered from a central office in Gauteng and there were no checks and balances

and no accountability.

"The whole set-up is open to abuse," Mr Mabuza said. "It must be restructured so that schools are directly accountable to their provincial departments."

He said the only way to stop the abuses was to devolve authority to the provinces.

"Abuses will continue if projects fly over our heads."

Other obvious problems included the use of small suppliers and the failure to implement tender procedures. Too many separate agencies and departments may have been involved in the scheme's planning and implementation — creating an inherently weak system, he said.

"We tried to canvass as widely as possible in the Eastern Transvaal, with the departments of health and education, the RDP and youth all collaborating in the programme's design.

"There may have been too many bodies involved."

The province's approach to school feeding would now be redesigned, with bigger companies possibly being invited to tender for supply contracts.

"The present system will be suspended and we will try to workshop with the relevant committees to ensure accountability," Mr Mabuza said.

There was no indication that the corruption had spread to other provinces, he said.

● The Eastern Transvaal government is also investigating the widespread issue of false report cards and transfers in provincial schools.

Mr Mabuza said corruption in schools has become "almost businesslike".

"For many it is a moneymaking concern to supplement their official salaries," he said.

Some male teachers requested sexual favours for false reports, transfers and exam questions.

m yesterday. Steve Khompela (captain), Deputy Pi
shwete look on ...

Crime soars after youth releases

By WALLY MBHELE

A WIDESPREAD up-roar has followed the controversial release of awaiting trial juveniles this week - as crimes involving children and youths escalated at an alarming rate barely 24 hours after their release.

More than 700 juveniles were released after an amendment to the Correctional Services Act providing for such freedom came into effect on Monday.

Because of alleged poor prior arrangements, many youngsters were left on the streets as their parents or next of kin could not be traced.

Others were left stranded because most rehabilitation and safety centres were full or could not accommodate children who had committed crimes such as murder.

Meanwhile, the crime rate soared countrywide - with children implicated in most of the shootings and car hijackings.

Some of the latest incidents of terror allegedly committed by youngsters include:

■ The shooting of a top Soweto traffic cop, Jeff Segale. Segale was shot three times in the abdomen by three youngsters who took his service pistol and fled the scene outside the Khazamula shops in Mofolo South.

■ In Durban, two elderly women welfare officers were held at knifepoint by juveniles who had just been freed and placed in the Excelsior Place of

Safety.

■ 84-year-old Stuart Murray of Melrose was shot dead in Yeoville on Wednesday after youths tried to hijack his car.

■ Last week former journalist Lawrence Mayekiso was shot dead and his car hijacked after he was accosted by youngsters in Soweto.

■ Another former journalist and now top official of the Western (Soweto) Metropolitan Substructure, Vusi Gunene, was shot and admitted to a Johannesburg hospital after five youths fired several shots at him before driving away with his car in Soweto.

■ An 18-year-old Katlehong student is fighting for his life at Natalspuit hospital after another student shot him in the classroom on Thursday.

■ Two police constables were seriously wounded in Molapo, Soweto, on Thursday when an unknown group of youths fired shots at them.

■ Two policemen and a woman were shot dead in KwaThema on the East Rand yesterday when a police vehicle went to investigate a hijacking.

■ In a snap survey conducted by City Press this week, most people said while it was uncivilised for any country to keep juveniles in prison, the government should have first considered each case according to its merits before embarking on the releases.

the legislators have become out of touch with the masses. Most will skip bail and never come to court again," he said.

He said the government should have consulted with institutions to find a better solution.

be in jail today and tomorrow they'll be free again."

A TV journalist who refused to be named said the releases were inconsistent with the feeling of people on the ground.

"It shows how much

making their parents' houses havens for criminal activities."

Most residents argued that an impression had been created that the youngsters have a licence to commit crimes "because they know they'll

young thugs, described the releases as "a sad day for those who are on the receiving end of these children's wave of terror".

He said: "They chase parents away from their houses and stay with their friends and girlfriends

Most criticised the government for "being more worried about protecting the rights of criminals than protecting the victims' rights".

Peter Molotsane, who last year came close to death after an attack by

Crime soars after youth releases

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To Page 2

Helping young sexual abuse victims tell

the hardest tales

ARLIS/94 (298)

The Wynberg Sexual Offences Court recently became the first specialised court of its kind in the world (a central Cape Town court has since also been adapted for this purpose). GORRY

BOWES TAYLOR spoke to Elzabe Durr-Fitschen about the recently instituted intermediary system, with its intermediary room and specifically trained staff.

THE intermediary room on the fifth floor in the Wynberg Sexual Offences Court has long, low windows overlooking Maynardville's trees and field flowers, a cupboard full of sweet-faced toys donated by the Constantiaberg Handicraft Centre and a wall mural bright with fancy folk. There's a little chair for the littlest children

There is also a table with two chairs, two "mikes", one set of headphones, and a television camera angled at child height. This is where Elzabe Durr-Fitschen, victim support services co-ordinator, sits, as an intermediary, at the table with a young sexual assault survivor. Elzabe is linked to the court via her headphones. Both she and the child wear mikes. The child cannot hear the court, which, when the accused or lawyers become abusive or threatening, is just as well. The court hears everything the child says.

The child appears full-face on a screen in the courtroom, Elzabe's is a side view. At times of even the most vile language and threats from the accused in the dock, Elzabe must keep her expression calm and her voice quiet. She must translate the rantings and defence lawyers' questions into words that will not frighten the child.

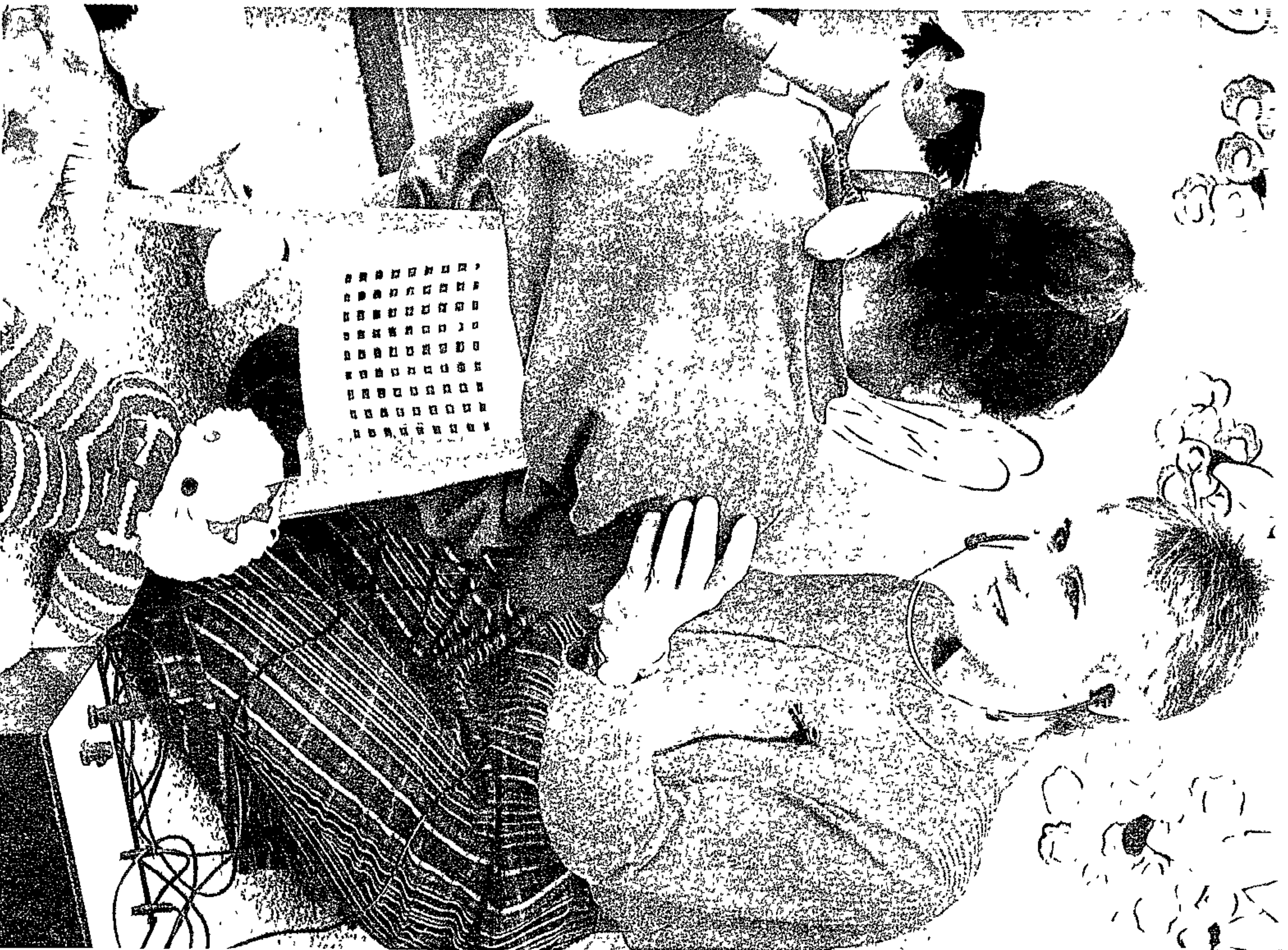
Children of four, five and up to 10 are instructed by the court to use the doll figures when the court needs their evidence to be explicit (under-fours are not usually competent witnesses — they cannot yet differentiate between the truth, or a lie).

Elzabe is lean, lively and empathetic. She has a UCT Masters degree in clinical social work and a Unisa Honours in psychology. There are colourful Maggie Laubscher prints on her office walls, and the Sanlam calendar of children's art. One of the magistrates has painted child-height murals on the passage walls, and there's similar cheer in the sunny waiting room.

Hers is a new post, created in March 1993 when the Sexual Offences Court started

"There is great satisfaction in being the buffer between the child and the aggression of the lawyers and the perpetrator in the court — and you know that the child could *never* have made up this story."

The conviction rate has risen with the intermediary system, which also allows for the intermediary to translate intimidating court language into child-friendly terms. The intermediary will let the magistrate know, and it is out on



Picture: HANNES THIAAT. The Argus
REASSURANCE: Elzabe Durr-Fitschen reassures a child in the Wynberg Sexual Offences Court intermediary room (The child is a model).

"Can you imagine how it used to be when a child, who had been sexually assaulted by a gang of five, had to face those five aggressive, taunting men in court?"

The Criminal Law Amendment Act 135 of 1991, which came into effect in August 1993, states that any witness under the age of 18 can now give evidence and be questioned by a suitably qualified adult without having to appear in the actual courtroom.

Let's call her Mary. She's just five and she is to give evidence against her mother's boyfriend, upon whom her mother is financially dependent. Her mother has told her not to talk to the police or to the prosecutor because the boyfriend, out on bail, is not allowed to be at the house. The truth is, he is visiting the house and is again sexually abusing the daughter.

The prosecutor brings Mary to Elzabe. Elzabe sits on the floor of the feel-good office, with the little girl and spreads doll figures before her. These are anatomically explicit, fully-dressed cloth dolls.

Eventually Mary chooses a male doll and a girl doll. She whips the dress off the little girl, and the trousers off the man and graphically demonstrates what was done to her.

"The dolls have an anus so that sodomy can be shown, an open mouth to demonstrate oral penetration, and the girl dolls have a vagina. All the body parts and all the holes," says Elzabe baldly.

record, when the child is too distressed to continue.

"We'll go to the lavatory, wash hands, rest. Then we go back."

Elzabe and her land-surveyor husband have two sons of 10 and 12. Does having children of her own make it easier to relate to children in court? Possibly, she says.

It doesn't matter whether the intermediary or prosecutor is male or female, it's a question of training and attitude.

"We teach a child 'Stranger Danger' but, in most cases, the sexual abuse is not extra-familial. The danger is in the child's home. The child must be aware of the people living with her, especially her mother's boyfriends. It's the trust thing, the wooing and the abusing.

"An older person entices the child into a relationship, woos her and makes her feel special. The child is in a double bind. If she says anything to the rest of the family, she not only loses the affection of the man, but may also cause the family to break up. The falling apart of the family could depend on the child.

It's a terrible situation for a child to be in."

The Sexual Offences Court sometimes sees incest and rape survivors successfully bringing the perpetrator to court years after the sexual incident.

"We've seen the effect on those women.

"It's good to know that the Sexual Offences Court can find a man guilty of an offence committed 15 or 20 years ago."

Support for child jail ban

(298)

(298)

CT 15/5/95

STAFF REPORTER

WESTERN CAPE attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn has commended the government for its ban on the jailing of juveniles.

Speaking at a community crime prevention conference in Bellville at the weekend, Mr Kahn said accommodation for the juveniles

existed and "the Departments of Education and Social Welfare must co-ordinate and access it".

Mr Kahn said it was a misconception that the new constitution encouraged the granting of bail more readily. Ineffective police investigation, however, "can seriously hamper the state in bail applications".

Rethink on child care policy

Municipal Reporter

CAPE Town City Council may re-examine its policy towards child-care facilities in residential areas to provide more facilities for children of working parents.

This was the thrust of an argument put forward by councillors on the city's urbanisation, planning and environmental management committee in considering an application to legalise a creche in Kirstenhof.

The owner of TLC Babyland, Lewann Walsh, applied to the Cape Town City Council to legalise the nine-year-old creche which she runs from her home.

But her immediate neighbour, Jacobus van Zyl, has objected to the creche on the basis that the children playing outside made too much noise which bothered him when he was home from work or off-duty.

Hennie van Wyk of the Concerned Residents of Steenberg and Retreat appealed to the committee on Mrs Walsh's behalf to not make a decision which would adversely affect the creche.

He said economically-active parents needed to have a place where their children were "safe and get love" during the day.

The creche was granted permission to operate from the premises if the number of children was limited to 30 and if outdoor playtime stopped at 5 pm.

Councillors on the committee felt that the children's playtime should not be limited during the day but that it should stop at 5 pm as a compromise to Mr Van Zyl.

They also felt a review of council policy on the restriction of numbers was long overdue.

AR 16/5/95

(298)

'Free' youths back in prison

THE 45 youths who were not released from Pollsmoor Prison on Monday night have to appear in court again within 48 hours.

They were returned to their cells after a special hearing, despite President Nelson Mandela's proclamation that all unsentenced children younger than 18 be released from prison by midnight on Monday.

More than 130 unsentenced children were taken from prison and police cells across the Cape Peninsula on Monday, leaving the courts with the headache of finding them alternate accommodation before midnight.

A Correctional Services spokesman said the 45 youths were accused of serious crimes such as murder and rape.

On their next appearance the court will decide into whose custody they will be released.

They could be released into the custody of their parents, foster parents or places of safety.

● Popcru demanded yesterday that the commander of Pollsmoor, Brigadier Johan Robberts, resign from his post immediately and vacate his house at the prison.

A spokesman for the union's Western Cape branch said Popcru told Brig Robberts in a letter last month that he was an obstacle in the way of meaningful change at the prison, and that he was "no longer welcome" there as commander.

The letter, signed by regional secretary Mr Pieter Loggenberg, accused him of negotiating in bad faith on issues including merit rewards.

It said Popcru was suspending all negotiations with him with immediate effect.

The spokesman said a delegation delivered a second letter to Brig Robberts yesterday, asking if he had understood the first one, and demanding that he leave immediately.

The spokesman for Correctional Services in the Western Cape, Captain Mike Green, confirmed that Brig Robberts had received the letter.

He said Correctional Services headquarters in Pretoria would comment later on the demands. — Sapa

R1-m feeding funds stolen

Source 16/5/95
(298) ~~298~~

By Joshua Raboroko

HUNDREDS of families in the Free State rural areas are starving after the closure of Operation Hunger's offices in Bloemfontein in December.

This was confirmed yesterday by the organisation's public relations officer, Mr Patrick McLaughlin, who said the closure was "tragic because the people have no food and water".

The affected areas included Bloemfontein, Botshabelo, Thaba 'Nchu and other neighbouring areas where locals depended on relief aid from the organisation.

McLaughlin said the organisation had conducted checks and realised something was "wrong" with the running of the feeding programmes in the region.

The matter has been handed over to the police who are investigating allegations that the organisation's funds have been paid into the account of a third party.

The organisation's executive director, Mr Mpho Mashinini, and manager of the Bloemfontein region, Mr Anthony Mfila, have been suspended.

Police are investigating allegations of fraud involving more than R1 million belonging to the organisation, which is believed to have been paid into the account of a "fictitious company".

The staff at the Bloemfontein offices have been "split" and given duties in other areas.

Mashinini took over from Mrs Ina Perlman, who retired in December 1993. Perlman said she was "terribly saddened" by the events.

Mashinini and Mfila were not available yesterday for comment. Operation Hunger received funding from international and local donors.

"We are worried about the hungry children," McLaughlin said. "We feed more than 50 000 destitute people countrywide."

McLaughlin said all the feeding programmes in the affected areas had been suspended but internationally funded community projects were still running. Police spokesman Warrant Officer Azindini Nengabela said yesterday that the police were investigating third party involvement in Bloemfontein and also suspected complicity at Operation Hunger's head office in Johannesburg.

Welfare groups seek millions for children ⁽²⁹⁸⁾

CT 17/5/95

A POWERFUL welfare lobby will push the cabinet today for more than R100 million to kick off a huge, co-ordinated move to solve the dilemma of juvenile crime, reliable sources said last night.

Following the release of children from the country's prisons last week and the resultant problem of dealing with serious juvenile offenders outside prisons, a crisis meeting was held in Cape Town on Monday afternoon.

South Africa's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights Of The Child is imminent, the cabinet will be told. But before it can be ratified, positive moves by the government are required.

The meeting to break the logjam on issues concerning children at risk was chaired by Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar, and attended by Welfare Minister Mr Abe Williams, Deputy Ministers Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moloketi (Welfare), Mr Joe Matthews (Safety and Security) and Mr Renier Schoeman (Education), and about 30 provincial ministers, senior members of government departments and leading non-governmental organisation members.

The newly accredited Unicef representative to South Africa, Ms Scholastica Kimarayo, was also present at the meeting.

The cabinet will be asked to approve a plan to set up a 14-person, multi-discipli-

nary committee to address the crisis caused by the incapacity of the South African prisons system to deal with juvenile criminals other than by incarcerating them in already overcrowded prisons.

The sources said the proposed committee would consist of seven senior members of the departments of Correctional Services, Justice, Reconstruction and Development, Health, Education, Welfare and Finance, and seven key members from the NGO side including welfare workers, researchers and youth support group professionals.

Transformation

Immediate plans will require places of safety, reform schools and other institutions to be transformed to cope with the broad spectrum of children, from those in need of care to serious offenders.

Further plans include the rapid creation of a structured, humane juvenile justice system, which will include involving communities and families in the re-integration of young offenders back into society.

The welfare lobby is confident that, with the backing of President Nelson Mandela who wants his promise that children will be kept out of jails to stick, an announcement can be expected before midday. — Sapa

Centre for street children opens

(298)

CT 18/5/95

JOHANNESBURG: The Street-Wise charity yesterday opened the first drop-in centre for vagrant children here and urged the government to give grants to single parents and housing to squatters.

The centre is an extension of Street-Wise's many programmes for vagrant children. It is intended to give them food, showers and education but also aims to reunite them with their families.

Sapa, Staff Reporter, Special Correspondent

Serving children major SA task

ET 18/5/95

(298)

SOUTH AFRICA faces a major administrative re-organisation task to provide services for children, a meeting in Cape Town yesterday on the National Programme of Action for Children concluded.

The Department of Health said: "The elimination of poverty among South Africa's children is justified not only on humanitarian grounds, but as an investment in the future ... the greatest asset of a country is a healthy and skilled population."

The meeting reached five major conclusions:

- Most deaths of infants and young children born into poor families could be prevented by simple, low-cost extensions of primary health care.

Much malnutrition would disappear if breast-feeding was encouraged.

- Violence hindered the ability

of families to look after their children, as did migrant labour and poverty in general. Welfare and education services lacked capacity.

- Families were poor because of high unemployment and low wages paid to unskilled workers.

At least five million new jobs were needed to attain full employment.

Deficient

- Pensions were an important source of income for poor families but were limited and provision for children came only from payments to foster parents. Social security should be extended to help poor children.

- The quality of many schools, particularly those serving the poor, was deficient. There was a need for extended teacher-training and catch-up education. — Sapa

Poverty among children 'a major problem'

CAPE TOWN — SA faced a major administrative task in providing services for children, the National Programme of Action for Children concluded at a meeting yesterday.

The Health Department said: "The elimination of poverty among SA's children is justified not only on humanitarian grounds, but

as an investment in the future."

It was concluded that:

- ☐ Most deaths of infants and young children born into poor families could be prevented by low-cost extension of primary health care. Most malnutrition would disappear if breast-feeding was encouraged;
- ☐ Violence hindered the

ability of families to look after their children.

- ☐ Families were poor because of high unemployment and the low wages paid to unskilled workers;
- ☐ Pensions were an important source of income but were limited; and
- ☐ Social security should be extended to help poor children. — Sapa.

Sharp drop in taxi violence

Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — Incidents of minibus taxi violence have fallen dramatically in many parts of the country, according to Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

In a written reply to a question from DP senator James Selfe, Mufamadi said 33 people had been killed and 75 injured in violence-related crimes in the taxi industry during the first four months of this year. This compared with 197 killed and 314 injured for the whole of last year.

In the Western Cape where 29 people were killed and 88 injured last year, no incidents had been reported this year, Mufamadi said.

No deaths or injuries had occurred in the Northern Transvaal this year, compared with 62 last year. One injury had been reported in the Western Transvaal (13 last year). Seven people had been killed or injured in the far Northern Transvaal (58 last year).

In the former Witwatersrand area

17 people had been killed and 36 injured this year compared with 73 killed and 87 injured last year. Proportionally, this marked little improvement.

In response to further questions, Mufamadi said gangs were responsible for 49% of murders committed in the Cape Flats area and 48% of attempted murders.

Gang members had been involved in the deaths of 125 people between October last year and March this year and 307 people were seriously injured in gang-related violence.

Most categories of serious crime had increased between October and December last year. Murder had risen from 1 499 to 1 880, rape from 3 074 to 3 693, child abuse from 187 to 197 and armed robbery from 5 943 to 6 035.

On the decrease were fraud, which fell from 4 510 incidents to 4 016, car hijacking from 606 to 558, theft from 59 969 to 57, 30 and 17 police officers were murdered in December last year compared with 23 in October.

Widespread child stress — Naidoo

PRETORIA — Nearly seven of every 10 children living in violence-afflicted areas suffer from deep depression or post-traumatic stress, Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said at a conference yesterday.

He told an Afrikanerbond conference in Pretoria this emerged from a recent government study to produce a comprehensive policy on children's rights and needs.

Government departments as well as non-governmental bodies had been involved in the study.

Reintegrating juveniles into society was one of the issues under examination, Mr Naidoo said.

The policy, an important element of the reconstruction and development programme, would be finalised in two or three months.

On financing the programme, he said the government would make sure that "every single cent" spent by it was linked to the reconstruction and development programme. — Sapa.

AMGOLD

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AMGOLD

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Abused children may suffer life-long physical and emotional problems*

Veil of secrecy

hides sexual abuse

see page 19/5/95

(298)

By Sizakele Kooma

■ COUNTLESS CASES Abuse

leaves youngsters physically scarred.

A MATURE MALE adult forced himself on to a two-year-old. When the tiny vagina would not yield, he shoved his penis into her anus, causing extensive injuries.

For months, the child could not pass stools because of the pain and consequently developed an extended tummy as a result of faeces collected in her bowel. She had to undergo two operations — one to remove the faeces and to allow her to defecate in a bag while the injury healed and the second to repair the damage done to the anal passage.

This, says Baragwanath district surgeon Dr Thami Bomvana, is enough to turn any human being a sociopath.

"The child will carry the physical scar of her abuse for the rest of her life. Each time she looks at her sewn up abdomen she will remember what happened to her when she was a baby," he said.

The little girl's case is however not an exception. The Baragwanath Rape Crisis Centre, which Bomvana heads, sees countless cases of children under six and older who bear serious physical scars from being sexually abused.

A 10-month old recently had to be given an operation to mend a perineal tear that extended from the vagina to the anus caused by forced penetration of a male organ.

The current figure of abused children seen at the clinic is 100 cases a month. Almost half of these cases are children under the age of six.

These statistics, according to Bomvana, reflect only a fraction of the problem.

"The view of Ntiro is that for every case that comes forward there are 10 that are not reported. So the figure is just the tip of the iceberg. The veil of secrecy shrouding abuse hides from the public more horrifying cases," he explained.

The cases that do reach the centre, he said, are often detected by care-givers at local clinics where the parent has taken the child for treatment of a secondary illness arising from the abuse. The illness could be complaints of pain when the child urinates or foul smelling vaginal discharge, or something else.

"A problem that often results from

abuse is sexually transmitted disease infection. If the child is not given antibiotics it can suffer an ascending infection. The infection can track up from the uterus into the tubes and cause a chronic type of infection that can result in the fallopian tubes being blocked and the child becoming infertile.

"There is a large number of children who have come to us with cauliflower-like lesions in the vagina, sores of syphilis and glands in the groins as a result of infection. The worst that can happen to a sexually abused child is infection with HIV which will later develop into full blown Aids," said Bomvana.

The Bara Rape Crisis Centre, he said, gathers evidence to help the law and the victim win their case against the perpetrator. But it is also concerned with both the emotional and physical health of the child.

The balanced treatment programme involves both psychological therapy, offered by social workers, and physical treatment which can include medication and surgery where needed.

Bill set to give rights to powerless fathers

Amouk Mommer

FATHERS of children born out of wedlock will soon have a fair chance to gain access rights. The Minister of Justice has referred a number of important recommendations of the Law Commission to Parliament in the form of a draft Bill.

Fathers currently have no rights over children born out of wedlock — only an obligation to pay maintenance until the child is self-supporting.

A father can only gain access rights, custody or guardianship if the mother is incapable of taking care of the child and her parents are unwilling or unable to take on the task. In December 1990, the Law Com-

mission received a petition from The Unmarried Fathers' Fight Action (Tuff) to reform the law. The organisation said fathers' legal position was both unreasonable and unfair. The commission decided to investigate the law and completed its final report early this year.

The commission's view is that fathers should have the right to apply to court for access rights and the court should grant these rights or even custody or guardianship if it is in the child's best interests.

The court should investigate, among other things, the relationship between the mother and the natural father, the relationship between the father and the child, and the attitude of the child with regard to the grant-

ing of access rights to the natural father.

Tuff spokesman David van Onse-len says the recommendation is not ideal as Tuff was campaigning for automatic access rights for fathers. "There's no reason not to get automatic access rights, but there is a stigma attached to it, so we won't get it."

Helen Starke, director of the National Council for Child and Family Welfare, is in favour of the Bill. "It's not only the rights of the father that are involved. Children need to know who their natural father is — they never ask to be born out of wedlock. Generally, it is in the best interest of the child if the father

has access rights."

Starke says paternal grandparents will also benefit. "They are often very concerned about the child. If the father has rights, the grandparents have them too. When a father can see his children at weekends he will probably take them to his parents regularly and the child will get a feeling of belonging to a family."

If the Bill is passed, it will also radically alter the adoption process. It requires that the father of a child born out of wedlock must, if possible, be informed if the mother puts the child up for adoption. He will be given the opportunity to apply for the adoption himself. The court will decide whether to grant the father's application in accordance with the best

interests of the child.

Starke is very pleased with this recommendation. "Right now, a father has no more rights than the man next door. The father must be able to state his case."

But other social workers are concerned. Said one: "If the father has a say in adoption it can cause problems for welfare. If he says no and they don't get consensus, what do you do then?"

Besides that, in many cases, the mother is not sure who the natural father is. So you will have to do tests to see who the real father of the child is. It makes the adoption process much more complicated."

Finally, the Law Commission recommends the implementation of family courts — rather than the Supreme Court — to deal with matters of this nature to make the proceedings less expensive.

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1995

Move on school feeding schemes could be disastrous, says MEC

(298) Star 20/5/95

By TEFO MOTHIBELI



CONCERN ABOUT CORRUPTION: Amos Masondo is having nightmares about phasing out big business's role PHOTOGRAPH ANTON HAMMERL

Gauteng MEC for Health Amos Masondo fears the planned phasing out of big business's role in the school feeding scheme could lead to corruption and a failure to deliver meals to undernourished children.

Masondo said this week he had nightmares about the consequences of handing over aspects of the scheme to small businesses, as required in terms of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

His concerns follow reports last week of alleged embezzlement of funds from the feeding scheme — a presidential RDP project — by principals, teachers and businessmen in the Eastern Transvaal.

Masondo said he had been happy with the way the project was being run in the province because "we are dealing straight with big companies whom we just pay and they deliver food to the kids at schools".

He said small entrepreneurs lacked delivery capacity and their services were highly priced.

Asked about accusations that the scheme had missed many children in township schools, he said: "The programme has until now been targeting lower primary schools in the rural areas in the province. We are targeting the neediest of the needy and the poorest of the poor." Ways were being sought to extend the scheme to needy children in semi-urban areas.

The Gauteng government had received R26,8-million for the project since September, Masondo said.

"That money is not enough to enable us to reach all the needy children and we appeal to those who can help to do so."

Since its inception, the programme had helped 45 000 children at 217 schools in rural areas around Gauteng, he added.

Paternity benefits have a slow birth

(298)

EUNICE RIDER

CT 22/5/95

BIG businesses polled on whether they offer paternity leave to their male employees have answered mostly in the negative.

Last week, the ANC caucus resolved that MPs should qualify for maternity and paternity leave.

Old Mutual, Rembrandt, Checkers/Shoprite and the CPA do not offer paternity leave.

BP offers a day's paternity leave and KWV personnel officer Mrs Surina du Toit said they were "looking into" the situation.

Pick 'n Pay human resources and joint managing director Mr René de Wet said the supermarket chain offered fathers of natural or adopted children eight days' paternity leave per child. This was to help their wives over the birth and homecoming period.

He said Pick 'n Pay had been offering paternity leave "for the past five or six years".

ANC plea on children

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

□ *Keep them out of jail, says Niehaus*

(298) MKG 23/5/95

DIFFICULTIES surrounding the release of children from prison should not be used to undermine the principle of keeping them out of jail, says the African National Congress.

Carl Niehaus, chairman of the ANC parliamentary study group on correctional services, said yesterday that the Democratic and National parties' criticism of the releases amounted to political opportunism.

At a media briefing Mr Niehaus repeatedly conceded that managerial and technical problems, largely stemming from a lack of co-ordination among government departments, had

marred the implementation of amendments to section 29 of the Correctional Services Act.

This had disclosed a serious lack of places of safety, many of which had to be secured after escapes by some of the released youths, and it had raised the urgent need for a system in which children could be classified in terms of their alleged offences and security risks.

But he said: "It's absolutely critical that we release these awaiting-trial children if we at all want to be in line with international standards where children under 18 are simply not kept in prisons."

He said an unspecified num-

ber of children had escaped from places of safety after their release, but everything possible was being done to trace them and return them to institutions where security had been stepped up.

Where new cases involving children came before the courts, there were efforts in areas such as the Western Cape to process children through the legal system as rapidly as possible to reduce the lapse between arrest and trial.

In certain cases courts were sitting for longer.

"We have to accept this legislation is putting more stress on the limited number of

places of safety that exist in our country, and I can only re-emphasise the need for urgent co-ordination between the different departments."

Mr Niehaus said it was utterly irresponsible of the DP to create the impression in the public mind that the new legislation had resulted in the general release of murderers and rapists.

"(The DP) knows very well that the children who have been released are awaiting trial and have therefore not yet been found guilty in court."

"The majority of children have been kept for a considerable period as awaiting-trial

prisoners for minor offences, more often than not unrelated to violence."

It was not intended to let children off the hook if they committed crimes.

The new legislation simply meant children had to be treated differently and had to be given a chance in life instead of stigmatising them by putting them in prisons.

Mr Niehaus called for a comprehensive juvenile justice system that would distinguish between serious offenders and those facing lesser charges and which would place petty offenders back in the community.

He pointed out that the new legislation also said children under 14 could under no circumstances be detained in prisons for longer than 24 hours.

(3) Yes.

- (a) (i) Keith Coleman of Monitor Company Africa, a subsidiary of Monitor Company of Cambridge, MA, USA.

(ii) BA Hons, MBA

- (b) The Department's existing organisational structure does not enable it to effectively undertake the work which has to be done under the new housing policy contained in the White Paper on Housing. A new organisational structure therefore had to be designed. This was done in-house by the Department's management in a series of working sessions over a period of a few months.

The Department, however, wished to ensure that the proposed new structure was justifiable in the sense that it would be adequate for the purposes of carrying out its responsibilities, that the number and level of the posts envisaged were appropriate (especially in view of the policy of down-sizing the Public Service), and that the design had not been subjectively influenced by vested interests in the existing management of the Department. It was therefore decided to have an independent organisational expert test the design. This was done free of charge by Keith Coleman, as a personal favour to the Department, in a six hour workshop with management. The proposed organisational structure was subsequently submitted to the Public Service Commission for consideration

- (a) (i) Mr J de Ridder
(ii) BSc MBA.
- (b) Assisting the Director-General and the Department of Housing in the compilation of a White Paper on Housing, negotiations with the construction sector, planning and investigations related to the proposed establishment of a National Housing Finance Corporation and the implementation of agreements reached

with the banks and construction sector.

(4) Yes.

(a) USAID.

Headmaster/teachers at schools allowed to administer corporal punishment

174. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Education: *Wansard 23/5/95*

- (1) Whether headmasters or teachers at schools are allowed to administer or authorise corporal punishment; if so, whether headmasters or teachers who administer or authorise corporal punishment are required to submit written details of each incident to his Department; if not, how does his Department monitor whether or not the prescribed conditions are being adhered to, if so, what are the requirements in this regard,
- (2) whether headmasters or teachers who administer or authorise corporal punishment are required to submit written details of each incident to his Department; if not, how does his Department monitor whether or not the prescribed conditions are being adhered to, if so, what are the requirements in this regard,
- (3) whether any parents have laid charges against headmasters or teachers at schools where corporal punishment was administered; if so, what (a) are the relevant details and (b) was the outcome in each case,
- (4) whether his Department has received any representations in regard to corporal punishment in schools; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

N350E

- (1) Yes, in terms of legislation inherited from the previous ethnic dispensations which has not yet been amended or repealed by the provincial legislatures, who now have responsibility for the administration of the relevant Act.
- (2) No, since the national Department of Education has no executive responsibility for the administration of schools.
- (3) This information, and related details about the administration of corporal punishment in schools, is being sought from the provincial Departments of Education and will be conveyed once it has been compiled.
- (4) Yes. A plea for the abolition of corporal punishment in schools has been received

by the Department of Education from the non-governmental organisation EPOCH. The Department of Education is actively examining its responsibility in this matter in terms of relevant provisions of Chapter 3 of the Constitution, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the government intends to submit to Parliament for ratification

Provision of transport for pupils to and from schools

177. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Education:

Whether his Department makes provision for the transport of pupils to and from schools, if not, why not; if so, (a) under what circumstances is transport being provided and (b) what amount has been allocated for this purpose in each province in the current school year?

N353E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

No. This matter falls under the responsibility of provincial Departments of Education. However, a Sub-committee on Scholar Transport of the Heads of Education Departments Committee (which brings together the national and provincial Departments of Education) is investigating the current provision of scholar transport in provinces, with a view to making recommendations on how the present anomalous and inequitable arrangements, inherited from the previous ethnic administration, can be altered for the better

Shortage of classrooms in schools in Republic

185. Mr P G MARAIS asked the Minister of Education:

(a) What was the estimated shortage of classrooms in schools in the Republic calculated at a pupil/classroom ratio of 1:40 as at the latest specified date for which information is available, in respect of the (i) current pupil enrolment figures in schools in the Republic and (ii) pupils mentioned in paragraph (a) (i) plus the estimated number of persons in the Republic between the ages of 6 and 16 years who are currently not receiving any schooling and (b) what will be the estimated capital costs to eliminate such shortage in each case?

N387E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(a) (i) 50 000 classrooms in 1994, calculated at pupil/classroom ratios of 40:1 and 35:1 for primary and secondary education respectively.

(ii) Assuming that the shortage of 50 000 classrooms will be eradicated up to the year 2000, the estimated number of additional classrooms required, including those needed for the estimated 1,8 million pupils in the age group six to 18 who are currently not receiving any schooling but who will enrol over the next few years, is:

Year	Estimated number of classrooms
1996	10 598
1997	11 681
1998	12 923

(b) The total capital cost for the classrooms in (a)(i) is approximately R5 billion in the Rand of 1995, assuming R100 000 per classroom. The estimated capital cost (in millions of Rand of 1995) of providing classrooms over the next three years as indicated in (a)(ii) is:

Year	Estimated cost
1996	1 059,8
1997	1 168,1
1998	1 292,4

Primary/secondary school teachers employed in state schools

200. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Education:

(a) How many (i) primary and (ii) secondary school teachers are currently employed in State-funded or State-aided schools in each province and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

N406E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(a) The number of—

(i) primary school teachers currently employed in public ordinary schools in each province in South Africa is:

Niehaus admits to foul-up

Adrian Hadland

(298)

CAPE TOWN — A number of children who were moved earlier this month from SA prisons to places of safety had escaped, ANC MP Carl Niehaus said yesterday.

The children were among 700 under the age of 18 who were released from jail following an amendment to the Correctional Services Act. Most were awaiting trial and faced minor charges "more often than not unrelated to violence", Niehaus said. AD 23/5/95

Speaking on behalf of the ANC, rather than as chairman of the National Assembly's correctional services committee, Niehaus said he was disappointed at the negative reaction of parties and the public to the release.

The change in the Act received unanimous support in Parliament's correctional service committees, and brought SA in line with international norms and the UN's charter on the rights of children.

Inadequate communication and co-ordination between the justice, correctional services, welfare and safety and security departments together with a shortage of places of safety resulted in the foul-up, he said.

Special project to help the 'lost generation'

Kathryn Strachan

SA's "lost generation" has been given a second chance to become economically independent through the introduction of a special project which, if successful, will be adopted by government for implementation at schools throughout the country. **BD 24/5/95**

The matric and skills training project is being run under the auspices of the ORT-Step Institute, the world's biggest educational non-governmental organisation. Its aim is to give students of all ages the skills which are necessary to become part of the employable workforce.

Project co-ordinator Mike Maile said 35 unemployed youths from underprivileged areas had already signed up for the pilot project.

This project, which is being funded by a R600 000 grant from the National Economic Education Trust, the education arm of National Sorghum Breweries, would be restricted to a total of 35 students initially because of cost and space constraints.

"The project came about because, during the course of our community outreach programmes, we were being approached by many people who asked us to help them get education and training," Maile said.

The course is open to students who have a minimum Standard 8. They will attend classes at the ORT college of technology and write the National Certificate Board Examination at the end of the course.

Core subjects will include maths, science, technology, business economics, English and biology. They will be given lessons in life skills, too, and taught problem-solving skills.

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Differences in disease profiles of provinces

Kathryn Strachan

BD 24/5/95

THERE are vast differences emerging in the disease profiles of the various provinces — reflecting varying levels of regional development, a new study by the Medical Research Council has found.

While the Western Cape and Gauteng, for example, have cause-of-death profiles similar to countries such as Brazil and Thailand, the Northern and Eastern Transvaal, Free State and Eastern Cape have mortality profiles resembling those of several African countries.

Council spokesman Derek Yach says the regional diversity of mortality profiles highlights the need for a health plan which is nationally coherent yet sensitive to provincial variations.

The study, conducted by council researcher Debbie Bradshaw, shows that people in the Western Cape are more likely than any other South Africans to die of heart disease and strokes, while residents of Gauteng and KwaZulu/Natal are more likely to die as a result of violence.

Ischaemic heart disease ranked first in the Western Cape with 11,8% of deaths, while cerebrovascular disease accounted for 10,5% of deaths.

In KwaZulu/Natal murders and other violent deaths accounted for almost 14% of the total, and in Gauteng almost 7,7% of deaths were attributed to violence.

In the Northwest intestinal infections (18%) and respiratory diseases other than TB and lung cancer (12%) were the biggest killers. The Eastern Cape had the highest proportion of TB deaths (7,6%) and perinatal deaths (8%). The Free State had the highest percentage of deaths caused by intestinal infections (21%).

Bradshaw said the research, based on an analysis of all reported deaths in 1990, showed South Africans were dying from preventable diseases such as TB. The data did not reflect the impact of AIDS.

She said the overall mortality profile reflected a combination of poverty-related diseases, chronic diseases related to a Western lifestyle and the effects of trauma. Poverty- and lifestyle-related diseases needed to be fought through an extended primary health care network.

It was a matter of concern that "ill-defined cause of death" accounted for 23% of all deaths in SA. This reflected poor access to health services and the fact that medical certificates stating cause of death had not been issued.

WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY 1995

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) The numerical strength per province is not available. Various agencies are represented in different provinces and their numerical distribution will only be known after amalgamation.

(b) Police members per specified rank on 31 March 1995, all agencies included are:

General	1
Lieutenant-General	9
Major-General	37
Brigadier	214
Colonel	604
Lieutenant-Colonel	1 064
Major	1 440
Captain	2 258
Lieutenant	2 950
Warrant-Officer	11 383
Sergeant	28 682
Lance Sergeant	10 642
Constable	62 415
Total	121 699

Senior staff members retired/retrrenched/redundant/on voluntary early retirement

283 Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(1) Whether any of the 50 most senior staff members of the South African Police Service were retired, retrrenched or made redundant or voluntarily took early retirement during the latest specified period of

two years for which information is available; if so, how many such members (a) retired at normal retirement age, (b) were retrrenched or made redundant and (c) voluntarily took early retirement during the latest specified period of two years and (ii) the latest specified period of six months for which information is available;

(2) what was the total sum paid out in respect of (a) redundancies and retrrenchments and (b) voluntary early retirements during each of the above periods?

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

(i) The specified period of two years 1 March 1993-31 March 1995.

(ii) The specified period of six months 1 October 1994-31 March 1995.

(1) (a) Yes.

(i) 13

(ii) 2

(b) Nil

(c) Yes

(i) 7

(ii) 6

(2) (a) Nil

(b) (i) R3,5 million.

(ii) R3 million.

TUESDAY, 30 MAY 1995

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Contribution of gold mines/individuals to tax revenue

83. Mr P J GROENEWALD asked the Minister of Finance:

What was the contribution, expressed as a percentage, of (a) gold mines and (b) individuals to the total tax revenue in respect of

The MINISTER OF FINANCE.

(i) 1991, (ii) 1992, (iii) 1993 and (iv) 1994.

N130E.

Fiscal year	Contributions by gold mines	Contributions by individuals	Total tax revenue
	R million	%	R million
1990/91	644,4	0,92	24 149,6
1991/92	523,7	0,69	29 934,6
1992/93	421,5	0,52	33 791,1
1993/94	622,5	0,66	37 785,9
			40,16
			94 081,2

Note: The contribution of individuals includes the former TBVC states and self-governing territories.

Certain junior primary school benefiting from school feeding scheme

139. Mr G Q M DOIDGE asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Whether, with reference to her reply to Question No 153 on 8 September 1994, a certain junior primary school, the name of which has been furnished to her Department for the purpose of her reply, was benefiting from the school feeding scheme (a) as at the date of her reply and (b) in October 1994; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(1) (a) No.

(b) Yes. A total of 766 children, including 140 children in the pre-school, have been receiving assistance since October 1994.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) (i) Yes.

(2) whether the scheme has been implemented at all schools in (a) East Griqualand, (b) the districts of (i) Mount Ayliff, (ii) Mount Frere, (iii) Mount Fletcher, (iv) Mafur, (v) Tabankulu and (vi) Umzimkulu and (c) the former (i) (aa) Border and (bb) Smaller Eastern Cape areas and (ii) Transkei; if not, (aaa) at which schools and when, in each case, was the scheme implemented and (bbb) at which schools and why, in

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes.

(iv) Yes.

(v) Yes.

(vi) Yes.

(2) (c) (i) (aa) Yes.

(bb) Yes.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH

N258E

- (ii) Yes. All the schools in the Eastern Cape Province receive assistance. Implementation has been phased in since September 1994 to date. The extent of the coverage makes listing of individual schools impossible.
- (aaa) Falls away.
- (bbb) Falls away.

Development of Driekoppies Dam

147. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry

Whether his Department is engaged in the development of the Driekoppies Dam, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, (a) at what cost and (b) for what purpose?

N270E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

Yes. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is involved in the construction of the Driekoppies Dam as a contractor to the client, the Komati Basin Water Authority.

(a) The present estimated completion cost is R488 million.

(b) The purpose of the dam is to stabilise the water supplies to existing consumers in Swaziland and the Eastern Transvaal Province, to provide for the expected increase in domestic water requirements mainly in the Nkomati Region of the former KwaZulu and to allow for an increase of the area under irrigation, especially in respect of sugar cane.

Particulars in respect of the annual salaries/benefits/allowance paid to the Financial Services Board

158. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance

Whether he will furnish particulars in respect of the annual salaries, inclusive of all benefits and allowances, that are currently paid to (a) the Executive Officer, (b) the Deputy Executive Officer, (c) the Chief Actuary, (d) each manager heading a division and (e) any other manager employed by the Financial Services Board; if not, why not, if so, (i) what are the relevant

details in each case and (ii) what was the percentage year on year increase in remuneration paid to the persons occupying each of the above posts in respect of each specified year since the establishment of the Board in 1990?

N304E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) Yes.

(i) In view of the fact that suitably qualified and experienced officials could not be recruited and retained for the supervision of financial institutions, Government approved the establishment of an independent statutory Board for this purpose. In terms of section 14 of the Financial Services Board Act, 1990 (Act No 97 of 1990), the Board may pay the persons in its employment remuneration packages that the Board may, after having obtained such professional advice as it may deem fit, consider as being competitive in the open market. Based on the market research and findings of reputable consultants who advise the Board on the grading of the various post levels and market-related remuneration packages for these post levels, the following total remuneration packages (including employees' contributions to pension and medical cost benefits) were recommended by the said independent private sector consultants:

	R	R	R
	Lower	Median	Upper
	Quartile	Quartile	Quartile
Executive Officer	524 148	566 864	628 934
Chief Actuary	409 390	448 940	490 746
Deputy Executive Officer	371 933	410 307	448 817
Manager	230 991	270 187	309 382

In respect of the officers concerned the following total remuneration packages have been negotiated

Below	On or above	Above
Median	Median	Upper
Quartile	Quartile	Quartile
4	7	2

(ii) Based on the findings of the independent private sector consultants the following market-related average salary increases were awarded.

1991 — the FSB was established on 1 April 1991

1992 — 12.5%

1993 — 10%

Total amount expended by each Ministry in the GNU since 11 May 1994

207. Mr M M Z DYANI asked the Minister of Finance:

What total amount was expended by each Ministry in the Government of National Unity in respect of: (a) telephone accounts, (b) air travel, (c) other travel, (d) staff and (e) returbishments during the period 11 May 1994 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?

N423E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

The following information was submitted by the relevant Ministries/Departments. (Unless indicated otherwise, amounts are for the period 11 May 1994 to 31 March 1995.)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE					
Ministry	Telephone accounts	Air travel	Other travel	Staff	Refurbishments ¹
1. President	45 378,29	30 821,07	310 978,88	7 952 599,10	—
2. Deputy President	41 946,91 ²	148 865,29 ²	143 031,35 ²	1 541 449,92 ²	758,00 ²
3. Deputy President from the Largest Minority Party	679 932,20	333 458,25	326 030,65	3 733 683,48	Furniture, 200 611,18 Computer equipment 532 652,43
4. Agriculture Minister and Deputy Minister	261 304,00	383 854,00	325 118,00	3 802 042,00	—
5. Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister and Deputy Minister	101 594,74	1 113 453,11	522 128,63	1 568 717,00	35 441,42
6. Correctional Services	103 914,00	314 547,00	118 429,00	1 010 054,00	—
7. Education. Minister and Deputy Minister	22 782,65	353 808,80	187 741,72	1 378 735,40	48 000,00

NEWS DP and NP criticism of jailed children's release was 'politically opportunistic'

Sowetan 24/5/95

(298)

'No jail for awaiting-trial kids'

Sowetan Correspondent

■ CRITICAL NEED New legislation

means children will be treated better:

DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING THE release of children from prison should be not be used to undermine the principle of keeping them out of jail, according to chairman of the ANC parliamentary study group on correctional services Mr Carl Niehaus.

Niehaus said this week that the Democratic Party and the National Party's criticism of the releases amounted to political opportunism. A media briefing this week, Niehaus conceded that

managerial and technical problems, largely stemming from a lack of coordination among government departments, had marred the implementation of amendments to Section 29 of the Cor-

rectional Services Act.

This had revealed a serious lack of places of safety and had raised the issue of the urgent need for a system in which children could be classified in terms of their alleged offences and security risks.

But, he said: "It's absolutely critical that we release these awaiting-trial children, if we want to be in line with international standards, according to which children under 18 are simply not

kept in prisons."

An unspecified number of children awaiting trial had escaped from places of safety after their release, but everything possible was being done to trace them and return them to institutions where security had been stepped up.

It was utterly irresponsible of the DP to create the impression in the public mind that the new legislation had resulted in the release of murderers and rapists.

DHAKA — Bangladesh garment manufacturers said yesterday they wanted to renegotiate with the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) a modified accord to end child labour in the export-oriented clothing industry.

The statement came after Unicef said it would try to moderate an anti-child labour accord that was vetoed by the garment manufacturers who had regarded it as unnecessary and intrusive.

"We are ready to renegotiate a fresh accord" to end the threat of boycott of the garments from Bangladesh to the US, Garment Manufacturers' Association president Redwan Ahmed said.

The accord seeks to end

Child labour talks set to resume

(298) BD 26/5/95

the use of child labour in the garment industry by September 1997 and provide for international monitoring and education for former child workers.

The two clauses of the accord the manufacturers want modified are the rehabilitation of children retrenched from the industry, and the setting up of an independent monitoring system to ensure compliance with the ban on the use of child labour.

The manufacturers say the monitoring clause is intrusive and want to know who will bear the cost of the retrenched child work-

ers' education.

When the manufacturers rejected it, a Washington-based agency of 40 organisations threatened to launch a campaign urging Americans to stop buying Bangladeshi garments.

Last week, the manufacturers unexpectedly refused to sign the agreement they had negotiated with Unicef, the International Labour Organisation and the Asian-American Free Labour Institute.

They promised to retrench all child labourers by October 31.

Bangladesh's garment industry is the single

largest foreign exchange earner, employing thousands of children under 14 and exporting \$2bn of garments a year to the US.

Facing pressure from the US buyers, the manufacturers started reducing the numbers of child workers employed in 1993. Nearly 50 000 children have been retrenched from 2 000 garment factories.

The garment manufacturers claim that only about 10 000 of the country's 1-million workers are children today, but independent agencies say the actual number is much higher. — Sapa-AP.

Caning in schools to be outlawed (298)

By ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SAW 27/5/95

Cape Town — Draft legislation is being prepared which will include the prohibition of corporal punishment in schools.

Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu said this week: "The Department of Education will work with the provincial departments of education and appropriate stakeholder organisations to prepare for the outlawing of corporal punishment in schools and other educational institutions."

The department would ensure that students, teachers, principals and parents were able to jointly consider codes of conduct and disciplinary sanctions.

The minister said corporal punishment contravened the Interim Constitution as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The children who were freed — but were they?

Star 27/5/95

(298)

They've been out of the cells for three weeks — but some would prefer to go back to prison.

NEWTON KANHEMA gets different opinions from juveniles who were among those transferred from prisons to places of safety

Sixteen-year-old Matsatsela (not his real name) rallies his fellow inmates. "The place is fine and it is up to us to make it a happy one," he tells them.

But Dikali, from Soweto, a murder and attempted murder suspect, says he will not co-operate with the authorities because "this place is a creche. I want to go back to prison in Johannesburg".

"I don't want to live with kids. This place is a creche. I want to go to Sun City. At least there are men there"



"There is a lot of the children. I think this place is not strict enough for these people"

action was getting out of hand before the police arrived," says a child.

He says the children at the centre were given forks and knives to eat with and most of these utensils had been stolen and smuggled into the dormitories.

"They are going to use these instruments (knives and forks) against each other. There is a lot of intimidation among the inmates. I think this place is not strict enough for these people."

The children complain that they receive too little food and demand that transport be made available from every police station to enable their relatives to visit them.

"We have no money to buy cigarettes and we don't have

clothes to change," says Matsatsela. After the interview, Matsatsela demands a pack of 20 cigarettes for each photograph taken.

"If you are not prepared to pay then you better leave," he says when we decline to meet his demand.

Venter says the majority of the children held at the centre were arrested for theft. "We have a few murderers, rapists and robbers."

Dikali (19), held on a murder charge, two attempted murder charges and one of robbery, says he is not prepared to live with kids.

"I want to go to Sun City (Johannesburg Prison). At least there are men there."

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? The hands of the juvenile offenders at Proteem Place of Safety and Detention. The children, mainly held for their part in some robbery, claim they have missed court appearances and their parents have not been able to visit them because of lack of public transport

new keepers, claiming there is a major problem with transport to and from the centre.

"This place is s.f. We are in the middle of nowhere and there is no public transport coming to this place and our

parents cannot visit us. Most of us have missed our court appearances because there was no transport to the courts.

"I was supposed to appear in Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on May 23 but there was no trans-

port to take us there," says a 14-year-old.

Other children agree.

"Yes, we had a problem with transport, but this has been resolved. We have already talked to the court in question and the

problem has been settled," says the deputy superintendent of the centre, Maria Venter.

She says the children have not been a problem in the three weeks since they were moved there.

However, on Thursday they went on "strike", refusing breakfast until their demands were met. Police were called when things turned ugly.

"We were told that we were not supposed to eat the break-

fast. Three of our inmates defied this call and when they came out of the dining room they were attacked.

"One had to be taken to hospital after he was beaten with a cup attached to a belt. The situ-

ation was getting out of hand before the police arrived," says a child.

He says the children at the centre were given forks and knives to eat with and most of these utensils had been stolen and smuggled into the dormitories.

"They are going to use these instruments (knives and forks) against each other. There is a lot of intimidation among the inmates. I think this place is not strict enough for these people."

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"I want to go to Sun City (Johannesburg Prison). At least there are men there."

"The place" is the Magaliesoord Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre, 40km north of Pretoria and the new home for 90 youths recently released from prison in terms of an amendment to the Correctional Services Act outlawing the detention of juveniles in prisons.

It contains three drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres and now also serves as a place of safety and detention. Seventy of the centre's patients were moved to the neighbouring Etandla rehabilitation centre to accommodate the juveniles awaiting trial.

The new arrivals have started making demands and handing over ultimatums to their

Caning to be scrapped (298)

29/5/95

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

CANING of pupils in schools is to be scrapped in the new Education Policy Act, the Minister of Education, Professor Sibusiso Bengu, has disclosed.

He said the whipping of pupils — a long-standing practice in boys' schools and former House of Representatives-controlled schools — was contrary to the constitution.

Prof Bengu revealed the new policy, which is bound to cause some controversy in schools where caning has been a tradition for generations, when he replied to a question which had been tabled in the National Assembly by Mr Brian Bunting (ANC).

Mr Bunting said yesterday: "It's a very radical change in the set-up... a great step forward."

Prof Bengu said that in April the Minister of Justice, Mr Dullah Omar, had stated that legislation had been prepared for the abolition of corporal punishment as a sentencing option "to bring South Africa into line with other civilised countries".

Women warn on poverty

Kathryn Strachen

AN INTERNATIONAL women's coalition has warned against structural adjustment policies and international trade agreements which aggravate poverty, especially the poverty of women.

Marking International Women's Day on Sunday, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, which is based in Amsterdam, said trade agreements which sustained the dominant position of the north had aggravated poverty in countries in the south.

These policies had led to the unemployment and marginalisation of an increasing number of groups.

(298) 80 305/95

For example, because of the rising costs of health services in Zimbabwe, attendance at rural health clinics decreased by 39%.

Two years after the introduction of structural adjustment programmes in Zimbabwe, maternal mortality rates doubled from 104 to 206 per 100 000 live births. Africa's average maternal mortality rate was around 600 per 100 000 births, it said.

More than 70% of women in Africa were illiterate and lived below the poverty line.

The network said women did two-thirds of the world's work, earned 10% of its money and owned 1% of its property.

The Wits University

Women's Project said there was no excuse for women dying from childbirth or a pregnancy complication in present times.

SA estimates of the maternal mortality rate ranged from eight for every 100 000 live births for whites to 258 for every 100 000 births for blacks.

Many deaths were caused by excessive bleeding during delivery — because women had not been able to get to hospital. Unsafe abortions contributed to the high death rate.

The project said the International Day of Action for Women on Sunday was a reminder of the conditions under which many women lived, and the need to improve their rights, their health and their control over their bodies.

It would be an advantage to have relevant and supportive policies on reproductive rights, so that women could make relevant decisions.

It proposed the new constitution be more decisive on the issue of abortion. It was necessary also to target subsidised health services at the large number of women who constituted the poorest of the poor.

Cape man wins survey

CAPE TOWN — University of Cape Town surveying department head Prof Heinz Ruther has been commissioned to survey one of the world's most important archaeological sites.

The 3.5-million-year-old Laetoli hominid footprints, preserved in volcanic ash, will be conserved in a collaborative project involving the US-based Getty Conservation Institute and the Tanzanian government.

The footprints in north-western Tanzania are said to be the earliest indication of man's ancestors having walked upright. They are considered to be one of the most important discoveries in the study of the human evolution hypothesis.

"I am very excited that such a major project has been awarded to us in the face of stiff international competition," said Ruther.

Ruther said UCT had been commissioned to do the surveying part of the research project. The job would take two years.

He would use state-of-the-art techniques, including digital photography, automated mapping and the Geographical Information System. — Sapa.

School feeding in disarray

own correspondent

(298) 80 305/95

EAST LONDON — Primary school feeding schemes in the Eastern Cape might have to be suspended because of widespread corruption and maladministration.

Provincial health minister Dr Trudy Thomas said the scheme might be temporarily stopped until proper business plans from schools and more stringent controls were in place. "An investigation was planned," she said.

The scheme was initiated by President Nelson Mandela last year to combat malnourishment among young children. R113m had been budgeted this year to feed more than 2-million pupils in the province.

A decision was taken to feed all primary school children rather than targeting the malnourished because of the extent of poverty in the province, Dr Thomas said. "This is costly but it would be less so if the programme wasn't open to abuse. Allegations of corruption involving suppliers, officials and community members are rife."

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THE WATERFRONT

Republic Road
Ferndale

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) Yes.

(1) For the period 1 May 1993 to 30 April 1995:

- (a) 3
(b) 3
(c) 12

(ii) For the period 1 January 1995 to 30 June 1995

- (a) 1
(b) 0
(c) 23

(2) (a) Approximately R7 000 000
(b) Approximately R8 500 000

School feeding scheme in each province:
amount allocated

266 Mr L LOUW asked the Minister for Health:†

Hansard 30/5/95

What is the amount allocated to each of the provinces in respect of the school feeding scheme?

N557E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Province	Provisional Allocation	Additional Allocation	Total Allocation
(National)	15 000 000		15 000 000
Western Cape	12 274 343	5 323 489	17 597 832
Northern Cape	5 813 269	914 663	6 727 932
Eastern Cape	107 413 272	6 469 088	113 882 360
Free State	20 431 344	5 398 660	25 830 004
KwaZulu-Natal	94 489 001	9 009 903	103 498 904
Eastern Transvaal	28 379 280	4 991 073	33 370 353
Northern Transvaal	86 611 818	34 365 805	120 977 623
Gauteng	12 226 677	15 507 929	27 734 579
North West	35 049 587	310 826	35 360 413
TOTAL	417 708 564	82 291 436	500 000 000

Transcriptions of court proceedings in North West

271. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) What are the names of the persons or companies currently holding the contracts to undertake transcriptions of court proceedings in the Province of North West.

(2) whether he is in a position to furnish the names of the directors of the said companies; if not, why not; if so, what are their names;

(3) whether these contracts were put out to tender; if not, why not; if so, when did each contract commence;

(4) whether each successful contract was awarded to the lowest tenderer in each case; if not, (a) why was the lowest tender not accepted and (b) what was the price difference involved in each case;

(5) whether any contracts were extended or renegotiated without being put out to tender; if so, (a) which contracts, (b) when and (c) why, in each case? N566E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(1) The firms presently holding the contracts for the transcription of court proceedings in the Province of the North West are as follows.

(i) *Former RSA. Datavyt (Pty) Ltd*

(ii) *Bophuthatswana M & J Transcribers*

(2) (i) *Former RSA. Datavyt (Pty) Ltd. Messrs S J M Nel, P Nel and A G Nel*

(ii) *Bophuthatswana: M & J Transcribers. Information not available*

(3) (i) *Former RSA: Yes. Tenders were called for in State Tender Bulletin No 1300 dated 20 January 1989 and the successful tender was awarded by the State Tender Board. The contract commenced on 1 September 1989*

(ii) *Bophuthatswana: Yes. Tenders were called for by the Bophuthatswana Tender Board. The contract commenced on 1 April 1992*

(4) (i) *Magistrates' Courts in the Province North West. The lowest tenderer was*

Datavyt (Pty) Ltd and the tenderer was awarded to the said firm by the State Tender Board

(ii) *Bophuthatswana: Information not available.*

(5) (a) (i) *Former RSA: Yes. All contracts for the transcription of court proceedings were renegotiated in conjunction with the State Tender Board and extended for a period of four years from 1 July 1993 with the approval of the State Tender Board*

(ii) *Bophuthatswana: M & J Transcribers*

(b) (i) *Former RSA: The contract with Datavyt (Pty) Ltd was extended for a period of four years with effect from 1 July 1993*

(ii) *Bophuthatswana. The existing contract with M & J Transcribers was extended by the State Tender Board until 30 June 1995*

(c) (i) *Former RSA. The curtailment of funds on the Departmental budget for 1992/93 necessarily compelled that savings had to be effected. In the process certain services were suspended and simultaneously it was investigated on which other services of the Department savings could be effected. Due to the importance of court recording equipment and transcription services to ensure the effective operation of the courts the service could not be suspended. Each of the contractors were approached with the request as their contribution to the curtailment of departmental expenditure, to accept only 50% of the approved annual tariff increase. The contractor accepted the proposal and the State Tender Board authorised the extension of the contracts concerned*

(ii) *Bophuthatswana. The State Tender Board is still in the process of tendering for the transcription of*

two year contract for the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1997

Rural water supply committees

276. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) Whether his Department has established any rural water supply committees; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many, (b) in which areas and (c) in which (i) local authorities, (ii) district councils, (iii) regional services councils, (iv) development services boards and (v) water boards are involved.

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N571E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

(1) No The Department is still in the process of drafting in conjunction with representatives of different non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties, the regulations in terms of which water supply committees are to be established

(a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

(2) Yes. A third draft of the proposed regulations have been finalised after a recent and hopefully last round of discussions with a working group consisting of several NGOs and other interested parties active in the field of water supply. It is in the process of being discussed with the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Water Affairs and Forestry of the National Assembly, whereafter it will be considered by me with a view to the promulgation thereof. I must, however, stress the point that there are presently about 15 000 NGOs active in the field of community services, including water supply and sanitation, many of which are functioning perfectly well. It is not the intention to convert all these organisations to statutory committees. The purpose of the regulations is merely to provide a mechanism whereby communities, organisations, groups or individuals can be registered as water supply committees and be given a

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) Yes

(i) For the period 1 May 1993 to 30 April 1995:

- (a) 3
(b) 3
(c) 12

(ii) For the period 1 January 1995 to 30 June 1995:

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(3) (i) *Former RSA.* Yes. Tenders were called for in State Tender Bulletin No 1300 dated 20 January 1989 and the successful tender was awarded by the State Tender Board. The contract commenced on 1 September 1989

(ii) *Bophuthatswana.* Yes. Tenders were called for by the Bophuthatswana Tender Board. The contract commenced on 1 April 1992

(4) (i) *Magistrates' Courts in the Province North West.* The lowest tenderer was

Datavyf (Pty) Ltd and the tenderer was awarded to the said firm by the State Tender Board.

(ii) *Bophuthatswana:* Information not available.

(5) (a) (i) *Former RSA.* Yes. All contracts for the transcription of court proceedings were renegotiated in conjunction with the State Tender Board and extended for a period of four years from 1 July 1993 with the approval of the State Tender Board.

(ii) *Bophuthatswana M & J Transcribers*

(b) (i) *Former RSA.* The contract with Datavyf (Pty) Ltd was extended for a period of four years with effect from 1 July 1993.

(ii) *Bophuthatswana:* The existing contract with M & J Transcribers was extended by the State Tender Board until 30 June 1995

(c) (i) *Former RSA.* The curtailment of funds on the Departmental budget for 1992/93 necessarily compelled that savings had to be effected. In the process certain services were suspended and simultaneously it was investigated on which other services of the Department savings could be effected. Due to the importance of court recording equipment and transcription services to ensure the effective operation of the courts the service could not be suspended. Each of the contractors were approached with the request as their contribution to the curtailment of departmental expenditure, to accept only 50% of the approved annual tariff increase. The contractor accepted the proposal and the State Tender Board authorised the extension of the contracts concerned

(ii) *Bophuthatswana.* The State Tender Board wants to call for new tenders for the establishment of a

two year contract for the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1997.

Rural water supply committees

276. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) Whether his Department has established any rural water supply committees, if not, why not; if so, (a) how many, (b) in which areas and (c) in which (i) local authorities, (ii) district councils, (iii) regional services councils, (iv) development services boards and (v) water boards are involved;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

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The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

(1) No. The Department is still in the process of drafting in conjunction with representatives of different non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties, the regulations in terms of which water supply committees are to be established.

(a), (b) and (c) Fall away

(2) Yes. A third draft of the proposed regulations have been finalised after a recent and hopefully last round of discussions with a working group consisting of several NGOs and other interested parties active in the field of water supply. It is in the process of being discussed with the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Water Affairs and Forestry of the National Assembly, whereafter it will be considered by me with a view to the promulgation thereof. I must, however, stress the point that there are presently about 15 000 NGOs active in the field of community services, including water supply and sanitation, many of which are functioning perfectly well. It is not the intention to convert all these organisations to statutory committees. The purpose of the regulations is merely to provide a mechanism whereby communities experiencing problems in setting up committees can be given statutory support for doing so and to provide a vehicle

Orlando children need help

(298)

Sowetan 30/5/95

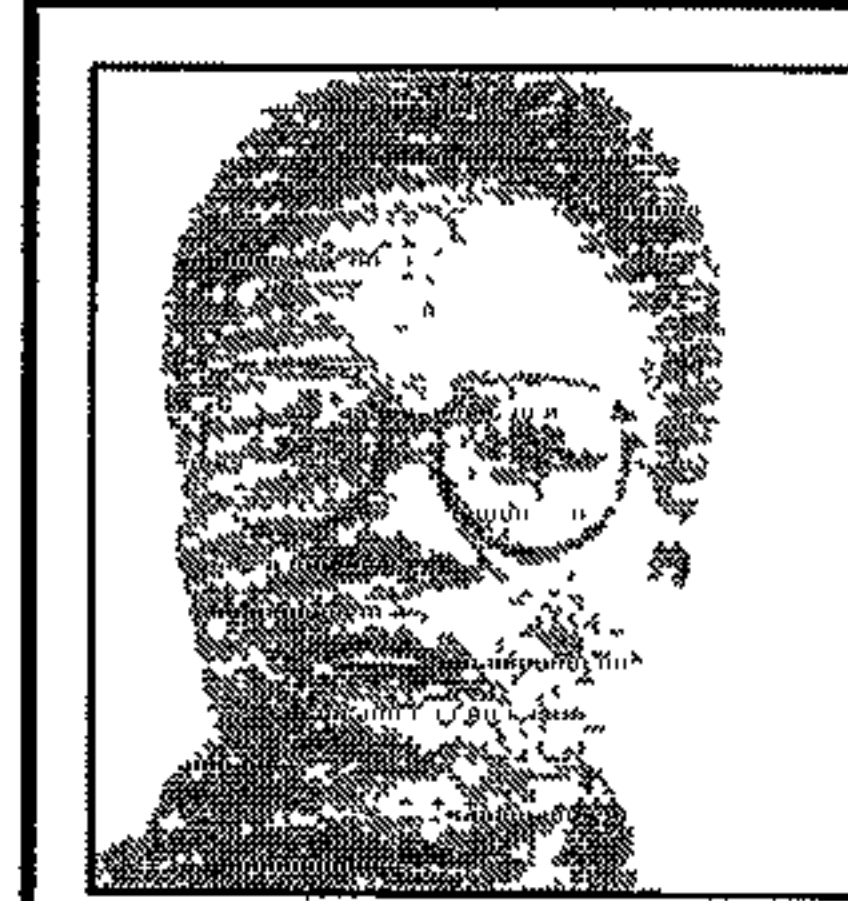
LAST week I had the privilege of visiting the Orlando Children's Home in Soweto. A group of American students from Washington DC were presenting the children with the prettiest black dolls. I mention the colour of the dolls because I think it is important. I believe black children need to be given black dolls.

It has to do with our self-esteem as a people. As it is, we are struggling to accept ourselves because racism has given us a right royal bashing. I imagine those children will have added problems because of their particular situation. So we need to give our children toys that validate them. We need to give ourselves gifts that say it is not only okay to be black but it is really "cool".

When the *Sowetan* team arrived at Orlando Home, all the students had babies on their laps and had already made friends. It was heart-breaking to see how some of the tots had become attached to their new friends and would not let them out of their sight.

Matron of the home Mrs Mirriam Mazibuko said there was a long list of baby boys waiting for parents to adopt them. There was also a long list of parents waiting to adopt baby girls. For some strange reason people seem to think girls are easier to handle.

The children, regardless of sex, are adorable. Some are as young as four months. They were abandoned in hospitals, train stations, bus stops and anywhere else one can think of. They were left with no notes of parents' identity and no addresses. Even the babies' names and ages



**Ruth
Bhengu's**

BEAT

were not known. The social workers and staff at the home have to guess the children's ages. They also have to rename them.

Mazibuko said there was a dire need for the community to get involved in the home. There was a need for adoptive parents or host parents, who could take the children home for a visit occasionally.

One does not have to be rich to make a difference. Even spending an hour playing with the children, or with one child, would be appreciated. When I told a colleague at the office about the children she said: "Why don't we do something. It's not as if we cannot afford it."

Take a drive

Of course we can afford it. We can afford to take a drive to the home and spend a few hours there, despite our busy schedules. We have the capacity to cuddle the babies and give them human warmth without losing anything. We can teach our children to share by opening our homes to these children. One does not need to form a bond with all the children. Just with one child.

We can give material help in the

form of heaters, blankets, nappies, baby clothes and toys. We can help towards the education of the children. According to Mazibuko, there are currently 73 children in the home. They range in age from 3 months to 18 years.

I found out that those who contribute to the home are not Africans. Now, I know that we have been disadvantaged but I believe that even the poorest family can afford R1. If every family in Soweto contributed a rand, the home would receive more than R1 million.

We must not only raise a million, but also be prepared to put into place mechanisms for administering the funds. Too often we have given money to a few individuals who end up misusing it because we are too lazy to get involved.

We have plenty of young men and women with business skills in our communities. They can keep the books and look after the finances of the home. If we get involved in the running of the home there is no way we can turn around and complain about how the funds are being misappropriated. I am throwing down the gauntlet. Any takers?

Over 9m children 'living in poverty'

CT 31/5/95 (298) (128)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tension

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

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

R600 000 injection for 'lost generation' project

Mduduzi ka Harvey

20 31/5/95
(298)
THE National Economic Education Trust has injected R600 000 into the Ort-Step Matric and Skills Training project, aimed at giving the "lost generation" a new lease on life.

The pilot project will target 36 unemployed youths from underprivileged areas. The aim will be to give them a second chance at becoming economically independent and, if successful, will be adopted by government for implementation in schools nationally. Discussions have already begun with the Education Ministry in this regard.

Catering for students of all ages, the project was instituted when people approached the Ort-Step Institute asking for assistance in education and training.

It is open to students with a Standard 8 minimum education. The course lasts 18 months. It ends with the writing of a National Certificate Board Examination.

Core subjects will include maths, science, technology, business economics, English and biology. Life

skills will also be taught.

If successful it will meet the reconstruction and development programme's human resource development requirements, as stated by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu. He wants to make the unemployed employable by providing skills training and opportunities to improve people's basic education levels.

Study warns of effect of poverty on children

Star 31/5/95 (298)

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

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

A report on the study, released in Pretoria yesterday, added there was "extreme inequality" in the incomes of South Africans.

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

The average income of the richest 20% of SA households

was 45 times that of the poorest 20%, the report said.

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

Less than 5% of those living in poverty were whites, coloureds or Asians.

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

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

— Sapa.